

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
Yours in Friendship
April 2010

Hurray! We knew that spring would eventually come to Iowa. The temperature may bounce around a little more, but the daffodils, crocuses, and tree buds can't be wrong. The Friendship Force friends we visited from Tucson, Las Vegas and Los Angeles may not understand how we can stand to be Iowans in the winter, but they also don't know the euphoria of spring we experience on days like this.

We got confirmation this week from FF International that San Juan, Costa Rica has accepted our exchange for 2011! They would like us to go there in November. I think we will fill this exchange quickly so start thinking about it. Maybe you would like to be exchange director.

Spring and early summer mean several options for fun and learning for FFCR/IC members. Sushi lovers know that they enjoy the Sushi House but those who aren't into sushi will still find food that you'll like at the LEO on April 7 at 6:00. The May 16th speaker will give us a background for understanding Buddhism for our visitors from Gifu in June, the Dahli Lama visit to UNI, and for our general knowledge. This will be an excellent meeting for visitors and potential new members, so invite those friends who have been curious about Friendship Force and our mission.

Get ready for entertaining the Japanese in June, volunteering at one of the Freedom Festival events or helping with the booth at the Farmers' Market in June or August. Fun and activities are there for all of us.

Calendar of Events:

April 7: LEO – Let's Eat Out, Wednesday at 6pm at Sushi House, 2665 Edgewood Pkwy SW Cedar Rapids. The beef teriyaki or grand prawns with honey walnut dishes are outstanding....and cooked if you are not so interested in sushi. To see the menu on their website: <http://sushihouse.org/> . Call Darby or email at darbyanderson1@gmail.com or 319-431-8417 before Sunday, April 4th.

April 14 - 30 : CR/IC to New Zealand Exchange. Phyllis Seidl is leading a group of 21 ambassadors for sixteen days on two exchanges on the beautiful islands of New Zealand.

**May 16, Sunday at 2pm: General Meeting, St. Andrew Lutheran Church
4420 Center Point Road NE, Cedar Rapids**

“Buddhism” has been an immensely popular adult class at UNI presented by Professor James Robinson. He will give us an opportunity to learn a little about this religion before the Dalai Lama's visit to UNI on May 18 and our visit from Gifu, Japan in June.

June 15-22: Exchange with Gifu, Japan to Cedar Rapids Welcome Potluck on Tuesday, June 15, location to be announced later and Farewell Party on Monday, July 21 at Red Cedar Lodge at Squaw Creek. Dianne Karal and Tressa Youngbear are Exchange Directors. There are still some opportunities for day hosting or hosting small group dinners.

June 19 and August 21: Farmer's Market, 7:30 am to noon. We'll have a booth at the market promoting the goals and benefits of Friendship Force. Volunteers are still needed.

June 19 – July 4: Freedom Festival Fundraising will sign up our club as volunteers for specific events in mid-April. We look forward to staffing several groups of 10 during this Fantastic Fourth Celebration!

International group to Baku, Azerbaijan, August 30-Sept. 14: Cedar Rapids will lead this exchange of two weeks on the Caspian Sea. Steve Williams has a full exchange for this exciting trip.

Updates:

Friendship Force of Los Angeles hosted a domestic exchange for nine ambassadors from Cedar Rapids and ten ambassadors from Cherry Hill, NJ. We had a wonderful time both with our hosts and with the clubs as a group. Our scheduled events included the Ronald Reagan Library (how did they get Air Force One in the building?), the Gamble House (a Craftsman-style house owned by the Gamble family of Proctor & Gamble fame) and a farewell dinner at The Market. As a result of open days with our hosts, each of us was able to enjoy some activities specific to our hosts and some shared interests.....so much to see in only a week! The travel time just to get from one activity to another gave us lots of opportunity to know our hosts and day hosts, some of our best conversations were in the car while buzzing along the freeway. Our hosts loved that car pool lane! We appreciate the effort and hospitality extended by Los Angeles, hope to see New Jersey in the future and welcome all to come visit us.

Silent Auction: As you do your Spring housecleaning, please set aside a few treasures for the annual Silent Auction. This fun event, which often took place in March, has been moved to the November meeting, giving everyone the opportunity to move a few things out of the house before Christmas.

Talkers Needed: The Kirkwood English Language Acquisition program is looking for conversation partners for the international students in the program. These students need practice outside the classroom with language to help them master the skills they're also learning in class. These students also need to learn U.S. culture from you! Conversation partners usually get together with each other once a week and talk. That's it! It's not formal or graded, it's just a great way to get to know someone new, and learn about the world from others. If interested, contact Catherine Schaf-Stump at cstump@kirkwood.edu or call her at (319) 398-5581.

Friendship Force Merchandise: Polo shirts, journal notebooks, stationary, luggage tags: All of these make great gifts for hosts, visitors or to identify yourself as an ambassador. All are lightweight for travel. See the CR/IA Friendship Force website for pictures, then call or email Connie Williams at 396-4747 and cmw1226@yahoo.com to order.

International Conference at Washington, D.C – October 16-18

This is open to any Friendship Force member. The conference gives the opportunity to see old friends, make new friends and to network with clubs from around the world. To register, go to <http://thefriendshipforce.org/> website for additional information and registration link.

Board Contacts: Audrey Bradford, Connie Williams, Liz Sauer, Dale Moore, Marty Novak, Margaret Nelson, Steve Williams, Marian Wetjen, Vic and Pat Klopfenstein, Bernita Walker, Janice Schmitz, Darby Anderson
Please contact any board member if you have questions, discussion or items to be addressed. These can be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

Website:

If you have website skills, and would like to help with this on going project, please contact Darby Anderson, 431-8417 or darbyanderson1@gmail.com

How about some Spring in your step....quotes for the season!

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" ~Robin Williams

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer. ~Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go. ~Christopher Morley, *John Mistletoe*

Yours in Friendship, Audrey & Connie