



# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

[www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org](http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org)

Find us on Facebook: Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force

March 2017

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....***

Greetings Friends!

What a wonderful turn out for our Friendship Day/Friendship Force International's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary potluck! A big thank you goes to everyone who participated in any way and/or joined in the fun. Adrienne Moen, our regional representative honored us by making the trip from Des Moines and gave updates from FFI. We are happy to say three former members have rejoined.

Looking forward to joining ten other members for our first ever Road Scholar trip together. We will immerse ourselves in the culture, history and food of New Mexico. In the process we will enjoy team building and fund raising. While in Albuquerque we will also be meeting members of the New Mexico club. Hopefully this will lead us to more opportunities like this in the future.

On April 2 we invite you to join us for a general meeting and educational program on Taiwan. We will gather in Meeting Room A, on the lower level of the Coralville Public Library, 1401 5<sup>th</sup> St, Coralville from 1 until 3:00. We thank Mary Stull for organizing this event. If any of you are interested in journeying to Taiwan in November please contact Mary or Connie Williams.

On April 20 please gather for dinner, drinks and camaraderie at Parlor City in the NewBo area beginning at 5:30. Thanks to Jim and Barb Steggall for organizing this event. Please see page 3 for details.

The end of April we will be welcoming ambassadors journeying in from Sacramento. If you are called to home host, day host or dinner host please be welcome to jump in. You are ensured to have a wonderful time in the process and you will be making our club stronger! Please see more on pages 3 and 4.

Happy spring to everyone!

In Friendship,  
Jean and Dean Thomas



## General Meeting—February 26, 2017



The club celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of Friendship Force with special guests: international students from Mount Mercy University, Kirkwood Community College and local high schools. After a bountiful potluck, everyone enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream.



Adrienne Moen, Midwest field rep, shared organization history and each table presented a question and answer in a quiz on past club activities.





## April 2 General Meeting



The next general meeting will be on April 2 from 1-3 pm at the Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th Street, Coralville, IA 52241. You can park in the ramp under the library and enter through the lower level to Room A.

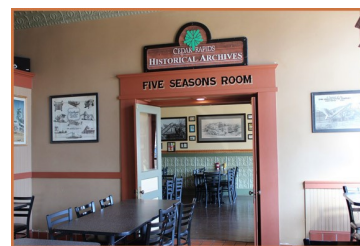
In keeping with our quest to learn more about other cultures, we will have a speaker from Taiwan. We'll also have updates on the Sacramento exchange and other summer activities.

## Let's Eat Out—Parlor City, April 20



The next Let's Eat Out will be April 20 at 5:30 pm at the Parlor City Pub & Eatery in the Five Seasons Room. Parlor City is at 1125 3rd Street SE, Cedar Rapids across from the Newbo Market.

Order off the menu and enjoy an evening of casual camaraderie. Reservations to Jim or Barb Stegall, 319 447-1147 or [bjfs@mchsi.com](mailto:bjfs@mchsi.com)



## Hosting Sacramento—April 30 to May 7

Ambassadors from Sacramento will arrive on Sunday, April 30. Mark your calendar for these "all club" events: All club members are invited to attend a Welcome Dinner, Sunday, April 30. This will give all members an opportunity to meet the Ambassadors. Monday May 1 will be Kalona Day with an Amish lunch. All members are invited to attend a Going Away Party on Friday, May 5.

Times and details on these activities will be announced soon. Day hosts are needed. Contact David or Patty Detwiler, host coordinators, at 319 364-6120, or [daviddetwiler@msn.com](mailto:daviddetwiler@msn.com) to volunteer.

## Outgoing Journey to Taiwan—2017

Our club will be visiting Taiwan for two weeks in early November. Ambassador slots are filling quickly but there are still a couple of openings available. If you have always wanted to experience Chinese culture, here is your chance. The first week will be with the **Kaohsiung club** beginning on November 1. Then we will travel to Taipei for a week with the **Greater Taipei club**.

**Activities** in Taipei may include the National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, Taipei Guest House, Beitou Hot Springs and Museum, Ketagalan Culture Center, Taipei Zoo Visit, Taipei Maokong Gondola Ride and Muzha Tea Plantation.

The journey will include ambassadors from our club as well as Canada, North Carolina, Australia, Des Moines and the Quad Cities. We estimate the cost to be \$900 to \$1,000 plus air fare and travel insurance. Contact Mary Stull, ambassador coordinator, [mcdstull@aol.com](mailto:mcdstull@aol.com), 319 393-6254.



## Upcoming Journey—Incoming & Outgoing

**Looking ahead to 2018:** As announced at our February 26 celebration of World Friendship Day, the Friendship Force clubs of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Chicago have been given the honor to host Ribeirao Preto, Brazil in 2018. Dates are being discussed, but we hope summer time, possibly over the July 4th holidays. If you have any connections with or interests in Brazil, please volunteer to begin the hosting process!

**Sacramento Incoming Journey – April 30- May 7, 2017** So excited to welcome our friends from Sacramento. Dave & Patty Detwiler, 319 364-6120, at [daviddetwiler@msn.com](mailto:daviddetwiler@msn.com), are the host coordinators. 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:** This is an extension of Sacramento tour, and is open to members. Interested in Lincoln? Spend Sunday & Monday touring 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.



Travel by charter bus, leaving early May 7, overnight at the Drury Inn of Springfield and return trip late on May 8. Cost is estimated approximately \$200 per person, per double occupancy, with bus, admissions, hotel and two meals included. Final cost to be determined by seats filled. If you intend to go and have not received a confirmation email from Connie Williams at [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com), please contact her ASAP.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Calendar of Additional Journeys

#### Incoming domestic journey from Columbia, Washington, September 5-12, 2017.

Yvonne Pecha is the Washington ambassador coordinator. She and her husband, Herb, hosted when our club visited and they are VERY excited about this return journey. Please contact Connie Williams, [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com) if you were on the Oregon/Washington State exchange, your help will be appreciated. Host coordinator and committee needed.\*

**Open World to Cedar Rapids, September 15-23, 2017** Journalists from Turkmenistan Steve Williams and Dale Moore have begun planning with their committee.

#### Outgoing in-state journey to Quad Cities, September 21-23, 2017

Linda Shearer of the QC club has begun planning. Please contact Connie Williams, [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com), if you wish to sign up as an ambassador or ambassador coordinator.

#### Outgoing international 2 week journey to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan. November 1-15, 2017.

Our club's ambassador coordinator, Mary Stull, is working with the Taiwan clubs to finalize plans for this journey. There are a few seats available for this trip. Application link is below.\*\*\* Contact Mary Stull, [mcdstull@aol.com](mailto:mcdstull@aol.com), 319 393-6254 if you are interested in this journey.



\*link to host coordinator 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%20AGREEMENT2.16.pdf>

## Board Member Profiles

Each month we will feature profiles on board members. This month we meet Marian Wetjen, membership chair.

**Marian Wetjen** is the club's membership chair. She receives dues, adds new members to the membership list, orders name badges and help orient new members by sharing past newsletters and our new member packet. She lived in the country south of the Amarnas for most of her life and moved to Cedar Rapids nine years ago. She's divorced and has two sons and three grandchildren.

Marian worked at the Lark Supper Club in Tiffin for over 20 years and currently is employed at the Farner-Bocken Co, where she travels to convenience store accounts in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. She trains the employees on sanitation/health codes and their kitchen equipment, helps plan their menus, figures costs/retails rates, helps with marketing concepts and introduces new food products.

Her hobbies include putzing around outside with flowers and plants and watching HGTV shows and gleaning DIY ideas. She also enjoys reading biographies and playing cards. Marian treasures all the international and domestic Friendship Force journeys she's been on over the years.



## New Members

We welcome back three returning members. **Carl and Mary Carson** were active members of Friendship Force from its formation in Cedar Rapids until the last 10 years when "snow birding" six months a year took a priority. They have given that up and are back with us and looking forward to connecting with old friends and making new ones. Both Carl and Mary are retired educators. Carl was club president in 1990.

Welcome also to Betty Emrich, a returning member. Her profile will be in a future newsletter.



Carl & Mary Carson

## Want to Join the Club?

If you are not yet a member, you'll want to join the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force club. It's as easy as 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 journeys. An application is also available on our website: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/join-us/>

Experience different views.  
Discover common ground.



## FFI 40th Anniversary International Conference fees reduced



**Breaking News:** The fees for the Manchester England International Friendship Force conference and the gala have been reduced. The celebration begins at 6 pm on August 24 and ends at Noon on August 28. Several club members have reservations. Join the fun.

**Go to:** <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&> to read more about it and to make your reservation.

## Leadership for 2017-2018

The position of president-elect is still open. If you are interested, we encourage you to contact Jean Thomas (319 830-5092) for more information. You can be involved in the direction of our club. 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. Also experience leaders are willing to mentor future leaders.

## Odds and Ends

**Are we friends—on Facebook—yet?** Follow us on Facebook at [Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force](#). See notices of future activities and photos and information on past events.

**New FFI Website:** Check out the updated Friendship Force International website. To get FFI newsletters, scroll down to the bottom of the mail page and fill in your e-mail to subscribe.

**Free Friendship Force Shirts** We have two almost new Friendship Force shirts: a white polo, size large; and a green polo in small. Contact Mary Stull, [mcdstull@aol.com](mailto:mcdstull@aol.com) if you'd like one or both.

## Youth for Understanding

Guests at our February meeting included several international students who are attending local high schools through the Youth for Understanding (YFU) program. YFU is an intercultural exchange program for learners of all ages who want a life-changing cultural exchange experience. It's goal is similar to the Friendship Force's mission.

If you are interested in hosting a student during the school year, you can contact Sandy Scaia, YFU Volunteer at 319 366-4228; [Sanra.scaia@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:Sanra.scaia@rockwellcollins.com) or YFU Field Director, Ron Ringgenberg, YFU Field Director, [rringgenberg@yfu.org](mailto:rringgenberg@yfu.org), 515 309-1711. Learn more about this program at [www.yfuusa.org](http://www.yfuusa.org).



Youth for Understanding Leaders and students from Germany and Norway with members Jerry & Carol Burke.

## 2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| April 2, 2017                | General Meeting & Program on Taiwan  | Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th Street, Coralville, IA 52241  |
| April 20, 2017, 5:30 pm      | Let's Eat Out (LEO) Parlor City Pub & Eatery in the Five Seasons Room.<br>1125 3rd Street SE, Cedar Rapids.  | Reservations to Jim & Barb Steggall, 319 447-1147, <a href="mailto:bjjfs@mchsi.com">bjjfs@mchsi.com</a>   |
| April 30—May 7, 2017         | Inbound domestic journey from Sacramento, CA   | Host coordinators—Dave & Patty Detwiler, 319 364-6120, <a href="mailto:daviddetwiler@msn.com">daviddetwiler@msn.com</a>   |
| May 7-8, 2017                | Overnight Bus Trip to Springfield, IL to see the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Museum and other historical sites with Sacramento Ambassadors—open to all club members. | Connie Williams, 319 396-4747<br><a href="mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com">cmw1226@yahoo.com</a>   |
| June 4, 2017, 2 pm           | General Meeting Potluck Picnic   | Salem United Methodist Church<br>3715 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids   |
| June 14, 2017 5:30 pm        | Let's Eat Out (LEO) Cedar Ridge Winery, 1441 Marak Road, Swisher, IA   | Marian Wetjen, 319 363-0586<br><a href="mailto:mjwetjen27@yahoo.com">mjwetjen27@yahoo.com</a>   |
| July 18, 2017                | Justice for our Neighbors—Outreach to immigrant families at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church—provide meal   | Margaret Nelson, 319 393-1209<br><a href="mailto:ronmargnelson@gmail.com">ronmargnelson@gmail.com</a>   |
| August 24-28 2017            | International Conference, Manchester, England—celebrating 40 years of Friendship Force<br>Online registration is open. <b>New reduced rates!</b>                               | Go to:<br><a href="https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&amp;">https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&amp;</a><br>to read more and to make your reservation. |
| September 5-12, 2017         | Incoming Journey from Lower Columbia, Washington   | Host coordinator: Taking applications*  |
| September 15-23, 2017        | Open World—Journalism Theme for Delegates from Turkmenistan  | Host coordinators: Dale Moore & Steve Williams  |
| September 21-23, 2017        | Outgoing to Quad Cities  | Ambassador coordinator: Taking applications*  |
| November 1-15, 2017          | Outbound Journey to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan   | Ambassador Coordinator: Mary Stull<br><a href="mailto:mcdstull@aol.com">mcdstull@aol.com</a> ; 319 393-6254   |
| December 3, 2017             | Annual Meeting—Details later   |   |
| 2017, dates to be determined | Incoming from Central Iowa, Ames   | Ambassador Coordinator—Taking applications*   |
| 2018                         | Incoming from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil   | Host Coordinator—Taking applications*   |

### New terminology:

**Journey**—formerly an exchange

**Ambassador Coordinator**—formerly outgoing exchange director

**Host Coordinator**—formerly incoming exchange director

## BOARD MEMBERS 2017



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