

## **Yours in Friendship Cedar Rapids/Iowa City** **September 2010**

Fall has to be one of Iowa's biggest selling points. If you don't love Iowa in the fall, you probably don't love Iowa. If only we could have everyone visit our area on a gorgeous fall day. A few maples are giving us a preview to the fall show coming soon.

We've continued to have good attendance at our summer events. Twenty four FFCR/IC members were at Rock Island Arsenal on August 8, for the Tri-Club picnic hosted by the Quad City's FF club. After a short rain storm and a good lunch we went different directions to explore the sites.

Steve Williams with members of the CR/IC club, other US clubs and a large group from Germany left **Tuesday** for Azerbaijan on a two-week global exchange. We're proud to be asked by FFI to lead this exchange and immensely pleased that Steve took the challenge. We'll be happy to hear a report from him at the **September** meeting.

Thanks to all who helped with the booth at the Farmer's Market in **June** and on August 21. A lot of people who visited the booth learned about Friendship Force and many expressed interest in learning more. A special thanks to Mary Stull for her design and set up and to everyone who worked.

In addition to the calendar events—note the Mystery Weekend is just a week away—there are two special announcements at the end of our newsletter. These are a new Wayne Smith Award medal and the FF Worldwide on-line auction. Those of you who attended the Tri-club picnic heard about this program from David Meyers of the Northern Illinois Club and a representative on the FFI board.

### **Calendar**

**September 10 -13: Mystery Weekend in Cedar Rapids.** Dianne Peckosh and Tressa Youngbear, the EDs for this visit, have this clue to share about our guests: "Our 21 guests plan to arrive by car, not by parachute."

**Friday, September 10:** Welcome Potluck at 5:30pm in Lowe Park, Marion. Hosts will meet their guest at this time. We hope many of you will be able to join the fun! Please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert, each to serve 8-12 people. Table service and beverages will be provided.

**Saturday, September 11:** Downtown Tour starts at 9 at the Lease America Building, lunch will be at Al's Blue Toad about noon. The evening meal will be at the Ox Yoke Inn, Main Amana at 5:30pm, followed by "The Church Basement Ladies" at the Old Creamery Theatre.

**Sunday, September 12:** A free day for the ambassadors and hosts, with some members preparing meals or joining some small groups for a **Sunday** activity. The ambassadors will leave Cedar Rapids on **Monday** morning.

**September 19: Board meeting at Hiawatha Library, 1:30 – 3:30.**

**September 26: General Meeting - Marion Heritage Center, 590 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 2:00 pm**  
The program will be 'Animals around the World'. We will vote on our preferred destinations for the outbound exchange for 2011. Think about where you **may** like to go.

### **October 16-18: International Conference at Washington, D.C.**

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. Currently, Connie and Audrey are registered for the event.

### **November 7: Annual Dinner Meeting with the Election of Officers at the Clarion Hotel at 5 pm**

A Silent Auction fund raiser will be held throughout the evening. Home-canned pickles, dinner parties or treasures in need of a new home will all be accepted for the auction. Be prepared to have an enjoyable evening!

**Nomination Committee Meeting, to be announced:** Joan Jacobs, John Haack, Jan Thulin, Margaret Miller and Connie Williams have kindly agreed to select a slate of potential officers for 2011.

### **Announcing The Wayne Smith Medal**

The FFI Board of Directors is proud to announce the **Wayne Smith Medal**, a special award to be given by Friendship Force clubs to recognize those who show exceptional leadership in promoting our mission.

The **Wayne Smith Medal** will recognize the leaders of [today](#) who make it possible to maintain the founder's vision of promoting understanding across the barriers that separate people. The award [may](#) be presented to leaders within the Friendship Force or in the broader community. Each presentation of the **Wayne Smith Medal** will be accompanied by a donation of US \$500 to the Friendship Force Legacy Fund, given by the presenting club(s) in honor of the recipient. This project will be discussed further at the board and general meetings in [September](#).

With this medal, FFCR/IC has a unique opportunity to distinguish the leaders who set an example of respect, understanding and humanitarian service. The donation given in the recipient's honor both supports the founder's vision and honors the achievements of the recipient in furthering the mission of the Friendship Force. 'To nominate someone from our club, go to the FFI website for details.

#### **FFI On-line Auction**

This year FFI will sponsor a new, on-line auction in conjunction with the World Conference in Washington in [October](#). This will provide a new method for raising funds to expand Friendship Force—and it should be a lot of fun for all our members. The auction is being organized by members of the FFI Board of Directors who are volunteering their time and effort and have generously put the first items up for bidding. Items [may](#) be donated by individuals or by clubs. When the website is publicly unveiled, members will be able to bid on items and to donate items on-line. The auction will stay live on-line to its conclusion but people at the World conference will also be able to bid in the traditional Silent Auction format for the last few hours.

All proceeds will go to the Legacy Fund. However, clubs [may](#) request that up to 35% of the proceeds from items they donate be retained by the club for local expansion projects. All clubs and individuals who offer items for sale will be recognized at the World Conference.

Items to be offered can include home stays, use of vacation properties, tickets to events and access to time-shares, but we can think of many other things. Some offers will be of interest to members all over the world. Some could be more local. We welcome both. For example, the use of a ski chalet would have international appeal; a dinner party hosted by a local gourmet cook would be of interest to people in only one city. We want the members and the clubs to be imaginative. Please take a few minutes to visit the website.

When you are ready to list your item, go to [www.friendshipforceauction.org](http://www.friendshipforceauction.org) with your name, address, phone number, description, photo if possible and suggested starting bid.

### **Friendship Force Pledge**

As a member of Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this new adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my own fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the causes of friendship, love and peace can be furthered. I can make a difference.

Yours in Friendship,  
Audrey Bradford & Connie Williams