

**Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
General Meeting
June 10, 2007**

President Dianne Karal called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., Sunday, June 10th, at Family Merchants Bank in Cedar Rapids. Approximately 30 members and guests attended. President Dianne welcomed everyone and conducted a very brief business meeting before the educational session on Peru.

Meeting minutes from April 22, 2007 were reviewed. President Dianne asked for members to let Darby Anderson know if they had any changes.

Winston Edson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Exchange Fund has \$1,713.23. The General Fund has \$7,818.84. The IRIS Host Escrow account has \$2,187.50 and the Promotions Fund has \$2,797.58. Total assets are \$14,517.15.

Old Business

President Dianne reported that 14 people were going to Shelby, North Carolina, from July 29-August 3. No other details were available.

Our club will be hosting an Open World Exchange beginning October 6th for eight days. Twelve Russians have signed up for the exchange. Steve Williams has agreed to be the Exchange Director.

New Business

President Dianne informed the group that our club was asked to home host an IRIS/Open World exchange from Russia July 24-July 28. It will be a group of business men and women (six men and four women) who are learning about tolerance and human rights. Our club will not have to plan any programs for their visit. All transportation will be taken care of, as well. President Dianne suggested our club could plan a farewell party.

Membership Director Margaret Miller reported that today's guest speaker, Jeanne Slauson, joined our club.

The general business meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The educational session on Peru began immediately after the business meeting.

Educational Session

Exchange Director Margaret Miller stated seven Peruvians have been granted visas. Others have been denied, or are still in the process of getting a visa. Margaret briefly discussed the tentative activities planned for their visit.

Club members brought Peruvian dishes to share. Some of these items are listed below:

Mary Stull- Chicken casserole-type dish

Pat Klopfenstein- Fish-based soup

Jeanne Slauson- Spanish rice and beans

Winston and Marceil Edson- Frijos con Queso (a refried bean and cheese dish) and a rice and almond cooler.

Jerry and Phyllis Seidl- Sangria

Nancy and Steve Miller- Platanos con Crema (bananas with cream)

Connie Williams- Potatoes with cream sauce

Steve and Nancy Williams- El Salvadorian Cabbage Salad

Sandy Colton- Fried chicken with oregano

Mary Lukas and Ed Junkins- Ceviche (marinated in lime juice), Chicha Morada (a beverage), and a brownie-like dessert

Richard and Dixie Fowler- Carne de Asado (roast beef)

Mike and Dianne Karal- Leche Asada (a sweet custard dish)

Margaret and Richard Miller- Ensalada de Pallares (salad)

Dick Fowler presented information about their March 2000 trip to South America. He and his wife stayed 11 days in Peru. He provided a lot of information on the country's climate, population, geography, wildlife, transportation and highlights from their trip.

Jeanne Slauson reported on her 18-day trip to Peru last year. She discussed Peruvian dancing and several of the shanty towns she visited. She also talked about political demonstrations she witnessed, her experiences at Machu Picchu, visiting a medicine man, Lake Titicaca, and the hardworking families she encountered.

John Elliot introduced the third guest speaker, Jean Parry. She traveled to Peru in February 2005. She explained that Peru is only one hour ahead of Iowa so our visitors should not experience much jet lag. Jean talked about her experiences in Peru, including the catacombs under a cathedral she visited and the wildlife in the area. She said guinea pigs are a staple in their diet and are also used to barter for other services and products. Jean is an artist and shared a beautiful piece she had painted from a picture she took of a young woman and her baby.

The informational portion of the meeting concluded at 4:40 p.m.

Secretary

Darby Anderson