



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

March 1, 2018

March

2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

Greetings!

Our Club hosted a very enjoyable World Friendship Day on Sunday Feb.18. This was an opportunity to meet 20 international students and their host families from Kirkwood and Springville High School. Clint Twedt-Ball of Matthew 25 spoke to their mission and how building relationships to find common ground is so similar to the philosophy of Friendship Force. We were very impressed by the energy and determination of the students and their hosts.

Planning has started for the three incoming journeys planned for this year. You can participate by volunteering to home host, dinner host or simply by saying "yes" when asked by the Host Coordinator. We are encouraging all members to become INVOLVED! Find an activity or committee chair and find out what they are up to and how you can be involved.

We have received some exciting news about Journeys assigned in 2019. Please see Connie's report in this newsletter.

We hope you will continue to tell your friends about Friendship Force and invite them to future events, possibly the March LEO?

In Friendship,

Jim and Barb Steggall

Co-Presidents



Save the Date
All-Iowa Friendship Force Picnic June 2

The all Iowa Friendship Force annual picnic will be **June 2** in **Ames** this year. Roger Bertelsen, Co-president of the Friendship Force of Central Iowa wants you to save the date for this day of great conversation, good food, fun activities and friendship. Registration forms and additional information will be coming out closer to the date.



New Members



Welcome Susan Howell - I was introduced to Friendship Force by Connie Williams while on a tour to Wales last year. Connie found out I was a quilter and told me about the group, the club hosted last year, centered around quilting. Then later, Connie told me about a quilt trip to North Carolina that sounded wonderful. That is when I joined. I live in Fort Worth. There is a chapter here, but I don't know anyone who belongs. I am originally from Oklahoma and have lived in Fort Worth, Texas for over 40 years. I am a retired audiologist. A small tidbit about me is that I almost took a job in Iowa City when I first graduated from school.



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

Annual Fund Raiser Information

Everyone loves Fireworks and Parades

Be a part of the club's annual fundraiser. Again we will be volunteering with the Freedom Festival. We need 10 volunteers each to help with 2 shifts that last around 4 hours each, June 30 at 10 AM for the parade and July 4th at 3:30 PM. **Please contact Judy or John Miner at 319-540-1701.** Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and the Club receives a cash donation. This is the only fundraiser for our club so please come out and help support our club.



Let's Eat Out—El Paraiso Mexican Bar & Grill March 14

Ready for a taste of southwest flavors and interesting conversation? The next Let's Eat Out (LEO) will be Wednesday, March 14 at 5:30 pm at **El Paraiso Mexican Bar & Grill**. The restaurant is located in the southwest corner of Westdale Mall, 2730 Edgewood Road SW. It's across the parking lot from Younkers. You can order off the menu and visit with friends. **RSVP by Sunday, March 11 to Mary Stull, 319-393-6254, mcdstull@aol.com.**

Chicago Mini Journey: Theater, Food and Tours

Would you like to join us as we take our Brazilian friends to the Chicago area for their next adventure?

We are planning a two day mini trip to the Windy City, leaving Sunday July 15 around 9 am and returning home the next day. On Sunday, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch in Clinton at the **Eagle Ridge Park** with views of the mighty Mississippi river. In Naperville we'll say goodbye to our Brazilian friends and then attend a 3 pm theatre performance of the comedy, **"Sugar, Some Like it Hot"**. Then off to a restaurant for our evening meal and later to our hotel.

On Monday we have tentative plans for guided tours of **Frank Lloyd Wrights Home and Studio** and also the **Unity Temple** in Oak Park that was designed by him. As we head west towards home, we will stop in Aurora for a self guided tour of a beautiful **Hindu Temple**, the Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple. Later in La Salle, we'll "step back in time as we enjoy a **mule-pulled 1840's replica canal boat** as it coasts gently up and down the I&M Canal. Mary Todd Lincoln had been known to ride the boat, knitting in the corner and telling fantastic stories of her time in the Nation's capitol with Mr. Lincoln." Our evening meal will be in the QC area and we plan to return to CR around 9 or 10 pm.

Our tentative cost for this adventure is around \$225 per person, depending on how many sign up.

Contact Marian Wetjen at 319-3630586 if interested.

Journey Calendar by Connie Williams

JOURNEY CALENDAR

Albuquerque, NM - June 13-19, 2018

Incoming domestic journey with 11 ambassadors from Albuquerque. On Saturday night, June 16, all members and guests are welcome to join the ambassadors and hosts at the National Motorcycle Museum for dinner and a tour. Please contact Host Coordinator, Audrey Bradford at 319-365-5746. This journey will be opened to add ambassadors from other clubs, so contact friends and family to join in the fun!

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 and tour sites around town. Price will be approximately \$210, which will include some meals, theater admission, a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright studios and hotel (double occupancy). Contact Marian Wetjen at 319-363-0586 for questions or sign up.

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, then on to Wichita and Las Vegas. Put these dates on your calendar and call Host Coordinator, Jerry Burke at 563-929-0190 or Mary Ann Nelson at 319-362-8078.

EXCITING NEWS FOR 2019!

We can look forward to being ambassadors

to **Brazil**, a week each in Ribeirao Preto

and Salvador-Bahia, tentatively set for June 2019.



In August 2019, we welcome

the Friendship Force of Aichi, **Japan**.



Fun at World Friendship Day Event

We had a lively and delightful group of students who joined us this year for the World Friendship Day potluck. Fifteen students came from Kirkwood and another student from Springville High School (right). They represented 6 different countries. They were excited and grateful for the food. Plates were piled high and plenty was left over for take home plates. They shared bits of their experiences here. Some were at the end of their stay in the United States and sad to be leaving.



Everyone enjoyed the speaker, Clint Twedt-Ball (left) of Matthew 25 in Cedar Rapids. He explained what they do and how their mission parallels Friendship Force goals: To experience different views and discover common ground.

We were pleased to also have several mentor families join our event. They serve an important function by giving the visiting students first hand experiences in our local home life and families.

Thanks to everyone that helped plan and carry out this event!



Visiting students and their mentor families

Members Veta and Richard with friends Glenn and Marjorie



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”. The Cincinnati club encourages us to join them with this message,

“You don’t want to miss this opportunity to explore the heritage of Cincinnati in the huge underground caverns used for beer making, the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood where thousands of German immigrants settled or our beautiful Music Hall, built for use by German singing clubs”.

Cincinnati club is offering a 3-day “bed and breakfast” style home stay following the conference to facilitate exploring more of the Cincinnati area. Dayton and Louisville will offer home hosting before the conference.

Program:

Friday April 20 2:00-4:00 PM Leadership discussion of club strengths and weaknesses and strategies for embracing change—all are welcome: club leadership encouraged to attend. 4:15-6:30 PM Social Gathering.

Saturday April 21 9:00-10:15 AM Opening and Keynote Address by Bob Herring of Cincinnati Sister Cities. 10:45-12 Noon Morning Breakout Sessions 12 Noon-2:00 PM Small Group Lunches at local restaurants. 2:00-3:15 PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions 3:45-5:00 PM Group discussion of strategies for re-energizing and growing our clubs. 5:00PM-5:30PM Wrap Up 7:00– 9:30 PM Banquet with music by Ma Crow and the Ladyslippers.

Registration information and details for conference can be found at ffregionalcincinnati.weebly.com/

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

March 14, 2018	LEO– El Paraiso Mexican Bar & Grill 2730 Edgewood Road SW	RSVP to Mary Stull, 319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com
April 11, 2018 6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147
April 19-21, 2018	Super Regional Conference Including Midwest, Great Lakes and South-west Clubs	Greater Cincinnati Area Contact Phil Schmidt, (859) 635-2006
April 29, 2018	General Meeting	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147
May 2018	LEO, TBD	Host needed
June 2, 2018	All Iowa Friendship Force Picnic-Ames, Ia	Information to be made available closer to date.
June 7, 2018 6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147
June 13-19, 2018	Albuquerque, NM inbound domestic journey	Audrey Bradford, 319-365-5746, Host Coordinator
June 30, 2018, 10:00am	Volunteer at Freedom Festival Parade	John & Judy Miner, 319-540-1701
July 4, 2018	Volunteer at Freedom Festival Celebration	John & Judy Miner, 319-540-1701
July 9-15, 2018	Ribeirao Preto-Brazil Inbound Journey	Connie Williams, 319-396-4747, Host Coordinator
August, 2018	LEO, TBD	John & Judy Miner, 319-540-1701
August 21, 2018 6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147
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.
October 16, 2018 6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting	Jim & Barb Steggall, 319-447-1147
November 4, 2018	Annual Meeting, TBD	

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY BOARD MEMBERS 2018



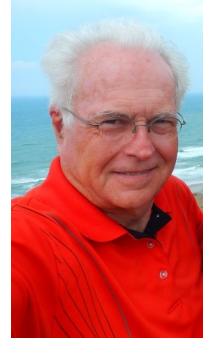
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