



friendship force

HOUSTON

February
2011

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

Our club just received the preliminary assignments from FFI Atlanta for our 2012 inbound and outbound exchanges. I think you will like them. Dates are not firm yet, but right now pencil in January 2012 for inbound from Kumamoto, Japan. (Our club visited there in 2009). And pencil in June 2012 for our outbound to Tarapoto & Lima, Peru. (We hosted them in 2007).

For 2011, our outbound to Brazil is nearly full so get your money in if you want a chance! See more later in newsletter. Then there is the March 19 Southwest Regional Conference a few of us will be going to. In August, a (different) few will be going to the FF World Conference in Hamburg, Germany. And then in October we have an inbound from the club in Western Waikato, New Zealand, for which we need an Exchange Director.

Marjo, our new VP and program coordinator, is setting up a really interesting set of monthly meetings to look forward to.

No, this is NOT our February speaker. It is a photo of Carmen Miranda – a 1940's movie star you may have heard about, nicknamed "The Brazilian Bombshell." But there may be some similarity – see next article!

Lots going on!! So jump in and enjoy the fun.

In Friendship,

Ray Missman



February 26th Program: “This is Brazil”

by Marjo Ave Lallemand, VP

Our speaker, Dee Martin, is absolutely Brazilian! She knows that we are going to Itanhaem and Blumenau where we'll be staying with our Brazilian hosts, and she predicts that we will be totally immersed in Brazilian culture. The two cities are wonderful places, both near the coast and sparkling in nature's colors and shapes and the brilliance of its inhabitants! And don't forget the music!! Betty Spooner met her and would be ready to travel if possible! Dee Martin will also speak about the world famous Iguazu Falls (below) and other places we might include in the trip! Come and bring friends to hear her and be prepared for a wonderful Outbound experience!

2011 Outbound Exchange to Brazil

by Sidney Formanek, co-Exchange Director



Those of us who have signed up for the trip to Brazil are taking the trip of a lifetime! We will have not one, but two home exchanges [Itanhaem from June 19-26, and Blumenau from June 26 - July1] and a very exciting tour that Linda Doolittle (co-ED) has found for us from July 2 -9. Itanhaem is a small, scenic town. Brazilians pride themselves on their hospitality, so they are eager to show us around. And I'm sure there will be lots of music and dancing and lots of food! Blumenau is the most German settlement in Brazil, and their Octoberfest ties with Kitchener, Ontario for being the biggest and best outside of Germany. Although we are not going in October, our hosts will prepare one for us. As for Linda's tour, we shall go to Iguazu Falls (photos above) and the Pantanal - a huge plain with lots of wildlife to see. This trip is just about as exotic as a trip to Africa.

Although the exchange is close to being full, it is a good idea to at least get on the waiting list (\$100 deposit required) in case there are last-minute cancellations. It would be a shame not to have the maximum number of guests. We will have an exchange meeting after our regular meeting Sat., February 26th. Sources of additional information are: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Brazil> and <http://gobrazil.about.com/od/braziliancities/p/blumenau.html>.

2011 FFI World Conference

A collage of Hamburg city scenes including a harbor with a ship, a bridge, a church spire, and a sailboat. The text "FREIE UND HANSESTADT HAMBURG" is at the top and "HAMBURG" is in large letters at the bottom.

**Let's get together...in
Hamburg!**

Join friends from around the world in Hamburg, Germany, for the **Friendship Force International 34th World Conference** on August 26-30, 2011.

Click here to register!

A logo consisting of a stylized flower or sunburst with multiple colored petals (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) radiating from a central point.

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INTERNATIONAL
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Since all prices are being quoted in Euros and using the conversion rate on 1/4/11, it appears that the conference fee will run around \$373, with a double room around \$48 and a single room at \$75. Airline reservations are on your own. Go to the FFI website and see what all you get for the price. You certainly couldn't see Hamburg on your own for anything near this price.



Rock formations in Hamburg Zoo

New Facebook Account

Please check us out at "Friendship Force of Greater Houston". We hope to get your comments and suggestions, as we try to expand our visibility to the community.

Contact Us

Friendship Force International
www.thefriendshipforce.org

Friendship Force Houston, TX
www.ffhoustontx.org

Facebook Account
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2011 FF Houston Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Feb 26	Sat	Guest Speaker: Dee Martin: "This is Brazil!" (potluck)	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Mar 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Mar 12	Sat	International Dining Night	Brian O'Neills Irish Pub & Restaurant 5555 Morningside, 713-522-2603	6 PM
Mar 26	Sat	World Friendship Day & Potluck luncheon . Theme: "Make a Difference" "Who we are, In- and Outbound"	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Apr 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Apr 16	Sat	International Dining Night	Spanish Flowers, 4701 N. Main, 713-869-1706	6 PM
Apr 30	Sat	Guest Speaker from HMNS on "The Silk Road" exhibit (potluck luncheon)	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
May 3	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
May 14	Sat	International Dining Night	Royal Supper Buffet, 9350 Westheimer, 713-706-3900	6 PM
May 21	Sat	Guest Speaker (TBA) & potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Jun 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Jun 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Saffron Moroccan Cuisine, 2006 Lexington, 713-523-5697	6 PM
Jun ??		Outbound Exchange to Brazil	Linda Doolittle & Sidney Formanek, co-EDs	
Jul 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Jul 16	Sat	International Dining Night	Charivari, 2521 Bagby St., 713-581-8237	6 PM
Jul 30	Sat	Guest Speaker: Linda Edwards, "My stay in Malawi" & potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Aug 2	Tue	Board Meeting Select Nominating Comm.	Missman's home	7 PM
Aug 13	Sat	International Dining Night	Tinto's, 2015 W. Gray, 713-522-1330	6 PM
Aug 26-30	Fri-Tue	FFI World Conference in Hamburg, Germany		
Sep 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Sep 10	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Sep 24	Sat	Guest Speaker from Baku, Azerbaijan, a sister city of Houston. & Presentation of slate of officers for 2012	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Oct ???		Inbound Exchange from Western Waikato, New Zealand		

Oct 4	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Oct 15	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Oct 29	Sat	General Meeting & Election of officers	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Nov 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Nov 12	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Nov 19	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Dec 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	7 PM
Dec 10	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Dec 17	Sat	Holiday Party		

Tracy Gee Community Center is located at 3599 Westcenter Dr., 77042, just south of Richmond and inside Beltway 8 West.

February "World of Friends" Catalog

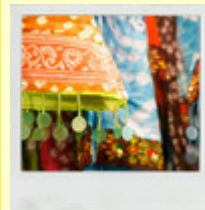
JOIN ONE OF OUR EXCITING EXCHANGES IN 2011!

Here are a few of our many opportunities:

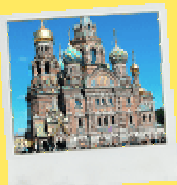


BUILDING DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE: OPEN WORLD CONNECTION

Kyiv, Odessa and country villages of Ukraine
 May 11 to 30, 2011
 ([view exchange](#))

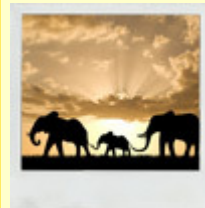


[Visit Asia](#)



ST. PETERSBURG TO THE HEART OF SIBERIA: EXPLORE UNIQUE CITIES ACROSS RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Irkutsk and Moscow, Russia
 May 14 to June 4, 2011
 ([view exchange](#))



[Visit Africa](#)



EXPLORE THREE GREAT CITIES OF JAPAN

ONLY 5 SPACES LEFT!!!
 Nara, Kyoto and Yamagata, Japan
 May 29 to June 10, 2011
 ([view exchange](#))

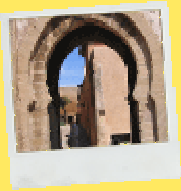


[Visit North America](#)



"GO GREEN" AT THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE'S FIRST RENEWABLE ENERGY FESTIVAL

Northern Colorado, USA
 June 26 to July 3, 2011
 ([view exchange](#))



TAKE IN THE VAST SAHARA DESERT AND THE STARRY, DESERT SKY IN MOROCCO

ONLY 7 SPACES LEFT!!!

Morocco

July 11 to 29, 2011

([view exchange](#))



FROM WATERFALLS TO HOT SPRINGS, DISCOVER THE BEAUTY AND MYSTERY OF ICELAND

Iceland

August 9 to 23, 2011

([view exchange](#))



Wouldn't it be great if you got an email just because an exchange to your favorite place had an opening?

Let us know where you want to go by filling out our new survey - you might be pleasantly surprised! [Click here](#)

[Click here to view the new WORLD OF FRIENDS catalog](#)