

Yours in Friendship August 2009

Summer is going fast so check out the Friendship Force activities coming up in the next few months. The Mystery weekend in July was a lot of fun. Read Sally Fairchild's report at the end of the newsletter.

Calendar:

August 20th – Let's Eat Out, 6:00 p.m., Stone City General Store and Pub, Stone City. RSVP immediately to Jeanne & Jack Knopp at jpkjlk@q.com or phone at 319 465-4402.

September 13th – Board Meeting at 3:30 at a location to be determined. Board members, please watch your email for updated information.

September 20th – Tri-Club Picnic, 4:00 p.m., Monticello City Park at 800 N. Maple St. The Jones County Pork Producers will be cooking pork burgers and ice cream will be provided from the Jones County Dairy Producers for \$5/person. Condiments for the sandwiches and ice cream will be provided. **Please bring a salad or vegetable to share.** Plates, napkins and utensils will be provided. CR/IC members and should RSVP to Jack Knopp at jpkjlk@q.com before Sept. 11th.

If you want to make a fun day of it float the Maquoketa River at noon for only \$30 for a two-person canoe. This is one of the nicest float trips in eastern Iowa. Bus pickup/delivery and float is about 3.5 to 4 hours depending on the water level. It's a very safe trip. Call or e-mail Jack Knopp at 319-465-4402 or jpkjlk@q.com for more information and to RSVP.

LEO in October – Date to be confirmed – Tatyana's Kitchen, 224 1st West St. in Mt. Vernon. Bernita Walker and Shirley Gibb will be hosting. This is a Russian restaurant with a native Russian woman cooking recipes from her culture.

November – Annual meeting. More info to come.

Upcoming Exchanges:

Tucson, AZ – November 2009

We recently accepted an invitation from the Tucson/Southern Arizona club for this exchange. They tell us the weather is nearly perfect that time of year. Marian Wetjen is the Exchange Director so if you are interested please contact her at mwetjen@iowatelecom.net or 319-363-0586.

New Zealand – April 14-30, 2010 Kapiti Coast and Christchurch, New Zealand. Phyllis Seidl at seidlgerald@msn.com or 319-37-5619 is the Exchange Director. The week at Kapiti Coast will have the additional interest of being a joint exchange with a group from Tasmania visiting at the same time. The possibility of an optional third week touring the interior of the south island is being explored.

Azerbaijan – Our club has a great opportunity in Baku Azerbaijan, in Sept. of 2010. Write to Steve Williams swill1234@msn.com or 319-465-3942 to express interest. We should have ambassadors from many clubs on that trip.

The Grant from Rockwell Collins gives us the opportunity to add some special activities and services to our exchanges in the next year. The \$5000 grant is to be used “to promote Cedar Rapids Exchanges and cultural enhancement” so be creative and think of activities you would have liked to add to past exchanges. We want your input in the upcoming meetings. Contact Audrey Bradford audrey.b@mchsi.com or 319-365-5746 or Connie Williams cmw1226@yahoo.com or 319-396-4747 with your ideas.

Rita Maher, a long time Friendship Force member, passed away on August 8. She was an ambassador on several exchanges including to Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. She also hosted several times and was active in the club until she developed health problems in recent years.

Request for Information: Lee Rockwell, our Field Rep for International, is asking for our input: Give some thought to the questions below and email your ideas to Darby at darbyanderson1@gmail.com.

1. What is the best activity, or site visit, that you offer your incoming international exchange visitors? What is it, and why is it so popular?
2. What negative reactions have you received from incoming clubs about being assigned a visit to your club in the mid-section of America?

Travel Tip:

When you're making copies of your travel itineraries and contact numbers to leave with friends or family also make extra copies of your passport, insurance cards, and travel insurance info. Carry them separately from the originals.

Mystery Weekend 2009

What a mystery it was when on July 24, 2009, fifteen Friendship Force members took off to places unknown. Stops on the way included a tour of Montauk, the historic governor's home built in 1874 by Iowa's 12th Governor – Governor William Larrabee. From there we went into Clermont, Iowa for a soup and salad lunch at the Quarry Lodge. Then on to weather – a rain and hail storm while driving.

When stopping at Festiva at the World's Smallest Church, we discovered that Marty Novak's family had built it. So into the church we go for a mystery ceremony. This surprise was a surprise renewal of wedding vows for Nancy and Steve Williams since it was their 55th wedding anniversary. Vic Klopenstein performed the renewal of vows by the powers invested in him from the internet and Pat Klopenstein assisted dressing the bride, Nancy, in a beautiful bridal hat. Vic even had new wedding bands for them from

two very good cigars. We did not have rice to throw but there were many white ice hail crystals to throw provided by God.

The wedding reception was held on the bus with wedding peaches and crème cupcakes and water in plastic goblets. So, on we roll to The Bily Clocks in Spillville. Marty Novak was a tour guide there in high school, so we got to drive by her home. Beautiful clocks!

On to Minneapolis to be hosted by wonderful FF people. Some of the activities included tours of the state capitol, flights in private planes, tours of James Hill house, tours of the National Shrine of the Apostle Paul, and the Noerenberg Gardens on Lake Minnetonka. A great time was had by all so you'll have to talk to each individual to hear it all.

Sunday, July 26th, we left Minneapolis and headed to another mystery. This time Steve Williams figured it out from the hints. We were headed to Matchstick Marvels Museum in Gladbrook, Iowa. Steve called his friend there and before we left Gladbrook we toasted Nancy and Steve on their 55th anniversary with real drinks at the Legion Hall that was open especially for us by their friends. We had a great time!!!!!!

--Sally Fairchild, Exchange Director