

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force
General Meeting
Hy-Vee 32nd St. and Oakland
Jan. 13, 2013

38 members and 4 guests enjoyed the Hy-Vee choice of meals.

Guests: Jace Winger, Marion's mother, Delores, Vincie Fan, John Fan, and Lily Ciao.

Welcome: co-presidents Richard and Veta Hildebrand.

Marion Wetjen introduced Lily an engineer and teacher at Kirkwood. Lily demonstrated making of **egg rolls** and talked briefly about her classes at KCC. Sample egg rolls were enjoyed later.

Dale Moore presented the program on a **2004 trip to China** by the Moores and Karals, with KCRG and Destinations Unlimited, sponsors.

China has a population of 1.3 billion and over 1 billion live in Hon China. The border parts of the country are the size of the U.S.

Dale commented on the tremendous new construction in Beijing, a city of 20+ million. The Great Wall, which dates back to 200 BC and was originally 13,000 miles long, was visited from Beijing. The group went to several hand made glass factories, where pieces may take months to make.

In Xian they saw the Terra Cotta soldiers, discovered in 1974.

Another stop was Shanghai, a modern city with a river in the center of the city.

Suzhou is a "small" city of 1.2 million. It features Venice-like canals.

Hangzhou features a tea plantation and Guilin beautiful fields. Roast sparrow was one of the culinary delights.

Hong Kong was the final destination, but it was not as impressive as mainland cities. China still has a poverty level of 80%. Dale's presentation concluded with a delightful group of slides:"the faces of China".

2014 International Exchanges- The club requested Brazil, Canada and Romania. FFI suggested Costa Rica, England and Belgium. The club countered by suggesting S. Germany, Belgium and England. Assignments should be coming soon.

LEO: Joanne Smith is chair of LEO for February. Dinner at the Butcher Block Steak House, 1117 First Ave. (behind Sip and Stir) at 6 PM.

Next general meeting is March 17, 4 PM at the Marion Heritage Center. Soup, dessert, green beer and a container auction

Dianne Karal discussed Exchanges. **Houston**, ED Dave Detwiler, is full with 15 ambassadors March 1-12. **Indonesia**, ED Steve Williams, is full with 8 local and 12 other ambassadors and is April 17- May 3.

Sacramento, ED Dianne and Asst. EDs Dick and Veta Hildebrand, is coming May 5-11. Host homes are needed. Contact Dianne. Toy4di@msn.com 319-378-0084

Fortaleza, Brazil is coming Sept. 22-29. ED Dave Detwiler Committee members are needed. Contact Dave ddetwiler@msn.com 319-364-6120, or Dianne. toy4di@msn.com 319-378-0084

Committee members are also needed for the **Themed Exchange**, ED Tressa Youngbear, Aug. 2-8. Contact Tressa Youngbear, ityoungbear@iowatelecom.net 641-484-5239

Steve Williams, Secretary