



friendship force
CEDAR RAPIDS -
IOWA CITY

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

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Friendship Force

October 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 7-8 ,2021 **NE Iowa Club**
Thursday & **Overnight**
Friday **Adventure**

Oct 28, 2021 **Club Mix & Mingle**
Thursday

Nov 5,2021 **Club Trivia**
7:00PM

November 2021 **LEO**
TBD

December 5, **Annual Meeting on**
2021 **Zoom**

April 24-30, **Albuquerque, NM**
2022 Domestic
Journey

2022 **Tauranga Western**
Out Going **Bay of Plenty, NZ**
International **and Tamworth & Ad-**
Journey **elaide, Australia**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It was great to finally do a small group journey to Western North Carolina Club. Carol and I met Larry and Susan at the international convention in Boulder, Colorado and have been working on a journey for the last two years. Because of Covid it was limited to the five of us who traveled and the five of them who hosted.

It gave us the opportunity to get to know all the hosts and it was easy making decisions on the go as to what we wanted to do and see. Having never been to North Carolina, it is definitely a place one could spend more time.

Jerry Burke,
CR/IC 2021 Club President



Western North Carolina Journey

Jerry and Carol Burke, Larry and Mary Ann Nelson and Judy Frascht-Miner made the trip to Hendersonville/Ashville North Carolina for a small group journey. A welcome dinner was held at Ron and Jan Partin's home who hosted Larry and Mary Ann Nelson on Tuesday evening. Wednesday was spent at the Biltmore Estate touring the gardens, green house, stately home and having lunch in the former stables before a wine tasting at the Biltmore Winery. Biltmore House is known as America's Largest Home and a National Historic Landmark. But before it became one of North Carolina's most popular tourist destinations, it was simply "home" to the Vanderbilt family.



Lunch in the stables

George Vanderbilt visited Asheville, NC, in 1888 and was captivated by the area's natural beauty. He slowly began purchasing land and ended up with 125,000 acres for his country estate. Determined to make this a self-sustaining home, Vander-

bilt enlisted architect Richard Morris Hunt to design and build a 250-room chateau. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was also hired to create formal gardens and transform the former farmland into a beautiful pastoral landscape.



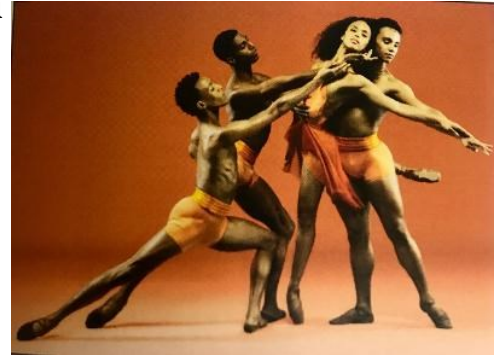
Where the Vanderbilt's ate

The Wednesday evening dinner was hosted by Larry and Susan Harvey who hosted Jerry and Carol Burke.



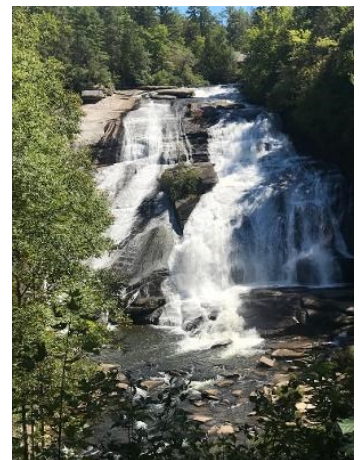
Thursday was a drive along the Blue Ridge Pkwy and the Pisgah Forest with lunch at the scenic Pisgah Inn. The Pisgah Forest is a land of mile-high peaks, cascading waterfalls, and heavenly forested slopes. Comprised of over 500,000 acres, the Pisgah is primarily a hardwood forest. We

stopped at the Folk-Art Center on the Pkwy before taking our hosts to dinner at the Pack Tavern in Asheville. The evening was spent at the Wortham Center for the Performing Arts in Asheville for a performance by the Harlem Dance Group.



Friday was the Carl Sandberg house and goat farm. The house was closed due to Covid but the goats that Mrs. Sandberg raised were available to see and pet. After a walk around the lake, we were off to the DuPont State Park. Dupont Forest is an outdoor lover's

dream with many waterfalls and 86 miles of trails on protected 10,000 acres. We hiked to three waterfalls (Hooker, Triple and High Falls), and had a picnic lunch at the High Falls. Our concluding dinner was at the home of Harriet Hilton who hosted Judy Frascht-Miner.



Saturday was a free day with our hosts. Carol and I went downtown to the Hendersonville Market on Main Street and visited the Stone Ashe Winery in the afternoon for a relaxing glass of wine and a great view. We stayed over Saturday night and did a tour of Mammoth Cave in Eastern Kentucky on the way home. Beneath the sandstone and shale ridges lies the most extensive cave system on earth with over 365 miles of surveyed passageways.

To the right is our bubble for the week. Back row: Jan Partin, Susan Harvey, Judy Frascht-Miner, Carol Burke, Mary Ann Nelson, Larry Nelson. Front row: Ron Partin, Harriett Hilton, Larry Harvey, and Jerry Burke

Everyone really enjoyed the smaller more intimate group! This was a great start to having journeys again.



December 5 Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force Club will be held Sunday December 5. Do to the ongoing Covid situation, this year it will again be held on Zoom.

Please mark you calendars. More information to follow.

Covid-19 Protocol

REMINDER: Vaccinations are being required for travel and activities, along with following CDC recommendations regarding masks etc. Always carry your proof of vaccination. If you would like your proof of vaccination on file so you don't always have to mess with it, you can scan it and send to Carol Burke (Membership Coordinator) jbcburke@yahoo.com. She will keep a file. Ensuring vaccinations has been an important part of negotiating and moving forward with visits and activities with other clubs. If you haven't been vaccinated the board encourages you to do this. Thank you

Mix and Mingle: October 28, 2021

Dear Friends, if you enjoy socializing and getting to know fellow FF members in a casual, small groups, Mix and Mingle is your opportunity. The evening of Oc-



tober 28 will be our autumn Mix and Mingle with four to six people as guests at a FF host's home. We will be having an autumn/Halloween theme. Given the weather at the end of October can be beautiful or not so nice, the hosts will determine if you will be inside or out. For this dinner the host will be contacting their randomly assigned guests for their input. It is the host that will be determining time and food. The hosts will personally pass on the information needed to their guests. Please look for the Sign-Up Genius in your email sent by Judy and John Miner in order to sign-up for Mix and Mingle.

We are asking that you have in your reservations by October 14 so that paring of host and guests are complete in ample time. This will give the hosts enough time to contact their guest for input and information and the guests to know where they will be enjoying the evening. If you have a friend(s) who may be interested in meeting others in FF, please invite them to join us as well.

So, please mark October 28 on your calendar and fill in the Signup Genius.

If you are willing to host, contact Trudy Johansen srajohnsen@hotmail.com or Mary Ann Nelson mrsmanelson@gmail.com Also, if you have any questions, contact us.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Ann Nelson or Trudy Johansen.

FF ALL IOWA PICNIC

On September 19 the Des Moines FF Club hosted the all Iowa Friendship Force Picnic. Members from all four Iowa clubs were present along with a visiting club from Dayton, Ohio. CR/IC club members Connie Williams, Patty Potter, Tom Hess, Nancy York, Judy Frascht-Miner and John Miner attended. The wind played a little havoc with the Jeopardy game but a good time was had by all.



Club Zoom Trivia

The next club Zoom Trivia is set for November 5th at 7:00PM

Look for the email to sign up.

You don't need a Zoom account to participate. Just let Marty

Novak martynovak@mchsi.com 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.



Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

Keep an eye on **Albuquerque, Dallas and Sarasota**

NORTH CAROLINA – A small group of us just returned from a GREAT trip to Asheville North Carolina. SEE THE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE.

Iowa Adventure - It is here!!!! All kinds of FUN!!

We are set for our overnight Iowa adventure this week. All those attending should have received their itinerary for the events. See you all Thursday morning! Any questions contact:

Marian Wetjen mjwetjen27@yahoo.com



April 24th -30th 2022 - We are moving forward with plans for **Albuquerque, NM**. If you were signed up previously let Jean know if there are any changes in your availability. You will be hearing more soon. Direct questions to:



-Albuquerque-

Jean Thomas at jeanthomas521@gmail.com

DALLAS AND SARASOTA - Dates being negotiated for 2020

To be Anounced 2022- Proposed three-week outbound journey to **Tamworth Australia, Adelaide Australia;** and **Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand**. They are being cautious. Their borders are not open yet and vaccination rates are low. Pre trip viral tours have been discussed.



May 2022– There will be an opportunity to travel to Kosovo with Sister States. Contact Connie Williams cmw1226@yahoo.com

I look forward to traveling with many of you!

FFI UPDATES

Thanks to all of you, our Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City is alive and connected! Watch your email for correspondence from Friendship Force International's President and CEO, Jeremi Snook for the latest FFI updates. Here's a peek at what's to come.

The FFI Board of Directors discussed, debated and arrived at a series of motions to work through the details of FFI's future. The Board focused on three objectives: 1) ensure FFI survives the pandemic, 2) support club retention and member engagement in the absence of journeys, and 3) build the necessary infrastructure for growth and expansion when travel resumes.

Our leadership was invited to a 'Chat with Jeremi' Zoom to review these motions, I was happy to attend. There were leaders of clubs from all across the USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Germany and Switzerland in attendance, many with the same questions and concerns we have. Safe travel was discussed, with club to club communication and agreement regarding use of masks and proof of vaccination encouraged. The clubs with the best chances of staying intact and active are encouraged to reach out to other clubs for domestic journeys in 2022. Even countries like Japan, who never engaged in domestic journeys in the past, now have clubs arranging domestic journeys. To this end, one of the announced changes for 2022 will be a flat rate fee of \$25 FFI per night. This will be the set fee whether the journey is domestic or international.

Journey fees were the primary income of the operating budget for many years. With no travel, no fees, no income. After budget and staff cuts, FFI is operating on half the funds of the previous years. In a time when many non-profits are closing, FFI survives on a budget of \$600,000 per year. FFI exists today because of the incredible generosity of members and clubs, operational grants from the US, UK, Australian and French governments, and some major belt-tightening. As we should expect and responsibly embrace, there will be appeals to every FFI member for continued support.

Let's plan to encourage, support and actively pursue the changes to come, thoughtfully read and review Jeremi's email. As the world slowly opens its borders, let's embrace FFI's commitment to diversity and inclusion through travel. It's true. A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE!

Connie Williams

President Elect - 2022

2021 Cedar Rapids—Iowa City Club Board Members

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