



The Globe

JUNE/ JULY 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"The greatest journey is within ourselves. The greatest discoveries are waiting within our own hearts." - Anonymous



ICH extends a big THANK YOU to Chris and Phil Scroggie for graciously hosting our Wine Tasting Evening early last month. We all enjoyed a lovely evening in the garden sampling many different wines and delicious appetizers. A fun time was had by all and the generous raffle prizes raised over \$400 in donations. Our June meeting will feature a presentation on hurricane awareness in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season so mark your calendars now for June 19th. Please remember that ICH does not hold a monthly meeting in July and our Annual General Meeting, complete with elections for the ICH Board for 2008-2009, will be held in August. This year the August meeting will feature an Activities Fair with a possible craft show later in the fall.

At this time, I would like to thank the entire ICH membership for their generous support to our raffles and fundraisers. ICH contributes to our community by funding a scholarship awarded to international students at the University of Houston-Clear Lake as well as other charitable donations. Your continued and benevolent support has enabled us to make substantial donations and is truly appreciated. Vacationing this summer or simple cleaning out closets? Please bring travel size toiletries collected from airline travel and hotel stays to a monthly meeting and a representative from ICH will deliver the items to the Houston Area Women's Center. ICH thanks you in advance for your donations and support of our local shelters.

On behalf of the ICH Board, I would like to welcome Chris Scroggie as our incoming VP- Membership and extend my heartfelt thanks to Shelagh Metselaar, outgoing VP-Membership. Shelagh left Houston quickly in May for the UK but not before passing her well organized files and responsibilities on to Chris. Liz McLaren, our efficient Director of Refreshments is also heading back to the UK in July and we wish them both all the best in their new adventures. A warm welcome to Judy Patel who will be inheriting the coffee pot in August. **Thank you, all!!**

All my best,
Chris



For those interested in the wines served at the Wine Tasting Event held

last month, they are all available from Specs:

WHITES: 2007 Kathy Lynskey Vineyard Select Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand); 2007 Barefoot Chardonnay (USA); Barons de Rothschild Reserve Blanc Lafite 2005 (France); 2007 Kim Crawford Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand); Nautico 2006 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc (Australia); Wolf Blass Yellow Label Chardonnay (Australia); Saracco 2007 Moscato D'Asti Muscat (Italy); Bohemian Highway (Boho) Chardonnay (USA).

REDS: Campo Viejo Reserva Rioja 2002 (Spain); David Frost Cabernet 2002 (South Africa); Finca Retiro Malbec 2004 (Argentina); La Capitana 2005 Carmenere (Argentina); Castello Banfi Brachetto d'Acqui Rosa Regale 2007 (Italy); Two Barrel 2004 Syrah/Merlot (USA); Chateau Lafite-Rothschild 2006 Bordeaux (France); Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) Reserve Speciale Medoc 2004 (France).

MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING – June 2008

Hurricane Preparedness

*Thursday June 19th
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
At The Park at Voss*

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO MEETING IN JULY

We are very lucky to have Jackie Miller, a speaker from the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management share information with us at this members meeting. Booklets on hurricane preparedness will also be handed out.

Their Mission Statement is: *"We conduct programs and activities designed to provide our customers, internal and external, with the ability to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the effects of disasters. This is achieved through information and resource exchange, working with the public and private sectors, and all levels of government through the utilization of modern technology."*

Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating the City of Houston's preparation for and response to emergency situations.

<http://www.houstontx.gov/oem/index.html>

Also, please check out the upcoming:

Family Hurricane Preparedness Event
Hurricane Predictions
Evacuation Plans
Power Restoration

Saturday, June 7, 2008
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
George R. Brown Convention Center
Free & Open to the General Public

<http://hurricaneworkshop.com/default.asp>

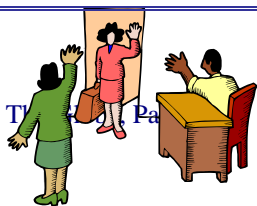
**** Members who attended the April meeting on travel have asked for the speaker's details. Her name is Helga Covert and her number for AAA Travel Inquiries is 713-284-6480.**

Directions:

***The Park at Voss
2424 South Voss Road, Houston, TX-77057***

The Park at Voss Apartment Complex is on Voss Road between Westheimer and San Felipe. It is on the west side of Voss - the left side if you are coming from Westheimer, the right side if you are coming from San Felipe. Enter the area by the 'Park at Voss' sign and proceed to the left side of the parking lot. Once you are parked, follow the path inside the fenced area to the leasing office and the conference room.

MEMBERS' CORNER



May 2008

We wish the best of luck and bon voyage to our dear friends and fellow Board Members, Brigid Lomax, Shelagh Metselaar and Liz McLaren. A very warm welcome to Peggy Ball for ICH Website, Chris Scroggie for ICH Membership and Judy Patel for ICH Refreshments.

Ladies! Could this be the closet clearing opportunity you have been looking for? !!

In support of the 'Helping Afghan Women Project' run by women volunteers in Houston to help widows and orphans in Afghanistan a 40' container it's B.I.G. has been offered to the charity free of charge to be filled and ready for shipment by mid-July. I would like to enlist your help to make this possible. They need good clothing for ladies and children only that is clean and wearable, blankets, quilts, towels, sheets, and shoes (barely worn please). They are also seeking donations of sanitary wear and toiletries (preferable sealed in a zip lock bag), children's toys that are not language specific such as dolls, soft toy, jigsaws, Lego bricks. Finally, if you have any old suitcases or soft bags that are past their best into which any of this can be packed then luggage items are welcome too. Check out their website (<http://www.helpingafghanwomen.org>) to learn more about HAWPsm - **they call it Hope!** They need our help - any contribution can make a difference! Any donations can be dropped off at 13619 Starlight Harbor Court, Houston, TX 77077. Please call me on 832 230 8448 to arrange a delivery time. Donations will be welcome up until **12 June** when attention will then turn to preparing the donations for shipment. Thank you. **Christa Dyson**

In addition to the volunteer opportunities from last month's meeting, here are additional opportunities:

- 1) Helping the Homeless at THE BEACON at the John S. Dunn Outreach Center

The day center offers a hot meal, clothing, laundry services, clothing distribution, and pastoral outreach / care to people living on the streets of Houston. Volunteers are needed to serve when The Beacon is open: SAT, SUN & MON 9am to 5pm and also during the week for service preparation & projects. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Cydney Cameron at (713) 220-9737** or e-mail at ccameron@chomhouston.org

- 2) Interpreting - Ieda Acunzo is recruiting people who want to work as interpreters for a school district in the Katy area. Languages especially needed are Korean, Tagalog, Chinese Mandarin, Chinese Cantonese, Farsi, Vietnamese and Japanese. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Acunzo at iedaacunzo@katyisd.org.



This summer, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) will present one of its most popular shows, CraftTexas 2008, the fifth in a series of juried exhibitions showcasing the best in Texas-made contemporary craft. Formerly known as CraftHouston, the show's new title, CraftTexas, more accurately reflects the participating artists from all over the state who work in clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood and found/recycled materials. Exhibition Dates: May 24 – August 17, 2008. Web link: <http://www.crafthouston.org/>



Miller Outdoor Theater, Saturday June 7th at 7 pm.

The 19th annual edition of "some mighty pleasin' squeezin'," featuring Step Rideau & the Zydeco Outlaws, La Tropa F, the Knights of Dixie Orchestra, and finalists from the 2008 "Big Squeeze" competition.

Also, on Thursday June 19th at 7:30PM. FREE to the public.

The Houston Institute for Culture and Surviving Katrina & Rita in Houston Project proudly present "A Gulfcoast Juneteenth," at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Featured performers include ReBirth Brass Band, Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, and Sherman Robertson with special guest Trudy Lynn and much more!

For other free events in June and July at the theater, click on link to: <http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com/>

Food and Wine Week is a wine and gastronomic event to be held in the Woodlands from May 31 to June 8. Please check out our sponsor's website for the event at <http://www.wineandfoodweek.com/>



Submissions to the newsletter can be emailed to the V-P Newsletter, at

ich_newsletter@yahoo.com. Events of special interest to our international members, websites to keep us all in touch and so on are always welcome and is continually updated and added to our website at <http://internationalconnectionshouston.org/>

Events in town for your interest are too numerous to list, here are a couple of interesting ones, check out this website for a full listing: <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/visitors/events.php> and <http://tourtexas.com/eventsbyregion.html>

ICH ACTIVITIES

Activities Co-Coordinator: Chris Lusignan (ich_activities@yahoo.com).

Please contact the activity leaders directly for information (personal details are in the ICH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY) or direct your queries to ich_activities@yahoo.com. All participants in ICH activities must be members of ICH.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

DINING OUT

Contact: Bev Smolenski or Rose Gaspari
Sunday night, June 8th, 6 p.m., at Churrasco's,
9705 Westheimer Road (@ Gessner
Road intersection), phone number: 713-952-1988.
*Reservation deadline is Thursday, June 5th to Bev
Smolenski (713-599-0923, RDSMOLENSK@aol.com)
or Rose Gaspari (713-783-3672).*
Enjoy fine food and wine in the company of other ICH
members and their partners.

EXPLORE HOUSTON

A wonderful way to explore Houston and its surrounds
– tours will be posted.
Contact: Monica White

NEW2ICH Coffee Morning

Contact: Linda Hunter
**Monday June 2nd from 10 am to noon at Linda
Hunter's.** Open to new or potential members. Come
for coffee and conversation with ICH and Board
members.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH

Contact: Carole Stecker
**Tuesday, June 3rd, 12 pm to 2 pm features A
Vietnamese Luncheon.** A check for \$25 (made out to
ICH) and sent to Carole Stecker will reserve your seat.
*Limited seats so book early. It will be held at the
home of Kathy Waugh.*
These lunches are delicious, fun to attend and very
popular! You can also host an event or cook for one.

NEW ACTIVITIES

If you would like to start a new group or make suggestions for one, please contact the Activities V-P



REGULAR ACTIVITIES



BOOK CLUB

Held on 4th Thursday of the month at 10.30am
Directions to the venue will be given. You can choose
one or more titles and attend the appropriate meeting.
"Casuals" are most welcome.
*** ***There will NOT be a meeting in JULY.***
Contact Amber Wickwire OR Jeanne Hero.

June Selection:

Suite Française, by Irene Nemirovsky. A novel written in
the early 40s before the Jewish author was taken to
Auschwitz, where she died. It covers chaos amidst the
exodus from Paris preceding the Nazi invasion and,
subsequently, the complex life in a German-occupied
French village. The handwritten manuscripts were
preserved by her daughters and only recently published.
Translated from French. (www.bookbrowse.com)

No meeting in JULY

August Selection

Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett. 976 p. The plot in a
nutshell: Three men want to build a cathedral in 12th C.
England. Prior Philip, Tom Builder, and Tom's stepson Jack
get the cathedral built despite many obstacles including war,
bitter rivalries between clergymen and aristocrats, fires,

death, political
economic downturns, etc. ([http://lines-
inpleasantplaces.blogspot.com/search?q=ken+follett](http://lines-inpleasantplaces.blogspot.com/search?q=ken+follett))

COOKING CLUB

A Casual cooking club is held every second Tuesday
of the month.
Louise Mac Guinness has kindly agreed to host the June
meeting, Tuesday June 10th. She will be demonstrating
foods to cook on the BBQ. As there may be many people
away, we want to get an idea of numbers to see if the
meeting should go ahead. Could you please reply to BOTH
Louise and myself to let us know if you are able to come,
Thursday June 5th at the latest. Contact Louise at
Louise_mcguinness@yahoo.co.uk

Contact Kareen Dee.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Tuesday, June 17th at 12 pm. Lunch at Le Mistral
(1422 Eldridge Pkwy).
Parlez en François avec café. Brush up on your French
conversational skills. Please contact Cecile by June
15th so reservations can be made.
No meeting in JULY
Contact Cécile Granger.

FRIENDLY BRIDGE

Every first and third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Contact Raquel Fernandez.

FRIDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Second Friday of the month. Come with a partner or request a partner to play fun bridge.

Contact Friedel Liptay.

ICE SKATING

Second and fourth Thursday of the month at 11am At Galleria Ice Rink. Meet at La Madeleine at 10.30am for coffee. **Contact Sandra Pezzetta.**

MOVIE MATINEE

Every first Wednesday of the month. No meeting in July and August

Contact Beverly Smolenski.

MORNING HANDICRAFTS

Hanne has offered to run a morning handicrafts session (stitching, knitting and other activities). Meet Wednesday mornings around 9.30 am - noon. June 4th meeting to be held at Sharon Patterson's home.

Contact Hanne Abrahamsen

STITCHING GROUP

The Lone Star Stitchers (embroidery, quilting, cross-stitch etc) meet every Monday from 1:00-4:00pm.

Contact Margaret Wallace.

SPANISH CLASSES

If you are interested in Spanish classes – please check with Barbara whether you fit category I, II or III.

Contact Barbara Donnelly

SPANISH CONVERSATION

The group meets every second Thursday of the month 1.30 - 3 pm for people to practice Spanish in a friendly and supportive environment. Native Spanish speakers are actively encouraged to attend this group. Meet at

10.30 am at La Madeleine at Woodway and Voss. (If you are first there and the small room in the front to the right of the door is empty, please sit there.)

Contact Judy Patel.

CENTRAL WALKERS

Meet at 8:00AM every Friday at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park.

Contact: Verena Dettwiler or Margaret Wallace

WEST SIDE WALKERS

Every Friday morning the month of June at 8:00am, at Terry Hershey Park on Memorial Drive, and ¼ mile west of Eldridge.

***** Please note that start times have been changed to 8 am for June. Last Friday of June will end the walking season. Walking will resume in September 2008. Look out for details on the aerobics season.**

Contact Fiona Ireland for this month.

MEMBER SERVICES

We act as facilitators for a number of activities that may be of interest to our members. If you wish to participate or if you want to know more please contact either the leader or Activities V-P

PLAYGROUP

ICH members have been invited to join the TANZOT playgroup. They don't mind at all if you are not from The Antipodes! The playgroup meets every Thursday morning 10:00am-12:00pm, usually at a member's home. For mothers and children from 0-4. **Contact Activities V-P.**

Looking for something for the teenagers to do during the vacations? **Christa** is organizing trips and outings for teenaged children. She has already planned many activities for summer.

Contact Christa Dyson.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES CALENDAR – June/July 2008

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SAT

SUN

JUNE 2 New2ICH Coffee Morning 10am – Noon @Linda Hunter's	3 INTERNATIONAL LUNCH VIETNAMESE 12pm – 2pm @Kathy Waugh's	4 MORNING HANDICRAFTS 9.30am-12pm	5 PLAYGROUP 10am-12pm SPANISH III 2-3.30pm	6 WALKERS: WESTSIDE 8 am CENTRAL 8AM	7	JUNE 1 8 DINING OUT 6pm Churrasco's @Westheimer & Gessner
9 STITCHING GROUP 1 – 4 pm SPANISH II 2-3.30pm	10 BRIDGE 10am – 1pm COOKING CLUB 10.30 am @Louise McGuiness SPANISH I 12 – 1.30 pm	11 MOVIE MATINEE ICH BOARD MEETING 10.30 AM	12 *ICE SKATING * 10.30am PLAYGROUP 10am-12pm SPANISH CONVERSATION 1.30 – 3 pm SPANISH III 2-3.30 pm	13 WALKERS: WESTSIDE 8 am CENTRAL 8AM BRIDGE evening pm	14	15
16 STITCHING GROUP 1 – 4 pm SPANISH II 2-3.30pm	17 FRENCH CONVERSATION 12 pm (Le Mistral on Eldridge Pkwy) SPANISH I 12 – 1.30 pm	18	19 PLAYGROUP 10am-12pm MONTHLY MEETING 10 am – Noon SPANISH III 2-3.30pm	20 WALKERS: WESTSIDE 9 am CENTRAL 8AM	21	22
23 STITCHING GROUP 1 – 4 pm SPANISH II 2-3.30pm	24 BRIDGE 10am – 1pm SPANISH I 12 – 1.30 pm	25	26 PLAYGROUP 10am-12pm BOOK CLUB 10.30am *ICE SKATING * 10.30am SPANISH III 2-3.30pm	27 WALKERS: WESTSIDE 8 am (Westside -last day of season – resume in Sept) CENTRAL 8AM	28	29
30 STITCHING GROUP 1 – 4 pm SPANISH II 2-3.30pm	JULY 1 SPANISH I 12 – 1.30 pm	JULY 2 Check with Activity Leaders For July	JULY 3 Check with Activity Leaders For July	July 4 Check with Activity Leaders For July	July 5	

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR ACTIVITY LEADERS FOR CONTINUING ACTIVITIES IN JULY

**THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING JUNE AND RESUME IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:
 MOVIE MATINEE – RESUMES SEPTEMBER (1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)
 DINING OUT; ICE SKATING; WATER AEROBICS HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFERED SO WESTSIDE WALKERS
 WILL CONTINUE IN JUNE BUT AT 8 AM.**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding membership, new or renewal, please e-mail

To join ICH or renew your membership, please complete a membership form, which is available on the website at www.internationalconnectionsHouston.org. Click on the *Contact ICH* link, find the membership form, and mail it with your check for \$20 (made payable to International Connections of Houston) to the address below:

**International Connections of Houston,
14027 Memorial Drive, #394,
Houston, TX 77079.**

Alternatively, you may renew your membership at the monthly meeting.

Please note: If you joined ICH after August 2008, your membership automatically includes 2009 membership. Should you have any questions or queries, please contact me at ich_membership@yahoo.com.

Kind regards,
Chris Scroggie,
ICH VP Membership.

- ◆ *ICH membership dues run from January 1st to December 31st.*
- ◆ *The 2008 dues are \$20.00*
- ◆ *Only fully paid up members may take part in ICH activities.*

*Please note that the ICH Membership Directory is compiled solely for the **personal** use of ICH Members. The use of the directory for business purposes and distribution of the Directory to any person or entity other than an ICH member is strictly forbidden.*

SPONSORS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

ICH would like to thank our faithful and generous sponsors and service providers

Options Resource Careers

for funding refreshments at our monthly meetings.

The Park at Voss

2424 South Voss Road, Houston, TX-77057

for our spacious meeting venue and parking.

Jackie Verity, Career Coach

4801 Woodway Drive, Suite 300East, Houston, TX 77056

for underwriting our website

The UPS Store

14027 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX-77079

for professional assistance.

ICH recommends Hatim Amiji for all your printing and postal needs.

Clay Poe of Interconex, Inc.

860 Greens Parkway, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77067

for underwriting our brochures

OUR MISSION

To connect, educate and empower members who have lived or are living an international experience.

OUR VISION

To provide an educational and social forum for people in Houston who are interested in international and intercultural issues. To provide scholarship funds to students who are pursuing an education with an international orientation. To promote involvement in the local community and to foster global friendships.