

Yours in Friendship April 2009

Our club has a very exciting spring planned. Learn about all of the upcoming activities and other club updates below.

Fundraising Committee Meeting

Everyone is invited to brainstorm fundraising ideas for Friendship Force. If you would like to help, please plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Audrey Bradford's home- 1126 Forest Glen Court SE, Cedar Rapids.

Freedom Festival

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City will be working at one of the Freedom Festival events as a fundraiser and will have an opportunity to tell the community about our club. Volunteers are needed. Please let Audrey Bradford know if you are interested.

LEO (Let's Eat Out) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st at Zio John's (7th Avenue in Marion) at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Phyllis Seidl at 377-5619 or seidlgerald@msn.com before April 18th.

May Board Meeting

Because May is such a busy month and so many members will be involved with hosting, we have decided to hold a separate Board Meeting (not before a General Meeting or other activity.) The Board Meeting will be Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at a location soon to be determined. Please watch your email for more details.

Help Plan the Tri-Club Picnic

We need your bright ideas! We're looking for volunteers to help plan the Tri-Club Picnic (Quad Cities, Dubuque and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City.) If you would like to participate in the planning process, please let Darby Anderson know ASAP. A meeting will be held Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 p.m. (before the Board meeting) at a location yet to be determined. *This is a great opportunity for members to get involved with a limited time commitment.*

Leadership Needed ASAP for Global Exchange to Azerbaijan

Our club has accepted the opportunity to lead a Global Exchange to Baku, Azerbaijan in July 2010. We need an experienced Exchange Director who is up for a challenge and willing to work very closely with FFI. This exchange will include fifty percent Cedar Rapids/Iowa City delegates and fifty percent of delegates from around the world. We need to do some long range planning, so to meet FFI requirements we need to have an Exchange Director by May 1st. If you are interested in this leadership role, please contact Steve Williams, Exchange Coordinator, by **April 27th**. Email: swill1234@msn.com or call 319-465-3942.

Promotion Committee Update

Our club will have the following items available for purchase:

- Friendship Force Luggage Tags – \$3.00 These can be personalized.
- Travel Journal/notebooks – \$7.50 These can be personalized for Friendship Force, our group, or for specific exchanges.
- White polo shirts with embroidered FF logo – \$30.00 (Women's sizes are available.)
- International Table Blessings (business card size) A set of 24 with cardholder is \$7.50.

Exchange Updates

Incoming Exchanges

Los Angeles, CA – Ten female ambassadors will be with us from Thursday, May 14th until Monday, May 18th. A schedule of interesting activities is being developed for our guests. All members are invited to the following events:

Welcome potluck: Please welcome our LA guests from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14th at the Noelridge Park Lagoon Pavilion. This will be an informal meet and greet. No reservations necessary. Please bring an appetizer or tail-gate-type snack to share and your own cooler beverages- soft drinks, wine or beer.

Farewell Banquet/General Meeting: The General Meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17th at Bloomsbury Farms, 3260 69th Street, Atkins. Hayrides, barbeque picnic supper, tours and a bonfire are included for \$16/person. This will be the final evening with our LA guests, so let's make it memorable! For directions, visit <http://www.bloomsburyfarm.com/findus.html>.

Please make your reservation via phone at 396-4747 or email cmw1226@yahoo.com by the end of day May 9th. Checks should be mailed to Connie Williams at 3960 Johnson Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405.

YES, Youth Exchange Program – Two teachers, one from Tanzania and one from Nigeria, will be here May 24th through May 31st. The Sauers have agreed to host them.

IRIS (Ukraine) Exchange – Approximately ten visitors will be here from May 27th through June 2nd. More details to follow.

Open World Exchange – We will have an Open World delegation of four delegates plus a facilitator and interpreter, May 29th through June 6th. The delegates are youth leaders in Azerbaijan. We will plan professional programming for them June 1st - June 5th. Coincidentally, our club will lead a trip to Baku, Azerbaijan in July 2010.

Because the IRIS and Open World exchanges will overlap, we have tentatively planned a joint social gathering on Sunday, May 31st. More details will be available in the next few weeks.

Could you host one of the delegates from the Ukraine or Azerbaijan? Contact Steve Williams (swill1234@msn.com) or Colleen Nieman (Nieman.jim@imonmail.com) or 396-5892 to volunteer to host. Steve and Nancy Williams will host the translator as she/he does not need to be in Cedar Rapids. May will be very busy, but please keep in mind we are not likely have any guests in the fall.

Outgoing Exchanges

Peru - Dianne Karal is the Exchange Director for this exchange. Twenty-one people are going for up to 20 days beginning June 8th. They have a very exciting trip planned.

Kapiti Coast and Christchurch, New Zealand – This exchange is tentatively planned for March 2010 and may include a possible third week in Australia (mostly likely Sydney.) Phyllis Seidl is the Exchange Director, with Darby Anderson as her assistant ED. If you are interested in this exchange, please let Phyllis or Darby know. More information will be forthcoming once an ED has been chosen by the New Zealand clubs.

As you can see, we have a very exciting few months ahead. Please join us, and bring a friend!

In Friendship,

Darby Anderson & Audrey Bradford