



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

November

2018

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

November 15,
2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

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Friendship Force Club members,

This has been a great year for our Club and we hope for you too! It has been great because we've seen many person-to-person connections brought about by your enthusiastic participation. Thank you!

In February we celebrated World Friendship Day and our Club's 30th Anniversary with a large potluck and participation by international students. In April our Co-Presidents, Co-President Elects and Journey Coordinator attended the Regional Superconference in Cincinnati. There were several great presentations and workshops and networking opportunities.

We had incoming journeys from Albuquerque (June) and Tauranga Western Bay of New Zealand (September). In July members volunteered at Freedom Festival and in September at Justice for Our Neighbors. This month we hosted an Open World delegation from the Ukraine. Throughout the year we enjoyed four general meetings, five LEO's (Let's Eat Out) and the All Iowa Picnic in Ames.

Our 2018 board was willing to try new ideas and worked very hard to develop a Strategic Plan for 2019-2020.

Jean Thomas, Dean Thomas and Rosie Russell will be leaving the Board at the end of the year. Thank you for your commitment to the Friendship Force's mission to "Experience Different Views, Discover Common Ground".

We thank everyone for participation in Club activities.

John and Judy Miner have assembled an excellent Board of Directors. We will have a have a great 2019!

In Friendship,

Jim & Barb Steggall
Co-Presidents



THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to Jim and Barb Steggall who have been wonderful leaders as Co-Presidents of the club for 2018. They have kept the Friendship Force Club on track with its goals and brought attention to ways we can improve as an organization. We are glad they will be on the board another year to share their expertise as Past-Presidents. Again a BIG THANK YOU.



Another thank you to leaving board members, Jean and Dean Thomas, Past-Presidents and Rosie Russell, at-large board member. They have Brought many ideas and insights. We will miss you on the board.



Nancy Miller would like to thank the Iowa City Cedar Rapids Friendship Force club members who donated 72 pairs of men's socks to her efforts in helping the Crossroads Mission. They provide a much needed item for people served by the mission. Your generosity will help keep the feet of many people warm and dry this winter.



Annual Meeting November 4 Election of Officers for 2019

The annual meeting of the Iowa City Cedar Rapids Friendship Force Club was held at the Longbranch Hotel on November 4. We had a great turnout and several members invited guests to share the experience of what our club has to offer. We had guests from Ukraine who were here to participate in an Open World—Elections visit. They had a chance to share the experiences that they were working on in Ukraine as they are developing their election process and were excited to view our process during the recent midterm elections. Steve William has provided a recap of the week that they spent with our club.

Nancy Miller gave a short presentation of a service project that she is involved with Cross-roads Missions. She was very pleased with the response from the club.

Elections of Officers for 2019 rounded out the evening.

The elected incoming officers are:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Judy & John Miner | Co Presidents |
| Mary Ann Nelson | President—Elect |
| Larry Nelson | Secretary |
| Jerry Burke | Treasurer |



Open World-Ukraine and Elections



Our club was blessed with a wonderful experience hosting a group of five young delegates, a facilitator, and an interpreter from Ukraine. The Open World delegation studied elections and were able to meet with candidates, see the election in process, and attend a victory party. Members of our club came to know Tatiana, Michael, Natalia, Andrii, Ihor, and Kateryna as intelligent, personable, and intense citizens and future leaders of Ukraine. In addition Tatiana Lukenbill of Helena, Montana provided interpretation for the week and indicated a desire to come back for another Open World week.

Many committee members assisted in a highly successful week.

One highlight was attending a UI Senior College class studying elections in Coralville. Ben Keiffer, IA Public Radio host, told the Open World group and about 100 class members about the results of the Mid-term elections.

Vic Klopfenstein and Jim Steggall took the delegates to Des Moines to see the capitol, meet with Secy of State Paul Pate and make a tour of the Neal Smith Conservation area.

In Dubuque we went to the usual tourist areas: National Mississippi river museum, Fourth St. elevator and Eagle Point park, but also had some election experiences. We went to Rod Blum headquarters and met the campaign manager. We attended a rally with Fred Hubbell and Rita Hart at the Julien Hotel.



Ashley Hinson of Cedar Rapids hosted the group at her home the night of the elections. Mayor Brad Hart discussed city elections the day before the mid-terms.

Long time members Veta and Dick Hildebrand hosted lunch at their house on Monday. Home hosts were highly regarded by the delegates Friday night at the farewell dinner at The Czech Café and Marketplace. The most significant moments of the party were the delegates' talking about their experience in Iowa. They expressed a very high regard for the trust and caring they found in their adopted homes and in public officials.

Thanks to home hosts Pat and Vic Klopfenstein, Margaret and Ron Nelson, Joan Lecayo, and Connie and Myron Williams. Thanks to Dave Detwiler who spent most of the week taking photos of the events, Jim Steggall and Dale Moore who coordinated and drove the van, to Gayle Bray who facilitated the Iowa City/Coralville experiences, and to Steve Williams, coordinator.

In addition John Haack, David Swaney of Linn Mar High School, Mary Ann and Larry Nelson provided valuable input to the Open World committee. Photos will be posted to the club web site in the near future.



Marty Novak's FF GLOBAL JOURNEY to Iceland



I recently returned from a FF Global Journey to Iceland. Maybe Iceland is not on your bucket list of places to visit, but this country now ranks in the top 3 of my favorite places to visit. Nine people from the US and Canada made this journey. Iceland does not yet have a FF club, but we already have at least 2 people who requested more information on FF, so maybe they will organize a club soon. Weather there was similar to here in Iowa - cold, windy, and unpredictable as is normal in November. But the scenery and very friendly people more than made up for the weather. The overriding factor in Iceland is the volcanos, their past and future threats. The black 'rocks' of the lava fields cover much of the land, and many areas display wisps of steam rising through cracks in the ground. One day our guides took us to one of these fields where they surprised us by heating water for hot chocolate (2 minutes) and hard-boiling eggs (10 minutes) over one of these steam vents. Hot springs, waterfalls, volcanos, geysers, northern lights, and Iceland's own horses and cows were just some of the sights we enjoyed. We also visited greenhouses, microbrewery, horse show, museums, caves, and hiked the divide where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are moving apart.

I'm also happy to report that several of our group asked me to let them know when our club is traveling because they think we are a fun and active group and go to interesting places.

Marty



Are You Ready for a Brazilian Adventure?

We've been invited by the Ribeirao Preto and Salvador-Bahia clubs to visit them next summer. It is actually the winter season in Brazil, with average daily temperatures below 80 degrees (F). Both home stays will be five nights each with a two-night side trip to Iguassu Falls in between.

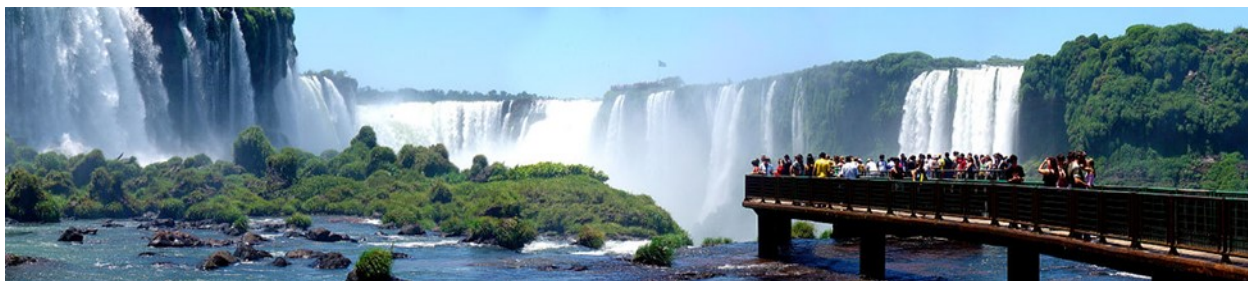
The dates for a Cedar Rapids Airport departure/return are June 24-July 9, 2019. The Journey price, including side trip to Iguassu Falls, is \$995 per Ambassador plus approximately \$1500 for airfare.

Ribeirao Preto is an important cultural center. The Prefeito Luiz Roberto Jábali Park, the Maurilio Biagi Park, Carlos Raya Park, Santa Tereza Reserve and the Zoo are important preservation areas. Pinguim Beer house, Dom Pedro Theatre and projects such as Ribeirão Preto's Cinema Center are relevant sightseeing points, along with events such as the Agrishow Agricultural Fair, Tanabata Festival, Joao Rock Music Festival and the National Outdoor Book Fair.



The side trip will be to Iguazu Falls which is in southern Brazil. The colossal power of these thundering falls is a mesmerizing sight: 275 separate falls in a U-shaped formation pound the water below in raging cascades with a deafening intensity. We will have a two-night hotel stay near the Iguassu National Park where we will visit the beautiful Parque das Aves, the largest bird park in Latin America. In the park you will witness more than 1,320 birds from about 150 different species. There are 16.5 hectares (40 acres) of lush Atlantic rain forest maintained to provide the best habitat for these animals.

In the evening we will enjoy a folklore dinner show that covers, not only traditional dances from Brazil, but several other Latin American countries. From north to south, it's songs and dances, such as chorinho, capoeira, samba and others, all of which are showcased to bring joy to all present. We will also be treated to a delicious barbecue dinner during the show, with great variety of meat and sides.



Salvador is located along the balmy tropical Atlantic waters on the Bay of All Saints and is one of Brazil's oldest colonial cities. The city is known as the "melting pot" of Brazil where the Portuguese, African and indigenous people came together to form the "Bahian" culture. They live in what's known as the "Land of Happiness." We will learn about the history of the Portuguese settlers, the African slave trade (which was banned in 1835) and the blending of these two groups with the existing indigenous people. Sugar was king in the colonial times and we will hear about its importance in the region. The club has some great activities planned such as exploring the UNESCO neighborhood of Pelourinho with its rich Baroque churches and colorful colonial architecture, a day on a schooner visiting islands of the bay, visiting the tranquil beach village of Praia do Forte and a sea turtle rescue center and a trip to the town of Cachoeira with its colonial architecture and important connection to Brazil's fight for independence.



An application to signup for this Journey is at:

<https://friendshipforce.azurewebsites.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

Please submit the application and a \$100 deposit to Jim Steggall, 3324 Riverbend Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. Any questions please contact Jim at bjjfs@mchsi.com or (319) 651-1092 if you are interested in this Journey.



Journey Calendar by Connie Williams

Sign up for 2019 journeys and hosting opportunities below! Look for sign up sheets at the Annual Meeting, or email the contact person listed with the journey. Committees are needed for all incoming hosted journeys!

May 14 – 19, 2019 - Outgoing domestic journey to Louisville, KY. Contact Connie Williams at 319-396-4747 or cmw1226@yahoo.com if interested in going to KY. **

June 23 – July 8, 2019 Outgoing to Ribeirao Preto and Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. See the information in this newsletter. Contact Jim Steggall at 319-447-1147 or bjfs@mchsi.com to apply for journey. ***

July 23 – 27, 2019 World Conference in Boulder, CO More details will become available soon, save the dates on your calendar.

July 28 – Aug 3, 2019 All New Zealand tour Our club has been asked to host 18-20 ambassadors from various locations in New Zealand after the Boulder, CO, World Conference. What a great way to make connections for a future journey to New Zealand! If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Connie Williams at 319-396-4747 or cmw1226@yahoo.com

September 4 – 10, 2019 Incoming journey from Aichi, Japan. Contact Connie Williams at 319-396-4747 or cmw1226@yahoo.com if interested. Host Coordinator and committee needed. **

I've been in contact with the FFI of Dallas, coordinating possible journeys for 2019 or 2020 and with Kathy Hsue of the Kaohsiung, Taiwan FFI regarding their visit to CR/IC in 2020. Lots of friends and fun to come!

****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>

2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| December 10, 2018 5:30PM | Board Meeting CR Main Library UnConference Room | Judy & John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com |
| January 2019 | LEO | TBD Judy/John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com |
| February 2018 | General Meeting World Friendship Day | TBD Judy/John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com |
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CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY BOARD MEMBERS 2018



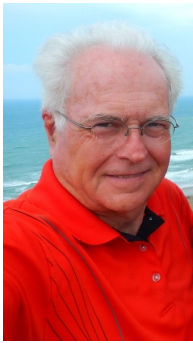
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