



friendship force

H O U S T O N

November
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

FF Houston members and friends,

As you know, this month's big activity is the inbound exchange from Ottawa, Canada. That's why you're getting the newsletter a little early. Please see the article on it later in this newsletter.

Our club is fairly small and that means that every one of us counts – so please join in and come to the welcome dinner and/or the farewell dinner and let's show our guests some Texas hospitality!

As you also know, we elected our 2012 officers at our September meeting – see 'New Officers' section below. Linda, Marjo, Betty and Gen - on behalf of the club, thank you!! Volunteers that are not afraid to step in and help (well, maybe not too afraid!) are what keeps this club going. I know they will do a good job for you. 2012 will be a busy year so it will be up to all of us to help make it a success!

See you at the Welcome dinner!

In Friendship,
Ray Missman

New Officers for 2012

Elections were held at our October 29th meeting and the nominated slate was elected by acclamation. Officers are:

President – Linda Marlin, immediate past Treasurer
Vice-President (programming) – Marjo Ave Lallemand, second term
Secretary – Genevieve Pike, past Secretary for several terms
Treasurer – Elizabeth Spooner, past Treasurer for several terms

If you are willing to help chair or be on a committee, please contact any of these officers whose contact information is listed later in this newsletter. We need your help and everyone is welcome to attend Board Meetings.

Last Month's Meeting

We were treated to a photographic trip to Peru with Tom & Mary Evans as they shared their most special moments and adventures with us. And as usual, we had a great potluck luncheon with a wide variety of items made by our many good cooks. The Evans were in Peru for a month this summer then went on to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands for another month. Check out their pics!!



Mary & Tom with Wayna Picchu Peak (that they climbed) in background (Machu Picchu)



Mary & Tom on tortola reed boat of the Uros culture (Lake Titicaca)





Good Chow!!!

Membership News

by Jean Porter, Membership Chairman

Many thanks to those who have sent in their 2012 Dues! As mentioned in the last newsletter, FF International needs a head count and 2012 dues by Dec. 31st, 2011 -- hard to believe, but that's only a few weeks away!

Your board has been working hard to ensure 2012 is our best year ever. We've got exciting exchanges lined up, a new recruitment program (FFH Speaker's Bureau), stimulating speakers and topics for our monthly meetings, as well as numerous international dining events planned. Don't you agree that FFH dues are a real "bargain"! (\$30 single, \$45 family) Join us in 2012 as we celebrate friendship in Houston, Texas. Please mail your check and the 2012 membership application form (found at the end of this newsletter) to: Jean Porter, 710 Oyster Creek Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478.

Call me at 281-240-0352 if questions.

Holiday Activity

by Elizabeth Spooner

We are trying something new this year. A close friend of mine sings with the United Nations International Choir. Their concert called "A World of Holidays" will be on December 11th. Tickets (if we have enough people to get a group rate) will be \$10 per person. Send your check to me (made payable to me) as I will buy the tickets in a group. Deadline is Nov. 28th. My address is 1522 Rockin Drive, Hou 77077-3835 and phone is 281-589-7901, if you have any questions.

A World of Holidays

The United Nations Association International Choir (UNAIC) will present its eighth annual holiday concert on Sunday evening, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be given in collaboration with Houston Brass Band at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 6622 Haskell Street, Houston, Texas, 77007.



Concert Highlights

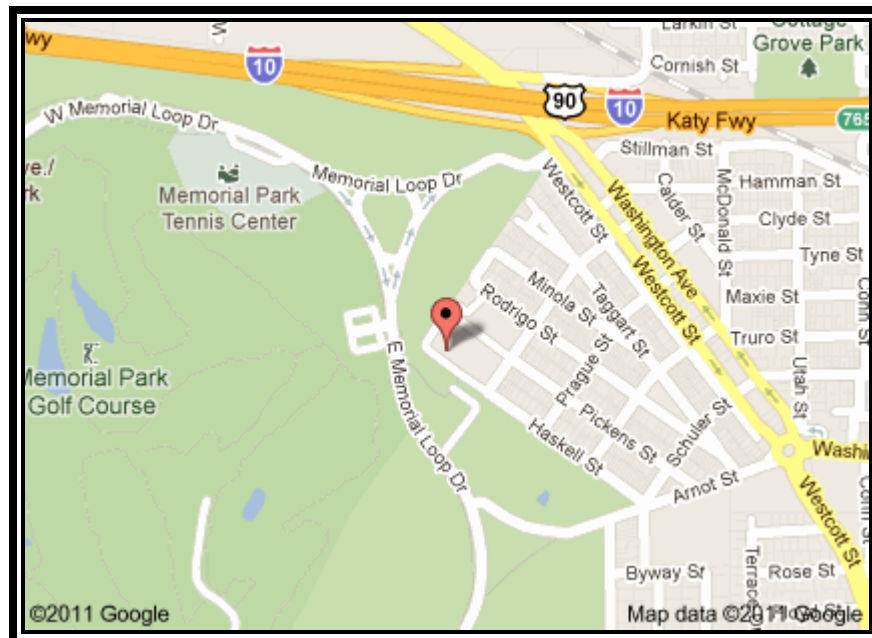
The program, *A World of Holidays*, will feature music associated with various holidays celebrated by diverse cultures and peoples around the change of calendar year: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Lunar New Year, Gita Jayanthi, and the Winter Solstice. As usual, the choir will sing all of its music in original languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, Swahili, Vietnamese, Hindi, Hebrew, and Latin. [The Houston Brass Band](#) will accompany the Choir in two choruses from Handel's *Messiah* (Hallelujah and Amen) and in an audience sing-along, in addition to performing several works for the season for the band.

The U. N. A. International Choir comprises singers from numerous cultural, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds who live and work in the greater Houston area. At the present time, the choir has approximately 100 members, who represent 25 nations, speak 15 different languages, and range in age from 16 years old to eighty years young. Through rehearsing and performing a vast spectrum of music in original languages from all genres around the world, the choir strives for the highest goals of artistic achievement while promoting mutual understanding, respect, and multicultural experiences among all peoples of the world through friendship and singing.

The UNAIC is sponsored by The United Nations Association-Houston, the local chapter of the national non-profit organization [UNA-USA](#), a membership organization dedicated to building understanding of and support for the ideals and vital work of the United Nations among the American people. Its educational and humanitarian campaigns, which include teaching students about international affairs through Model UN programs, clearing minefields in formerly war-torn nations, and providing school-based support for children living in HIV/AIDS-affected communities in Africa, allow people to make a global impact at the local level.

Houston Brass Band

[The Houston Brass Band](#) was founded in 2000 by several enthusiasts, some of whom had become aware of the genre from the superb little film "Brassed Off!" Under the leadership of music director Bob Walp and assistant music director Chris Lewis, the Band has distinguished itself in numerous performances and venues in the Houston area. Its mission is to be one of the region's premier musical ensembles, sharing the unique spirit and beauty of British-style brass band music. The instrumentation of a British brass band does away with all woodwinds and the French horns found in the typical American concert band, while adding some instruments not normally found there.



ST. THERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Inbound Exchange from Ottawa, Canada Nov. 13-19

by PJ Missman

We are hosting 11 French speaking ambassadors from Ottawa, Canada for one week this month. We have a very busy week planned for them as we will be visiting all the major Houston attractions including NASA, Galveston, and the George Ranch. A highlight of the week will be a Downtown tour by our own Joy Huntington. She has lots of knowledge of the downtown area, both current and historical. We will get to walk in the tunnels and will also get to see a private collection of items of "Texana" belonging to J. P. Bryan, a direct descendant of Moses and Stephen F. Austin. We will have lunch at Treebeard's and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse. If you would like to join us for part or all of this tour, please call Linda Doolittle or PJ Missman and we can give you more detailed information.



We do especially invite all members to the Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinners. The welcome dinner will be at Hickory Hollow BBQ on Sunday night and the farewell dinner will be at Baba Yega on Friday night. When you come to a dinner please bring a check made out to FFH for your meal, \$15 for Hickory Hollow and \$35 for Baba Yega. You will need to buy your own beer/wine there. Please see the schedule for times and addresses for these dinners. We hope to see you all there! Show how happy you are to see and meet these wonderful French Canadian ambassadors and welcome them to Houston Texas!! **See details in calendar.**

Oct. 15th Visit to Buffalo Soldiers' Museum

by Jean Porter



L to R: Nathan Porter, Hans Ave Lallemand; Mary Adams, Jean Porter, Linda Doolittle, Marjo Ave Lallemand, Luella Strong, John Doolittle

Members and guests of FFH were treated to a special day at Houston's own, Buffalo Soldiers' National Museum. This is the only museum in the United States dedicated to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldier. Our museum tour began with a moving performance by James Faulkner depicting the harsh, challenging life of slave and Buffalo Soldier, Terrell D. Biggs. Afterwards, Capt. Paul J. Matthews, BSNM founder and African American historian, conducted an interesting and enlightening tour. We were educated about the many sacrifices and contributions black soldiers have made to our country starting from the 1700's through today.

Why the name Buffalo Soldiers? After the Civil War, the first all-African military units were officially formed. These cavalry and infantry units were sent to desolate outposts in the Southwest to subdue and settle those untamed frontiers. One explanation for the nickname is that the Cheyenne Indians identified their revered buffalo with the black soldiers, both known for their fierceness in battle.

After touring the museum, we were graciously invited by their board to share a luncheon with our hosts. For those who missed this outing, please go to www.buffalosoldiarmuseum.com and learn more. This was a wonderful experience, and I'm sure FFH will be going again in the future, so don't miss it!

Contact Us

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www.thefriendshipforce.org

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www.ffhoustontx.org

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2011 FF Houston Calendar

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	TIME
Nov 13	Sun	Inbound Exchange from Ottawa, Canada (French-speaking club) Welcome Dinner at Hickory Hollow	101 Heights Boulevard (713) 869-6300 \$15 plus drinks	6:30 PM
Nov 14	Mon	All Day Downtown Walking Tour (half day available if needed) Ending w/ optional dinner at The Old Spaghetti Warehouse on Commerce.	Minute Maid Park (\$7) Lunch at Treebeards (\$8 approx.)	9:30 AM
Nov 15	Tue	NASA (\$12) and Kemah Boardwalk Meeting place for bus is Doolittle's, 9826 Larston, 713-465-3120	Hosts to provide sack lunch	9 AM
Nov 16	Wed	Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula Meeting place for bus is Doolittle's	Moody Mansion (\$5) Lunch at Stingaree (\$15) Moody Gardens (\$18.50)	8:30 AM
Nov 17	Thu	George Ranch tour (\$12) Meeting place to carpool is Doolittle's	Hosts to provide sack lunch	10 AM
Nov 18	Fri	Free Day / Museums / Your choice Farewell Dinner at Baba Yega (\$35)	2607 Grant Street (713) 522-0042	7 PM
Nov 19	Sat	Departure (times vary)		
Dec 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Missman's home	6 PM
Dec 11	Sun	Choral performance by the United Nations International Choir, followed by a reception (\$10)	St. Theresa Catholic Church 6622 Haskell St. Houston TX, 77007 713-869-3783	7:30 PM

2012 Proposed Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jan 3	Tue	Board Meeting	Marlin's home	6 PM
Jan 14	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Jan 28	Sat	Visit to Byzantine Chapel followed by lunch (tentative)	4011 Yupon St.	11 AM
Feb 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Marlin's home	6 PM
Feb 11	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Feb 24- Mar 3	Sat - Sat	Inbound Exchange from Kumamoto, Japan	Joy Huntington, Ruby Reviere, Linda Marlin, co-EDs	
Mar 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Marlin's home	6 PM
Mar 17	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Mar 23 - 25	Fri - Sun	SW Regional Conference	Wichita, Kansas	5 PM
Mar 31	Sat	World Friendship Day & Potluck luncheon,	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Apr 14-19 (dates approx.)	Sat- Thu	Inbound Domestic Exchange from Sacramento, California	PJ Missman, Linda Doolittle, Jean Porter co-EDs	
Apr 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
May 5	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
May 19	Sat	Monthly Activity	TBD	11 AM
Jun 9	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Jun 17-23 (dates approx.)		Outbound Exchanges to Lima and Tarapoto, Peru	Joy Huntington and Linda Marlin, co-EDs	
Jun 30	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Jul 14	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Jul 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Aug 11	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Aug 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Sep 15	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Sep 29	Sat	General Meeting Presentation of Slate of Officers	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Oct 13	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Oct dates TBD		Inbound Exchange from North Bay, Ontario, Canada		
Oct 27	Sat	General Meeting Election of Officers	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.*	11 AM
Nov 10	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Dec 8	Sat	Holiday Party		

*Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Blvd., inside Beltway 8 south of Richmond

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF HOUSTON

2012 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 immediately. Please complete this form and mail it with your check to: **Jean Porter, 710 Oyster Creek Dr, Sugar Land, TX 77478.** 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: _____

****Note: 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.

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) _____