

Yours in Friendship **May 2009**

We are into the two busiest months for Friendship Force Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. Hopefully you will be involved in an incoming or outgoing exchange, or one of our other fun activities.

Exchange Updates

May 13th -18th- Our guests from Los Angeles will be here Wednesday. Even if you aren't hosting, please join the group for these activities:

14th - Please welcome our LA guests to Cedar Rapids from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the Noelridge Park Lagoon Pavilion. This will be an informal meet and greet. No reservations are necessary. Please bring an appetizer or tail-gate-type snack to share and your own cooler beverages (soft drinks, wine or beer.)

17th - LA Exchange Farewell Event, 6:00 p.m., Bloomsbury Farm, 3260 69th Street, Atkins, IA. Cost of \$16/person includes meal, tour of the farm, hayrack ride, bonfire and a brief presentation about the farm. RSVP to Will Mickelson before May 9th, 319-743-0575 or wamickel@mchsi.com. Late registration will cost \$20.00.

May 24th – 31st- Two ambassadors will be here through the YES program. They are staying with the Sauers.

May 27th – June 2nd- IRIS exchange from Ukraine

May 29th – June 6th- Open World exchange from Azerbaijan

June 8th – June 27th - Outbound exchange to Peru

Mystery Weekend

July 24th – 26th Sally Fairchild has arranged a mystery exchange for us. Send a \$75 deposit to get your name on Sally's list of travelers:

Sally Fairchild
4516 Maureen Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Fundraising

We've learned from Rockwell that we weren't awarded a grant. In fact they didn't award *any* new grants.

We'll be working at three Freedom Festival activities, raising \$750 for our club. The events are:

June 21st, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm: Vintage and Vinyl Car Show

June 25th, 8:00 – 11:30 pm: Balloon Glow

July 4th, Freedom Festival Fireworks at Kirkwood Community College

All volunteer shifts have been filled. Thank you to those members who volunteered. If you would like to be placed on a reserve list, please contact the John and Cheryl Elliott.

LEO - June 17th- 6:00 pm at the Lighthouse Inn. RSVP to Joan Jacob and John Haack at 319-366-3365 or john.haack@mchsi.com.

LEO- TBD in August- 6:00 p.m., Daly Creek Winery, 106 N. Ford Street, Anamosa.

The Tri club picnic will be scheduled late summer or early fall. More details to come.

Would you like to represent the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Club at the International Conference in Okinawa, Japan this year? The Board is looking for someone who is up to the challenge of making as many contacts as possible, especially with clubs of interest for exchanges in the next few years. The conference is scheduled for November 19th-22nd, 2009, with an optional home-stay at the conclusion of the conference. Depending on the length of your stay, the trip may have you traveling over Thanksgiving weekend. Please keep that in mind.

As a delegate of our club, *one half* of your airfare would be paid, as well as *all* of the conference registration and hotel expenses (during the conference only.) You would need to file a report for reimbursement when you return. We just received notice of airfares as low as \$885 from Chicago, but that is subject to change.

If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please let Darby Anderson know (darbyanderson1@gmail.com) no later than Saturday, May 16th. The Board will then approve one delegate from all interested members at the May 17th meeting.

More information about the conference can be found on the FFI website.

Helpful hint if you're going to be traveling out of the country:

AAA members can now purchase foreign currencies at AAA.com/Travel Money.

Transactions are securely delivered in two days for 70 of the most common currencies. Less common forms of currency can be special ordered based on market conditions and shipped in about five days. After your trip, unused currency can be exchanged with no fees through AAA's buy-back program.

New Logo Shirts Available

Have you gotten the latest in Friendship Force wear? The new shirts are in and look great! They're white polo shirts embroidered with the multi-colored logo. We have both men's and women's sizes for \$30. This price is just above cost. Check these shirts out on the "style setters" at the upcoming FF activities!