



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 Force

February 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 20 2022	Orchestra Iowa 2:30PM
February 20 2022	LEO 4:30PM Parlor City
February 25 2022	Club Zoom Trivia 7:00PM
March 6, 2022	World Friend- ship Day
April 24-30, 2022	Domestic Journey Albuquerque, NM
May 18-20 2022	Orange City Tulip Festival
June 12 2022	General Meeting Central Park, Jones County
September 21-26 2022	Outgoing Journey to Dallas TX
October 16-21 2022	Incoming Journey Sarasota, FL
December 2022	Possible Open World

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am grateful! Thank you to all of our local Friendship Force members who have paid dues, organized events, attended meetings via Zoom, called or emailed a FFI friend or are putting FFI events on the spring & summer calendar! Thank you to all who are going to Orange City for Tulip Time, Shirley Rosencrans and her committee have put a lot of heart and soul into this Iowa Adventure. Sign ups are still open, contact Shirley today if you are interested. Stay with us, it will be better.

All Friendship Force chapters, in the US and around the world have been affected by the current Covid health & economy issues. Many have had to rethink how to meet. All I can ask of all of you is to be open to new ideas. Share your new ideas. Be an active participant!

Our club is celebrating World Friendship Day on Sunday, March 6th. Please join us via Zoom at 4pm. Guest speakers are Artan Duraku, Chief of Mission and Kim Heidemann, Assistant, both from the Consulate of Republic of Kosovo in Des Moines. The Iowa National Guard has had a relationship with Kosovo since 2003, see more information later in this newsletter. Share this invitation with other friends interested in international diplomacy. Thank YOU!

Connie Williams 2022 CR/IC FF Club President

FFI World Friendship Day Sunday March 6, 2022



Celebrating Friendship Force International World Friendship Day

When: Sunday, March 6, 2022 4pm CST via Zoom***

Place: In the comfort of your home

Program: Guest Speakers: Artan Duraku, Chief of Mission, Consulate of Republic of Kosovo
Kim Heidemann, Assistant, Consulate of Republic of Kosovo

The Iowa and Kosovo relationship began in 2003, when the Iowa National Guard deployed in rotations to Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian. After a time of great adversity, including a humanitarian crisis as a result of an armed ethnic conflict in the region, Iowans came as part of a peacekeeping force. They worked together with Kosovars to recover and rebuild, and many even spent personal time engaging in nation-building activities such as teaching English and community improvement projects. Mr. Duraku is with the Republic of Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has been at the Consulate in Des Moines since 2019. In addition to her work at the Consulate, Ms. Heidemann is also an instructor at DMACC, a consultant and past executive director of Iowa Sister States.

- Greetings to all from President Connie Williams
- Welcome our guests
- Introduction of our speakers
- 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 Connie Williams, Club President: (319)396-4747 or email cmw1226@yahoo.com to become an attendee at this Zoom presentation, members please use Sign Up Genius contact

For more club info see <http://friendshipforcecr-ic.org/> & Facebook at: Cedar-Rapids-Iowa-City-Friendship-Force

For more info about the Iowa/Kosovo connection, see website stories below:

https://www.army.mil/article/252400/iowa_national_guard_kosovo_celebrate_long_partnership

<https://www.kcci.com/article/here-s-why-kosovo-is-opening-a-consulate-in-downtown-des-moines/6914079#>

Link for the March 6, 2022 FFI World Friendship Day Club Zoom Meeting

Here is the link to our clubs March 6 FFI World Friendship Day Zoom Meeting. You don't need a Zoom account to participate. Click on the 1st link below and be sure your video and microphone are turned on.

Topic: Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Zoom Meeting

Time: Mar 6, 2022 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89757774121?pwd=Y1JiZFBlcUNCUTRkQXBZc3VHSUM0QT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5777 4121

Passcode: 216627

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89757774121?pwd=Y1JiZFBlcUNCUTRkQXBZc3VHSUM0QT09>

LEO at Parlor City Feb 20th

Come join us for a LEO on Sunday Feb 20, 2022 at Parlor City Pub and Eatery in the Newbo District. This will be after the Orchestra Iowa concert at the Paramount Theater. **This event**



is open to everyone, whether you signed up for the concert or not. Look for the Signup Genius so we can let the restaurant know how many of us to expect.

Orange City Tulip Festival May 18-20

We currently have 16 people signed up for this Springs Club trip to Orange City. There are 8 seats left on the bus so you still have a chance to join in on the fun, If you are interested, please contact **Shirley Rosencrans: 3190-462-4132** sarosencrans@yahoo.com



Following tentative itinerary:

Wednesday, May 18 Depart Cedar Rapids, Stop in FT Dodge Museum/historical site & CJ BIO America tour, Motor to LeMars to visit the Wells Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor. Check into Hampton Inn in Orange City,

Thursday, May 19 Take in a day at the Tulip Festival which includes reserved seating for the 2-hour parade, visiting historical sites, eating, shopping, a beverage or two, and return to hotel. See performance of “Mama Mia” in Orange City.

Friday, May 20 Motor to Sioux City, Iowa. Louis & Clark Interpretive Center (either Sergeant Floyd River Museum or Sioux City Museum, TBD) Lunch and then head to Reiman Gardens tour in Ames. Supper at Hickory Park Restaurant. Head for Cedar Rapids.

Everyone returns home after a 3-day fun trip seeing new sites, eating new foods, learning about the Dutch culture and making new friendships. That’s what the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force Club is all about. Hope to see you on the motorcoach.

Shirley Rosencrans, Esther Hudson, Judy Miner

Afghan Resettlement Program

The US State Department is allowing private citizens to sponsor and resettle refugees through a newly developed program called The Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans Sponsor Circles.

Our Friendship Force club is exploring whether there are ways we can partner with others (groups or individuals) in the community to assist with this program. The sponsor circle (a minimum of 5 people) will work on securing and furnishing housing, registering children in school, coordinating medical appointments, helping adults find employment, providing initial income support, helping individuals learn English, signing up for government benefits, etc. If you are interested in working on this exploratory committee, please contact Mary Stull at mcdstull@aol.com, or 319 393-6254 and leave a message.



<https://sponsorcircles.org> Here is a link to their website.

HOSTING SARASOTA

The Sarasota, Florida club will be visiting us **October 16-21, 2022**. It will be a 5 day visit. **Larry Nelson** has volunteered to be the Ambassador Coordinator and chair of the planning committee for their visit. Other committee members are Carol Malichky, Shirley Rosencrans, and Barb & Jim Steggall. There will be many ways to be involved like **home hosting, day hosting, hosting a small dinner party, etc.** It takes a village to be involved in our journeys and it is a wonderful way to meet new people. It is always enriching. Please let Larry or myself know how you would like to be involved. Contact Larry Nelson, mrlwnelson@gmail.com or Judy Frascht-Miner, jjbm526@aol.com or 319-540-1701.



Joe Hennager and Julia Wasson's library tree

CR/IC FF Club Members Joe Hennager & Julia Wasson were recently featured in several local media outlets about their neighborhood project to convert an 87 ft white pine into a library tree. After the 2020 derecho the tree became a safety hazard. Joe came up with a plan to turn the 16 foot base of the tree into a community based Little Free Library. Below are some links that will take you to some of those outlets so you can enjoy the whole story.



<https://www.kcrg.com/2022/01/04/iowa-city-reading-tree-creating-community-readers/>

<https://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/2021/12/17/iowa-city-reading-tree-brings-books-children-provides-community-little-free-library-2020-derecho/8856636002/>

Join FFI in August 2022 for a tour of Irish castles

We invite you to join us on a tour of Irish Castles this year: August 30 - September 8, 2022. Jerry and I have led FF journeys to Belgium, Germany and Australia but we've never been to Ireland! As you know, there are no Friendship Force clubs in Ireland, but we will be sure to make new friends as we travel with "My Ireland Tour" (www.MyIrelandTour.com) for 9 nights. We are sure this will be a wonderful, memory-making journey for all of us and look forward to experiencing Ireland's small towns, countrysides and coastlines with you.



With best wishes, Lisa & Jerry Cordell

Outbound Journey to Dallas Sept 21 –26, 2022



Dates have been selected for our Dallas journey, **September 21-26**. Please let me know if you have serious interest in this journey. This is not a commitment yet but gives us information to help move forward with planning. Some of you have already expressed interest, hopefully these dates will work for you. How many openings there will be depends on things like how many host homes they have, etc. Below are some Dallas sites.



The Dallas Arboretum has been named "One of the Most Breathtaking Gardens in the World"



The Arts District - Dallas offers world class exhibits and adventures for culture lovers.



The Fort Worth Stockyard National Historic District– where the west begins.



The School Book Depository Historical exhibition on Kennedy's assassination.

Other sites might be the Federal Reserve, the George Bush Library, the Cowboy stadium, and many more! These are a few examples of things to do in Dallas besides spending time with our wonderful hosts.

If interested contact Judy Frascht-Miner
jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701



The Citizen Diplomacy Summit February 22, 2022

The CR/IC FF Club has been very active with the Iowa Sister States organization based in Des Moines especially with regard to helping the country of Kosovo. We want to let our members know about there upcoming, Citizens



Diplomacy Summit that will be held in the Des Moines area February 22.

The Citizen Diplomacy Summit is an opportunity for those committed to connecting people across the globe to come together and learn more about how their work as individuals makes a critical impact on international relationships.

If you are interested in going or want more information about this event or Iowa Sister states please visit <https://www.iowasisterstates.org/>

Connie Williams & Judy Frascht-Miner will be attending. Contact us if you want to ride with us.

General Meeting June 12

There will be a Gernal Meeting of the CR/IC FF Club June 12 at the pavilion at Central Park in Jones County.

We will have a guest speaker, Kenar Kantarevic originally from Bosnia.

More details to come.

Club Zoom Trivia

The next club Zoom Trivia is set for
February 25th at 7:00PM

Look for the email to sign up.



Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

Safe/Fun Traveling in 2022. Remember, up to date vaccinations and boosting are required for our journeys.



April 24th -30th 2022 - Twelve of our ambassadors will be leaving for **Albuquerque, NM** on April 24th. (Sharon Bowers, Shirley Rosecranz, Nadine Stark, Connie and Myron Williams, Larry & Mary Ann Nelson, George & Stephanie Schulte, Darlene Peterson, Diane Jeffrey, Judy Miner) Direct questions To Judy Frascht-Miner jjbm526@aol.com / 319-540-1701.

MAY 18-21– IOWA ADVENTURE to the Orange City Tulip Festival (See article in this newsletter). If interested contact Shirley Rosencrans [sa-rosencrans@yahoo.com](mailto:sarosencrans@yahoo.com) 319-462-4132.



June or July - Kosovo Contact Connie Williams

JULY/AUGUST 2022 TBA- QUAD CITIES FOR BASEBALL

SEPTEMBER 21ST-26TH 2022- Outbound Journey to DALLAS, TEXAS. A list of interested travelers has been started. If you are interested contact me at jjbm526@aol.com.

OCTOBER 16-21, 2022 - SARAOTA, FLORIDA - They are coming to Cedar Rapids/Iowa City October 16 –21, 2022. Larry Nelson is the Ambassador Coordinator. Volunteers are needed for many things, overnight hosts, day hosts, program planning, dinner hosts, etc. If you are interested in helping in any way let Larry or myself know. It is always enriching to be involved with our visitors. Larry Nelson mrlwnelson@gmail.com / 319-362-8078 or Judy Frascht-Miner jjbm526@aol.com / 319-540-1701.

To be Anounced 2023- 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 their clubs are struggling. Therefore we are unclear about what will happen with this journey



I look forward to traveling with many of you soon!

2021 Cedar Rapids—Iowa City Club Board Members

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