

# The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

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A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

## Bring the World to your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

*By Vicki Odom*

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs – especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families,” says Heather Wells, Senior Regional Director for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. “The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture.”

Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural

traditions.

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at:

[www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

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Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High.....	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

### UTILITIES

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Centerpoint Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
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Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet.....	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office.....	800-275-8777

### LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	riataranch@peelinc.com
Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to [riataranch@peelinc.com](mailto:riataranch@peelinc.com) by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.



## The "Take Care of Texas" Guide to Yard Care

### PLANT SELECTION AND CARE

Using native and well-adapted plants is one of the easiest ways to create a low-maintenance and environmentally sound yard.

The many advantages of using native plants include using less water, reducing the need for soil modification, and using little or no fertilizer. They are less susceptible to pest problems, and are tolerant of stressful environments such as drought.

Incorporate a variety of plants to provide food and cover for a variety of living things. Diversity also minimizes damage from pests because many of them attack only one plant species. Dense plantings can provide shade that keeps out invading weeds.

Avoid frequent or deep cultivation, which can damage plant roots, dry out the soil, disturb healthy soil organisms, and bring weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate. Cover all bare soil between plants with a solid mulch layer.

Visit [www.KeepCyFairBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepCyFairBeautiful.org) to access free "Take Care of Texas" publications and a Guide to Native Plants



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## HEALTH CARE EXPO EXPANDS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR CY-FAIR COMMUNITY

*Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce hosts Health Care Expo during general membership luncheon*



Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce invites guests to attend its 2014 Health Care Expo on Tuesday, July 15 at the Berry Center. The event will offer health-related businesses the opportunity to market products and services to Chamber members and the community. There will be 40+ exhibitors from a variety of industries including medical offices, local hospitals, skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, assisted living facilities, hospice providers and nutritional service providers.

“Due to a demand from our membership and community, we have expanded our Health Care Expo,” said Leslie Martone, President of the Chamber. “The Expo will bring leaders in the health care industry together in one venue to answer questions, as well as provide referrals and resources necessary to businesses and individuals.”

Free medical screenings will also be offered by Event Underwriter, Memorial Hermann, and Event Sponsor’s Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital and North Cypress Medical Center. The Health Expo will remain open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The general membership luncheon, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will have a panel of health-related speakers discussing preventative medicine, insurance exchanges, health care reform for businesses and health care funding.

“This year promises to be the largest, most comprehensive Expo ever,” said Martone.

The public is welcome. General admission to the Expo is free; however, luncheon tickets are \$30. For more information or general inquiries, visit [cyfairchamber.com](http://cyfairchamber.com) or call the Chamber at (281)373-1390. If you would like to participate as an exhibitor or sponsor, contact Sara Cantrell at [sara@cyfairchamber.com](mailto:sara@cyfairchamber.com).

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## A FOCUS ON SUNBURN

*Protect Your Skin From Our Powerful Sun*

*By: Concentra Urgent Care*

Sunburn is caused from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. While the symptoms (such as red skin that is painful to the touch) are usually temporary, the skin damage is often permanent and can cause serious long-term health effects, including skin cancer, pigmentation and premature aging. In addition to the skin, eyes can get burned from sun exposure; sunburned eyes turn red, dry, and painful, and can feel gritty.

Sunburn results when the amount of exposure to the sun or other ultraviolet light source exceeds the ability of the body's protective pigment, melanin, to protect the skin. Sunburn in a very light-skinned person may occur in less than 15 minutes of midday sun exposure, while a dark skinned person may tolerate the same exposure for hours.

Sunlight contains an invisible form of radiation called ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV A and possibly UV B can harm skin, connective tissue and increase risk for developing skin cancer. Certain drugs such as some blood pressure medication, antibiotics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs increase sensitivity to sunlight and the risk of getting sunburn.

### **SYMPTOMS**

The first signs of a sunburn may not appear for a few hours. The full effect to your skin may not appear for 24 hours or longer. Possible symptoms include:

- Red, tender skin that is warm to touch. (1st degree burn)
- Blisters that develop hours to days later. (2nd degree burn)
- Severe reactions (sometimes called "sun poisoning"), including fever, chills, nausea, or rash.
- Skin peeling on sunburned areas several days after the sunburn.

### **FIRST AID**

- Try taking a cool bath or shower. Or place wet, cold wash cloths on the burn for 10 to 15 minutes, several times a day. You can mix baking soda in the water to help relieve the pain. Small children may become easily chilled, so keep the water tepid.
- Apply a soothing lotion to the skin.
- Aloe gel is a common household remedy for sunburns. Aloe contains active compounds that help stop pain and inflammation of the skin.
- Over-the-counter steroid cream can also be applied several times a day.
- Over-the-counter pain medication, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, including aspirin, may be helpful, and are excellent for reducing burn inflammation whereas Tylenol only reduces pain, not the burn itself.

For more information, check out: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/uvradiation](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/uvradiation).





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\* includes basic roof maintenance of caulking around roof flashings & general roof inspection for up to one hour. Does not include material. May also be applied to complete roof replacement.

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## HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES THE 2014 – 2015 SEASON

The Houston Family Arts Center (HFAC) announces its 10th mainstage season, which explores life, love and laughter through timeless musicals, zany comedies, a classic murder mystery and a Shakespearean comedy. This exciting lineup begins with the zany, musical comedy *Nunsense*. After the laughter prepare for mystery with Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, followed by the traditional holiday production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The New Year opens with the beautiful and touching *A Secret Garden*. HFAC ends the season with a trip around the world and the first stop is France for a riveting production of *The Three Musketeers*. Argentina is the next destination with the award winning, *Evita*. Then on to merry, old England for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This magical season ends with the patriotic musical, *1776*.

Acting Artistic Director, Lisa Garza says, "This is a season that will inspire you to explore the past- in literature, in history, and in yourself. The HFAC 2014-15 Season allows you to experience how others have dealt with grief, danger, power, love, and life. Don't miss it!"

The season opens with Dan Goggin's *Nunsense*, September 5 – 28. With a let's-put-on-show-attitude, the zany Little Sisters of Hoboken are on a comedy crusade to fund raise their way out of an unfortunate cooking accident. This light-hearted and enduring musical, comedy will make a disciple out of any doubter.

Next is Agatha Christie's thriller, *And Then There Were None*. After being stranded on a storm-shrouded rock, an unlikely group of houseguests are picked off one at a time by an unseen killer. Agatha Christie's spare-no-suspense plotting keeps mystery buffs on the edge of their seats from October 17 – November 9!

For the holidays from November 28 – December 21, HFAC proudly presents Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. Dickens' craftily cantankerous Ebenezer Scrooge has no time for charity until three ghostly visitors appear on Christmas Eve. A plum pudding of a show, *A Christmas Carol* gives you a reason to celebrate the season all year long!

The New Year at HFAC begins February 6 – March 1, with the uplifting children's story, *The Secret Garden*. An unlikely hero, spoiled orphan, Mary Lennox blossoms when she learns to cultivate not only

an abandoned garden, but also the lives of those around her. This uplifting children's classic from 1911 is a musical oasis of redemption and an odyssey of renewal.

From children's story to swashbuckling, HFAC presents *The Three Musketeers*. Promising swordsman d'Artagnan, saddled with his plucky tomboy sister, travels to Paris in 1625 to seek his fortunes with the famous trio of heroes. This swashbuckling romp, liberally peppered with nefarious villains, alluring ladies, and narrow escapes, is truly the one-for-all! The action will take place March 20 – April 12.

*Evita* storms the stage, May 1 – May 24 in HFAC's next production. For Eva Peron, every crowd has a silver lining. The parabolic career of Argentina's first lady inspired Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's pop-opera phenomenon. Was she a sainted hero of the working-class or a working-class seductress? This passionate work retains the power to entice and inflame.

Suggested for mature audiences

Shakespeare comes to life, June 12 – July 5 with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The canon's most enchanted comedy pursues love with calculated abandon! This story of mortal and immortal paramours set in a mythical forest is one that will cast a spell on lovers of all ages.

Closing this exciting season, July 24 – August 16, is the American musical, *1776*. With revolutionary immediacy, our lofty founding fathers are found to be genuine people who debate, bargain, and fray one another's nerves as they struggle on the tortuous road to independence. This musical witness to the creation of one of the most eloquent documents in history will stir the soul of every American.

Season subscriptions packages are now available for purchase for the 2014-2015 season. Season subscriptions offer incentives and discounts to new and returning patrons for every performance and packages start as low as \$100. Subscribers save 20% off single-ticket prices. Other subscriber perks include the opportunity to pick the best seats before they go on sale to the general public, personalized customer service, two complimentary concession items for every show and recognition in every Playbill. Patrons can purchase their subscriptions online at [www.houstonfac.com](http://www.houstonfac.com) or call the HFAC box office at 281-685-6374.



**HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER 2014-2015 MAINSTAGE SEASON**

*Nunsense*  
September 5 – 28, 2014

*And Then There Were None*  
October 17 – November 9, 2014

*A Christmas Carol*  
November 28 – December 21, 2014

*The Secret Garden*  
February 6 – March 1, 2015

*The Three Musketeers*  
March 20 – April 12, 2015

*Evita*  
May 1 – 24, 2015

*A Midsummer's Night Dream*  
June 12 – July 5, 2015

*1776*  
July 24 – August 16, 2015

**NOT AVAILABLE  
ONLINE**

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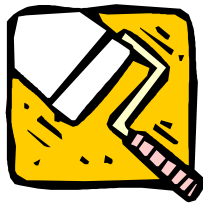
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