

Yours in Friendship December 2009

Welcome to a New Year in Friendship Force! Darby Anderson did such a great job for us in 2009, we all thank her for the time and energy she brought to our Club. The hope and plan is to continue in the same good direction as Darby, Tressa, Stephanie and others set for Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force.

The Annual Meeting was held November 15 at the Clarion Hotel. The dinner meeting was well attended. Approximately 50 members and guests enjoyed dinner and learned about Tibetan prayer flags, lifestyle and dress from Tselha and Mike Williams.

The new officers were elected. Joining Audrey Bradford (President) is Connie Williams (President-Elect), Liz Sauer (Secretary) and Dale Moore (Treasurer). Other 2010 board members are Bernita Walker and Marian Wetjen (Directors at Large), Margaret Nelson (Activities Chair), Marty Novak (Membership Chair), Vic and Pat Klopfenstein (Communications Co-Chairs), Steve Williams (Exchange Coordinator) and Darby Anderson (Past-President). A planning meeting is scheduled on December 13th for the new board.

Next General Meeting January 17, 2010: We'll meet at the Stewart Memorial Library, Perrine Gallery on the Coe campus at 2 pm for a tour of the art gallery. Go to <http://www.coe.edu/aboutcoe/map> for a campus map. Suggested parking on campus is near McCabe Hall (behind Wendy's), the lots off of 14th Street NE behind the student apartments or the lots near Eby Fieldhouse/Natatorium.

Membership Renewal: Dues are \$20 for a single, \$40 for per couple/family, which supports both our local club and the international office. If you have not already done so, please mail your check to Marty Novak at 1253 Belmont Pkwy NW, Cedar Rapids IA 52405. If you have credits for hosting Open World or IRIS, these can be used toward dues. Contact Marty for further information.

Website: Please send your most interesting pictures from incoming or outgoing exchanges to Darby Anderson at darbyanderson1@gmail.com to be displayed on the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force website, <http://www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org/>. Find the listing of club members with contact information at the Membership login: ID is *friendshipforceccr-ic*, password is *ff2008*.

Exchanges: Please contact the listed Exchange Directors (ED) for additional information.

Los Angeles Feb 20-26, 2010. Cedar Rapids and Cherry Hills, NJ are sharing this exchange. Ten of our members are currently planning to go, with openings

for three more. Fees for the trip are \$110, participants are making their own flight reservations – a great way to use frequent flyer miles. For additional information, contact exchange director, Connie Williams at cmw1226@yahoo.com.

Kapiti Coast and Christchurch, New Zealand April 13-30, 2010: Phyllis Seidl at seidlgerald@msn.com is exchange director. The exchange is full at this time and has a short waiting list.

Northern Ireland, departure May 13, 2010: You can travel with Lansing, MI for this exchange. Cost is \$2800. Contact Jill Murphy, exchange director, Friendship Force of Greater Lansing at 517-322-2824 for further details.

Incoming Exchange from Gifu, Japan, arrival mid-June, 2010: Tressa Youngbear and Dianne Karal are the Exchange Directors.

Worldwide exchange to Baku, Azerbaijan in September 2010. Cedar Rapids will lead this multicultural exchange of two weeks on the Caspian Sea. Contact Steve Williams at swill1234@msn.com to learn more about this excellent adventure.

Report on the recent Tucson Exchange from Marian Wetjen, Exchange Director:

Our small but wonderful group enjoyed six days with the Tucson/Southern Arizona club. Four members of the CR/IC-- Vic + Pat Klopfenstein, Audrey Bradford and Marian Wetjen--plus one Des Moines member and a new member from Michigan joined nine Las Vegas members and two Santa Barbara members for a diverse and exciting exchange. From our welcome dinner in a beautiful home with 45 in attendance to the farewell dinner in a Mexican restaurant, we all have special memories of beautiful scenery, interesting tours and newly made friendships. Some of our activities/tours were--barrio food tasting, Sabino Canyon, Tombstone, DiGrazio Gallery, Karchner Caverns, Mt. Lemmon, Sonora Desert Museum and the All Soul's parade, to name a few. Everyone agreed it was a great experience and are anxious to have our new friends explore Iowa.

Let there be peace on earth, let this be the moment now. With every step we take, let this be our solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally! Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

May the blessings of the Season be with all of you!

**In Friendship,
Audrey and Connie**