

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

At our next meeting on Sunday, March 25, we will have a World Friendship Day Celebration - Cultural Dialogue, Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting. Our club wishes to invite more international high school or college students to our World Friendship Day meeting. If you have access to international students, we would like to invite them to our meeting. Please invite them yourself and/or advise Vic Klopfenstein at vpklopfenstein@msn.com or cell # is 319-360-2776. Thanks in advance for your help.

Those of us who haven't had a chance to experience Friendship Force hosting in our home have a great chance to break into hosting easily. While our Russian physician friends are visiting us there are great opportunities to be involved. Meet our guests, have a first hand experience with them, have an interesting discussion and get to know them. Be a meal host. Meal hosts are needed for 1 or 2 host families and delegates on Monday, April 2 and Wednesday April 4. To take advantage of this chance, contact Vic at vpklopfenstein@msn.com or cell # 360-2776. Make a meal and make some friends.

Our FF club has been looking at mentoring or helping to start a new FF club. Our new club initiative committee has been looking at several possibilities. Through our request for guidance from Friendship Force International (FFI) several times during the last two years, FFI has offered us an exceptional opportunity to help two Ugandan Clubs get started. They are the FF of Kalungu and FF of Kampala. In addition to helping them set up their first exchange, we will be their first exchange. Also, there will be a chance for us to provide some humanitarian help. FF of Kalungu is affiliated with a humanitarian group called BICE. BICE sponsors programs that teach the local people vocational skills to be able to become self-sufficient and self-sustainable. Here is our chance to make a real difference. We can find out more about BICE on the web at www.biceug.org. Our board has approved Dianne Karal as exchange director (ED) to work with the two clubs. Our president, with board direction, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding drawn up by FFI to formally initiate the process between our clubs with help from FFI. **This will be our 2012 Outbound International Exchange.** In keeping with FFI's new club development system, the two new clubs are assigned an experienced club (FF CR/IC) to serve as their mentor to ensure a successful first exchange. If we are passionate about our motto "Explore, Understand and Serve" in 2012, this is our break! However, we can't expect a five star hotel experience. Electrical service has many daily interruptions in the capital city, Kampala. Our board has an opening for an assistant ED to work with Dianne. If you are interested in a challenge with goodwill as the reward, please apply.



Remember Freedom Festival will be June 21–July 4. Our participation will be needed as we get our work assignments from Freedom Festival. Richard and Veta will be looking for volunteers for this fundraiser.

from David Detwiler, president

Calendar

March 25, 2012 Sunday 4:00 –7:00 PM 'World Friendship Day Celebration' - Cultural Dialogue, Potluck Dinner and General Meeting (Doors open at 3 p.m.) Shueyville United Methodist Church, 1195 Steeple Lane – **Directions: Take Exit 10, Hwy 380 (south of CR) Swisher/Shueyville County Road F12 - Go East 1 mile - church on your left.** Please bring ethnic food potluck dishes - bring a generous serving because we may have 20 International students as our guests. Drinks and table service will be provided. We will have “on display” several recent exchange pictures. This is a terrific meeting to bring guests (no charge) to learn about Friendship Force and meet people from around the world.

Our Speaker will be Sherrie Nisly, Wellman, IA, representing Eastern Iowa-World Link, Inc. World Link is responsible for finding host families for high school International Students from Eastern Europe and Russia and placing them in area high schools. Several of her students and host families will be our guests.

March 30 – April 7 Open World Russian Physicians Group: Hosts and itinerary are in place with physicians arriving on Friday. They will be visiting a wide variety of interesting medical operations throughout eastern Iowa. Five physicians (3 women and 2 men), 1 facilitator and 1 interpreter will be our guests.

March 31, Saturday at 6:30 PM - Potluck Dinner at Prairie Hill Pavilion: Hwy 13 & Kacena Ave., Marion. All club members are invited to attend, meet and welcome our Russian guests. Meat, paper products and beverage will be furnished. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert dish and join us. \$3.00 each - pay at the door - reservations let Vic know: vpklopfneteina@msn.com or call 360-2776.

April 6, Friday at 6:00 PM – Farwell at Metro Buffet, 2745 Blairs Ferry Road, NE, Cedar Rapids. All club members are invited to dinner, program and certificate ceremony. Reservations not really necessary, as we pay for our meals, but let Vic know at vpklopfenstein@msn.com or by cell # 360-2776 for seating arrangements.

April 19, Thursday, Let’s Eat Out (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 designated Officers) “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, would 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 Saturday, April 28 and International training is scheduled for Sunday; April 29. Please contact Dianne Karal if you plan to attend: toy4di@msn.com or 378-0084

May 6 General Meeting, Sunday, 2PM – Pat Meyer, Friendship Force Regional Representative will be speaking on “Themed Exchanges.” Location will be announced later.

May 7-11, 2012 Incoming 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 21 – July 4 Freedom Festival: Volunteer work groups to be assigned.

June 22 - 25, 2012 Inbound 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 St. Louis, Missouri Outbound Exchange: Marian Wetjen will be the exchange director.

Late September, early October, Outbound International Exchange to Uganda. Our new club initiative with Kalunga and Kampula clubs. Dianne Karal will be exchange director.

October 21-28 Incoming International Exchange with Niagara, Canada.

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

Exchange Updates

Eight of our ambassadors, led by exchange director Tressa Youngbear, went to see the “Other Side of Las Vegas” and were hosted by FF Las Vegas. It appears that the ambassadors were seen back stage with one of the “Jubilee” dancers among other places in the area. Rumor is the dancer was a day host only. There was a Welcome



Party, a Valentine party, a Dam tour, a windy picnic at Red Rock Canyon, a show “Jubilee”, an Atomic Testing Museum visit and a Clark County Heritage Museum visit as part of the itinerary. They had fun renewing old friendships and making new ones.



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

Will & Karen Mickelson, Meeting Hosts

Lynette Nuehring, & John Sauer, Directors At Large

In friendship,

Dave Detwiler & Richard & Veta Hildebrand