



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

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January 2017

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2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and great start to 2017. We are looking ahead to another year of making new friends and having rewarding experiences with Friendship Force.

Your new board for 2017 first met on November 28 and we have our second meeting on January 7. Here is a quick summary of our club events coming up this year.

January 15 at 1:30 pm - General meeting at HACAP (see page 2)

Late January 29. 9 am - Breakfast LEO at Riley's, Boyson Square (see page 2)

February 26., 1 pm - World Friendship Day at Shueyville Methodist Church

May 1-7 - Incoming exchange from Sacramento

July 18 - Justice For our Neighbors volunteer opportunity

August 24-28 - Friendship Force International Conference, Manchester, England

September - Open World and Incoming Lower Columbia, Washington, dates TBD

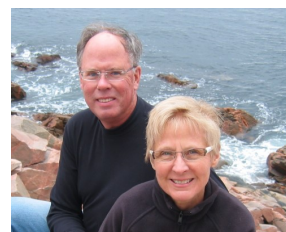
November - Outgoing to Taiwan dates TBD

You can see we have many opportunities to participate in the year ahead! You can participate by coming to meetings, volunteering to home host or dinner host or simply by saying "yes" when asked. It takes many willing hands for us to be a strong group! You will see a list of 2017 board members with contact information on the last page of this newsletter. Feel free to contact anyone on the list with questions.

Since we are new to many of you, I would like to introduce ourselves. I (Jean) am from Des Moines and worked as a speech pathologist for Keystone AEA in northeast Iowa. Dean is from Creston, Iowa and worked as a special education consultant also for Keystone AEA. Approximately 6 years ago we moved to Marion. Within the first year we saw an ad in the Gazette's Guide advertising a Friendship Force event at Wickiup Hill Learning Center. We joined the group within the following year and never regretted our decision!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

In friendship, Jean and Dean Thomas



General Meeting—January 15, 2017

The first general meeting of the year will be Sunday, January 15. We will also be sharing information about travel and hosting opportunities ahead in 2017! Coffee, water and cookies will be provided.

Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017, 1:30 pm

Place: HACAP, 1515 Hawkeye Dr, Hiawatha

You'll learn about upcoming exchanges—incoming and outgoing; the next Let's Eat Out (LEO), our next general meeting and the International Conference in Manchester, England.

Program: Linda Gorkow, Food Reservoir Director will be giving us an overview of various HACAP programs to feed individuals in our community. We are asking each person/couple to bring a bag or box of nonperishable food, no glass containers. Financial donations are also welcome. **This is one of our club's community outreach activities that enable us to contribute to the community.**

More about HACAP:

HACAP focuses on 5 initiatives which provide solutions to locally identified issues. These five initiatives, **Food & Nutrition, Veteran Support, Energy Conservation, Children, and Homelessness** are comprised of over 20 programs focused on community betterment and individual self-sustainability.

2017 Dues

Our new club year starts December 1 so it's time to renew your membership by sending dues (\$30 per person) to **Marian Wetjen, 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**. Then you'll be all set to enjoy fun Friendship Force activities, meetings and exchanges.

Let's Eat Out—January 28 Breakfast at Riley's

Our first LEO of 2017 will be breakfast at 9 am on January 28 at Riley's Boyson Square, 568 Boyson Rd NE (C Avenue and Boyson Road) - next to Butcher Block. Join the group for conversation and camaraderie as we start a new club year.

Send reservations to Jean Thomas, 319 830-5091
jeanthomas521@gmail.com



Leadership for 2017

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting on November 13, 2016:

President: Jean and Dean Thomas co-presidents

President-elect: **Position is open**

Secretary: Barb and Jim Steggall

Treasurer: Stephanie Schulte

The position of president-elect is still open. If you are interested, we encourage you to contact Jean Thomas (319 830-5091) for more information. Without leadership for 2018, our club may not be sustainable. We hope to fill this position sometime during the year so the individual(s) can become familiar with the work of the board. If you know someone who can serve in this role, please encourage them to volunteer. The position can be shared by two members.

Exchanges Recap

Sacramento Incoming Exchange – May, 2017 So excited to welcome our friends from Sacramento to Iowa in May! Dave and Patty Detwiler are making plans for a fun filled week with approximately 20 ambassadors arriving in Cedar Rapids. When Dave, Patty or their committee call you, please say yes to a hosting opportunity. Or better yet, contact them at daviddetwiler@msn.com. All club members can come to the Welcome Party on Monday, May 1st. A schedule of events will be available soon. If you traveled to Sacramento or know members of that club, please reconnect with our friends by home hosting, day hosting, dinner hosting or attending the group functions.



Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Trip: In addition to the week home stay, we are arranging for an additional tour to Springfield, IL. This will include tours of the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Lincoln Tomb, Lincoln's Springfield home and New Salem, a reconstructed village set in the time when Abe Lincoln worked as a clerk.



The Springfield tour has a limited number of seats available for our own club members to join in the fun! Travel by charter bus leaving early on Sunday, May 7th, overnight at the Drury Inn of Springfield and return trip late on Monday, May 8th. Cost is estimated to be between \$175 and \$190 per person, per double occupancy with 2 meals included. Final cost will be determined by how many seats on the bus are filled. If you are interested in the Springfield tour, please contact Connie Williams before February 1, 2017. cmw1226@yahoo.com

Calendar of Additional Exchanges

Incoming domestic exchange from Columbia, Washington in September, 2017.

Please contact Connie Williams, cmw1226@yahoo.com if you were on the Oregon/Washington State exchange, your help will be appreciated. ED and committee needed. *

Outgoing international 2 week exchange to Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan. November 1-14 (est) 2017.

Our club's exchange director, Mary Stull, is working with the Taiwan clubs to finalize plans for this exchange. Open seats will be posted in the Friendship Force International catalog nine months before the exchange. If you know friends from other clubs who may be interested, encourage them to join us. Application links below. Contact Mary Stull, mcdstull@aol.com, 319 393-6254 if you are interested in this exchange.

Incoming in-state exchange hosting Ames, dates to be determined.
Outgoing in-state exchange to Davenport, dates to be determined.



*link to ED application: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDApplication.pdf>

***link for ambassador applica-

tion: <http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/AMBASSADOR%20APPLICATION%20AND%20AGREEM>

Outgoing Exchange to Taiwan—2017

Are you ready for a far east adventure? We've been invited by two clubs in Taiwan to visit them in early November. The first exchange will be with the Kaohsiung club for one week beginning on November 1. Then we will travel to Taipei for a week with the Greater Taipei club.

We are in the early stages of planning for these exchanges. If you are interested in applying for the exchange, contact Mary Stull, exchange director, mcdstull@aol.com, 319 393-6254. As soon as the program details are set, we will have a price for the exchange and in country portions of the exchange. You are encouraged to invite Friendship Force friends to join this trip.

We've received interest from members from other clubs and will be posting the exchange on the Friendship Force International website soon.

In the Spotlight: CR-IC Club Photos

Club members around the world received a video message from FFI President, Jeremi Snook. The three-minute video includes two photos from our club: the farewell in front of the bus for the Crazy for Quilting exchange and the welcome dinner for the India exchange at Klopfenstein's home. **Check it out at: <https://vimeo.com/194698298>.**

FFI 40th Anniversary International Conference

In August, FFI will be holding its 40th Anniversary World Conference in Manchester, UK. The celebration begins at 6 pm on August 24 and ends at Noon on August 28. **You are invited to the celebration. Go to: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&> to read more about it and to make your reservation.**

For nearly forty years, the Friendship Force has grown from being a dream of world peace to an international movement of friend-building overcoming the many cultural barriers that often separate people. The power of this movement isn't to be underestimated, and it is now the time to reintroduce the Friendship Force to a world in need of solutions. This 40th Anniversary World Conference marks an important time for all of us as we celebrate our past and talk about a plan already underway for the future. The conference will include:

Keynote speaker: Benedict Allen, TV Presenter, explorer and author. Benedict is best known for being the first to record his arduous and treacherous exploits without a TV crew. His technique has been to sink into remote communities, placing himself in the hands of these people and their environment, learning to survive from them alone.

Opening Night Party with 1970s theme—music, costumes, dancers, décor, food and atmosphere

Optional activities include: day tours in Manchester and beyond including a Beatles tour, indoor skydiving, the Imperial War Museum, The National Football Museum, a private canal cruise, city walking tours, an English Manor House and gardens, the BBC headquarters and a local brewery.

Headquarters Hotel: Our conference will be held in what is arguably Manchester's most iconic building, The Midland Hotel, a grand Edwardian hotel, which opened in 1903 and has played host to kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers and rock stars. The decor is opulent and the restaurants are award winning.



New Members—Marcia & Dan Banyas

Dan and Marcia Banyas were introduced to the CR-IC Friendship Force by members Carol and Jerry Burke and joined the group in September 2016. They are the parents of two sons, Scott (Pam) of Ankeny and Brian (Krista) of Pleasant Hill and enjoy following the activities of their six grandchildren Madison (18), Wilson (17), Brandon (16), Lincoln (15) and Abbie & Maci (both 13 – but not twins!).

Recently retired, Dan from engineering at Henderson Manufacturing in Manchester, Iowa and Marcia from the Utility Operations Department of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, they are enjoying the freedom to travel that retirement affords. Together they enjoy camping, day trips in their convertible, visiting wineries & microbreweries, following the Iowa State Cyclones, exploring new destinations and “putzing” around their Masonville acreage. This past year they spent the month of February in Florida, a week in Washington DC and a week in New York City. Their favorite vacations include an Alaskan cruise and a fourteen day-seven country trip to Europe. They are looking forward to getting to know the CR-IC Friendship Force members and participating in the Friendship Force travel experiences.

Welcome to Friendship Force, Marcia and Dan.



New Member—Deborah Cunningham



Deborah Cunningham just returned to her home state of Iowa after living in Colorado, Kansas and Belize. She is a single retired school teacher with four sons living throughout the country! She also has two granddaughters and a grandson. Her family is from Iowa and her siblings live close by.

Traveling is something she has always wanted to do more of and right now she has the time and opportunity to do so. She likes to play cards, be outdoors, follow sports, old rock and roll. She describes herself as pretty flexible—a great trait to have in Friendship Force.

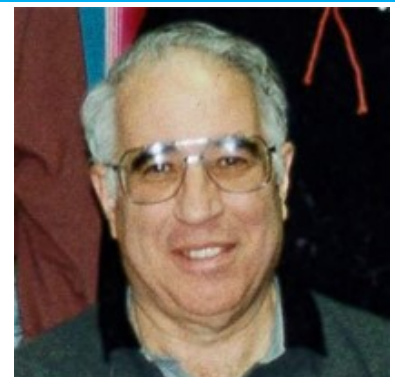
It's great to have Deborah in Friendship Force.

In Memoriam—Charlie Kress

We are saddened to hear that Charlie Kress died on January 7. Arrangements are pending with Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Marion.

Charlie and his wife, Pat, were long time members of our club. He was a committed volunteer with Open World programs. He took photographs and created videos that were given to the delegates as reminder of their program in Iowa.

Pat Kress' address is: 2745 Heather View Circle, Marion, IA 52302



Steve Williams Honored by Friendship Force



Mary Stull, 2016 president, Steve & Nancy Williams, honorees

Steve Williams, was awarded the Wayne Smith Legacy Award at the club's annual meeting, November 13, 2016. Steve and his wife, Nancy, have long been an advocates of Friendship Force as active members of our Cedar Rapids/Iowa City club and previously as members of the Central Iowa club while residing in Marshalltown. His 'can do' attitude and willingness to take on challenges has been a great asset on the local, regional and global level. He is always an advisor to any board member requesting his assistance. Congratulations on this prestigious international award, Steve!

In addition to serving as president-elect in 2004, then club president in 2005, Steve accepted the challenge of being the club's first exchange coordinator from 2009 through 2011. He remained on the board – as secretary for several years after 2011, only re-

cently stepping down in 2014.

He has been exchange director many times, including leading global exchanges to Azerbaijan in 2010 and to Indonesia in 2013. In 2011, Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City hosted its first themed exchange. Through a project arranged by FFI, Indonesian teachers spent a week in Iowa improving their language skills in English and absorbing the culture of the U.S. Midwest. As a result of Steve's dedication to this cause and the new concept, the club received an invitation to visit Indonesia, leading to a successful global exchange to Indonesia in 2013. In 2014, Steve led a 2014 domestic exchange on the topic of the Underground Railroad that was hosted by the Cincinnati club. He worked with a team to organize and lead Open World programs on education, social work/adoption, volunteerism, agriculture-business and small town government. Congratulations on this international recognition!

Board Member Profiles

In each newsletter, we will include a couple of profile on board members. See Presidents' message for Jean and Dean Thomas' profile.

Mary Stull, past president and her husband, Frank, joined the club to be hosts for our first incoming exchange in 1987. Since then, they have hosted guests from Japan, Belgium, Canada and India. They have traveled on exchanges to Tokyo/Koriyama, Japan, Pisa, Italy; Herne, Germany/Kinrooi, Belgium; Newcastle, England and Niagara, Canada.

Mary is retired from marketing for an engineering and architectural firm. She is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and enjoys activities with her women's club, book club and Friendship Force. She also enjoys flower gardening, cooking, reading and movies. Frank is a retired truck driver who enjoys cooking, travel and games on the computer. He volunteers with his church and the Knights of Columbus. His favorite projects are working at pancake breakfasts and fish fries.

Look for additional profiles in future issue of the newsletter.



Open World September 2016 Recap

Looking back at our Open World hosting for three women and two men delegates along with a facilitator and an interpreter. This was an outstanding group of young professional educators from western Ukraine who were always attentive, asked questions and were involved.

Their week started out on Saturday September 24 with the group participating in Marion's Swamp Fox Festival in the morning and evening. They all went shopping in the afternoon at Lindale Mall.

On Sunday, CR/IC Friendship member Joe Ironside hosted the group at Camp Courageous in Monticello with a pancake breakfast and tour of the facilities. Next they went to Dubuque and enjoyed a sack lunch on the edge of the Mississippi River and then to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. Sunday Evening was the Welcome Pot Luck at Pat & Vic Klopfenstein's home.

On Monday, the group attended a Round Table Discussion with the Grant Wood Area Education Agency representatives. Four Oaks Agency personnel, led by Liz Mathis, gave a very interesting and informative discussion how their agency met the needs of kids referred by DHS & the Juvenile Court System. Linn Mar Community School District hosted the Ukrainian group. The superintendent, administrators, principal, finance & operations as well as strategic planning led the discussion). The delegates were really involved by asking questions. They also toured the newly renovated High School, Aquatic Center & Stadium. Dr. Katie Mulholland, vice chairman, of the Iowa Board of Regents talked about her role as a board member governing the three Iowa Universities. They attended the work session of the Linn Mar School Board and learned of the role of the Board of Education.

On Tuesday, the Marion Independent School System was our host. There was dialogue on public education in USA and Ukraine, a tour and learning about the function of the Marion Independent School Foundation. East Cedar Rapids/Marion Rotary Club had the Open World Group as their speakers at a luncheon. Tom Ertz of the Marion Home School Assistance Program discussed their program. The delegates attended classes of their choice.

Wednesday included congressional Dialogue with Fred Schuster, Senator Grassley's Regional Director, Sam Pritchard, Senator Joni Ernst's Regional Director and Jack Mescher, Regional Director for Congressman Rod Blum. U.S Marshall Ken Runde for the Northern Judicial District of Iowa discussed his role. The afternoon was spent with Kirkwood Community College President Mick Starceovich and his Directors of International Students, Continuing Education and Distant Learning (High School College Credits divisions.) Shopping at Wal Mart in late afternoon.

On Thursday, the group visited the State Capital in Des Moines. The Honorable Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds discussed the importance of education in the State of Iowa in the Governor's Formal Office. Then they toured the Capitol - State of Iowa and the office of Dave Tilly, Deputy Director of the Iowa Board of Education in the State of Iowa. The Iowa Board of Directors (appointed by the Governor) set the policy for the Iowa schools and community colleges and let their boards carry it out. In the afternoon the Ukrainian Delegation visited and toured the Neal Smith National Refuge in Prairie City, IA where they saw an American Bison.

On Friday, Jeffrey Schott, Institute of Public Affairs, University of Iowa chaired a dialogue of school, municipal and county finance. They also visited the Marion Campus, boys residential housing, Four Oaks. Liz Mathis again was our spokesperson. Friday afternoon the delegation toured the Marion Vernon Junior High School and visited some classes.

After the Program Critique & Awards Ceremony with all Host Families in attendance, the delegation left for the Wickiup Outdoor Learning Center for the pot luck dinner with the CR/IC Friendship Force members and an International Quilters Friendship Force Program. Host Families were Pat & Charlie Kress, Alice & Tom Wilkinson, Jean & Dean Thomas and Pat & Vic Klopfenstein.

2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15, 2017, 1:30 pm	General Meeting—Presentation by HACAP on Local Food Program; Updates on exchanges for 2017	HACAP 1515 Hawkeye Dr, Hiawatha
January 28, 2017, 9 am	Breakfast Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Riley's, 568 Boyson Rd NE, Marion (C Avenue and Boyson Road) - next to Butcher Block.
February 18, 2017, 10:30 am	Board Meeting	Marion Public Library Conference Room, 195 6th Ave, Marion
February 26, 2017, 1 pm	General Meeting International Potluck Buffet Celebration of World Friendship Day	Shueyville United Methodist Church, 1195 Steeple Ln NE, Swisher
April 6, 2017, details later	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319 447-1147
May 1-7, 2017	Inbound domestic exchange from Sacramento, CA	ED—Dave & Patty Detwiler, Exchange Directors, 319 364-6120, daviddetwiler@msn.com
May 7-8	Overnight Bus Trip to Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Museum and other historical sites with Sacramento Ambassadors—open to all club members	Connie Williams, 319 396-4747 cmw1226@yahoo.com
June—details later	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Marian Wetjen, 319 363-0586 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com
July—details later	General Meeting Potluck Picnic	
July 18	Justice for our Neighbors—Outreach to immigrant families at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church—provide meal	Margaret Nelson, 319 393-1209 ronmargnelson@gmail.com
August 24-28 2017	International Conference, Manchester, England—celebrating 40 years of Friendship Force Online registration is open (see details page 5)	Go to: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170& to read more about it and to make your reservation.
September 2017	Incoming Exchange from Lower Columbia, Washington	ED—Taking applications for Exchange Director*
September 15-23, 2017	Open World—Journalism Theme for Delegates from Turkmenistan	Exchange Directors: Dale Moore & Steve Williams
November 1-14	Outbound exchange to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan	Exchange Director: Mary Stull mcdstull@aol.com; 319 393-6254
2017, dates to be determined	Outgoing to Quad Cities	ED—Taking applications for Exchange Director*
2017, dates to be determined	Incoming from Central Iowa, Ames	ED—Taking applications for Exchange Director*

*link to ED application: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDapplication.pdf>

*link for ambassador application:
<http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/AMBASSADOR%20APPLICATION%20AND%20AGREEMENT%202.16.pdf>

BOARD MEMBERS 2017



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