

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Yours in Friendship February 2012

Fasten your seat belts my friends! I think this is the start of a fun and interesting year for our club in particular and Friendship Force in general. On February 17, 2012, Friendship Force International (FFI) will announce a plan to expand our global capacity by 20% by the end of 2014. Our club is already on the front lines of that initiative. CR/IC Friendship Force is working on helping start and mentor a possible new club with one of our Open World friends. There are other countries, like Uganda, which need help with their first exchange that we will also be working with this year. One of them may be our outgoing exchange. A multi-club themed exchange is being planned for our region. But we will need you to unbuckle your seat belt and help make it happen. So keep your eyes and ears open for your opportunity to make a difference and have some fun.

Speaking of making a difference, remember Clancy Quinn's presentation last month about his work in Nepal? Now you too can go to Nepal through Friendship Force from April 17 to 23, 2012 and *Offer a hand in Friendship and Service* in Nepal. A rare opportunity has arisen for a combination of Friendship Force activities and humanitarian work in a small village in Nepal. The Friendship Force of Nepal has led and participated in several projects aimed at improving the lives of its people living in rural and remote areas. This effort is supported by volunteers from around the world. This is an incredible Friendship Force opportunity to be part of a group who will experience both home hosting in Katmandu and travel to a remote village in need of help. Every skill and ability will be welcome; every ambassador will have something to offer to help the people we meet here. FF Nepal has arranged for ambassadors to assist with a community health project in the village of Thosey, located an eight-hour drive from Katmandu. Contact Matthew Nidek Friendship Force International +1-404-965-4343 mnidek@thefriendshipforce.org, if you are interested in participating or for more information.

Then there are 7 exchanges both domestic and global being offered to us. We'll have more information as they work out. Domestic exchanges include inbound Connecticut and an inbound Mystery Weekend ("*It's a mystery*"). You can unfasten your seat belt and be an ambassador, an exchange director or a host. Exchange Director (ED) classes are available April 28 & 29. See the rest of you when we come back from our Las Vegas Exchange.

from David Detwiler, president

Calendar

Feb. 12-19 - Outbound Domestic Exchange to Las Vegas: 8 Ambassadors with Tressa Youngbear, exchange director.

March 25, 2012 Sunday at 4:00: PM - General Meeting at Shueyville United Methodist church, in Shueyville. Program will celebrate World Friendship Day. Please bring a large main dish, side dish or dessert using any international recipe for the potluck dinner. Table service and beverages supplied. Students from around the globe will join us. This would be a great meeting to include any guests interested in our club. Our speaker is Sherrie Nisly of World Link, Inc. Providing "Programs with A Purpose" is the mission of World Link, a private non-profit organization headquartered in Kalona, Iowa. World Link conducts exchange programs for educators and youth through government sponsored projects that seek to improve the understanding and cooperation among the peoples and cultures of the world. World Link is a unique exchange organization that conducts only publically sponsored exchange programs that serve a citizen diplomacy mission.

March 30 – April 7 Open World Russian Physician’s Group: Hosts have volunteered and committee is preparing the itinerary.

April 19 LEO: Poplar Heights Supper Club, Monticello, 6:30 PM. RSVP to Steve Williams at swill820@gmail.com.

April 26, 27, 28: Midwest Leadership Meeting, Ames, Iowa: (For President and President Elect only) “Themed Exchanges = Growth...Growth = Themed Exchanges: Illustrating Theme Development Using Midwest Art and Agriculture”

April 28 & 29: Exchange Director Classes: The Exchange Director classes are for members who would, at some point, like to be an exchange director or at least learn what is involved. Dianne Karal and Tressa Youngbear will lead this training for interested members. Domestic exchange training is scheduled for April 28 and International training is scheduled for the April 29. Please contact Dianne Karal if you plan to attend: toy4di@msn.com or 378-0084

May 5-11, 2012 Incoming Exchange Connecticut Exchange: We have exciting news. We will have a domestic incoming exchange the first part of May from Connecticut. They are excited about coming to Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and making new friends. Liz and John Sauer will be the exchange directors. Remember, It takes our whole club to make an exchange a success!

June 22 - 25, 2012 Mystery Exchange: “It’s a Mystery,” you know. All the information we can share is that Phyllis Seidl will be exchange director.

September 27 - Oct 3 Tentative dates for St. Louis, Missouri Exchange: Marian Wetjen will be the ED.

October 30, 31, and November 1, 2: World Conference in Hiroshima, Japan Home stays available.

Updates

October 23-29: Join FF Northern Illinois Exchange to Taiwan: FFNI presently has 8 openings left of their 20 ambassador exchange with Taiwan. We'd love to have anyone from the Midwest join us. We designed this especially so ambassadors can go on this exchange, and then head off to the World Conference if they wish. It's a two-hour flight from Taipei to Hiroshima. Karen Li is our exchange director. For more details email Pat Meyer at davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net

Midwest Exchange Opportunities, 2012: Can't join our club's exchange? *OR* Want to enjoy more weeks of international friendship? Here are great exchanges from our sister Midwestern FF clubs that you can join. When contacting EDs for further information, be sure to identify yourself as a member of The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force club.

SPRING

St. Louis to Limburg, Belgium, May 26-June 1. ED: Maureen McGrath, mrnmcgrth@yahoo.com.sg

Dubuque to Medicine Hat, Canada, June 6-19. ED: Gail Noel, gmnoel65@gmail.com

SUMMER

Minnesota-Twin Cities to Greater Hamilton & Burlington, CAN, June. ED: Unknown. Contact President: Blaine McCutchan, helloblaine@yahoo.com

Des Moines to Barker & Queanbeyan-Canberra, AUS, late June. ED: Beverly Lytle, bdlytle@gmail.com

Ames (Central Iowa) to Recife & Belem, Brazil, August or September. ED: Joan Herwig, jherwig@iastate.edu

FALL

Wisconsin/Madison to Moscow & Vyborg, Russia, September. ED: Sandy Wysock, sandrawysock@msn.com

Chicago to Lima, Peru, October ED: Unknown. Contact President: Larisa Sorkin, sork8@aol.com

Omaha (Eastern Nebraska) to Semarang & Malang, Indonesia, October. ED: Shirley Siebler, shirleykjs@cox.net

Milwaukee to Prague, Czech Republic, October. CO-EDs: Dave Kalan davekalan@sbcglobal.net & Suzanne Sullivan ssul28@gmail.com

Northern Illinois to Taichung, Taiwan, 10/23-29, ED: Karen Li, kslitseng@yahoo.com NOTE: This exchange is coordinated **so** Ambassadors can continue to the Friendship Force World Conference in Hiroshima.

Friendship Force World Conference, October 30-November 2, PLUS OPTIONAL post-conference home stays. For information go to http://www.friendshipforce.org/index.php/conference_2012. We hope to have a

strong Midwestern representation. 30 Midwesterners attended last year in Hamburg, Germany!

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 are now \$25 per person for 2012.

Friendship Force Merchandise – Please see Dave Detwiler, daviddetwiler@msn.com for the following items until March 25 then contact Richard and Veta Hildebrand:

New Item: Green Tote Bags (great hostess gifts) , 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-President-Elect

Steve Williams, Secretary

Dale Moore, Treasurer

Connie Williams, Past President

Dianne Karal & Tressa Youngbear, Co-Exchange Coordinators

Marian Wetjen, Membership

Vic Klopfenstein, Communications

Meeting Hosts: Will & Karen Mickelson

Lynette Nuehring, & John Sauer, Directors At Large

In friendship,

Dave Detwiler & Richard & Veta Hildebrand