



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

August 2023

Calendar of Events

August 18 7:00PM	Club Zoom Trivia
August 20 1:00PM	General Meeting Coralville Public Library
Sept 6 4:30PM	LEO Picnic Manchester Iowa
Oct 2-5, 2023	World Conference Dubrovnik, Croatia
Oct 15-22, 2023	Incoming from Ed- monton,
Oct 22nd 4:00PM	Farewell Dinner for Edmonton

President's Message

Well friends, another calendar page torn off for the year- does anyone still have a paper calendar?! It was a busy month, summer always is, and in my case some of it was heaped on by myself, no one forced me to do a quilt show! August is gearing up to be busy too. Please plan to attend the General Meeting on the 20th in Coralville. It should be a very interesting program and a great opportunity to invite prospective new members. We also have a LEO planned for Jerry and Carols back yard in Manchester the first week of September, there will be a sign up genius for this. We just have this one last month of summer, whatever it holds for you, enjoy it and be safe.



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.



**Some of us will be going to the
Tin Roost at 840 W Penn St
North Liberty after the meeting.
Please join us!!**

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

Edmonton Canada is visiting us this fall. Our committee lead by Jim and Barb Steggall have put together a great itinerary for them. There will be more information about what we will be doing and how you can join in the fun coming out soon, The following is a short snapshot of the schedule.



Monday October 16th: Ambassadors arrive TBD—welcome gathering at Steggalls - 3324 Riverbend Dr NE Cedar Rapids.

Tuesday October 17th: Tour of Cedar Rapids including the downtown Library, New Bo, Czech Village and Paramount Theatre. Home hosted dinners in the evening.



Wednesday October 18th: Tour of Kalona including the historical village, family style meal, Stringtown Grocery, Farmers Hen House and a visit to the Malichky Farm for tractor and combine rides.



Thursday October 19th: Iowa City day with a visit to Harvest Preserve, tour of Stanley Museum of Art, tour of Historic Poor Farm (history of mental health in Johnson County) with dinner at either Walker Homestead or Maggie's Farm.



Friday October 20th: A morning tour of the Amana Colonies including the Heritage Museum, General Store Homestead Church and the Communal Kitchen/Cooper Shop. Lunch at The Ronneburg Restaurant (open to all members). The rest of the day will be a free day with hosts.



Saturday October 21st: Dyersville/Dubuque day Field of Dreams, Lock and Dam tour and Mississippi River Museum. Lunch will be at Breitbach's in Balltown. Evening with Hosts.



Sunday October 22nd: Free morning with the Farewell Party at 4PM

Monday October 23rd: Ambassadors depart for Oklahoma City.

Save the Date: September 6 Let's Eat Out

Fall should bring cooler temperatures so our next Let's Eat Out (LEO) will be a backyard picnic. On **September 6**, Jerry and Carol Burke have invited us to their home, **1113 Gales Avenue, Manchester, Iowa**. We'll gather for social time at 4:30 pm and eat at 5:30. Jerry will send out a Sign Up Genius so you can order your sandwich from Olive that Deli and pay at the picnic.



Club Zoom Trivia

The next Club Trivia zoom gathering will be **Friday, August 18 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, or Jo jejke70@cox.net

Wayne Smith Award Presentation to Mary Stull

During the Farewell Banquet for our Friends from Taipei, Mary Stull was presented FFI's Wayne Smith Award. She is the 4th member of our club to receive this prestigious award. It was given for her long contribution to our club and for her work leading our club's efforts to help settle Afghan refugees in our community. Here are some comments from Margaret Nelson who spoke before the award was given.



Mary along side of prior award winners
Steve Williams and Vic Klopfenstein

The mission of Friendship Force is “to promote peace and understanding by creating an environment where individual friendships can be established across the barriers that separate people”

I received an invitation from Mary Stull to participate in an independent sponsor circle to welcome Afghan refugees to our community. Mary went to great lengths to organize us and keep us on task. Those on the committee were the following: Barb and Jim Steggall, Myron and Connie Williams, Dean and Jean Thomas, Nancy York, Mary and Frank Stull and Ron and Margaret Nelson. Each member took on special roles to welcome Idris and Abdullah in July after waiting, waiting and waiting.

Those roles included funding, English lessons, winter gear, housing, employment, phones, banking, documentation, social, health, legal and dental services, translation, transportation, and numerous pop-up needs to help with their adjustment.

Mary has done a masterful job organizing us through emails, meetings and phone calls. It has been an exceptional group of people to take on this mission and respond to this critical human crisis.

We are truly promoting a peaceful world one friendship at a time——putting the simple power of kindness and hospitality to work for a better world.

Margaret Mead has this famous quote: *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.”*

Looking for Board Members for 2024

We are starting to look forward to 2024. With this means there will be a couple of openings on the board. If you are interested in being on the board or want to be on the nomination committee please contact Nancy York 319-929-8208 stampingtonancy@gmail.com who will be our new president for 2024.



Experience is not needed!!!! Many of us joined the board knowing very little. We have many experienced individuals on the board and in our group that are wonderful about sharing their knowledge and experience. Being on the board provides you this experience and the chance to be closer to planning and programming, along with closer relationships with other members.

Don't be shy about volunteering!

Excerpts from emails from Mykhailo (Misha) & Margaret Nelson

Ron and Margaret Nelson hosted Misha who was here with the Open World Program. These are his responses when asked about the war and safety.

As for the war.

Indeed, our enemy's tactics are diverse. I will not tell you many details, I will only try to make a small summary on a general scale.

Indeed, there are a lot of air raids in Sumy now, on certain days there are up to 5-7 air raids per day. Mostly they concern the neighborhood, shells and drones rarely fly into the city itself, but there have been cases. But my parents are fine. They even had the opportunity to come to visit me in Lviv for 10 days, and only last week they went back to Sumy. They spent their whole life in Sumy, and now my dad is retired and my mom works as a librarian at school, and they don't want to move.

As for politics. We really feel the support of our partners, and we know that without it, our state would not have existed long ago. Our country needs at least \$5 billion a month just to provide basic services in our spheres of life. And, of course, we realize that Ukraine's economy simply does not exist anymore. At the same time, we have a feeling that the world is not interested in UkraiWe are experiencing increasing pressure on the population to enlist in the army. But this is not always a voluntary story. However, I am still trying to adhere to certain restrictions on my movement to be able to continue to do what I can best to support my country and my people.

The thing is that when it comes to weapons and other equipment, we see that we are given only the bare minimum. It's as if everything is done to deter Russia, but in no way to inflict a crushing defeat on it. As if the world is interested in the gradual exsanguination of Russia, and in deterrence, but not in defeat. We are indeed distracting Russia with ourselves, and according to some estimates, the number of wounded on the frontline alone, on the Ukrainian side, is 1000 people a day. ne's victory over Russia either.

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A lot of countries have improved their economic situation by becoming intermediaries for the sale of Russian goods and raw materials - the war has been profitable for many, and it seems that it continues to be profitable.

But we understand that the support of our partners is not eternal, and the war will end when the money to support this resistance runs out. Therefore, the majority of the population is set on simply freezing the conflict, and victory in the sense of liberating all territories from the Russian occupation forces is out of the question.

God's grace to you and your family, I am sincerely glad to have met you, I always feel your support very much.

I sincerely thank you and your community for every thought about Ukraine. I am confident that the light will prevail.

If you or your community have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can also pass on my email to anyone who has questions and is interested in Ukraine - I will be happy to share any details.

By the way, I also want to share a little joy with you. Shortly before the war, I registered a charitable foundation. During the year of war, I managed to raise a certain amount of money, and this month the first 32 students from the school where I studied received small symbolic payments from this fund for good results in the school year. Of course, I am doing everything myself, and it is still difficult, but I am sincerely glad that I am able to take some steps in this direction, and I am sincerely glad that at least 32 students have some small additional motivation to study well and continue to explore the world.

Sincerely yours, Mykhailo (Misha)

Taipei Journey

On Tuesday, June 27, Shirley Rosencrans, Barb Holt, Mary Stull and Frank Stull welcomed 17 Taipei ambassadors with a bus ride from Minneapolis through Iowa to Noelridge Park in Cedar Rapids. Along the way, the group got acquainted with a stop at the Surf Ballroom and Museum for the Buddy Holly tour and dinner in Clear Lake. Due to the smoke from Canadian wildfires, the scenery in Cedar Rapids was blurry by the time the group arrived.



Wednesday was Kalona Day, where the ambassadors and day hosts toured an Amish farm, enjoyed a family style Mennonite lunch, then toured both the Amish buggy shop and a goat dairy. There is a native group in Taiwan who are similar to the Amish, living without electricity and modern conveniences.



The Mississippi River was the theme for our day spent in Dubuque. The day started at the Mississippi River Museum, then Eagle Point Park and finishing with a tour of Lock & Dam #11 by the officers from the Army Corp of Engineers. The final stop was at The Field of Dreams in Dyersville, where Taipei club president, Francisco Hsu enjoyed batting practice.



Friday, June 30 began with a tour of the S Bar P Miniature Horse Farm near Anamosa, lunch at Sally's on Broadway, then on to Anamosa for the National Motorcycle Museum. As the group left the museum, the smokey overcast had cleared to show blue skies for the first time during the journey! Several ambassadors took pictures!



Friday evening was enjoyable, thanks to the good food and great hospitality of our home dinner hosts. These home hosted dinners are a great way for more people to mix and mingle.

And now we're in July, with all of the local festivities and fun! The Iowa City day including a tour of the Stanley Art Museum, a walking tour of downtown, the Iowa City Jazz Fest and fireworks! Some ambassadors called it their favorite day! Thank you to the gracious day-to-night hosts, as this was a fun filled day!



Sunday, July 2 was free until 5pm. Hosts and ambassadors were able to enjoy a leisurely breakfast, at home or at the Freedom Festival pancake breakfast, shop, check out the classic car show, meet family members, attend church. It's safe to say that every household did something different.

Our journey banquet was held at the Clark Alumni House at Coe College, with a 5pm social hour and 6pm dinner buffet. In attendance was Bob and Nancy Mitchell, Bob is the Regional FFI Representative. In addition to

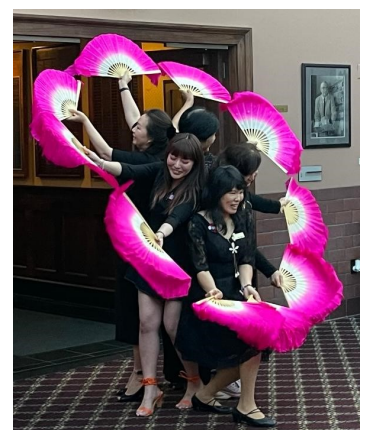


the 15 Taipei ambassadors, other honored guests were three Afghan gentlemen, one of whom had been sponsored by our Friendship Force Club. The Wayne Smith Legacy Award was presented to Mary Stull for her leadership to



our club and to the Afghan Sponsor Circle.

After the presentation of the award, we all enjoyed Taiwanese music and dance, skillfully presented by the Taipei ambassadors. It was a pleasant evening, great fun and conversation, ending with the song 'Let There Be Peace On Earth'.



The final 'official' day of the journey was Monday, July 3, wrapping up with a tour of downtown Cedar Rapids, lunch with a view of Mount Trashmore and Quaker Oats, and a tour of our 'state of the art' Cedar Rapids Public Library.



As stated, the journey officially ended on July



3, with 2 ambassadors leaving that day and 2 ambassadors leaving on July 2. Due to flight availability, some left early and the remaining

13 stayed on with us until their July 6 return flight. During this time, we enjoyed a variety



of activities including back yard barbeques, Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball, more fireworks, hiking at Effigy Mounds, shopping and staying overnight at the historic Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah.

The friends we made, the comradery of the group, the patience displayed by all made this journey

all worth it. As in every journey, different things appealed to different people. But, we can honestly say that it was lots of fun and well worth the time and effort.

The journey committee of Christine Allen, Mary Stull, Nancy Bell, Shirley Rosencrans, Judy Frascht-Miner and Connie Williams did a great job to present our Iowa culture in a positive and delightful manner. Our home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, bus hosts and all of the club members along the way have made this journey memorable for our club and the Taipei club.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED! It is safe to say that hosting is a pleasure. A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE!

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

JUNE 27th- JULY 4th, 2023—Our **TAIPEI, TAIWAN** visitors were fantastic guests. It was a busy fun week. This was truly an example of our club community coming together to provide a great journey. So many individuals played a role both small and large. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone involved.



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.

I look forward to traveling with many of you soon!

2022 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers

President

Patty Potter 319-551-5179 pattyspotter1001@gmail.com

Past President

Connie Williams 319-396-4747 cmw1226@yahoo.com

President-Elect

Nancy York 319-929-8208 stampingnancy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Christine Allen 319-330-3536 callenivy@gmail.com

Secretary

Marilyn Benge 319-540-2114 lmbenge@southslope.net

Journey Coordinator

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

Activities Coordinator

Shirley Rosencrans 319-462-4132 sarosencrans@yahoo.com

Communications

Mary Stull 319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com

Membership

Carol Burke 563-929-6067 jcburke@yahoo.com

Directors at Large

Jean Thomas 319-830-5092 jeanthomas521@gmail.com

Joan Lacayo 319-551-4725 jmtlacayo@gmail.com