



**friendship force**  
CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY

**CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB**

[www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org](http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org)

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Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force

**May 2023**

**Calendar of Events**

**July 2 5:00PM Farewell Dinner**  
**Coe College Clark**  
**Alumni House &**  
**Wayne Smith Award**  
**Presentation**

**July 21**  
**7:00PM** **Club Zoom Trivia**

**August 20**  
**1:00PM** **General Meeting**  
**Coralville Public**  
**Library**

**Oct 2-5, 2023** **World Conference**  
**Dubrovnik, Croatia**

**Oct 15-22,**  
**2023** **Incoming from Ed-**  
**monton, CA**

**President's Message**

This will be a short one as I am very busy as a home host for Taipei. This journey is in full swing, and our visitors seem to be having a great time. Hopefully we will have a big turnout for the dinner on the 2nd of July to say goodbye to them, and to honor Mary Stull. Also, the Minneapolis Friendship Force club is going to Taiwan in Oct, 2023 and would love to have additional ambassadors to go with them. If you are interested, let me know and I can get you the contact information. See you all at the dinner, or at the General Meeting in Aug!

*Patty Potter 2022 Club President*



## General Meeting August 20

The August general meeting of Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City will focus on the refugee experience. **Amir Hadzic**, Mount Mercy's award-winning head soccer coach, will speak about his experience as a refugee from Sarajevo in the 1990s. **Amy Weismann**, assistant director of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights who has worked as a humanitarian aid worker in refugee camps, will offer an overview of the needs of refugees and share ideas about how volunteers can help.

**Please invite any interested friends. Let's encourage new members.**

The meeting will take place **Sunday, August 20 at 1:00 at the Coralville Public Library, 1405 Fifth St., Coralville.**

*Please do not park in the two rows of surface parking spaces closest to the library. If possible, use the underground parking ramp. There is an entrance to the library's lower-level meeting rooms right off the underground parking area.*



## General Meeting



## Edmonton and Area Club of Canada October 16-23, 2023

OCTOBER 16th-23nd, 2023 -EDMONTON, CANADA will be visiting our Club.

Jim and Barb Steggall are our Host Coordinators. Ways to be involved are in-home hosting, dinner hosting, or day hosting. No one does this alone and it's a wonderful experience.

Contact Jim & Barb Steggall at [steggall.jim@gmail.com](mailto:steggall.jim@gmail.com) 319-651-1092 or Judy Frascht-Miner, [ijbm526@aol.com](mailto:ijbm526@aol.com) 319-540-1701 if interested.

***This is a great way to get involved with knowing the Edmonton Ambassadors as our Club will be travelling to Edmonton in 2024.***



## FF Minnesota to Taiwan Journey #28131

Dear FF Friends in Cedar Rapids,

We invite you to consider joining the **Minnesota to Taiwan FF Journey #28131** from October 8 to October 20, 2023. We currently have space for **five more** travelers. The following link provides the information in the Friendship Force International Journey Catalog.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXxoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.g1e419dd6b73\\_1\\_1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXxoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.g1e419dd6b73_1_1).

If you are interested, please contact Blaine McCutchan, Journey and Ambassador Taiwan Coordinator or Rita Mays, FF MN TC Journeys Coordinator at [journeys@FFTwinCities.org](mailto:journeys@FFTwinCities.org). We will then provide our address so you can mail us your a FFI Ambassador Application and phone number if you wish to ask any questions. Thank you for your interest. We look forward to traveling with you!

In Friendship,

Rita Mays, Journeys Director Friendship Force MN TwinCities  
[Journeys@FFTwinCities.org](mailto:Journeys@FFTwinCities.org)

## Club Zoom Trivia

The next Club Trivia zoom gathering will be **Friday, July 21st at 7:00 pm**. If you want to join in on the fun contact or watch for the email with the link, and jump on. Audrey Bradford and Jo Hanken will be doing questions.

Audrey [audrey.b@mchsi.com](mailto:audrey.b@mchsi.com), or Jo [jejke70@cox.net](mailto:jejke70@cox.net)



# Taipei is Here

## A Sneak Preview of What is Happening



Here are some pictures of what the club has been doing with our friends from Taipei so far. Look for a more complete article in next months newsletter.



## Tauranga – Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

The third and final part of the Journey to the Lands Down Under took us to Tauranga, New Zealand in the Western Bay of Plenty March 31st, 2023.

An interesting fact about New Zealand, and a huge contrast with Australia, is there are no poisonous snakes, spiders, or even dangerous animals. In fact, there were no native mammals, other than bats, and marine life. Just lizards and birds were there when the Maori arrived. There are now cattle, sheep, and deer. The kiwi



(bird) is well known, and sometimes refers to New Zealanders themselves.

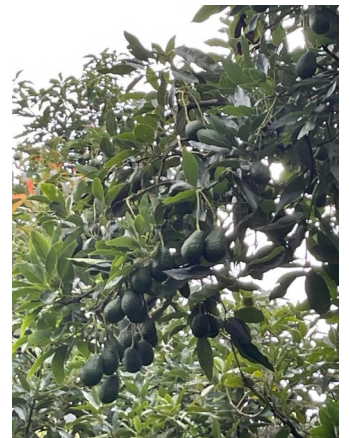
Even though Tauranga was our base, several of us stayed in nearby towns. No matter where we were with our hosts, the North Island was a beautiful and cultural experience.

First stop: TePuna Quarry. This was originally a quarry, but the community turned it into Puna Park. Various clubs (rotary, garden, etc.) have certain quarry

sections they developed and maintain. Sculptors added their work, including a dragon.

The Bay of Plenty is known for its horticulture, especially avocados and kiwi. In fact, Captain Cook found the area so plentiful with produce, people, and fishing, he gave it the

name. We were fortunate enough to visit a private avocado farm and learn about growing this delicious fruit.





Next we visited The Elms, a historic site where the earliest known contact occurred between the Indigenous Maori and the Pakeha (NZ Europeans). This is particularly known for its iconic Mission House and heritage gardens. The site's rich history dates to pre-European times. At some point, on any NZ visit, fish and chips are on the menu. This was the day for us since we went to an authentic fish and chips shop on the Strand.



Almost any of our days on the North Island provided an opportunity to walk on the beach or in the ocean. Every day provided gorgeous sunrises and sunsets.

For those wanting to mine gold (and take a turn at running a mine drill) we toured the Waihi Gold Discovery



Museum. That afternoon, we went to Wahi Beach, toured the Katikati murals, and/or the Haiku walk. We couldn't leave Katikati without spending a bit of time with Barry and the newspaper. He was such a significant part of downtown, spending every day reading a newspaper on a bench, he will never leave. It was a perfect day, beginning to end.

We were fortunate to visit a woodcarver, with products which looked like they were anything



but wood. We learned about the Sand Dunes at Papamoa Surf Club, hiked around Mount Maunganui and closed out the afternoon with a swim in the hot mineral pools which were both hot and relaxing.





Our last day was a busy one! We started the day with a visit to Rotorua and Whakarewarewa-The Living Maori Village. We learned about the geothermal pools used for energy, cooking and warming the baths. Our hangi lunch was prepared by geothermal heat, and we watched the Pohutu geyser expel her energy and force.



If that wasn't enough, we attended the traditional Maori song and dance performances, and were entranced with their talent and coordination.



Then we boarded a bus to Hobbiton. If you have seen any of the movies, or read the book, The Lord of the Rings, you will recognize the shire created by the film company and Peter Jackson. Visiting the 12-acre movie set ends with an ale, hard cider or ginger beer in the iconic Green



Dragon Inn. (Tasty and needed after the journey through the shire.) We learned about forced perspective as friends sat in gigantic chairs and became Hobbit-sized.





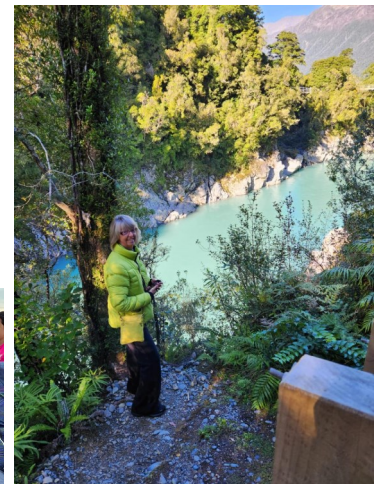
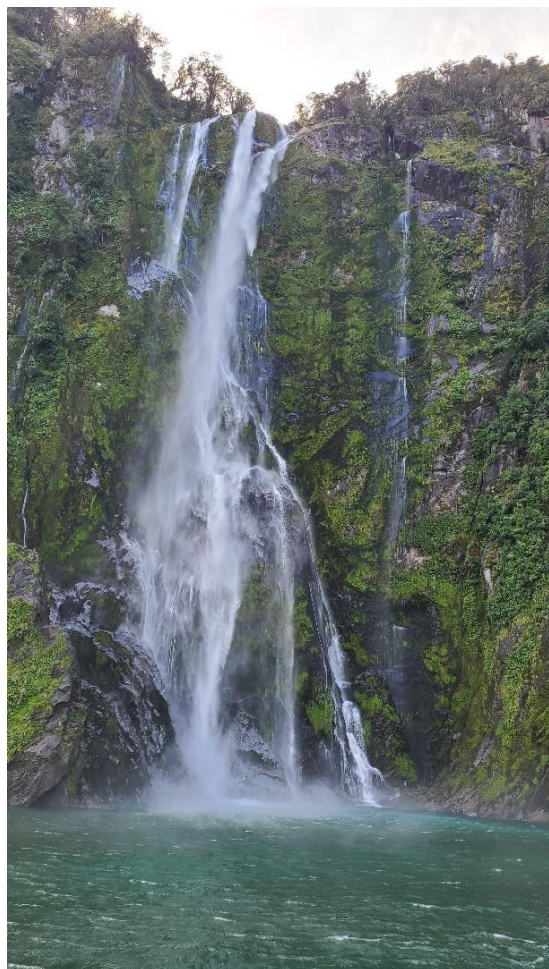


Our farewell dinner provided an incredible view. We could see for miles, and enjoy the company of our group, our hosts and 120 angora goats. It was a fantastic way to end our visit to the North Island and the Bay of Plenty.

Next stop, the South Island..



Eleven of us continued on a 5 day tour of the South Island. We experienced the Hokitika Area with it's river gorge Milford Sound which is breath taking and gave us a glimpse of Glo Worms. Queenstown provided adventures. Then to Fruit Orchards on the way to Alexandra and our way home. BEAUTIFUL!!!





# Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

**WE HAVE OUR 2024 JOURNEY ASSIGNMENTS!!!!** We have been assigned an outbound to **Edmonton, Canada** and an inbound from **Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley**. Watch for future information. I encourage you to get involved in our journey's even if in a small way. There are so many ways to be involved. Don't wait to be asked, contact me and discuss options: Judy Frascht-Miner [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com) 319-540-1701

Vaccinations are required for traveling and hosting

**JUNE 27th- JULY 4th, 2023—TAIPEI, TAIWAN** is visiting right now. There are 17 ambassadors. The Celebration Dinner is this evening.

**OCTOBER 16th-23nd, 2023 -EDMONTON, CANADA** will be visiting us. **Jim and Barb Steggall** will be our Host Coordinators. Ways to be involved are in-home hosting, dinner hosting, or day hosting. No one does this alone and it's a wonderful experience. Contact Jim & Barb Steggall [bjsteggall@mchsi.com](mailto:bjsteggall@mchsi.com) or Judy Frascht-Miner, [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com) 319-540-1701 if interested.

**DECEMBER 1-9, 2023** - Open World with **KOSOVO** been canceled

**Safe/Fun Traveling in 2023.** Remember, up to date vaccinations and boosting are required for our journeys.

**I look forward to traveling with many of you soon!**



## **2022 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers**

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