



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

Dec. 29, 2017

January

2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

Happy New Year!

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

Your new board for 2018 first met on December 17 and we have our second meeting on January 28. Here is a summary of our club events coming up this winter.

January 20, 9 am - Breakfast LEO at MJ's, Marion (see page 3)

February 18, 2pm - World Friendship Day at Salem United Methodist Church

We have many opportunities to actively participate in Club activities in the year ahead! You can participate by attending meetings, volunteering to home host, dinner host or simply by saying "yes" when asked. It takes many willing hands for us to be a strong Club!

Our new club year started December 1 so if you have not already done so, please send your membership dues (\$30 per person) to Marian Wetjen, 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 by Jan. 15. Then you'll be all set to enjoy fun Friendship Force activities, meetings and exchanges in 2018.

We are relatively new to Friendship Force and are learning on the fly! We appreciate the support of long time Club members who have been so helpful. We thank those who have volunteered to serve on the Board this year, including John and Judy Miner who are serving for the first time. You will see a list of Board members with contact information on the last page of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Board with questions.

We are looking forward to a great year!

In Friendship,

Jim and Barb Steggall
Co-Presidents



Annual Meeting— Dec. 3, 2017

The CR-IC Club's Annual Meeting was held on Dec. 3, 2017 at the Best Western Longbranch Hotel. Taiwan Journey Coordinator Mary Stull presented an overview of the Nov. 1-15 Journey. The Ambassadors shared their experiences and all had an enjoyable experience. Co-Presidents Jean & Dean Thomas provided a recap of the major events during the program year, and Connie Williams, Journey Coordinator, presented the three hosting opportunities for 2018. Each of the Committee Chairs provided a brief report and the outgoing Board members were thanked for their service. The nominations submitted by the Committee and from the floor resulted in the election of the following officers:

President: Jim and Barb Steggall co-presidents

President-elect: John and Judy Miner, co presidents elect

Secretary: Larry and MaryAnn Nelson co secretaries

Treasurer: Jerry Burke

In addition, the Committee Chairs will remain the same as last year, but for Mary Stull replacing Dale Moore as Communications Chair and Audrey Bradford replacing Larry and MaryAnn Nelson as Director at Large.



Shirley Rosencrans provides the Activities report



The 2018 Board of Directors



Jean Thomas presiding over Annual Meeting



Director at Large Rosie Russell

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. An application is also available on our website: <http://www.friendshipforcec-cr-ic.org/join-us/>



Susan Howell, 3525 Bellaire Drive S, Ft. Worth , TX 76109, smhrabbit@aol.com

During the month of December the Cedar Rapids Public Library hosted an exhibit of our Club's activities. The exhibit included mementos from past Journeys and hosting Ambassadors. Thank you to Mary Stull, Nancy Miller, Jean & Dean Thomas, Dale Moore and Jim & Barb Steggall for assembling the exhibit. The Library co-ordinator said the display was one of the most interesting they have ever had. It was a great way to share the Friendship Force story.



Please send reservations to Jean Thomas, 319 830-5091 or jeanthomas521@gmail.com.

Taiwan Journey: Warm Weather, Warm Hospitality

On November 1, a warm, sunny day, our group of 21 ambassadors arrived in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. These are my observations and those I heard from others on the trip. Each ambassador had unique experiences and they each have their own stories to tell. Our journey included 13 of our club members; two members from the Des Moines club; two from the Quad Cities; and one each from North Carolina, Ohio and Ottawa, Canada.

Kaohsiung has 2.6 million people and Taipei has over 3 million people. Buildings are multi-story and many are high rises. Commercial businesses are on the first floor; with housing and offices above.

Family time: In both Kaohsiung and Taipei, we enjoyed visiting with our host families and their extended families; walking through their neighborhoods, cheering for the home team at a member's week-end baseball game and experiencing Taiwan through our host's eyes. Some of the best conversations took place over meals. Many of our hosts were working so we occasionally had family members or club members with us for the day.

Food: Food is a symbol of hospitality in Taiwan. It is offered in abundance. We experienced all sorts of new culinary adventures. They served delicious exotic (to us) fruits such as dragon fruit, Buddha head, persimmon, kiwi with yellow flesh and mangos to name a few and fish in many forms. Several times, we enjoyed 10-course dinners that included rice, fish, several kinds of vegetables, pork in a variety of forms; soup and noodle dishes. These meals usually ended with fresh fruit. Each dish was placed on a large lazy susan in the center of the table and everyone helped themselves. They were surprised that many of us used chop sticks. Most lunches and dinners with family and friends were in restaurants; some even ate breakfast out. Bubble tea, a sweet drink made with a syrup, plus flavoring then tapioca, is a local treat.

Transportation: After saying a fond farewell to our hosts in Kaohsiung on November 8, we took a hour and half ride on the fast train to Taipei. During our journey, ambassadors used a variety of forms of transportation: car, city bus, tour bus, subway and taxi. None of us rode a scooter or motorcycle, which were **everywhere**. It was a little disconcerting to be sitting in a car in traffic and see motorbikes/scooters squeeze between the cars. The traffic flowed in a certain rhythm – like a ballet of coordinated activity. Accidents were rare. Our hosts did an outstanding job of driving us around – we envied how well they moved through traffic, without any signs of road rage. Parking is frequently underground or in alley or streets near the home. The ground level lots seemed to be for scooters/cycles.

Our journey included club members **Christine Allen, Jerry and Carol Burke, Geri Frascht, Judy Miner, Mary Ann Nelson, Shirley Rosenscrans, George and Stephanie Schulte, Liz Smith, Mary and Frank Stull; Connie Williams**. Ask them about their experiences – they'll have lots of stories to share.



Buddha Memorial Park



Taipei Welcome



Taipei Farewell Party



Kenting National Park-Pacific

Journey Calendar by Connie Williams

Do you have family, friends or neighbors interested in world cultures? 2018 would be an excellent time to introduce a Friendship Force experience! One of the best ways to travel without leaving home is to participate in a meal, a day trip or home hosting with ambassadors from Brazil, New Zealand or Albuquerque. And as always, there are welcome and farewell events open to all. It's a great way to explore the world! As hosting often leads to travel options, prepare for Brazil, New Zealand, Kosovo or Albuquerque adventures in our future!

Albuquerque, NM - June 13-19, 2018

Incoming domestic journey with our friends from Albuquerque. This will be a very exciting time of year to share with the NM club! Please contact **Host Coordinator, Audrey Bradford** at 319-365-5746.

Ribeirao Preto, Brazil - July 9-15, 2018

Incoming international journey to arrive in Cedar Rapids, then traveling on to Chicago. 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 by contacting **Connie Williams, 319-396-4747, Host Coordinator**.

Want to spend a bit of time in the Windy City? Plans are being made to secure a bus to transport our Brazilian friends to their second week hosts. Ride along on the bus! After drop off, the CR/IC group will stay a day (or two) and tour sites around town. Want input? Contact **Marian Wetjen** at 319-363-0586 to help coordinate this side trip.

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

Incoming international journey to Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Wichita and Las Vegas. There are a few quilters in this group, so they plan to begin their trip in Des Moines for the Quilt Show. The journey to CR/IC will begin Sept. 29 (what a beautiful time of year to visit!), then on to Wichita and Las Vegas. Put these dates on your calendar and call **Host Coordinators, Jerry Burke** at 563-929-0190 and **MaryAnn Nelson** at 319-362-8078.

Connie Williams, Journey Chair



General Meeting—Feb. 18, 2018 World Friendship Day

On Sunday, February 18 the Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City will celebrate World Friendship Day.

International themed potluck and presentations by area international students.

Place: Salem United Methodist Church, 3715 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Date & Time: Sunday, February 26, 2pm-4pm

- Enjoy an international potluck dinner. **Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages provided**
- Celebrate Friendship Force 40+ years with **cake and ice cream**
- Meet international students from area colleges and high schools
- Meet club members and learn about upcoming club activities

The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City is part of Friendship Force International, a global network of citizen ambassadors in 360 clubs who travel the world in the name of friendship and goodwill. The signature program of FFI is home hospitality, where travelers are hosted in the home of someone in another country in order to experience the culture from the inside. It is truly a powerful experience that creates strong bonds as well as lifelong friendships.

For more information contact:

Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147, bjfs@mchsi.com

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**
thefriendshipforce.org

Friendship Force 2018 Super Conference

RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT

668 W. 5th Street, Covington, KY 41011

The Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati is hosting the 2018 Super Regional Conference with the theme of “Unlocking the Future of Friendship Force”. Dave Kalan will start the conference on Friday afternoon with a discussion of “Embracing Change” followed by a social gathering. The keynote speaker from Sister Cities will begin the Saturday program and then attendees will be able to choose between workshops: Leadership, Re-Energizing Clubs or Understanding FFI. The conference will end with a banquet on Saturday night with entertainment from a bluegrass band.

Dayton and Louisville will offer home hosting before the conference and Cincinnati will offer home hosting after the conference.

Registration information will be sent out at a later time.

Board Member Profiles

Jerry Burke is the Club Treasurer for 2018. Jerry grew up in New Hampton, IA and has lived in Manchester since 1980 and has spent most of his career in the banking industry. He and his wife Carol have two boys and three grandchildren.

He enjoys golf, skiing, woodworking, traveling and the Iowa State Cyclones. Jerry currently serves as President of the Foundation for the Future of Delaware County and is a member of the Manchester Rotary Club.

Jerry and wife Carol have been in Friendship Force for three years and have hosted twice, journeyed twice and served as Club Secretaries in 2016.

Look for additional Board member profiles in future issue of the newsletter.



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.

2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 20, 2018, 9:00am	Let's Eat Out (LEO), MJ's Restaurant	RSVP to Jean Thomas at 319 830-5092 or email, jeanthomas521@gmail.com
February 18, 2017, 2:00pm	General Meeting, World Friendship Day Potluck, Salem UMC, Cedar Rapids	RSVP to Jim & Barb Steggall, bjjfs@mchsi.com
March 2018	LEO	Host needed
April 20-22, 2018	Super Regional Conference Including Midwest, Great Lakes and Southwest Clubs	Greater Cincinnati Area Contact Dale Moore (319)362-6252
May 2018	General Meeting, TBD	
June 13-19, 2018	Albuquerque, NM inbound domestic journey	Audrey Bradford, 319-365-5746, Host Coordinator
July 9-15, 2018	Ribeirao Preto-Brazil Inbound Journey	Connie Williams, 319-396-4747, Host Coordinator
Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2018	Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty- New Zealand Inbound Journey	Host Coordinators, Jerry Burke, 563-929-0190 and MaryAnn Nelson, 319-362-8078.

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

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY BOARD MEMBERS 2018



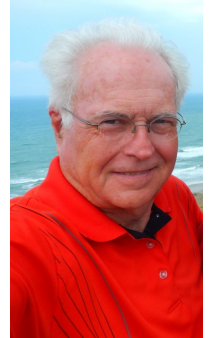
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