



# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

January

2019

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

January 2,  
2019

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

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Happy 2019!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The Board has met and have been putting together the calendar for the year. We are looking forward to an active and interesting 2019.

The year is starting with a General Meeting in January at Groundswell.

We have two outgoing journeys. One to Cincinnati and the other to Brazil. In addition two incoming journeys. One from New Zealand and the other from Japan. In addition the World conference is in Colorado this year.

We are looking forward to many varied activities throughout the year. It is our turn to host the Iowa state picnic and we are planning inner club small dinner parties. There will be more coming on these.

When we began our involvement with friendship force we found ourselves commenting after each experience on how enriching it had been. Being involved was essential to this. So we hope everyone will find a place they can be involved. There are a lot of ways to be involved, some smaller and some larger. If you would like direction on how to do this, you can talk to anyone on the board.

In Friendship,  
Judy Frascht-Miner/John Miner  
2019 CO Presidents



## General Meetings

**Tuesday, JANUARY 15TH** we will meet at Groundswell (a Mathew 25 program) from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. It is located at 201 3rd Avenue SW, CR. They have agreed to make their usual menu available to us along with the option to pay it forward. They will explain their program and let us look around. We will also have a presentation by Lynette Richards on the "Feed Iowa First" Program which will be followed by a donation from our organization.

**Sunday FEBRUARY 24TH** we will celebrate **International Friendship Day** from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm at the Salem United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, located at 3715 33rd Avenue SW, CR. It will be a potluck as usual with invitations to local foreign exchange students to attend. Rachael Rockwell from the CR schools will speak to us about her experiences.

If you are know of any international students/visitors, please invite them to this celebration.

Hope to see you at these events. **Bring friends**

## Janis Jean Schmitz



Janis Jean Schmitz, 85, of Cedar Rapids, died Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, at Arbor Place in The Meth-Wick Community. Her obituary mentioned that she loved traveling with Friendship Force, having visitors and friends from around the world. Thanks to Marian Wetjen for referring this so it could be shared with our club members.

## Ribeirao Preto and Salvador-Bahia, Brazil

June 23 our club will be venturing south to visit 2 clubs in Ribeirao Preto and Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. There are 9 slots still available and the Journey has been added to The FFI Journey Catalog. It is trip # 15132. A great agenda has been planned at a very reasonable cost. The details are listed at:

**<https://friendshipforce.org/journeys/ribeirao-preto-and-salvador-brazil/>**

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](mailto:bjjfs@mchsi.com) or (319) 651-1092 if you are interested in this Journey

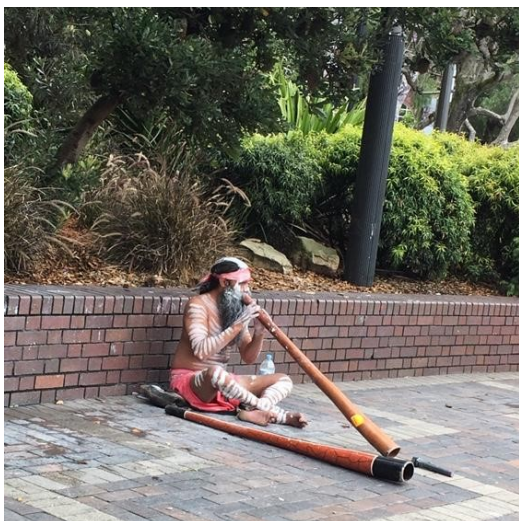


## Dean and Jean Thomas Journey To Australia and New Zealand

This past October Dean and I joined the Greater Des Moines Club for our first outgoing journey. We were to visit two countries on our bucket list, Australia and New Zealand as well as an ambassador from Perth (Australia) who had stayed with us two years ago. It was an amazing experience!

We began our travels with three nights on our own in Sydney, Australia. We spent each day walking to nearby sites such as the Harbor Bridge, Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens and “The Rocks”, the area where the first European explorers docked in this new country. Several highlights include encountering a musician on the didgeridoo, finding out the opera house is covered in small white tiles and seeing our first ibis.

We flew to Perth on October 15 and were greeted by our smiling hosts. Highlights of our week there included visiting Freemantle, Australia’s historic west coast port, a sightseeing tour of downtown, a welcome tea hosted by Perth’s mayor, King’s Park, Caversham Wildlife Park, Shipwreck Museum, and Dolphin Cruise. We had lovely spring weather during our time there. We were both eager to see indigenous wildlife so were delighted to see a herd of kangaroos making their home in a local cemetery. At Caversham Wildlife Park we saw more kangaroos as well as koala bears and a wombat.





After a wonderful week with our new friends at Friendship Force Perth, our group took an overnight flight to Auckland, New Zealand. We were to begin our week there on October 23.

Our Auckland North Shore hosts greeted us at the airport and took us to the president's home for morning tea. We were amazed at the change in terrain. Auckland is very hilly and many homes have a view of the ocean. We met our home hosts and traveled with them to a nearby Maori School to see their students perform the Kapa Haka. The Kapa Haka literally means to form a line and dance. It is a powerful combination of song, dance and chanting which is performed during special events and festivals. After this wonderful performance we went to explore our new homes and take a much needed nap!

Our week proceeded with a visit to the west coast to see a gannet colony, a vineyard tour, Auckland's Skytower for fabulous views of the surrounding area, aquarium, sheep shearing demonstration, and hike to the top of Rangitoto Island (volcano). On October 29 we said goodbye to our wonderful hosts and flew to Christchurch on the south island.

We were met at Christchurch International Airport by Peter Higinbottom, who provides small group personalized tours of New Zealand. Peter was recommended by FFI and is a member of Friendship Force of Christchurch NZ. Peter helped us load our things and we headed into the mountains and the west coast. Our first stop was at Paparoa National Park to see an area known as Pancake Rocks. This is a heavily eroded limestone area where the Tasman Sea bursts through several vertical blow holes. We then traveled down the coast to Hokitika, home of New Zealand jade. After staying overnight in Hokitika we headed south to Franz Josef Glacier, past several lakes and spent the night in Cromwell. The third day provided yet another gorgeous drive through mountains and lakes as well as hikes through the rainforest. We proceeded on to Queenstown located in an absolutely stunning setting beside Lake Wakatipu.



On the fourth day we drove through the mountains and on to Milford Sound for a cruise there. Luckily we had a beautiful, sunny day. We later found out the roads were closed the following day due to snow. During our cruise we were also fortunate enough to see resident penguins and seals out on the rocks enjoying the sunshine. On day five we journeyed to Dunedin on the east coast. Dunedin is the second largest city on the south island. It was settled by Scottish immigrants and is known as the “Edinburgh of the south”.

From Dunedin we drove through Mackenzie country, a deep, wide valley which consisted of sheep country and a dark sky reserve. Since our guide was a retired Merino sheep farmer, we learned all about the industry. Now I have a whole new set of memories when I put on my Smartwool socks! On November 3 we ended our journey in Christchurch and were able to see their museum and arboretum before catching our plane to travel home on November 4. This had been an incredible first journey for Dean and I. We not only had some amazing travel experiences, we have a whole new set of friends down under and in the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force!



## **Journey Calendar by Connie Williams**

**Sign up for 2019 journeys and hosting opportunities below! It will be much appreciated when you say YES when asked to host or organize a journey. Committees are needed for all incoming 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. \*\* A waiting list has been started.

**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 bjifs@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 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. \*\*

**\*\*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>**



## Year End Message from your 2018 FF International Board Leaders



Dear Friends,

As we come to each year's end, we often look back on everything that happened - the good and the bad - to make the year special.

In 2018, we saw extraordinary natural disasters displace and take the lives of so many. We saw world leaders who, instead of working to create peace and worldwide connection, boasted nationalism and an inward focus for their countries. We saw violence worldwide, mass shootings in the US, and decreasing trust between countries and neighbors.

While so many things currently seek to divide us, what remains truly special is our place in all of it as members, Journey coordinators, ambassadors, hosts, volunteers, and leaders in this exceptional organization. Friendship Force International is needed now more than ever to bridge differences and create understanding in a divisive world. It is up to us, as informed, passionate, global citizens to promote the mission of Friendship Force with our time, energy, and, yes, even our money.



It may seem like the problems of the world are too large - that there is no way we could make a difference when it is all so much bigger than us. But it was the belief of our founders, Rev. Wayne Smith and President Jimmy Carter, that the world can change and become a better, more peaceful place. All it needs is more people like us - the members of Friendship Force International - to come together in friendship and commit to caring for each other and the organization we all hold dear.

So as we look back at 2018 and forward to 2019, let's remember the ever-popular quote from Margaret Mead:

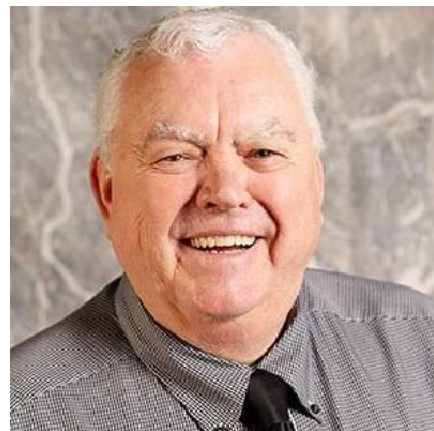
**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”**

We may not see global change in our lifetime, but we are planting the seeds of friendship, peace, and understanding so that those who come after us may see our mission realized.

In friendship and peace,



**Jo Custead**  
2018 Board Chair



**Bob Duncan**  
Immediate Past Chair

## 2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15, 2019 5:30– 7:30PM Tuesday	General Meeting At Groundswell 201 3rd Ave SW, CR	Judy/John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com
January 24, 2019 5:30-7:30 PM Thursday	Board Meeting Cedar Rapids Downtown Library	Judy/John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com
February 24, 2018 2:00-4:00PM Sunday	General Meeting World Friendship Day Salem United Methodist Church 3715 33rs Ave SW, CR	Judy/John Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com
March TBD	Small inter club dinner parties	
May 14 – 19, 2019	Outgoing domestic journey to Louisville, KY	Contact Connie Williams at 319-396-4747 or cmw1226@yahoo.com
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	<a href="https://www.eventleaf.com/2019FFWorldConf">https://www.eventleaf.com/2019FFWorldConf</a>
July 28 – Aug 3, 2019	Incoming All New Zealand tour	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 commit-
Summer 2019 TBA	All Iowa FF Picnic	Mary Stull 319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com

# CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY BOARD MEMBERS 2018



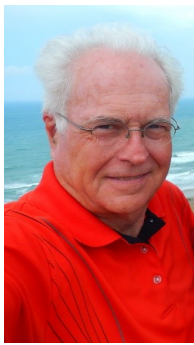
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