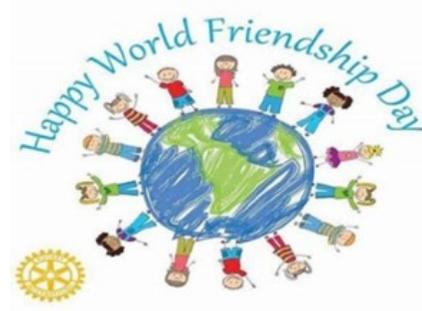


International Friendship Day March 1

Celebrating International World Friendship Day



When: Sunday, March 1, 2020 3:00PM

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

Program: Guest Speaker,

To Be Announced

* Enjoy an international potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share if you wish (ready to serve). Table service and beverages will be provided.

* Feel free to bring any cultural items or clothing that are representative of your country

* Meet international students and host families from area colleges and high schools.

* Meet club members and learn more about upcoming club activities.

A General Meeting will also be held in conjunction with this event.

The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City is part of Friendship Force International, a global network of citizen ambassadors in 360 clubs that travel the world in the name of friendship and good will. The signature program of FFI is home hospitality, where travelers are hosted in the homes 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.

More Information Contact Judy Frascht-Miner 319-540-1701 jjbm526@aol.com

Experience Different Views

Discover Common Ground

March Mix & Mingle

Fellow Friendship Force Friends, think about how much fun you can have meeting other members. We are hosting dinners, only with FF members, March 25th from 6-8 pm. This is our chance to meet newer members or even long-time members that we don't really



know. We are asking for you to sign up for this fun event for our Club.

How this works is some of us will be hosts and some of us will be guests. The host will decide upon the main menu and the guests will bring additional items for the meal, dessert or appetizer as needed. Sign up will continue until March 6th. At that time the committee will sort the attendees into groups. We will notify everyone of their group by March 16th. The host will be responsible to let their guests know what will be needed to go with their main dish; whether it is a salad, vegetable, appetizer, dessert or other item.

We will be asking you for your feedback after the event and also for pictures. Bring your camera and smiles with you!

To sign up please contact **Marian Wetjen: mjwetjen27@yahoo.com or 319-330-2088**. We need to know if you want to be a host (if so how many you can host), a guest or you could do either. Please remember to leave contact information so we can get back in touch with you. If you have dietary restrictions, now would be a good time to mention it!

LUNCH LEO February 8

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! We will be holding our first LEO of the year on Saturday February 8 at 11:30 AM at the Lucky Penny, 1705 Boyson Road, Hiawatha. Come join your FF friends for lunch and conversation. As always, feel free to bring a friend so they have a chance to see what a fun group we are.



Wine and Cheese Open House



We are planning another **Wine and Cheese Open House** February 28. It is an opportunity to have **prospective new members** meet with a few current members in a relaxed setting. We will explain what our club is about and answer questions. If you have some friends or know of people who have expressed an interest, it is a great way to encourage them to join. Please let Judy Frascht-Miner (jjbm526@aol.com, 319-540-1701) know who they are and how to contact them, so we can send them an invitation.

PAYMENT OF DUES 2020

If you weren't at the Annual Banquet and you haven't paid you club dues for 2020, please send it to Joanne Smith at 4125 B Summerfield LN NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. The dues this year are \$35.00 per person.

General Meeting January 26

Hiawatha Library

A general meeting of the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship force was held on January 26 at the Hiawatha Public Library. We had approximately 30 members in attendance. After a short business meeting Eva Ross shared her story about immigrating to the United States from Poland. In



the early 1980s she was a teenage girl living with her mother in Communist Poland. The Communist Government was trying to climb into power as the labor unions and Lech Walesa were trying to move the country away from the communist. She and her mother were able to make their way to Austria where they stayed in a refugee camp for 18 months while they went through the long process of applying for resettlement. She shared many of the hardships and difficulties of the process and gave a first hand glimpse of what many people are going through today. It was an extremely poignant and entertaining presentation. Thanks to Shirley Rosencrans for organizing snacks and the members who brought the refreshments.



2020 Co President Mary Ann Nelson and guest speaker Eva Ross

A Note to Members from Jeremi Snook FFI President and CEO

It seems impossible to turn on the television or your device without seeing news of natural disasters, unspeakable violence, and political divisiveness all around our world. As members of an international, friendship-building organization with social connections that span the globe, we can't ignore what our friends might be facing on the other side of the world – or even just a short plane ride away. As ambassadors, eager to meet new friends on a planned Journey, our excitement may be dampened by concern when hearing troubling reports.

Perhaps you are traveling to Australia as they face the worst fire season in its history. Or maybe you are facing worsening divisions in your home country or in the destination of your next Journey. While these events can cause us to reevaluate our plans, now more than ever it is important that we **go**.

Go to a place where new friends are eagerly awaiting your arrival. **Go** to a place where friendship and peace are desperately needed. **Go** on a new adventure that will bring you expanded world views, friendships, and understanding.

As with any Journey, we encourage you to do your research and make sure your plans are safe. But also know that your friends (both old and new) want you to come. They want you to experience their culture. They want you to know them – most especially in the face of hardships.

This year, make it a point to open your home to at least one new friend, and, when the opportunity arises to explore and expand your horizons, **go**.

In Friendship,

Jeremi Snook, CEO & President

Justice for our Neighbors

Our CR-IC FF club will again be helping with the Justice for our Neighbors clinic on February 18. We will be providing a meal for people attending the clinic that evening at Lovely Lane Methodist Church. This project is being lead by Margaret Nelson and Jean Thomas.



Justice For Our Neighbors (IowaJFON) is a non-profit organization, welcoming low-income immigrants of all faiths into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy.

Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors has been serving low-income clients in our communities since 1999. Established by the United Methodist Committee on Relief in 1999, Iowa JFON helps people from all over the world. Our services are available to all without regard to race, gender, or religion. Clinics are located in Cedar Rapids, Columbus Junction, Decorah, Des Moines, Ottumwa, Marshalltown and Storm Lake.

Journey Calendar by Connie Williams

Looking forward to our 2020 plans!

April 19-26 2020 – Cedar Rapids to Albuquerque, NM – Please contact Jean Thomas at (319) 830-5092 if interested in going to Albuquerque. Journey is at capacity, thank you Jean!

April 26-May 1, 2020 - Possible Road Scholar extension, leaves from Albuquerque. On the Road: Four Corners Canyon Country

Sept 9-16, 2020 -- Kaohsiung, Taiwan incoming journey! For all ambassadors who traveled to Taiwan in 2017, let's warmly welcome Kaohsiung to Iowa! A great opportunity for our continued friendship! Contact Connie Williams or Judy Miner if you are interested in participating as a home host, day host or dinner host.

October 15-30, 2020 (tentative) to Prishtina, Kosovo and Budapest, Hungary outgoing journey for 2020! Info has been sent to those who initially showed interest, more info to come! Budapest has agreed to 15 home hosting opportunities. It is at capacity, several names on wait list. * application link below

*<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

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