



# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB  
[www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org](http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org)

Oct. 4, 2017

October

2017

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

### **In this Issue:**

**President's  
Message** 1

**World Conference  
Report** 2-3

**LEO, Des Moines 40th  
Gala, New Regional  
Field Rep** 4

**Journey Calendar** 5

**Lower Columbia,  
Open World- Kosovo,  
Quad Cities** 6-8

**Cincinnati Super Conf** 9

**Club Calendar** 10

**Board Members' 11  
Contact Information**

Greetings Friends,

The past several weeks have been extremely busy for our Club members! We had four members attend Friendship Force International's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Conference. A few days later we hosted a week long incoming journey from Lower Columbia, WA which overlapped with a week long Open World program attended by seven participants from Kosovo.

I want to thank everyone who helped Journey Coordinators Jerry Burke and Stephanie Schulte in any way with the incoming journey, and anyone who helped Steve Williams with the Open World program. We had many people home hosting, day hosting, dinner hosting and providing food and programming. Larry and Mary Ann Nelson even double hosted! Thanks so much to everyone.

In addition to all our hosting, we have had many members traveling – to England, Wales, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Michigan, Japan and Italy. I'm sure I am leaving some places out, but you get the idea! Because of all this we will have plenty to talk about at our upcoming LEO on October 17 in Solon, Iowa. Please see more information on page 4 and get your reservations in.

Hope to see you there!

In Friendship,

Jean and Dean Thomas  
Club Co-Presidents



## Friendship Force International - Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Connie Williams

You just don't 'go' to a World Conference, you experience and participate! The World Conference in Manchester from August 24-28 offered so many opportunities, I was amazed. Friendship Force of Manchester and the staff of Friendship Force International (FFI) did an excellent job of promoting it's mission of cultural understanding and citizen diplomacy.

During the course of the conference, we were given opportunities to explore Manchester and the area. The tour of Media City, the BBC campus, was very impressive. Two well-qualified young women, a radio actress who was very talented at presenting a variety of accents and emotions and a producer of a television wildlife show, led our tour. We walked through both television and radio sets for news, weather, drama and sports broadcasts, viewed dance costumes from BBC Dancing with the Stars and cheered Warren from the Adelaide, Australia, club on as he presented the weather report in front of green screen.

Opening Ceremonies started on a definite upbeat, we filed into the ballroom to find a djembe, an African drum, at each seat. It was a celebration, led by 3 African drummers, with each pro teaching a third of the room. Great way to wake up, harmonize and get going at 9 am!

Officials from Manchester, UK, and the Manchester FF club welcomed us. Jeremi Snook, FFI President and CEO, greeted us with enthusiasm and introduced the FFI staff who work with and encourage us. The theme of the morning was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FFI. It was great to see what has been accomplished, hear testimonials from the early years, be recognized in video by US Rep John Lewis of Georgia and by letter from President Jimmy and Mrs. Roslyn Carter.

The Gala Banquet was held at the Manchester Airport, under a British Airways Concorde. Wow! The dinner was lovely and the speaker, Phil Holt, was excellent. Phil is a retired Air Traffic Controller and a Concorde aficionado. The first plane Phil cleared for take off was a Concorde at London's Heathrow Airport. Fun facts about the Concorde: Flight from London to New York in 3 ½ hours, twenty Concorde were built and they flew from 1969 to 2003. There were choices of 16 different workshops during the conference. The four I attended were Media Relations, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign, Create and Maintain an Effective Board and A Closer Look at Manchester and the Midland. I plan to go into a few of these in detail in the next newsletter, when follow up information has been emailed.

The discussion topics, workshops and keynote speakers are really just a springboard for the most important part of World Conference participation --- NETWORKING! Each tea break, tour, reception, lunch or dinner presents the possibility to connect with friends, meet new people, chat about the culture of their club, extend invitations and be a resource for future journeys. Connections were established with Gwendolyn, Osa and Margaret from Southern New Jersey; Margret and Virginia from Utah; Myriam from Belgium; Robin from Sydney; Richard and Zeta from NZ; Martin from Slovakia; Sandra from Cornwall; Ginger from CT; Haiya and Mary from Dallas; Bob and Gayle from Baton Rouge; Bobbie and Robin, Jeremy and June from Adelaide and others. These folks will be our future friends. Greetings to Cedar Rapids-Iowa City friends come from Joan of Newcastle; Boya from Germany; Keiko and Fumiko from Gifu City; Pat, Marty, Deb and Johanna from Sacramento; Christine from Tamworth; Andrew and Eileen from Ottawa; Christine and Stuart from Wales; Penny from Wessex and Judi from Lower Columbia. How wonderful to be remembered by the friends we have hosted, been hosted by or traveled with!

We had the opportunity to have lunch with Simone Lanzoni, spouse of Helcio, the ambassador coordinator from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. Their club is very excited to visit Cedar Rapids and Chicago in 2018. I assured Simone a heartfelt Midwest welcome is being planned, they and their families will enjoy the adventure. I truly appreciated having time to meet with Simone, as she is on the FFI Board of Directors and was very busy during the conference. Participating in a Friendship Force World Conference is a great opportunity, it gives every club a voice in the future of Friendship Force International. Thank you Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force Club for being so committed to the mission of cultural understanding through diverse friendships throughout the world

Friendship Force International - Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
2017 World Conference in Manchester, UK



Audrey & Connie



CR/IC Delegates & Sacramento friends  
Johanna Benker and Deb Beich



Connie, Myron & Joan Waldron of the Durham Club



Dinner by the Concorde

## 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/>



## Let's Eat Out-October 17 , Solon, IA

How about a nice ride to Solon to check out the last of the fall colors? We've scheduled a LEO on Tuesday, October 17 at 5:30 at Frida Kahlo Mexican Restaurant, 101 Mayflower Lane, Solon, IA. This is in the corner of a strip mall on Hwy 1 on the south edge of Solon. You can get spicy Mexican but if you're not into spicy foods, there are options you can enjoy. The restaurant website is <https://www.fridakahlomexicanrestaurant.com/>

Please RSVP to Esther Hudson, 393-4839 or Audrey Bradford, [audrey.b@mchsi.com](mailto:audrey.b@mchsi.com) by October 15. Hope to see you there, and bring a guest!

## Greater Des Moines Club 40th Anniversary

IT'S PARTY TIME CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GOODWILL PLEASE mark your calendars for 40 Year Anniversary BIG BASH at the Des Moines Golf & Country Club. SUNDAY, October 29, from 4-7:00 pm, will be a time to greet current friends, an opportunity to make new friends, and experience a wonderful, uplifting evening. SPECIAL GUEST, Jeremi Snook, President/CEO of Friendship Force International, will be unveiling the future of Friendship Force with his inspiring presentation. There will be FUN and SURPRISES for ALL; so DON'T miss this "once in a lifetime" event. The cost is \$35 per person.

RSVP to Adrienne Moen, 4800 Aspen Dr., W. Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-223-4129, [adriennemoen@gmail.com](mailto:adriennemoen@gmail.com)

## New Regional Field Representative

Adrienne Moen is ending her term as the Midwest Region Field Representative effective at the end of the calendar year. It was officially announced at the All Iowa Picnic that our own Dale Moore will succeed Adrienne as the Field Representative. Dale is our current Communications Director and has previously held several leadership positions in the CR/IC Club. Dale will begin the two-year term on January 1. We all know that this is a great choice for Friendship Force and know that Dale will do a great job. Good luck Dale!



## 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.

## Journey Calendar by Connie Williams

Thanks to Stephanie Schulte, Jerry and Carol Burke, their committee and hosts for the successful Columbia, WA journey. And thanks to Steve Williams, his committee and hosts, the Open World delegation from Kosovo had a great week as well. The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force is top notch. It's great when so many of our members join in on the dinners, the day trips and the programs. THANK YOU!

### **Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan. November 1-15, 2017 Outgoing international journey**

We are almost ready to go to Taiwan! Ambassadors going on this journey met October 1 for a cultural workshop. Our group will arrive in Kaohsiung, Taiwan on November 1 for a week then go to Taipei via bullet train for a second week. We are in the process of connecting with our host families and are looking forward to meeting them.

### **Ribeirao Preto, Brazil - July 9-16, 2018**

Incoming international journey to arrive for a 5-7 day journey, then traveling on to Chicago. I was fortunate to make contact with Simone Lanzoni, wife of Helcio Lanzoni, ambassador coordinator. Simone is a member of the Friendship Force Board of Directors and was excited to chat about their journey. We can expect 14-16 ambassadors, including some teenage family members, as this is during a school break. This will truly be a great opportunity to show off the best of the Midwest! Interested? Please say yes to helping on the committee or becoming the Host Coordinator.

### **Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand - Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2018**

Incoming journey to Wichita, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Las Vegas. There are a few quilters in this group, so they plan to begin their trip in Wichita, then fly to Des Moines for the Quilt Show on Oct. 4 & 5. The journey to CR/IC will begin Oct. 6 (what a beautiful time of year to visit!), then on to Las Vegas. Ambassador Host, Brian Grimwood, has collected the names of 28 interested members. No worries, he knows all three host cities plan to host 20 ambassadors, and anticipates the numbers to be in line with our hosting capacity by the journey dates. Again, a committee and Host Coordinator is needed. Check out the FFI Journey Catalog for faces and places to go in 2018! <https://thefriendshipforce.org/journeys/>





## Lower Columbia WA Journey—Sept. 5 to 12

Eleven members traveled by car or plane and started their journey with a welcome party on September 5 at the George and Stephanie Schulte house.

Wednesday found us touring Cedar Rapids with Sandy Fowler, Assistant City Manager followed by tour Turner Alley and the Grant Wood exhibit at the Art Museum. Thursday we met at the Amana Museum before attending the play "Footloose" at the Old Creamery Theater followed by dinner at the OX Yoke Inn. Many of the guest indicated they came for the tour of the John Deere Tractor assembly plant in Waterloo on Friday. The Frank Lloyd Wright House known as Cedar Rock was visited on the way back to Cedar Rapids for an evening of hosted dinners. Saturday and Sunday were free days with the farewell dinner on Sunday afternoon in conjunction with the Kosovo Open World welcome dinner held at Lowe Park. Their stay was concluded on Monday with a visit to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and the National Advanced Driver Simulator in Coralville where we said our goodbyes as they headed to LeClair for a Tuesday boat ride on the Mississippi River.



Ox Yoke Inn



Dan & Marcia Banyas' Home



Millstream Brewing Company



John Deere Tour



## Open World– Kosovo Sept. 8 to 16

The Kosovo Open world delegation was exciting and filled with curious, knowledgeable young people. We learned of a close association between Kosovo and Iowa. There are two Kosovo Consulates in the US, one in New York and one in Des Moines, plus the Embassy in DC. The delegates learned a great deal about language development and immigration in Iowa. West Liberty was an eye-opener for all of us. We found a 53% minority population, with a low crime rate, bi-lingual education in the schools and great cooperation in the community. Both Dubuque and Des Moines told us how they welcome immigrants– the International Center is welcoming people to Des Moines who speak 190 different languages! We suggested to FFI, the delegates, and the Consul General, that our club help form a FF club in Pristina. Thanks to Dave Detwiler for following along with his camera for two days.



Dinner at Lowe Park



Congressional Office Visit



Iowa City Writers' Workshop



Marion Rotary Club



## Annual All Iowa Friendship Force Club Picnic

Journey Coordinator Marian Wetjen and eight Club members participated in a one-night Journey to the Quad Cities Club on Sept. 29 and 30. This was a reciprocal visit from a journey to Cedar Rapids in 2015. We toured Shady Knoll Farm (pumpkins, flowers, met the owner, animals, picture taking opportunity), Hampton Heritage Center to see the world's largest Ginkgo tree carving, Campbell War of 1812 Memorial, Lagamarcinos' chocolate making tour and lunch, and the Palmer Mansion and Museum at the Palmer College of Chiropractic. The next day we attended the All Iowa Picnic. We had a great time in such a short Journey!



Shady Knoll Farm



Marian and her host at the Picnic





## **Friendship Force 2018 Super Conference**

The Friendship Force 2018 Super Conference will be held on April 20-22, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront, 668 W. 5th Street, Covington, KY 41011.

Please join the Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati for the Great Lakes 2018 Super Conference. The Conference will include the Great Lakes, Midwest, and Southwest regions.

Arrive at 2:00 pm on Friday for the "Executive Board" meeting and depart on Sunday at 11:00 am after the "Farewell Breakfast." The clubs of Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan are planning many special activities. Louisville and Dayton will have home hosting before and Cincinnati is planning home hosting after. Cincinnati was once called the "Queen City of the West." Come and see all the special attractions in both Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky.

Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

## 2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17, 2017 5:30pm	Let's Eat Out (LEO) Frida Kahlo Mexican Restaurant, 101 Mayflower Lane, Solon, IA.	RSVP to Esther Hudson, 393-4839 or Audrey Bradford, <a href="mailto:audrey.b@mchsi.com">audrey.b@mchsi.com</a> by October 15.
October 26, 2017 5:30pm-7:30pm	CR/IC FF Board Meeting; Cedar Rapids Library Conference Room	Board Members. RSVP to Jean Thomas
October 29, 2017 4:00-7:00pm	Greater Des Moines Club 40th Anniversary Des Moines Golf & Country Club, 1600 Jordan Creek Pkwy., West Des Moines, IA	\$35 per person. RSVP to Adrienne Moen, 4800 Aspen Dr., W. Des Moines, IA 50265, 15-223-4129, <a href="mailto:adriennemoen@gmail.com">adriennemoen@gmail.com</a>
November 1-15, 2017	Outbound Journey to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan	Ambassador Coordinator: Mary Stull <a href="mailto:mcdstull@aol.com">mcdstull@aol.com</a> ; 393-6254
December 3, 2017 5:00pm Social 5:30pm Dinner/Program	Annual Meeting—Longbranch Hotel & Convention Center, Cedar Rapids, IA	Reservations TBD
April 20-22, 2018	Super Regional Conference Including Midwest, Great Lakes and Southwest Clubs	Greater Cincinnati Area Contact Dale Moore (319)362-6252
July 9-16, 2018	Ribeirao Preto-Brazil Inbound Journey	Host Coordinator TBD
Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2018	Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty-New Zealand Inbound Journey	Host Coordinator TBD



## BOARD MEMBERS 2017



Jim & Barb Steggall,  
Co-Secretaries &  
President-elect  
319 447-1147  
[bjfs@mchsi.com](mailto:bjfs@mchsi.com)



Jean & Dean Thomas,  
Co-Presidents  
[jeanthomas521@gmail.com](mailto:jeanthomas521@gmail.com)  
319 830-5092



Stephanie Schulte  
Treasurer  
319 350-5279  
[sschulte08@gmail.com](mailto:sschulte08@gmail.com)



Mary Stull, Past  
President  
319 393-6254  
[mcdstull@aol.com](mailto:mcdstull@aol.com)



Connie Williams,  
Journey Coordinator  
319 396-4747  
[cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com)



Marian Wetjen,  
Membership  
319 363-0586  
[mjwetjen27@yahoo.com](mailto:mjwetjen27@yahoo.com)



Shirley Rosencrans,  
Activities Coordinator  
319 462-4132  
[sarosencrans@yahoo.com](mailto:sarosencrans@yahoo.com)



Dale Moore,  
Communications  
319 362-6252  
[mooredale@imonmail.com](mailto:mooredale@imonmail.com)



Rosie Russell,  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Director at Large  
319 354-2422  
[rosiearussell@aol.com](mailto:rosiearussell@aol.com)



Larry & Mary Ann Nelson,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director at Large  
319 362-8078  
[mrlwnelson@gmail.com](mailto:mrlwnelson@gmail.com);  
[mrsmanelson@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmanelson@gmail.com)