



# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

April 16, 2015

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

About 35 members and guests attended the General Meeting on March 22 at Shueyville UMC. Thanks to Marian Wetjen for arranging for us to use this wonderful space. Thanks to Shirley Rosencrans and the Activities Committee and all of the attendees for the awesome array of great food and drink. And thanks to Vic Klopfenstein for arranging the program. Ron Ringgenberg from Youth for Understanding (YFU) presented an excellent program on the mission of YFU. Ron was accompanied by two YFU staff members from Cedar Rapids and an exchange student from Japan.

We are also delighted to welcome four new members to our club since the last newsletter. Tom and Alice Wilkinson are sponsors for Jane Nelson and Gloria Kromminga. We are sponsors for Jim and Barb Steggall. Again, we are delighted these four persons have decided to make Friendship Force one of their activities.

With the arrival of spring, the busy time of our year is about to spring into high gear! Accordingly, our call this month is *every member involvement!* We are very appreciative of so many members who are stepping up to pull off an activity packed three and one-half month period. First, up is the Midwest Leadership Conference on April 30 – May 2. At press time, we will be hosting 29 persons from the other eleven clubs of our region plus one from International. Most of these persons will be home hosted by our club members.

Next, Steve Williams is leading the Azerbaijan Open World from May 15 – 23. The theme is ag-business. Participants will have an opportunity to visit the Governor, US Congressional staff members, several industries, Iowa State University, farms and take in some of the local cultural sites. Shirley Rosecrans is also planning a LEO on May 21 that will include the Azerbaijan delegation.

Then, we begin a string of back to back exchanges. First, exchange director Mary Stull is leading a group of 20 ambassadors to Niagara Canada from June 3 – 10. Please, recall that Niagara visited us in 2012. Next, our club hosts the Lansing Michigan Club from June 21- 28 lead by co-exchange directors Audrey Bradford and Lynette Nuehring. From July 14 – 26, exchange director Marian Wetjen is leading a group of ambassadors on back to back domestic exchanges with Mid-Willamette Valley Oregon and Lower Columbia Washington.

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## Presidents Message (continued)

Finally, we will be hosting the Quad City Club from August 6 – 8. This is part of a new initiative for the Iowa Club's to do short "weekend" exchanges with each other. We will conclude this exchange with the "All Iowa Club Picnic" which will also include Ames and Des Moines on Saturday, August 8 at Noelridge Park.

So, take a deep breath! Plan to participate in as much as you can. The club needs everyone involved to make this all happen!

In Friendship,

Dale and Cheryl Moore

## Let's Eat Out (LEO)—May 21, 5:30 pm

The next LEO will be Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 pm at the General Store, Stone City, Iowa. We will order off the menu. This historical building offers views of the Wapsipinicon River.

In addition to great food and conversation, you will be able to meet our guests from Azerbaijan and their host families. This LEO will also be the Open World farewell.



## Open World from Azerbaijan—May 15-23

Our club will be hosting an Open World seminar for delegates studying agri-business development. This is a great opportunity to showcase Iowa's expertise in these areas. We expect 5 delegates, 1 interpreter and 1 facilitator.

They will be attending activities related to agri-business and economic development coordinated by Steve Williams during the day. They will spend the evenings with their host family. Contact Steve at [swill820@gmail.com](mailto:swill820@gmail.com) or 319 465-3942.



### *More about Open World Groups:*

Our club is able to host one or two of these groups of seven people each year. During the day, each group experiences lectures, tours and interaction with Iowans who work in their area.

To help with these events, contact Steve Williams (Azerbaijan), [swill820@gmail.com](mailto:swill820@gmail.com), 319 465-3942 or Vic Klopfenstein (Moldova), [vpklopfenstein@msn.com](mailto:vpklopfenstein@msn.com), 319 377-5502

## Club to Host Midwest Leadership Conference —April 30-May 2

Our club is hosting the Midwest Region Leadership Conference in Cedar Rapids on April 30 through May 2. Each club will be sending three representatives.

During the conference there will be two parties—our entire membership is invited to both. **Plan to attend!**

**Thursday, April 30, 5:30 pm to 8 pm** – Welcome Party at Squaw Creek Park, Prairie Oak Lodge: Our club is providing the lodge. The conference fees are providing wine, beer and soda and table service. Our membership is asked to provide the food potluck style. Come join us for a fun evening and meet our guests from the other Midwest Friendship Force clubs.



Here is a list of club members who have already signed up to bring food for the potluck. Each person or couple should bring enough to feed 15 people. If you aren't listed below, feel free to bring anything you would like.

### APPETIZERS

Audrey Bradford  
Shirley Barker  
Esther Hudson  
Stephanie & George Schulte  
Mary Stull

### SALAD

Alice Wilkinson  
Rosie Russell & Jocko Hinderks  
Bernita Pruess  
Janis Schmitz  
Shirley Rosencrans

### MAIN DISH

Will & Karen Mickelson  
Jean & Dean Thomas  
Marian Wetjen  
Tressa & Irvin Youngbear  
Connie Williams  
Dale & Cheryl Moore

### DESSERT

Mike & Dianne Karal  
Pat & Vic Klopfenstein  
Steve & Nancy Williams  
Marty Novak  
Darlene Peterson  
Phyllis Siedl

**Friday, May 1** – Brucemore Party, 5 to 7 pm — Come and enjoy wine, soft drinks, and appetizers and tour the mansion and gardens. Cost will be \$15. Sign up with Cheryl Moore, 319 362-6252, mooredale@imonmail.com.



## Incoming—Lansing, Michigan—June 21-28

There are still opportunities to be involved in the Lansing, Michigan exchange! Fourteen ambassadors will arrive the evening of June 21 and leave early on June 28, 2015.

- open your home as a home host.
- host an evening dinner for a few ambassadors and hosts on Tuesday night, June 23.
- get acquainted with our guests as a day host for a day or two.

Join us for a day's activities:

- check out Cedar Rapids' charm, including the Paramount Theater and the Mother Mosque, as well as some sites on Monday and Thursday, June 22 and 25.
- see the Hoover library again and check out Old Capitol in Iowa City, on Tuesday, June 23.
- hear about Mesquaki Indian history and eat Tressa Youngbear's delicious tacos on Wednesday, June 24.
- join the group on Friday, June 26, for a Mennonite dinner, cooked and served in a private home. Reservations required. Cost is \$27.
- Say goodbye and bid our guests safe travels at the farewell dinner at Naso's in Marion on Saturday, June 27. Reservations required.



To volunteer or check out your options, contact Audrey Bradford, [audrey.b@mchsi.com](mailto:audrey.b@mchsi.com), 319-365-5749 or Lynette Nuehring, [lnuehring66@gmail.com](mailto:lnuehring66@gmail.com) 319-560-1659

**Watch for a separate e-mail with details on reservations.**

## March Meeting Recap



Ron Ringgenberg from Youth for Understanding (YFU) in the Des Moines area presented an excellent program on the mission of YFU. Ron was accompanied by two YFU staff members from Cedar Rapids and an exchange student from Japan. This program was in recognition of World Friendship Day.

YFU is a non-profit international educational organization with organizations in more than 50 different countries. More than 260,000 students and their host families have benefited from the support and expertise of YFU. The YFU global network is united by the belief that full cultural immersion is the most effective means to gain the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly multicultural, interconnected and competitive global society.

YFU's history began in the United States in 1951 in an effort to heal the wounds of World War II. Understanding that the hardships prevalent in Germany after the war were having devastating effects on the country's youth, placing them in a cycle of bitterness, hopelessness, and despair, American minister John Eberly made a proposal to church leaders. He asked to bring teenagers from war-torn Germany to the United States to live with a family and attend high school for a year. By teaching a group of young people how families lived together in the United States, the hope was that they would be motivated to return to Germany and rebuild the country as a democracy, according to what they had observed while living in the United States.

Today, YFU is a catalyst for positive global change. The impressions made by the students themselves and the broadened perspectives of host families; ripple through schools and across entire communities. YFU cultural exchange programs provide the ultimate reality check to a worldview based on stereotypes. YFU offers an adventure that reveals the best in people, and enables persons to make lifelong connections that will change the way they see the world. (Article edited from the YFU Website)

## Iowa Club Activities—Save the Dates

### Weekend Exchange with the QC Club and the All Iowa Club Picnic Coming in August!

Last year, led by our own Tressa Youngbear, the presidents of the four Iowa Friendship Force Clubs met together at the Midwest Region Conference in Milwaukee. Among the things they discussed were the ideas of initiating weekend exchanges with one another and initiating an all Iowa Club Picnic. The main objective of this initiative is to get our club members better acquainted and to promote working together on our exchanges.

In late 2014, a tentative rotation schedule was developed and agreed by the Boards. Cedar Rapids also “volunteered” to host the first picnic. Since then, your current Board has been looking for appropriate dates for these events to fit into our already busy schedule.

#### So, SAVE THE DATES – AUGUST 6-8!!

August 6 – 8: We will host members of the Quad City Club for a short exchange. Details have not been set, but this event will most likely kickoff with a welcome lunch on Thursday, August 6 and conclude with the All Iowa Club Picnic on August 8.

August 8: This will be the first annual All Iowa Club Picnic. It will be held at Noelridge Park Pavilion on the Pond. Details to come later.

As always, it will be the membership who will make these events great. We will need home hosts, an array of volunteers for specific activities, and, of course, an ED.

Also, the Central Iowa Club has extended an invitation to host our club for a weekend exchange in Ames! They are looking at mid to late October but have not arrived at a specific date. Ames is a great place to visit, so be thinking about this opportunity also.

**ED Applications:** Applications are being taken by Connie Williams for both the Quad City incoming exchange and the Ames outgoing exchange.

## Incoming—Chiapas, Mexico Exchange—fall 2015



We are expecting an exchange from Chiapas, Mexico in the fall. Dates have yet to be set. We are still working with the club and Friendship Force International.

Connie Williams is now accepting applications for exchange director. ED applications are available on the club website: [www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org](http://www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org) in the member section, under Governance.

## Welcome New Members

We are glad to welcome six new members to our club so far this year.

**Darlene Peterson** is sponsored by Marian Wetjen.

Darlene graduated from the University of Iowa and has worked most of her career at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in the Information Technology department. She has one daughter and recently remarried in 2011. She really enjoys traveling and when Marian Wetjen told her about Friendship Force at their church, she became interested. Darlene says, "I look forward to participating in upcoming exchanges with other members and making new friends!"

**Shirley Barker** is sponsored by Jean and Dean Thomas.

Shirley's father was career Army so she moved around the country as she was growing up. She graduated from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. After graduation, she married and they both joined the Peace Corp and spent two years in Ghana West Africa. Her husband was then drafted in the military and they spent two years in Kaiserslautern Germany. Darlene has worked as a US Congressional staff person, a teacher, and is currently a computer programmer with Johnson County. Darlene met Jean and Dean at a Blue Zone cooking class and they introduced her to Friendship Force.

**Jane Nelson and Gloria Kromminga** are sponsored by Alice and Tom Wilkinson.

Jane is the former head of the Arts Program at the Ambroz Art Center. She is also a skilled potter and taught pottery at Ambroz for many years. Alice recalls she first met Jane "way back when I took pottery, probably 35 years ago".

Gloria was a kindergarten teacher in the Cedar Rapids Schools for many years. Alice has also known Gloria for many years.

**Barb and Jim Steggall** are sponsored by Cheryl and Dale Moore

Barb and Jim are friends of the Moore's from church where they have been active together in Adult Sunday School and with several committees. Barb and Cheryl are also members of the TTT service organization. Barb and Jim are both recently retired. Barb was a realtor with Skogman Realty and Jim was in contracts manager with Rockwell Collins. Barb and Jim enjoy spending time with their kids and grandkids and look forward to traveling more in retirement.

## Outgoing—Niagara, Canada—June 3-10

Niagara club is looking forward to our visit and has planned interesting activities for us to learn about their area, meet their club members and experience Niagara Falls, Historic St. Catherines, the Shaw Festival Theatre and other features of their area.

We have heard from our host families and are looking forward to meeting them at our welcome celebration on June 3. Mary Stull is the exchange director.



## Outgoing—Oregon and Washington—July 15-25

Outgoing to **Mid Willamette Valley, Oregon**, July 15-21, 2015 and an optional second week in **Lower Columbia, Washington**. Marian Wetjen is exchange director. Ambassadors are awaiting host information.

## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 30 to May 2	Regional Leadership Conference	Human Services Center, CR
May 21	Let's Eat Out with Azerbaijan Open World Delegates	The General Store, Stone City
May 15-23	Open World Group from Azerbaijan	Steve Williams
June 3 to 10	Outgoing Exchange to Niagara Canada	ED—Mary Stull
July date TBD	Let's Eat Out	to be determined
June 21 to 28	Incoming Lansing Michigan	EDs: Lynette Nuehring/ Audrey Bradford
July 15 to 25	Outgoing Exchange to Mid-Willamette Valley Oregon 2nd week at Lower Columbia, Washington	ED—Marian Wetjen
August 3	Board Meeting	Dale/Cheryl Moore's home
August 6-8	Quad City Incoming Exchange	<b>ED—Taking Applications</b>
August 8	All Iowa Picnic,	Noelridge Park, Cedar Rapids
August 20	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	State Fair Trip
August 29 to 31	FFI World Conference	Vancouver BC Canada
September 13	General Meeting	Shueyville United Methodist Church
October 2 to 10	Open World—Small Town Mayors from Moldova	Vic Klopfenstein
October 5	Board Meeting	Dale/Cheryl Moore's home
October (TBD)	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Place to be determine Vic Klopfenstein/Connie Williams
Late October	Outgoing Exchange to Central Iowa (Ames)	
Fall, (date TBD)	Incoming Chiapas Mexico	<b>ED—Taking Applications</b>
November 15	Annual Meeting, Touch of Class, Cedar Rapids	

## BOARD MEMBERS 2015

**Dale & Cheryl Moore, Co-President**  
319-362-6252 mooredale@imonmail.com

**Mary Stull, President Elect**  
319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com

**Alice Wilkinson, Secretary**  
319-366-0625 alicew.memaw@gmail.com

**Stephanie Schulte, Treasurer**  
319-350-5279(cell) sschulte08@gmail.com

**Tressa Youngbear, Past President**  
641-484-5239, 319-350-4143 (cell) ityoungbear@gmail.com

**Connie Williams, Exchange Coordinator**  
319-396-4747 cmw1226@yahoo.com

**Marian Wetjen, Membership**  
319-363-0586 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com

**Vic & Pat Klopfenstein, Communications**  
319-377-5502 vpklopfenstein@msn.com

**Shirley Rosencrans, Activities Coordinator**  
319-462-4132 sarosencrans@yahoo.com

**Esther Hudson – 2nd Year Director At Large**  
319-393-4839 Esther\_Hudson@msn.com

**Dean & Jean Thomas, 1st Year Co-Director At Large**  
319-830-5092 jeanthomas521@gmail.com

**In friendship**  
**Dale & Cheryl Moore**  
**Mary Stull**