



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

May 23, 2017

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

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May

2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

Greetings friends,
Have you taken a look at Friendship Force International's new website? If not you should! <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/>

These changes have gradually occurred since Jeremi Snook became the new CEO. I was able to hear Jeremi speak at the 2016 regional conference. He was friendly and relaxed but very professional in his introductory speech. We learned that he was born the same year as Friendship Force was created, 1977. He grew up in New Hampshire but attended University of Florida. It was there that his passion for work in nonprofit organizations began. His past work includes the United Way of Central Carolinas and the Uptown Emergency Shelter in Charlotte, North Carolina. Jeremi has also had experience outside the nonprofit sector. He helped with the start up of a medical manufacturing company and the Spaulding Youth Center, a leading community based provider of educational centers for children with neurological or behavioral challenges.

Jeremi also had a love for travel and a personal appreciation for the impact these experiences can have on an individual's view of the world. Therefore Jeremi was tremendously excited to learn about Friendship Force's mission to encourage others in this same experience.

Besides redesigning the website to be more user friendly, the organization has a new tagline (a phrase that describes an organization), ***Experience different views. Discover common ground.*** This is directly related to feedback from members who describe the impact of increased understanding that is gained through personal relationships. You can find a wonderful collection of personal experiences called ***Stories of Friendship*** under ***BECOME A HOST*** on the website. Certainly Dean and I can attest to multiple wonderful experiences we have had hosting!

Terminology has also changed. Now "journey" is used instead of "exchange". This more accurately describes visits between clubs that are not always reciprocal, as they were in the early days. Another terminology change is "coordinator" rather than director. This is another case of an update that is more accurately descriptive.

Do take a look at the website and see if you can locate these changes. While you're there take a look at the wonderful journeys waiting to be enjoyed!

In friendship,
Jean and Dean Thomas



June 4 Potluck General Meeting

The next general meeting will be a potluck on June 4 from 2-4 pm at the Salem United Methodist Church, 3715 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. The church is west of Target, Edge-wood Road. A potluck will begin at 1 pm. Meat (Absolutely Delicious Shredded Beef), buns and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

At our meeting on June 4 there will be voting by ballot on the by-laws AND our new Co-Presidents Elect, Jim and Barb Steggall!!

Each member was e-mailed the proposed by-laws. The bylaws committee (Stephanie Schulte, Jerry Burke and Dean Thomas) updated the verbiage to include the new terminology for trips as well as other adjustments to reflect changes in FFI and club processes. See more information on the by-laws update process below.



Revision to By-Laws

A big thank you to the bylaw committee, Stephanie Schulte, Jerry Burke and Dean Thomas as well as the board for their many hours of work on the proposed bylaw revision. Also thank you to those of you that closely read the initial version of the changes and gave us questions and comments.

Working together has made our club stronger! The board and bylaw committee met on May 22 to respond to questions and comments raised and fine-tune the proposed bylaws. The questions/comments, answers and resulting copy of the bylaws will be mailed to the membership on May 25.

Let's Eat Out-June 14-Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery

Join us on Wednesday, June 14 at 5:30 pm for a Let's Eat Out (LEO) at Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery, 1441 Marak Road, Swisher, IA.

The winery offers wine and spirits tasting. Both are available for purchase by the bottle. The menu includes brick oven wood-fired pizzas, rustic shareable plates and a butcher platter that focuses on local, quality meats & cheeses. Menu tip: the Wednesday special is "buy one pizza and get one 1/2 off." Maybe you'll want to "buddy up" and share pizzas for a great deal. Details on the menu at: <https://www.crwine.com/visit-us/dining/>



Reservations to: Marian Wetjen, 319 363-0586 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com by June 10.

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.friendshipforcec-cr-ic.org/join-us/>

Freedom Festival-Volunteers Needed



The Club has been invited once again to volunteer at the Freedom Festival. This is an opportunity to raise \$600 for our Club.

We need 10 volunteers to be parade marshals at the Freedom Festival Parade on Saturday, July 1. from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm—or the end of the parade.

We also need 10 people to volunteer for the July 4 Freedom Festival on the 2nd/3rd bridges from 3:30-7:30pm. This activity will include serving cold drinks and picking up litter.

These are fun events that enable you to meet other club members and represent Friendship Force in the community.

Please contact Barb (bjsteggall@mchsi.com) or Jim Steggall (bjjfs@mchsi.com) or 319 447-1147 if you would like to volunteer for either shift.. Each volunteer gets a Freedom Festival t-shirt so **please specify your T-shirt size**.

Justice for Our Neighbors—July 25, 2017

On Tuesday evening, July 25, our club will partner with the program, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Our club member, Margaret Nelson has volunteered with this program for several years. You may remember that we participated in this program in November. Our participation is part of our community service outreach.

Our role will be to provide food for a dinner for about 40 people – clients (sometimes with their families), interviewers and attorneys. We also set up and clean up. We need two to four people to do the set up (about 4:30 pm) and clean up (about 7:30 pm) at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2424 42nd St.NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The church is at Wenig Road and 42th Street. Three or four other club members can provide food but do not need to be there during the work sessions. **To volunteer for this event contact: Margaret Nelson, ronmargnelson@gmail.com, or 319 393-1209 by July 12.**



Volunteers with Justice for our Neighbors provide assistance to immigrants who are applying for citizenship. During the evening, interviewers help clients fill out the basic paperwork so attorneys can efficiently work with them. The attorney(s) see 10 or 11 clients during the evening. For more info on JFON, go to: www.iaumc.org/jfon.

New Members

George and Marlene Milligan—profiles in a future issue.

Club Facebook Page

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.

Upcoming Journeys—Incoming & Outgoing

Sacramento Journey April did indeed shower on our Sacramento ambassadors! The Sunday, April 30, Welcome Banquet was a bit soggy. Fortunately, the sunshine of the next week only made our hospitality and travel schedule bloom even brighter! I've heard many wonderful remarks from our visitors, they truly appreciated our Midwestern culture. Thanks to David and Patty Detwiler for their leadership as Host Coordinators, their hardworking committee and all of you who helped in any way. Special thanks to the home hosts, many of whom are new members. Great team effort! See page 7 for photos of this journey.

Update on Open World: Steve Williams has received word that our Open World has been cancelled. Our club has benefited greatly from the efforts of Steve, Vic Klopfenstein and their committees, accepting Open World host assignments. Each time, they have planned the programs and made the arrangements for this hosting opportunity. Thank you for your continued efforts.

Outgoing Journeys for 2018: As you may note from the journeys listed below, our club was not assigned an outgoing international journey for 2018. Due to the large number of clubs in the US and many active clubs in the Midwest Region, we have been assigned one international opportunity for 2018, an incoming hosting opportunity from Brazil in 2018.

FFI does recommend members join other outgoing journeys. To see the journeys available, go to the FFI website: <https://thefriendshipforce.org/journeys/>. The goal is that every journey is full—that is, the number of ambassadors equals the capacity of the hosting club. This 'Fill the Seat' strategy gives all of us additional opportunities to travel, makes financial sense for FFI and keeps a journey viable for both the host or the ambassador club. Other added bonuses of traveling with another club or joining in on a themed journey is meeting a mix of people, viewing the culture in multicultural context and networking for future journeys. If you have questions regarding this strategy, Connie Williams would be happy to chat anytime.

Journey Calendar for 2017-2018

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

If you were on the Oregon/Washington State journey, this is a great way to reconnect with this club. Stephanie Schulte is the host coordinator. Contact her at 319 350-5279 or sschulte08@gmail.com to serve on the host committee. 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.

Outgoing in-state journey to Quad Cities, September 28-30, 2017

Linda Shearer of the QC club has begun planning. Please contact Connie Williams, cmw1226@yahoo.com, if you wish to sign up as an ambassador or ambassador coordinator. The journey will conclude at the All Iowa Picnic on Saturday, September 30.

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. We have a full journey with 20 people; however, we have a wait list in the event that someone cannot go. Application link is below.*** Contact Mary Stull, mcdstull@aol.com, 319 393-6254 if you are interested in this journey.

Here comes Brazil—Incoming Journey from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil in 2018. This date is tentative 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!

*link to host coordinator application:

<http://www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDapplication.pdf>

***link for ambassador application:

<http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/AMBASSADOR%20APPLICATION%20AND%20AGREEMENT2.16.pdf>

Outgoing Journey to Taiwan—2017

Our club will be visiting Taiwan for two weeks in early November. Ambassador slots are filled however, we are taking names for a waiting list. 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 by train to Taipei for a week with the **Greater Taipei club**.

The journey will include ambassadors from our club as well as Canada, North Carolina, Australia, Des Moines and the Quad Cities. Cost is \$900 plus air fare and travel insurance. Contact Mary Stull, ambassador coordinator, mcdstull@aol.com, 319 393-6254.



Board Member Profile

Stephanie Schulte, Treasurer

Stephanie and George Schulte have been FF members since 2006. They were married in 1973. They met at college and moved to St. Louis for five years. In 1978, they moved to Cedar Rapids Iowa. In February 1982, they adopted their first child Milton (8 yrs old- now married with one daughter) from El Salvador. That was so much fun, that in September, they adopted their daughter Lorena (12 yrs old) also from El Salvador. Fast forward two years and along came Isabel (24 yrs old), Lorena's oldest sister to become the third member of the family. But wait, 7 months later Gretchen (9 days-now married with 2 daughters and a baby on the way) arrived from Iowa.

Stephanie has always been a librarian and retired in 2014 from the Davenport Public Library as Associate Director. Stephanie is finding out which hobbies of bridge, sewing, reading, walking/running and gardening are going to fit into her daily schedule along with Habitat for Humanity, Quota and Friendship Force positions. She is also going to test golfing this year in a couples league. Poor George who is going to be her partner! But meeting new people will be part of the fun. Stephanie is also serving as the club's host coordinator for the incoming journey from Lower Columbia, Washington in September 2017.



2018 Regional Conference

A combined Super Regional Conference including the 30 clubs in the Great Lakes, Midwest and Southwest Regions will be held in the Greater Cincinnati area on April 20-22, 2018.

The Midwest clubs/cities involved will be Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines, Ames, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Quad Cities, St. Louis, MN/St. Paul, Madison, Milwaukee, Northern IL and Chicago

The Great Lakes clubs/cities involved will be Detroit, Lansing, W. Michigan, Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, W. Kentucky and Louisville

The Southwest clubs/cities involved will be Wichita Kansas, Oklahoma City, Baton Rouge, Albuquerque, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, Georgetown, San Antonio

Mark your calendar and reach out to friends so you can connect with them at the conference. More information will be included in the newsletter as it becomes available.

FFI 40th Anniversary International Conference

The Friendship Force International Conference in Manchester, England begins at 6 pm on August 24 and ends at Noon on August 28. Workshops include: Documenting Journeys with Videos, Blogs, and Photography; Journey Requests and the Planning Process; Making Friends and Making an Impact; Practical Tools to Engage the Media; Revitalizing Europe: From Vision to Action; Philanthropy 101; A Multigenerational Approach to Recruitment; Myths and Realities of Great Leaders; Q&A with the FF International Board of Directors and President; Club Best Practices. There will be a Q & A session with the FFI board and president. Our club will have three members attending. Connie Williams will be the club representative. Audrey Bradford and Lynette Nuehring also plan to attend.

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

International Conference—What's in it for me?

Our club has a strong history of both board members and club members attending international conferences. This is valuable to our club because these conferences:

- Strengthen our network and connections between members. Several Journeys have started as a chance or planned meeting between members at a world conference.
- Give leaders a chance to present and share their ideas with other members, thereby strengthening leadership. It also strengthens leadership by having emerging leaders hear best practice ideas.
- Give all members a chance to hear from and interact with various FFI staff, including the CEO.
- Inspire members to go back to their communities to help spread the word about FFI.

Purpose of the FFI Annual World Conference

The World Conference provides a unique global forum for Friendship Force leaders to:

- Receive information from FFI regarding the policies and future of the organization.
- Participate in leadership training that will help them to be more effective Friendship Force club and journey leaders.
- Share ideas and learn from each other, to meet and interact with the FFI staff and board, and to spend time making and renewing friendships with each other (approximately 50% - 70% are usually return attendees).
- Increase their commitment and motivation to the mission of the Friendship Force.
- Experience the culture and hospitality of the host club and its region. We achieve these goals through plenary sessions, workshops, shared meals, and opportunities for local cultural activities, sightseeing and ways to just have fun together. The proceedings are generally held in English—although provisions have been made to have some of the sessions in the language of the host city or major groups attending. The conference proceedings and formal sessions are the primary focus. Having fun and experiencing the host city are valuable, but secondary.

Target Audience

The conference is designed for Friendship Force leaders and members who are interested in learning more about the organization as well as gaining the valuable tools and training required for club, journey and community leadership. FFI wants the conference to be fun and also to be attractive for spouses and other friends who may not be as fully engaged in the Friendship Force. That is why FFI includes as part of the conference optional touring during the conference, workshops on general topics of interest, and social activities. Post conference tours and homestays are offered to give participants the opportunity for a complete Friendship Force experience.

Hosting Sacramento—April 30 to May 7

We heard many complimentary comments on the journey activities. In addition, the Sacramento ambassadors left a \$100 cash donation as a thank you for their recent journey. They asked that the money go toward our choice of a charity aiding immigrants. At its meeting on May 22, the board voted to donate \$50 each to the Justice for our Neighbors Program (see page __ for more info; and the Catherine McAuley Center.

It takes a committed, well-organized team to provide an enriching experience to our guests. Thank you to all who helped make this a successful journey.

Host families: Jim & Barb Steggall; Judy & John Miner; Tom & Paula Moran; Mary & Frank Stull; David & Patty Detwiler (who also served at the host coordinators for this journey) Jerry & Carol Burke; Jackie & Dallas Bryant.

The dinner hosts: Marcia & Dan Banyan; Deb Cunningham; Will & Karen Mickelson and Lynette Nuehring.

Committee members:

Audrey Bradford (Cedar Rapids day planning); Dale Moore (Cedar Rapids downtown tour); Gayle Bray & Rosie Russell (Iowa City and Hoover Museum day planning); Will Mickelson (Anamosa day planning); Connie Williams (Springfield trip) Tressa Youngbear (home host matching); Mary Stull & David Detwiler (journey booklet).



Downtown Cedar Rapids



Touring Old Capital in Iowa City



Recreating American Gothic at Stone City



At the Lincoln Museum & Library in Springfield, IL



Host for a family-style meal at a Mennonite home near Kalona



Enjoying an Iowa tenderloin at the General Store Pub in Stone City

2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4, 2017, 2 pm	General Meeting Potluck	Salem United Methodist Church 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 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com
July 25, 2017 (new date)	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. New reduced rates!	Go to: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170& to read more and to make your reservation.
September 5-12, 2017	Incoming Journey from Lower Columbia, Washington	Host coordinator: Stephanie Schulte 319 350-5279 or sschulte08@gmail.com
September 15-23, 2017	Open World—Journalism Theme for Delegates from Turkmenistan	Host coordinators: Dale Moore & Steve Williams
September 28-30, 2017	Outgoing to Quad Cities	Ambassador coordinator: Taking applications*
September 30, 2017	Annual All-Iowa Club Picnic, Quad Cities	Reservations to:
November 1-15, 2017	Outbound Journey to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan	Ambassador Coordinator: Mary Stull mcdstull@aol.com; 319 393-6254
December 3, 2017	Annual Meeting—Details later	
2017, dates to be determined	Incoming from Central Iowa, Ames	Ambassador Coordinator—Taking applications*
April 20-22, 2018	Super Regional Conference Including Midwest, Great Lakes and Southwest Clubs	Greater Cincinnati Area More details later
July, 2018 (tentative date)	Incoming from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil	Host Coordinator—Taking applications*
2019	International Conference, Puerto Rico	

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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