



friendship force

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

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Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force

June 2023

Calendar of Events

June 2 7:00PM	Zoom Trivia
June 4 2:00PM	General Meeting CR Downtown Library - Presentation of Aus/NZ journey
June 24 Noon	All Iowa Picnic Ames, Iowa
June 27	Day Trip to Twin Cities
June 27-July 4 2023	Incoming from Taipei, Taiwan
July 2 5:00PM	Farewell Dinner Coe College Clark Alumni House & Wayne Smith Award Presentation
August 20 2:00 PM	General Meeting Coralville Public Library
Oct 15-22 2023	Incoming from Ed- monton, CA
Oct 2-5 2023	World Conference Dubrovnik, Croatia

President's Message

Summer is here! June and July are shaping up to be busy months. We have a General Meeting on June 4 at the Cedar Rapids Downtown library at 2 pm. RSVP thru sign up genius. We will hear about our members recent journey to Australia and New Zealand. On June 27 we have an incoming journey from Taiwan. While Taiwan is here we will have a dinner at the Coe Alumni House on July 2 to honor one of our members, Mary Stull, for her work with the Afghan refugees...and also to get to know our Taiwan visitors. Watch for a sign up genius on this dinner. Cedar Rapids will be having Freedom Festival, of course, and we still have a few volunteer opportunities available. And I am sure, mixed in there, will be graduations, family get togethers and lots of outdoor activities. Have a great summer and hopefully we will see you at the July 2 dinner. We would love to have a great turn out to meet our guests and honor Mary.

Patty Potter 2022 Club President

General Meeting CR Downtown Library

There will be a General Meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force club **June 4th at 2 PM** in the Cedar Rapids Downtown Library Conference Room at 2:00PM. There will be a presentation of the club's recent journey to Australia and New Zealand along with information on upcoming events. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Day Trip To The Twin Cities

To Pick up our Friends From Taipei Taiwan

We have rented a 36 passenger Windstar motorcoach for **Tuesday, June 27**, to pick up our Taipei, Taiwan Friendship Force Club friends who will be visiting us for the next week. We have an additional 17 seats available for our club members to ride along and welcome our friends from Taiwan. Here is the schedule for the day.

7:30am - Depart for the Twin Cities from the Noelridge Park greenhouse parking lot. The parks department has allowed us to leave our cars in the parking lot.

10:30am - Stop at Albert Lea, MN for a bathroom break and snack to go.

11:00am - Depart to Lakeville, MN

12:30pm - Arrive at Lakeville, MN for Taiwan members pickup

1:00pm - Depart to Clearlake, Iowa

2:45pm - Arrive Surf Ballroom for guided tour. Cost: \$8.00

4:00pm - Depart the Surf.

4:30pm - Legacy Grill, Clearlake, Iowa for supper on your own

6:00pm - Depart Clearlake, Iowa for Cedar Rapids

8:30pm - Arrive Noelridge Park for departure to home hosting

We will be sending out a Sign Up Genesis if you would like to travel with us. We would like to have several of our club members to be part of the welcoming committee for Taipei. You may also contact Shirley Rosencrans at sarosencrans@yahoo.com.

Incoming Taiwan Journey Itinerary

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City welcomes an incoming journey from Taipei, Taiwan on **June 27-July 4**. The daily schedule is listed below, please let Judy Frascht-Miner at jjbm526@aol.com know if you are interested in day hosting, home hosting or dinner hosting. Feel free to contact **Connie Williams** at cmw1226@yahoo.com, if you have schedule questions.

Any club member who is interested in attending any of the activities with the Taipei group contact Connie Williams at cmw1226@yahoo.com 319-396-4747 We would love to have you join in.

Tuesday, June 27: Charter bus to Minneapolis will transport Taiwan ambassadors. Be a bus host! Stop at the Surf Ballroom & dinner in Clear Lake, arriving in Cedar Rapids by 9pm. Home hosts will meet & greet at the Greenhouse entrance of Noelridge Park between 8:30-9pm! If you would like to ride along for the day, contact Shirley Rosencrans at sarosencrans@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, June 28: Arrive at **Kalona** Visitor's Center by 10am. Tour will include an overview of the Amish and Mennonite way of life. A guide will accompany the group for a visit to an Amish field operation, an Amish goat farm, and the Kalona Buggy Shop plus an in-home Mennonite lunch, chicken with sides, family style. Everyone can choose to explore the Kalona Historical Village and Museum after the tour. Driver will get lunch for half price, \$25 instead of full price of \$50.

Hosts may decide that they would like to explore other Kalona options before or after the tour. Some suggestions are:

Stringtown Grocery open 8 to 5; Golden Delight Bakery open 7 to 5; Community Store Annex open 8 to 5

Thursday, June 29: *Dubuque Day* with Mississippi River Museum at 10am, lunch of Soba Noodle and Salmon at Eagle Point Park, then tour of Lock & Dam #11. Afternoon at Field of Dreams, in Dyersville. Day hosts needed, lunch and admission included for drivers. Evening free with home hosts.

Friday, June 30: 10 am tour of ***S Bar P Miniature Horse Farm***, Anamosa. Noon lunch of soup and salad bar at Sally's in Springville, then Motorcycle Museum at 2pm. Club members are welcome to day host or join for part of the day. Home hosted dinners in evening.

Saturday, July 1: *Iowa City Day*: We will meet at Stanley Art Museum at 1 for a docent led tour. Then we will walk along the Iowa River to explore the campus and the near northside neighborhood and end up downtown. We will explore art murals and architecture along the way. Once we settle downtown, we will divide into small groups with choices of exploring the Old Capitol building, the natural history museum, downtown shops, coffee shops, art booths, or just listening to music. In case of rain, we will begin with the initial activities and end up in small groups for dinner and conversation at Iowa City/Coralville homes.

11:30 am United Jazz Ensemble @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

11:30 am Artist Booths and Fun Stops Open @ Clinton St.

11:30 am Beverage Garden and Culinary Delights Open @ Iowa Avenue

12:15 pm North Corridor All-Star Combo @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

1:00 pm 3 Dawgs and a Bone @ Side Stage-Iowa City Jazz Festival

2:00 pm Christopher Merz and Shorter Stories: The Music of Wayne Shorter @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

3:00 pm Vivian Shanley Quartet @ Side Stage-Iowa City Jazz Festival

4:00 pm Hannah Marks Quartet @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

5:00 pm Aviana Gedler Quartet @ Side Stage-Iowa City Jazz Festival

6:00 pm Huntertones @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

7:00 pm Luke Sanders Trio @ Side Stage-Iowa City Jazz Festival

8:00 pm Christian McBride's New Jawn @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

9:30 pm City of Iowa City Fireworks @ Main Stage – Iowa City Jazz Festival

Sunday, July 2: *Celebration dinner* with ambassadors, open to all members and guests at Coe College Clark Alumni House and Garden. **Mary Stull** will receive the Wayne Smith Legacy Award for her work with Friendship Force & Sponsor Circle. Social Hour at 5pm with cash bar, Dinner at 6pm. RSVP required by June 22 to Audrey Bradford at audrey.b@mchsi.com or via Signup Genius. Send check for \$25 per person to Christine Allen, 1250 Teg Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246 to confirm your reservation.

Catering by LJ's. Menu: Greens with Strawberries, Chicken Oscar in Hollandaise Sauce, Stuffed Peppers, Rice Pilaf, Summer Sauteed Vegetables, Celebration Cake. Parking in lots to the South of Alumni House, behind Wendy's.

Monday, July 3: *Cedar Rapids Day*, beginning with tour of downtown & Czech Village by way of Horizon's bus. A 12:30 lunch at the 350 on First, the restaurant at the top of Double Tree Hotel, open to all club members with RSVP to Mary Stull at mcdstull@aol.com. All are welcome to tour the Cedar Rapids Public Library after lunch. Optional evening activities: Five Seasons Ski Team Show at Ellis Park at 7pm. Bring your picnic snacks and lawn chairs. Fireworks after dark.

Tuesday, July 4: Free time with host families, a time to enjoy Freedom Festival activities. Breakfast, car show, dock dogs, music and fireworks on the bridge after dark. Or see the Kernels vs Quad Cities ballgame at 6:35pm, with fireworks at the ballpark.

Wednesday, July 5: Taiwan ambassadors who extended their journey will hike with our club in NE Iowa, **Maiden Voyage River Cruise** (\$23) at Marquette and overnight at Decorah. Join in the fun! RSVP to Judy Frascht-Miner jibm526@aol.com or Shirley Rosencrans at sarosencrans@yahoo.com if you can drive. It will be a day trip for most hosts.

Thursday, July 6: Ambassadors shuttle to MSP. Bon Voyage!!!

Pat Klopfenstein



Patricia "Pat" Ann Klopfenstein, 89, of Marion, Iowa, passed away on May 21, 2023. Pat and her husband, Vic, were active in the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force club for many years. Pat was a past president (2003) and active host and traveler. Pat and Vic hosted over 200 foreign visitors at their home and enjoyed sharing interesting places in the community. Through IRIS and Open World, they hosted many delegates from former Soviet Union countries. Pat and Vic were honored by Friendship Force International with the Wayne Smith Medal.

In addition to raising five children, she was a teacher, had a baking business and served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Mental Health for over 20 years. She was named the 2011 Marion Citizen of the Year by the Marion Chamber of Commerce and served as a Marion Historian. Her many volunteer activities included work for the Marion Preservation Commission, the Marion Library Foundation, Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Linn County Task Force, the Heritage Agency of Aging, the Marion Food Pantry, and the Marion Methodist Church. She was a member of the OOP Club. The Klopfenstein Amphitheater at Lowe Park was named in honor of Pat and Vic.

Wayne Smith Legacy Award —Mary Stull

We are proud to announce that The Wayne Smith Legacy Award is to be presented to our own Mary Stull for her dedication and hard work for Friendship Force, our local club and for Sponsor Circle in assisting refugees from Afghanistan relocate and settle in the Cedar Rapids area.

Be sure to join us **July 2** at the Celebration dinner for Mary and our friends from Taiwan. It will be held at the Alumni House on Coe College 5PM.

RSVP required by June 22 to Audrey Bradford at audrey.b@mchsi.com or via Signup Genius. Send check for \$25 per person to Christine Allen, 1250 Teg Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246 to confirm your reservation.

Freedom Festival Volunteering

One again our club will be providing volunteers for a couple of the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival events. This is a fun way to help the club earn a few dollars.

We still have a couple of slots to fill. Contact Patty Potter at 319-551-5179 pattyspotter1001@gmail.com if you can help out.

Dock Dogs on June 24 from 11:30-3:30
2 slots

Car Show on July 4 from 6 to 12, 1 slot
(it probably won't be a full 6 hours)



Club Zoom Trivia

The next Club Trivia zoom gathering will be Friday, June 2nd 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 with a guest appearance by Patty Potter will be doing questions.

Audrey audrey.b@mchsi.com, or
Jo jejke70@cox.net



Tamworth Australia by Sue Evans



Our second journey in Australia was to Tamworth, northwest of Sydney in the Great Dividing Range. It is inland hilly country. But a canceled flight sent us beyond to Armsdale for the first night instead, where seven of us were taken into the rambling home of Deb and David Creed high on the top of the mountain range, with deep valleys on both sides. The view and hosts were amazing, including the mob of kangaroos visiting their west pasture pond at dusk, the endless projects in their outbuildings and the fog filled valley to the east at sunrise.



Day 1:

The Armsdale City Tour bus took us to their university of medical research historic buildings and gardens as well as the art center where an aboriginal artist of kangaroo hides played his didgeridoo. After lunch it was on to Tamworth.

Tamworth fed us! We had breakfast with our hosts, toured the historic Powerstation Museum after morning tea, then lunch before the wildlife park and



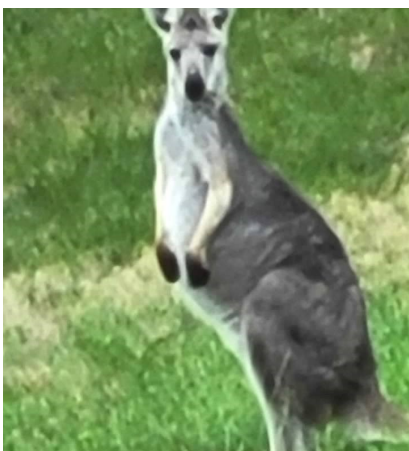
the Country Music Museum that Tamworth is famous for, followed by afternoon tea before viewing the skylab that evening. Supper followed with our hosts. Fed us they did!



Three of our days were filled with extreme downpours, making driving on twisting curving roads quite the hold-your-breath adventure.

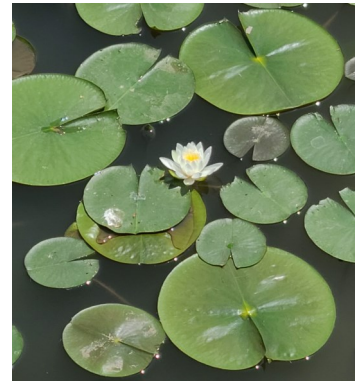
But the small towns, shops and historic restaurants, woolen mills and painted silos as well as the hosts/people we met along the way were interesting and welcoming.

Our final photo along the Peel River after a delightful farewell meal.



Club Hiking Group News

May 25th several members of the club met at the Indian Creek Nature Center on the SE side of Cedar Rapids. Sara Botkin gave the group a presentation of the history, purpose and vision of the Center. There was a group of school kids from Cedar Rapids Prairie that day, some of the several thousand that visit each year. They have a bird watching room, butterfly enclosure, exhibits and several hiking trails. We were able to enjoy 2 of them before we went to Edith and Lucille's for lunch. There are upcoming opportunities to join us on future hikes, **June 9 to Backbone State Park** and **July 5 the Effigy Mounds National Monument** with our visiting friends from Taiwan.



Leo May 3 Villa's Patio



We had a great turnout at the May 3rd LEO at Villas Patio. Good food, good

friends and good conversation. Come join us for the next one. Future LEOs will be listed in the newsletter and Sign Up Genius.



General Meeting August 20

Mark your colanders for a **General Meeting on August 20 at 2PM at the Coralville Public Library**. We will be have special guest speakers, Amy and Amir Hadzic, They will be sharing their story of Amir's journey from Bosnia to America and Amy's work with refugees making their way to America and what the process is like. ***Look for more information in the July newsletter.*** This would be a great event to bring in any friends or acquaintances to learn more about our club and the opportunities we have to offer.

Open World 2023 Update

Hi Friends in Cedar Rapids/Iowa City,

I am the newest member of the Friendship Force International team and am working very closely with Dana on Open World programming.

We received a very unexpected announcement from COIL that they are canceling most of their programming throughout the rest of the 2023 calendar year, and this unfortunately includes the delegation from Kosovo to your FF club in Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. This has never happened in the history of the program and Dana and I were very very surprised. We immediately requested a meeting with COIL officers so we could get some more information. We were told that a variety of factors happened to coincide that drastically impacted their cash flow (inflation, transportation rental cost increases, and doubling of the cost of refundable plane tickets). They are temporarily suspending most programming for the rest of the year as a stopgap measure.

Unfortunately, COIL does not have all the details in regards to what this means for FFI and for the local host communities. I wish that we had more information to share with you at the time. We will continue to update you as we are able. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to me or Dana by email or phone. We might not have the answers but we will do our best to help navigate this tricky and unprecedented situation.

Best,

Taryn Roberts

Regional Support Manager, USA and Canada t: +1-434-390-5607

All Iowa Picnic Ames, Iowa June 24

Friendship Force of Central Iowa
Will be hosting the
All-Iowa Picnic in Ames
Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse
401 E 20th St. Ames 50010
Noon to 3:00
Saturday, June 24, 2023

Rain or Shine

Food catered by Hickory Park Restaurant

**Turkey, Beef, Pork, Saucy Southerner, Potato Salad,
Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert, Iced Tea and Water**
Vegetarian meal option available upon request

All-Iowa Friendship Force Picnic Reservation

Paid reservations are due **June 14**.

Make checks payable to FFCI and mail to Margaret Epplin, 2114 State Avenue, Ames IA 50014

Name(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Club	<input type="text"/>		
Email	<input type="text"/>	Phone	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if requesting a Vegetarian Meal		
\$ 16 per person	Number of tickets	Total amount enclosed	
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

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 319-540-1701



Tamworth Australia, Adelaide Australia; and Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand - Presentation of journey at General Meeting on Sunday June 4th at 2pm

JUNE 27th- JULY 4th, 2023—TAIPEI, TAIWAN will be visiting for an inbound. There will be 17 ambassadors coming. **Connie Williams** is the Host Ambassador. We may need **day hosts**. What a great journey to be involved with. If you want to join in with the journey contact Connie Williams cmw1226@yahoo.com 319-396-4747.

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 or Judy Frascht-Miner, jjbm526@aol.com 319-540-1701 if interested.

DECEMBER 1-9, 2023 - Unfortunately all of the Open World visits have been canceled for this year. We will wait to hear about 2024.

Safe/Fun Traveling in 2023. Remember, up to date vaccinations and boosting are required for our journeys. Although our Covid policy is being updated and this will be changing to a more flexible and negotiated plan.

I look forward to traveling with many of you soon!

2022 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers

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