



friendship force

HOUSTON

October
2010

A World Of Friends Is A World Of Peace.
A Non-Profit Organization Promoting Peace through Citizen Exchanges

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WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL?

The Friendship Force is a non-profit organization sponsoring **people-to-people** exchanges between people in over fifty nations of the world. It brings people together through home stay exchanges – creating unforgettable experiences that build lasting bonds of friendship.

As an Ambassador you share lifestyles in a private home in other countries for a week. In return, you may home host people from that nation or other nations to share your lifestyle. The ever-widening Friendship Force global network represents a powerful and growing force that can overcome differences between people and nations.

President's Corner

Way to go, Houston!! I think we gave our Australian ambassadors a great experience. From their comments, I think they had a great time. PJ and I certainly enjoyed the exchange tremendously and we made some good friends. I'd like to thank all of you who shared your home, your food, your car, your gasoline, your time, and your friendship – it definitely made a difference. And I especially think we all need to give our Exchange Director, Linda Doolittle, a huge *THANK YOU* for a job well done. She devoted her entire week-long school break to this exchange, plus countless hours beforehand and the hard work clearly paid off in a very successful exchange.

Our October meeting will be something with an international flavor – maybe 'beer' flavor. We'll be celebrating Oktoberfest at our normal location & time (**Tracy Gee Community Center, Saturday October 30, 11am**). As usual, it's pot-luck so if possible, how about something German or Texas-German? [Wait – Tracy Gee is a 'no alcohol' facility so hold the beer.] We'll also elect our 2011 officers. Nominated are: President – Ray Missman, Vice President – Marjo Ave Lallemand, Secretary – Jacquie Mabey, and Treasurer – Linda Marlin. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

And FFI Atlanta sent us a form to submit our requests for where we want to go in 2012. So – where do you want to go? We need to respond by Nov 1, so here is my initial suggestion. For international exchanges: "we're willing to host 1 week each for 2 exchanges so that we can be assigned 2 weeks outbound"; our outbound preferences are: (1) Europe – unspecified countries, (2) Australia – to see our new friends, and (3) Any (surprise us!). We'll talk about this at the meeting, so if you have some clear preferences of what you think would work best for the club, please be ready to make your case then! And how many domestic exchanges would we be prepared to host? We don't report that to FFI Atlanta now, but it will help in deciding how many international inbounds we can handle – we've already had requests from the LA club, the Florida Suncoast club (Tampa & nearby) & are expecting to hear from Iowa as well. On the next page you will find a list of clubs outside the US, by region, with notations next to those with whom we have had a fairly recent exchange.

In Friendship,
Ray Missman

2012 Outbound Exchange Vote

Asia:

China
India
Indonesia
Japan (outbound in 11/2009)
Korea
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Philippines
Singapore
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

Canada:

Alberta (inbound in 2/2007)
British Columbia
Manitoba
Northwest Territories
Ontario (inbound in 11/2008)
Quebec

Europe & Eurasia:

Albania
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic (outbound in 9/2005)
Estonia
France
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Italy

Latvia
Lithuania
Moldova
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Romania
Russia (outbound in 6/2008 & inbound in 2006)
Slovakia
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine (outbound in 6/2008)
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan

Latin America:

Argentina
Brazil (outbound in 6/2011)
Chile
Colombia (outbound in 6/2007)
Costa Rica
Mexico (inbound in 7/2006)
Peru (inbound in 9/2007)

Middle East & Africa:

Burundi
Egypt
Ghana
Israel
Jordan
Kenya
Morocco
South Africa
Tanzania
Turkey

South Pacific:

Australia
New Caledonia
New Zealand

Membership Renewal Time

by Elizabeth (Betty) Spooner, Membership Chairman

It's that time of the year again – time to renew your Friendship Force membership. The 2011 membership form is attached as the last page of this newsletter and hard copies will be available at the October 30th meeting, at the international dinner at Dimassi's on Nov. 13th and at the Holiday Brunch and Revels performance on Dec. 11th, which is the deadline for the application.

Our International Office in Atlanta has informed us that FFI dues are being increased for 2011 by several dollars. However, your Board has decided to keep our overall dues the same for this coming year, at least -- \$30 for individuals and \$45 for households.

Please make certain that the information you record on your form is COMPLETE and ACCURATE. This information is used for many purposes – mainly the official membership list which goes to FFI and, of course, for newsletter distribution. If you are retired, please indicate your previous profession as we use this in determining how to make the best use of your skills and expertise. Since we have a small club, we need everyone to take an active role in continuing to make our club successful. We use this information to help us select those most qualified for Chairmen and Committee members and hope you will help when asked.

If you have any friends or acquaintances who have expressed interest in FFH, now is the time to invite them to the next three events so they can apply for membership effective January 1, 2011. I will also be collecting money for badges, which are \$10 each with the new logo and come with a choice of pin, clip, or magnet. If for any reason you decide not to renew, PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY PHONE ASAP which will save me a lot of follow-up time. You can contact me at 281-589-7901.

October 30th Meeting



The tradition of organizing a party for the inhabitants of Munich, Germany in October, dates back from 1810, when, on October 12th, the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig (later to become King Ludwig I) and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen, was held. With this occasion, the citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates, to celebrate the happy royal event. We will be trying to recreate this festive atmosphere at our October 30th meeting. Bring your favorite German dish and dress in costume if you can. Also bring items that you acquired from the Bavarian countries to share with the group and to use for decorations. We will have a gentleman from Germany playing the accordion for those brave enough to try the polka. And Linda Doolittle will be sharing a slide show of Germany, during the meal.



Snapshots of the Inbound Exchange from Australia



Welcome Party at Formanek's home



Tour of NASA



Tour of Minute Maid Park (baseball stadium)



Tree sculptures in Galveston



Texas Longhorn at cattle ranch



Tour of homes at George Ranch

Exciting Plans for Holiday Party in December

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 11th for our FFH Holiday Party. We will begin with a brunch buffet at a very eclectic restaurant on Montrose Boulevard called Baba Yega, which has a private dining room overlooking a lovely garden courtyard. The price for brunch will be \$21.00 per person all inclusive.



Baba Yega's courtyard

Following a great brunch with good friends, plan to attend The Christmas Revels 2010 at 2:30 p.m. on the University of Houston campus. A Celtic Celebration of the Winter Solstice is this year's program. If you have never been to a Revels performance, you are in for a real treat! The cost is \$23 per person, assuming we have more than 10 attendees.



<http://www.babayega.com>

<http://www.revelshouston.org>



You may make your check out to FF Houston for a total cost per person of \$44. We will be collecting money in advance at both the October meeting and the international dining night at Dimassi's in order to guarantee our attendance. Or you may mail your checks to Linda Marlin, 1527 Maux Drive, Houston, 77043-3314. The telephone committee will be calling in November to verify your attendance.

Contact Us

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www.thefriendshipforce.org

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www.ffhoustontx.org

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2010 & 2011 FF Houston Calendars

Remainder 2010

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Oct 30	Sat	Octoberfest with German Potluck Election of officers Recap of World Conference	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Nov 2	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Nov 13	Sat	International Dining Night	Dimassi Mediterranean Buffet, 5064 Richmond Ave., 77056 (713) 439-7481	6:00 PM
Nov 20	Sat	No Meeting		
Dec 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Dec 11	Sat	Holiday Brunch & Revels performance	Baba Yega Restaurant, 2607 Grant & U of H Mitchell Center for the Arts	11:00 AM & 2:30 PM

Tracy Gee Community Center is at 3599 Westcenter Drive, 77042, (713) 266-8193, located just south of Richmond inside Beltway 8 West.

Anticipated 2011

FRIENDSHIP FORCE HOUSTON 2011				
Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jan 4	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00pm
Jan 15	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00pm

Jan 29	Sat	Tom Hargrove to speak on his book / movie (Proof of Life)	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Feb 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Feb ???	Fri - Sat	SW Regional Conf.	Austin, TX	5:00 PM
Feb 12	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Feb 26	Sat	General Meeting		11:00 AM
Mar 1	Tue	Board Meeting		7:00 PM
Mar 12	Sat	International Dining Night	Kenneally's Irish Pub 2111 S. Shepherd hamburgers & pizza, under \$12	6:00 PM
Mar 26	Sat	World Friendship Day & Potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Apr 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Apr 16	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Apr 30	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
May 3	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
May 14	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
May 21	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Jun 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jun 11	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Jun 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Jul 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jul 16	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Jul 30	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Aug 2	Tue	Board Meeting Select Nominating Comm.	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Aug 13	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Aug 27	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Sep 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Sep 10	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Sep 24	Sat	General Meeting Presentation of slate of officers	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Oct 4	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Oct 15	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Oct 29	Sat	General Meeting & Election of officers	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Nov 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Nov 12	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Nov 19	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Dec 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Dec 10	Sat	International Dining Night		6:00 PM
Dec 17	Sat	Holiday Party		

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF HOUSTON

2011 Membership Form

Dues are \$30 per individual or \$45 per household per year based on a calendar year from January through December. Dues for the upcoming year are payable during the month of December.

Please complete the following form and mail it with your check by December 12 to the Membership Chairman:

Elizabeth (Betty) Spooner 281-589-7901
1522 Rockin Dr
Houston, TX 77077-3835

Please Print

Date: _____

Name _____
Last Name First Name Spouse Name

Address _____
Street City State Zip + 4

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Fax _____

(His) Cell _____ E-mail _____

(Her)Cell _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS: (Circle one): Individual \$30 OR Family \$45

NAMES TO BE PRINTED ON BADGES: _____

Badges are \$10/person. Pin _____ Clip _____ Magnet _____ Please include badge fees with membership registration.

NEW: Yes _____ Date _____ **RENEWAL:** Yes _____ **Check Total Amount** _____

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS INCLUDED: _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: _____

(Indicate if retired and previous profession/s)

LANGUAGE SKILLS (other than English): _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS AND SKILLS: _____

(Hobbies, activities, etc.)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Each member is asked to serve on at least one committee to accomplish the work of our club. Please check preferences to identify where you will help: (Use initials of each person registering on this form.)

Exchange Committee: training and support for Incoming and Outgoing Exchange Directors and all responsibilities associated with hosting, scheduling, and planning exchanges.

Program Committee: planning and arranging for guest speakers and other activities at general meetings

Social Committee: provides facilities set-up, decorations, and refreshments as required.

Newsletter, Publicity, Telephone and Membership Committees

Check one committee (or more) for each registrant. Initial to identify individuals:

Exchange _____ Program _____ Social Events _____ Newsletter _____ Publicity _____ Telephone _____ Membership _____

Are you willing to take a leadership position? If so, please indicate your preference

Club Officer (President, Vice Pres, Secretary, Treasurer) _____ Exchange Director _____

Committee Chair _____ (identify committee) _____