

## Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Yours in Friendship December 2011

Sunday night we closed one club year (2011) and opened another club year (2012) in the annals of CR/IC Friendship Force. Though some of our leadership has changed we are still the same group of friends that we have been over the years. Our group of around 100 friends shares an interest in learning about other folks and their customs. We all love making new friends around the world and in US clubs.

I would like to thank the 2011 board members for their dedicated service. I have found you agreeable, supportive, fun and interesting to work with. I have been impressed with how you are able to put things together on short notice, like the Indonesian Teachers Exchange, or putting together several different exchanges for our Japanese and Russian friends. I am also impressed with all our club members who participated in our events during the year. Thanks for your good work. I enjoyed working with you.

Our 2012 board members are off and running. There are several domestic exchanges being planned at the present. **We are looking for an exchange director (ED) as soon as possible for our Las Vegas exchange.** Please apply by Friday December 9 if you are interested in being an exchange director to either [toy4di@msn.com](mailto:toy4di@msn.com) or [ityoungbear@windstream.net](mailto:ityoungbear@windstream.net) and then mail a paper copy of the application to Dianne Karal, 4859 Oak Grove Ct NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411 (See more details below).

If you are downtown in Cedar Rapids, stop in at the US Bank, Downtown Branch Lobby and look at our Friendship Force display during the Month of December. We are their business of the month.

**Pat Klopfenstein was named 2011 Marion Citizen of the Year.** She is a busy volunteer at the Marion Preservation Commission, the Marion Library Foundation, Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Linn County Task Force, the Heritage Agency of Aging, the Marion Food Pantry, and the First United Methodist Church. The article also says she and Vic entertain foreign visitors in their home for weeks. We know all about how they have hosted many times through Friendship Force. (See the Marion Times, November 3, 2011)

**Congratulations Pat - from your friends!**

*from David Detwiler, president*

## Calendar

**January 8 - Sunday at 1:00pm: Lunch and General Meeting** at Edgewood HyVee. Lunch starts at 1:00 PM. Soup and sandwich with coffee, iced tea or lemonade. \$10.00 per person. **RSVP required:** Please call Diane Hayes at 393-1999 or email her at [dbhrn@mchsi.com](mailto:dbhrn@mchsi.com) for reservations by January 4, 2012. You may mail your payment or pay the door.

**February 2012- Las Vegas Exchange:** Exact dates to be determined.

**March 25 - Sunday at 2:30pm: General Meeting** at Shueyville United Methodist church, in Shueyville. Program to be announced later.

**October 30 through November 2: Friendship Force International Conference in Hiroshima, Japan**

## Thank you

### From Steve Williams

Thanks for all the cooperation the past three years from me as Exchange Coordinator

## Exchange Director Needed

Tired of Winter Already? Why not go to the Sun & Fun of Las Vegas in February? We need an Exchange Director (E.D.) to lead our domestic exchange to Las Vegas, Nevada. They have invited us to see the other side of Las Vegas. You can set the dates, coordinate the arrangements and partner with Las Vegas to create an exciting exchange.

Domestic exchanges are an excellent opportunity to get your feet wet as an exchange director. Even if you have not had experience, it's easy, and help is available every step of the way.

[HURRY the deadline is Friday, December 9, 2011.](#)

Please email your intention to file an application to either [toy4di@msn.com](mailto:toy4di@msn.com) or [ityoungbear@windstream.net](mailto:ityoungbear@windstream.net) and then mail a paper copy of the application to Dianne Karal, 4859 Oak Grove Ct NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. (See attached application)

## Costa Rica Exchange Notes



20 of us visited San José and had a great time. Adjustment back to midwestern weather was a challenge. We made some great friends. Learned about cold showers at resort hotels that have limited solar heated water or stayed with a few families with cold showers. The rain forest was beautiful and we saw animals that don't live in our climate. Victor Klopfenstein did

a wonderful job setting up the pre-tour with an English-speaking naturalist named Frederico (nickname Feco) as our guide. We invited our hosts to visit us and they said yes in 3 years or 2014. There will be more about our trip at our January 8 meeting. A presentation will be given at that time. Vic was able to see the 2-toed and 3-toed sloth, maybe there will be pictures of them hanging from their trees.



## Updates

**Trees for Friends** - Tedja Wigny, the exchange director from our Indonesian Exchange, reports back to us that 44 trees and 10 christoderen plants were purchased from the Cedar Rapids & Milwaukee club cash gifts. The trees planted at 7 different schools included evergreens, sour sop, malay rose apple, philodendron, kembang kuning and red top tree varieties. By the time we visit Malang, the trees will have grown. She thanks us for this valuable gift and will treasure the trees in our memory.

**Annual dues are \$25 per person** - Please send your check to Marian Wetjen, Membership Chair, at 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Note that upon the 2011 board's recommendation and membership vote at the December 4 meeting, the CR/IC club dues have increased from \$20 to \$25 per person for 2012.

The **Midwest Leadership Meeting** in Ames, Iowa will be April 26-28. This is for the president & presidents-elect. FFI updates and initiatives are discussed at this gathering.

**Friendship Force Merchandise** – Please see Dave Detwiler, [daviddetwiler@msn.com](mailto:daviddetwiler@msn.com) for the following items until March 25:

**New Item: Green Tote Bags**, Polo Shirts, Notebooks, Luggage Tags, Table Blessings and Note Cards - Invite a friend or acquaintance to our meetings with a distinctive hand written note card displaying the friendship force logo.

**Board Members 2012**

Dave Detwiler, President

Richard & Veta Hildebrand, Co-Presidents-Elect

Steve Williams, Secretary

Dale Moore, Treasurer

Connie Williams, Past President

Dianne Karal & Tressa Youngbear, Co-Exchange Coordinators

Marty Novak, Membership

Vic Klopfenstein, Communications

Activities ?

Lynette Nuehring, & John Sauer, Directors At Large

In friendship,

Dave Detwiler

Richard & Veta Hildebrand