



friendship force
CEDAR RAPIDS -
IOWA CITY

**FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS – IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB**

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

Follow us on Facebook: Cedar Rapids-Iowa City
Friendship For

March, 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 7, 2021 **World Friendship**
7:00PM **Day**
Sunday **Zoom General Meet-**
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- March 17,2021 **Regional Trivia**
7:00PM **hosted by Greater**
Wednesday **Milwaukee Club**
- March 19,2021 **CR/IC Club Trivia**
7:00PM
Friday
- March 30,2021 **Board Meeting**
9:00AM **Via Zoom**
- April 10,2021 **Hiking Groups**
Saturday **First Event.**
 Sac & Fox Trail

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

About one year ago I learned a new word and process called ZOOM. I have learned how to do zoom general and board meetings, mix & mingles, breakout rooms and zoomtinis. It has been a great way to keep our club members communicating through the mix & mingles, trivia nights, a murder mystery and seeing each other having some fun. Dale Moore, Midwest Regional Representative, has a Regional Presidents/Leaders meeting each month. It has been a great way to get to know other club presidents in the region that one would not see except at the regional conference. I have been on Zooms with members from around the world listening to Jeremi Snook, FFI CEO explaining the new tag line, web site and member portal.

It does not replace getting together, but it certainly has become a new and convenient way of communicating as a board, with FFI and probably future journey participants.

If you have not joined in on a zoom and want to know how, give me a call.

As we approach St. Patrick’s Day, I want to leave you with this version of an Irish toast to lying, stealing, cheating and drinking.

May you never lie, steal, cheat or drink

But If you are going to lie, lie in the arms of one you love,

If you must steal, steal a heart

If you must cheat, cheat death,

And if you’re going to drink, drink with us, your friends.

Jerry Burke 2021 Club President



2021 World Friendship Day

Our World Friendship Day will be a little different this year, as we will not be able to gather with foreign college and high school students over a potluck dinner, We are going to have a Zoom general meeting with a **special guest speaker**. Many of you may have met her in person when our club journeyed to Taiwan in 2018. The meeting is set for Sunday **March 7 at 7PM**, There will be a Zoom meeting invitation email. Mark your calendars for this event. Below is a picture and some information on **Kathy Hsue**.



I used to be a National public senior high school English teacher for 30 years before I retired. I have been retired for 10 years now. As soon as my retirement began I was elected as FFI Kaohsiung club president. 3 years a term. But my club members would not let me stop and I had no choice but to go on and on for 10 years .

I led at least one outbound a year. Some years I joined global exchanges, 5 times so far. In 2019, I led my clubs to NaRa, Kyoto, Japan in early April. There were 22 of us.

Then I joined the world conference in Boulder in late July. After the conference, I went alone to Michigan to stay with a lady friend for a week. In Sept. I led 8 club members to Niagara Club, Stratford, Saint Mary club, and North Bay club and an intentional tour to Toronto in the same year. It was a very busy but full of life year, very special and unusual to me!

The World Conference in 2021 was supposed to happen at the end of Feb. this year. Due to Covid-19 pandemic , it was cancelled. I had a very relaxing year though. No exchanges at all.

My first year with FF was going outbound exchange to Minneapolis when I was 30 years old. Then, since I was a full time teacher and a mother, I stopped getting involved with FF. Hosting once in a while though, I keep in touch with the club. It was also an unforgettable exchange.

I speak Chinese, Taiwanese, Haka, a bit Japanese.



Celebrating Friendship Force International World Friendship Day

When: Sunday, March 7, 2021 7pm via Zoom

Place: In the comfort of your home

Program: Guest Speaker: Kathy Hsue, President of the Kaohsiung, Taiwan club

Kathy has been an FFI member for many years and she speaks several languages, Chinese, Taiwanese, Haka, Japanese and English. Her first journey was to Minneapolis when she was 30 years old, though she took a break from FFI commitments when she was a full-time teacher and mother. Kathy is familiar with the Eastern Iowa Airport, as her daughter attended the University of Iowa several years ago. It is our hope for Kaohsiung to visit Cedar Rapids/Iowa City in a Covid free future.

>Greetings to all from President Jerry Burke

>Welcome Kathy via Zoom

>Have questions ready for Kathy

>Updates on 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 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.

Contact Jerry Burke, Club President: 563-929-0190 jbcburke@yahoo.com to sign up for Zoom

On the web at: <http://friendshipforcecr-ic.org/> or Facebook at: Cedar-Rapids-Iowa-City-Friendship-Force or sign up via Sign Up Genius contact

Experience Different Views Discover Common Ground

Murder at the Speakeasy



**Speedy Wright
Shot Dead**

It was supposed to be a Grand Gala, but ended in murder. Local reporter Speedy Wright was shot dead. There were many suspects with shady backgrounds. Who would think the murderer was the up and coming fireplace millionaire, Chester Cash.



**Chester Cash
Found Guilty**



**Jumpin' Jack
Judd**

Solving the murder was fun for all. At your next get together you'll have to ask participants their take on the experience. Be sure to ask Jumpin' Jack Judd and "Two Nose" Sapp how they earned their names.



**Two Nose
Sapp**



TRIVIA IN THE MIDWEST REGION

HELLO TRIVIA ENTHUSIAST!!!!

An exciting event is being planned for our FF Region.

Bob Marshall who is Co-President of the Greater Milwaukee club is planning a Midwest Region Club Trivia night on March 17th at 7 PM CST.

Any club interested can join in. He would like to know how many individuals in each club might be interested as 100 would be his limit. He will work thru the club presidents (Jerry) to send out the invitation.

After everyone has signed on to the Zoom meeting, individuals will be placed on a team in a breakout room. You'll get to meet members from other clubs.

If interested contact club president:

Jerry Burke, jbcburke@yahoo.com 563-929-0190.

Change is Coming: FFI Branch Refresh

During the month of March, you may notice a change on the Friendship Force International website. As part of a brand refresh, there will be an updated logo, change in the font used in the organization's name and an updated tagline.

The changes are subtle. There are slight changes to the colors in the logo. The new tagline, a **World of Friends is a World of Peace**, will be familiar to those who have been in Friendship Force for a while. Though used before, it was selected because it better defines our mission and is easily translated into many languages. The new website that will be unveiled later this year will be available in multiple languages.

There is no urgency or deadline for clubs to update their materials. We will implement the changes as it is appropriate for our club after the materials are available from FFI.

News from our Friends in Texas

In 2019 we hosted a group of Friendship Force friends from **Achi, Japan and Dallas Texas**. We have heard from a couple of friends from Texas since the storm that just hit the Long Star State.

Mary Williams writes....

“I guess we are international news with more Texas politics and inefficiency (greed) leading to problems in weather + outages in Texas. I am OK and did not have any problem the first few days with electricity, heat or water. And I had food in the house. We do have this kind of weather occasionally, but it usually does not stay below freezing this long. Until..... “

She went on to say that she did have power but noticed water seeping in from the townhouse next to her. Turns out it was unoccupied and the owner had turned off the heat. Obviously the water pipes burst. She called the Home Owners emergency number but they were without power and could not be reached. She finally contacted the city who was able to come out and turn the water off, This was only after the water had been running for 24 hours. She finally got the water pushed out of her place. Then some of the lights and power outlets started to go out. She will need to get an electrician in to check out the wiring in the whole house. But electricians are in high demand, only after plumbers. She does have plenty to eat and partial electricity so she is doing better than a lot of folks.

Edward and Paula Perez said.....

“Paula & I are well. we've made it thru the year by keeping busy w/ volunteer positions (FF and other groups), visiting w/ her daughter & her family (16, 20, 21 yr olds), visiting w/ a few friends, selective eating out, just driving around the area checking things out.

with respect to the great freeze of '21 (it hasn't been this cold since 1983!). Meteorologically and relatively speaking, it wasn't much and didn't last long, but the power and water outages hit all over - millions w/ out power and/or water. fortunately, our neighborhood didn't lose either nor did our natural gas go out. so, we just bundled up, watched tv, played scrabble, and even got our 2nd covid-19 vaccine shot. “

How to Help Texas in the wake of power outages and food shortages.

From **Edward Perez** here are some links for assistance organizations.

Feeding Texas, Mutual Aid Houston, Austin Mutual Aid, Feed the People Dallas, and Para Mi Gente in San Antonio are all welcoming donations.

Following is a list of organizations helping folks in the Dallas area:

(1) <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/public-health/2020/03/18/here-are-north-texas-organizations-and-causes-that-need-help-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

(2) [https://secure.givelively.org/donate/food-bank-of-the-rio-grande-valley-inc/winter-storm-assistance?](https://secure.givelively.org/donate/food-bank-of-the-rio-grande-valley-inc/winter-storm-assistance?fbclid=IwAROSu5StjADzaTKCJ0oUgin1jymPeJ6f5I4t1oUhBMc0gmkumgXCUy1S8iA)

[fbclid=IwAROSu5StjADzaTKCJ0oUgin1jymPeJ6f5I4t1oUhBMc0gmkumgXCUy1S8iA](https://secure.givelively.org/donate/food-bank-of-the-rio-grande-valley-inc/winter-storm-assistance?fbclid=IwAROSu5StjADzaTKCJ0oUgin1jymPeJ6f5I4t1oUhBMc0gmkumgXCUy1S8iA)

(3) <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/02/16/texas-power-outage-help-warming-shelter/> **this one has lots of links**

Websites That Give You A Sense of Travel

Christine Allen has shared a couple of websites that travelers who are not able to currently travel might enjoy.

www.window-swap.com

A website that lets you escape your quarantine by gazing out strangers' windows from across the globe. The site, called WindowSwap, lets people submit 10-minute videos with audio showing the view out their window. Visitors can cycle between windows as they please.

driveandlisten.herokuapp.com

Drive & Listen' app takes you on a virtual car ride through cities of the world. ... For each city, viewers can opt to listen to their choice of a couple different local radio stations, with or without the accompaniment of street noise.

HIKING GROUP



A committee to organize hikes has come together and are busy making plans. Our first hike is planned for **April 10th** hopefully on the Sac and Fox Trail. A second is being planned for Wanatee Park. Watch for more information.

Judy Frascht-Miner

jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701

Nadine Stark

cnwstark@gmail.com 319-350-6535

Jean and Dean Thomas

jeanthomas521@gmail.com 319-8305092

Club Zoom Trivia

The next club Zoom Trivia is scheduled for **March 19**. Look for the email to sign up. Marty, Connie and Darlene will be bringing interesting fun topics to test everyone's knowledge.



You don't need a Zoom account to participate. Just let one of the 3 know you want to play. Participants will get an invitation from Judy Frascht-Miner on the day of the event. It will give you a link to the Zoom "meeting". Click on the link and be sure your video and microphone are turned on. That's all there is to it.

Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

Greetings,

My Spring Fever is rising. In addition, many of our members along with the world are in the process of being vaccinated. It gives me hope for future journeys.

If anyone has any ideas and contacts to share, please contact me (jjbm526@aol.com or 319-540-1701).

Late Summer/Early Fall 2020—A committee is coming together to develop a short more local adventure/journey. This will be in Iowa or surrounding area. Committee leader is Marian Wetjen mjwetjen27@yahoo.com



September 2020 - There may be an opportunity to travel to Kosovo. This would not be a normal journey but an exploratory trip with Sister States. Kosovo has a long history with Iowa. Our interest would be to support them in developing a Friendship Force Club there. More information later.

April 2022 – The Albuquerque, NM. Club is planning on us visiting them in Spring 2022. This was originally planned for April 2019 and cancelled due to the pandemic. If interested you can contact Jean Thomas at jeanthomas521@gmail.com



-Albuquerque-



2022– Possible outbound journey to Western North Carolina (Ashville & Henderson). Planning in process.

Jan -May 2022- Proposed three-week outbound journey to Tamworth Australia; Adelaide, Australia; and Tauranga-Bay of Plenty, NZ. Pre trip viral tours have been discussed.



I look forward to traveling with many of you!

Accessing Membership Content on CR/IC Friendship Force Website

Several members have asked how to access the membership content on our CR/IC Friendship Force Website. This information is open to all club members and is set up with a username and password. To get to this information:

Click on the Membership Content on the left side of the home screen of our website.

Enter Username: Ffmember (both are case sensitive)

Enter Password: Friendship

You can then access directories of membership and club leadership. There are minutes from general & board meetings & Club Governance policies.

Note: The directories seem small but if you click on them they will enlarge. This works for the stored newsletters also.

Remember to use **.org** in our website: friendshipforcecr-ic.org

If you use **.com** you will be directed to a different website for an online pharmaceutical company.



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CEDAR RAPIDS -
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2021 Cedar Rapids—Iowa City Club Board Members

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