

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
Yours in Friendship
April 2011

Welcome to our new members! Discover a new way to travel. Through the powerful tool of home hospitality, the Friendship Force introduces people at the personal level. Living under one roof for 5 – 7 days, sharing meals, exchanging ideas and people become friends. Staying in a private home and sharing the routines of daily life changes you from a tourist to a temporary resident as you gain a profound understanding of another culture.

Traveling the Friendship Force way gets you off the tourist track and straight into real life. Join an exchange that originates here or from the international website: www.thefriendshipforce.org There are 346 chartered clubs and programs in 59 countries. Almost 225,000 ambassadors and 750,000 hosts have participated in Friendship Force programs since 1977. Aren't you glad to be a part of this?

What a great way to fulfill our mission: To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

Calendar of Events:

April 19, Tuesday at 7PM: Let's Eat Out

See you at **Gringos** 207 1st Ave NE Cedar Rapids. Please RSVP to Dick and Veta Hildebrand at rvhilde1@juno.com or call 373-0917 by Thursday, April 14th.

May 1, Sunday at 2 PM Meeting, Shueyville United Methodist Church

Take the Shueyville exit, # 10, off I-380 east on County Rd F12 to 1195 Steeple Ln NE, Swisher (Church is on the left side of the road). **Gail Glick** will speak on the **Kirkwood Community College International Student Program** Thanks to Marian Wetjen and John Haack for making the meeting arrangements.

May New Member Meeting, date to be announced.

June 3 – 8: Incoming Domestic Exchange from Las Vegas

Contact Tressa Youngbear at ityoungbear@iowatelecom.net for information

June 28, Tuesday - Presentation of the Wayne Smith Award to Robert & Billie Ray for being instrumental in starting Friendship Force in Iowa

Plans are to present the award during the Freedom Festival Balloon Glow concert. A reception will be held at Elmhurst Country Club before the concert

from 4-6 PM for current and past FF members. Freedom Festival Buttons will be needed for admittance to the Balloon Glow event. Thanks to Audrey Bradford and her committee for making this a reality.

June 30 – July 6: Incoming Exchange from Tokyo, Japan

As of April 1st there will be 16 ambassadors on the exchange. Our exchange committee has developed a preliminary schedule of interesting, informative and fun activities for our guests and our club members. Friday July 1 will be a day at Dubuque and open to club members who are interested in attending. More information will be available as plans materialize. Contact Mary Stull, Exchange Director: mcdstull@aol.com

July 5, Tuesday: Club Farewell Dinner at Lowe Park for Tokyo Ambassadors

More information in later newsletters.

St. Louis, MO - Outgoing domestic exchange. Marian Wetjen will be the Exchange Director, more information to come when the dates are determined.

August 26-30: 2011 FFI World Conference, Hamburg, Germany

Join David & Patty Detwiler for the conference and tour afterwards. If interested in attending contact them at daviddetwiler@msn.com

September 11, Sunday at 2 - 4pm: Meeting to be held at Iowa City library

Jane Cranston will speak about her experiences in Pakistan. Thanks to Gayle Bray for arranging this event.

November: Outgoing Exchange to Costa Rica

Vic Klopfenstein, Exchange Director: vpklopfenstein@msn.com

Updates

September Northern Illinois Trip to Azerbaijan and Romania

If you missed Azerbaijan last year, here is another chance. They have some openings if you want to catch-up with this neat destination. Dave and Pat Meyer from the Northern Illinois FF club will be the EDs, contact them at davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net

Farmer's Market Informational Table – Dates to be announced.

Freedom Festival Volunteers – We are on the organization volunteer list. Dates and events will be announced shortly.

Friendship Force Merchandise – Please see Dave Detwiler daviddetwiler@msn.com for the following items:

Polo Shirts, Notebooks, Luggage Tags, Table Blessings and Note Cards. Consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to our meetings and make the invitation distinctive with a hand written note card displaying the friendship force logo.

Board Members 2011

Connie Williams, President

Dave Detwiler, President-Elect

John Haack, Secretary

Dale Moore, Treasurer

Audrey Bradford, Past President

Steve Williams, Exchange Coordinator

Marty Novak, Membership

Vic Klopfenstein, Communications

Jill Rinkenberger, Activities

Marian Wetjen & Lynette Nuehring, Directors At Large

Explore, Understand and Serve in 2011!

Your destination awaits you, where do you want to go? What culture to explore? One Friendship Force exchange will permanently change the way you read and watch the news. Distant places are no longer vague dots on a map....they are the homes of your new friends.

In friendship,
Connie Williams & Dave Detwiler