

Yours in Friendship **June 2009**

Friendship Force Cedar Rapids/Iowa City has been sharing friendship on a large scale in May and June. Our club hosted nine members of the Los Angeles Friendship Force Club, nine Ukrainian IRIS representatives, two YES program educators from Nigeria and Tanzania, and five people from Azerbaijan affiliated with Open World. Thanks to everyone who hosted, day hosted, planned programming and everything else that it took to provide for all these groups. A big thanks to Margaret Miller, exchange director for the LA exchange, to Steve Williams and Vic Klopfenstein, who did nearly all the planning for Open World and IRIS, and to Colleen and Jim Nieman for helping find host families for the Open World/IRIS guests.

Nineteen ambassadors left for Chicago on Sunday June 7th for the **Outgoing Exchange to Peru**. We're sure they are having an exciting time. They return June 27th. Dianne Karal is the exchange director for this group.

Mark Your Calendars

June 14th - New Zealand 2010 Info Meeting

If you are interested in the New Zealand exchange, please attend an initial meeting on Sunday, June 14th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Seidl home - 7709 Princeton Drive NE, Cedar Rapids. RSVPs are requested before Saturday, June 13th. RSVP to Phyllis at 377-5619 or Darby at 431-8417. If you cannot attend the meeting, but are still interested in the exchange, please feel free to call or email Phyllis (seidlgerald@msn.com) or Darby (darbyanderson1@gmail.com.)

June 17th - Let's Eat Out, 6:00 p.m., Lighthouse Inn, 6905 Mt. Vernon Road SE, Cedar Rapids. RSVP ASAP to John Haack, 366-3365 or john.haack@mchsi.com.

June 21st - Freedom Festival Car Show/Fundraising Shift, 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

June 25th - Freedom Festival Balloon Glow/Fundraising Shift at Bruce more, 8:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

July 4th - Freedom Festival Fireworks/Fundraising Shift at Kirkwood Community College, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

See attachment for information on assignments for all three Festival events.

July 19th - General Meeting

The Friendship Force General Meeting will be at 6:00 pm on July 19th in the Overlook Pavilion at Ellis Park, with light refreshments served. Then we'll adjourn for an evening of entertainment by the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band at 7:30 pm. You will need your lawn chair for the concert. Coolers with snacks and beverages, including beer and wine, can be brought into the park. Plan on picnicking to the music of our own Cedar Rapids Municipal Band!

July 19th - Board Meeting

A Board Meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., just before the General Meeting, in the Overlook Pavilion at Ellis Park.

July 24th-26th - Mystery Trip- ED Sally Fairchild has three openings left. Call her right away if you are interested. She promises it will be fun and all of last year's participants are betting she is right.

August Date T.B.D. - Let's Eat Out, 6:00 p.m., Stone City General Store and Pub, Stone City

September 20th- Tri-club Picnic at City Park in Monticello. More details to come.

In Other News...

Los Angeles Exchange Report

Nine ambassadors from Los Angeles arrived on the evening of May 13th and were greeted with an Iowa thunderstorm. They had never seen such lightning! Many of us were drenched in the downpour.

The LA ambassadors enjoyed many events including the local museums. Thank you, Dolores Kaiden and Joanne Smith, for making the arrangements. There was a great turn out for the Welcome Banquet at Noelridge Park on May 14th. Both our President Darby Anderson and the LA club President Pat Gittleman had met in Australia at the International Conference last year. Thank you, Connie Williams, for setting up this event.

May 15th was another rather cold and blustery day— very cold for our LA guests! We went on a tour of the Basilica in Dyersville followed by a lunch at Country Junction and a brief stop at the Field of Dreams. In Dubuque we were met by several Friendship Force members from the Dubuque club. They even had a welcome sign to greet us on the windshield of a bright yellow Scion. We couldn't miss it! Thanks to Steve and Nancy Williams for their hospitality before we returned to Cedar Rapids. The Farewell Banquet at Bloomsbury Farm was well attended by our club members. It was a great way for the LA "city folk" to see rural Iowa. Thanks to all our host families – Audrey Bradford, Janis Schmitz, Mary Stull, Veta and Richard Hildebrand, Marian Wetjen, Will and Karen Mickelson and Richard and Margaret Miller. Patty and Dave Detwiler had their first experience of hosting and new member Shirley Gibb provided day hosting. Thank you everyone for making this a successful exchange and I KNOW we are going to be invited to Los Angeles. -----Margaret Miller Exchange Director

Ron Swanson will be representing Friendship Force Cedar Rapids/Iowa City at the **International Conference in Okinawa in November**. Ron volunteered for this position after neither Audrey Bradford, President-Elect, nor Steve Williams, Exchange Coordinator, were able to make the trip. The board voted to accept Ron as our delegate. We are sure he will do an excellent job for us.

FF CR/IC members Vic Klopfenstein and Richard Bice were recently inducted into the Volunteer Hall of Fame by Cedar Rapids Community Schools. You can read more about it at <http://www.cr.k12.ia.us/aboutUs/volunteer/volunteerRecognition2009.html> They are featured toward the bottom of the webpage. Congratulations!!

See you at the next event!

Friendship Force assignments for Freedom Festival:

Thank you to John and Cheryl Elliott for all their help arranging work teams.

Sunday, June 21, 2009 – 11:30 – 3:00 pm; Vintage and Vinyl at Kirkwood – north of Jones Hall. Go to the volunteer tent inside the gate by the merchandise tent.

Audrey Bradford -- lead
Lynette Nuehring
John Elliott (back-up)
Cheryl Elliot
Connie Williams
Myron Williams
Steve Miller
Nancy Miller
Mary Stull
Frank Stull
Shirley Gibb

Thursday June 25, 2009, 8:00-11:30 pm; Balloon Glow at Bruce more

Go to the volunteer check in stand. We will be working in the merchandise tent and helping with cleanup. Additional parking is at Washington HS with shuttle buses to Bruce more.

See map of Bruce more which follows.

Audrey Bradford
Lynette Nuehring
John Elliott -- lead
Cheryl Elliot
Darby Anderson
Jerry Seidl
Phyllis Seidl
Vic Klopfenstein
Veryl Hansen
Dick Hansen
Ron Nelson (back-up)

Saturday July 4, 2009, 5:30-9:30 pm; Fireworks at Kirkwood

Go to the merchandise tent in Linn Hall parking lot. You will get a parking pass with your t-shirt to park at the event.

Myron Williams – lead
Connie Williams
Marian Wetjen
Margaret Miller
Richard Miller
Cheryl Moore
Dale Moore
Dianne Peckosh
Darlene Philips
Audrey Bradford

You will get a Festival t-shirt from Audrey Bradford before your first assignment. We must wear the gold Freedom Festival volunteer t-shirts each time we work.

The team leader will check in for the entire team when all 10 members have arrived. Plan to arrive at the check-in area 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of your shift for instructions. Check-in areas are listed with each event.

If you find that you cannot fulfill a volunteer assignment, please notify the team leader or Audrey Bradford as soon as possible. If at all possible find a replacement for your slot. We must have a full ten volunteers for each event. Extra t-shirts and waivers can be arranged at the last minute.

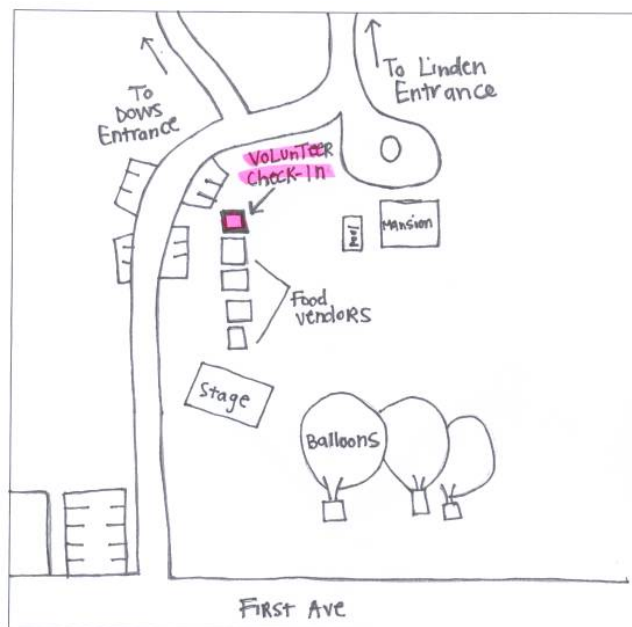
At the end of each shift, prior to leaving the assigned area, volunteers should wait until their replacement arrives. The entire team should then regroup and report back to their Team Leader at the check-in area. The team leader is responsible for returning all 10 lanyards to the volunteer coordinator.

Because we are the final team for the Balloon Glow we will report back to the volunteer check in at the end of the event. We may be doing cleanup or other tasks until the end of our volunteer time.

Inclement weather: If bad weather is pending and you wonder if the event is still scheduled, call the team leader who will contact the Festival volunteer coordinator at 319-651-9901 or the Festival Office at 319-365-8313.

The Freedom Festival has over 900 volunteers working during the festival and asks our understanding if there is some confusion at times.

We hope to raise \$750.00 for our club and have a lot of fun with this project. Thank you to all the volunteers.



Balloon Glow, June 25, 2009