



## friendship force

CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY

### Calendar of Events

<b>Feb 9</b> <b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Club Zoom Trivia</b>
<b>Feb 25</b> <b>1:00PM</b>	<b>World Friendship Day</b>
<b>March 15-23</b>	<b>Open World-Kosovo</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Dinner &amp; Parade with Kosovo Visitors</b>
<b>April 17</b> <b>5:00PM</b>	<b>LEO at El Viejo at the Long Branch</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>General Meeting TBD</b>
<b>June 29</b> <b>11:30AM</b>	<b>All Iowa Picnic</b>
<b>July 19-22</b>	<b>Inbound from Milwaukee WI</b>
<b>August 19-26</b>	<b>Outbound Journey to Edmonton, Canada</b>
<b>Sept 4-10</b>	<b>Journey to Kosovo</b>
<b>Late Sept or Early Oct</b>	<b>Incoming Journey Willamette Valley OR</b>
<b>Oct 7-9</b>	<b>Super Regional Conference Milwaukee</b>
<b>Oct 9-12</b>	<b>Outbound Journey to Milwaukee</b>

## CEDAR RAPIDS-IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

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

Follow us on Facebook:

Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force

## February 2024

### President's Message

*My husband's niece had trouble getting her annual family letter out before the end-of-year holidays. So, in February many years ago, we got our first Groundhog Day letter. It was a hit, and a new tradition was born. It's a good reminder to try something new, much like we do when we go on a Friendship Force journey, serve on a committee, try a new dish at a potluck, or just go out of our comfort zone to talk with visitors to club meetings. There will be many opportunities to do all three in the weeks and months ahead. First up is World Friendship Day February 25, followed by Open World delegates from Kosovo in mid-March, and the all-Iowa picnic at the end of June. We have outbound journeys to Canada, Milwaukee, and possibly Kosovo, and the North American Super Regional Conference in October. We also have inbound journeys from Oregon and Milwaukee.*

*In between we have general meetings, LEOs (Let's Eat Out), hiking, and Zoom trivia, oh my! Make the most of your FF experience by trying something new or different this year. Maybe the groundhog will defy expectations by staying in his burrow and leave weather forecasting to modern technology. Let spring come sooner rather than later!*

*In friendship,*

*Nancy York 2024 Club President*

## World Friendship Day

We'll celebrate World Friendship Day with a **potluck lunch** on **Sunday February 25 at Marion Christian Church, 1050 McGowan BLVD, Marion, IA at 1:00pm**. Guest speaker will be Kirkwood College Assoc Dean of Global Learning, **Darek Benesh**. He will talk about cultural adjustment for international students and immigrants. A Signup Genius will be sent to gather the number of people & the dish you would like to bring. *Join us for a fun and informative event and as always, you are encouraged to bring your friends.*



## LEO April 17

Come join us for a LEO (Lets Eat Out) **Wednesday April 17** at 5:00PM at **El Viejo** Restaurant 90 Twixt Town Rd ( *Best Western Longbranch*). A Signup Genius will be sent at a later date. Contact Shirley Rosencrans if you have any questions 319-462-4132 [sarosencrans@yahoo.com](mailto:sarosencrans@yahoo.com)



## Club Zoom Trivia

The date for the monthly Zoom Trivia has been set for **Friday February 9**. The fun starts at **7:00PM**. This is a wonderful chance to show off you knowledge of information of little importance or value.

## Kosovo —Open World Opportunities

You will have the opportunity to meet the Open World delegates from Kosovo on **Sunday, March 17**. Please note this on your calendar, with location and time to be announced in the March newsletter. You have the chance to go to the Cedar Rapids St Patrick's Day parade, then join the group for dinner. Volunteers to help with the dinner are needed, please contact Margaret Nelson at [ronmargnelson@gmail.com](mailto:ronmargnelson@gmail.com) or Shirley Rosencrans at [sarosencrans@yahoo.com](mailto:sarosencrans@yahoo.com) if you can be on their committee.



## Kosovo —Journey Sept 4-10

A small journey to Kosovo is being planned with tentative dates of **September 4-10**. Friendship Force of Kosovo club is 'in development', therefore, the journey might involve hotel stays rather than a week of home stay. If you are interested in the journey, please contact Connie Williams at [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com) to be added to the waiting list.

## All Iowa Picnic June 29

The Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force Club will be hosting our friends from the other Iowa Friendship Force Clubs this summer **June 29**. It will be held at the **Homestead Welfare Club**, 4215 V ST, Homestead, IA. The starting time has been set for 11:30AM. Look for more information in future newsletters.



## KCRG 9 Who Care — Esther Hudson



Our club member, Esther Hudson has been nominated for KCRG's 9 Who Care Award. Esther is a long time member of our club who is always willing to step in and help with what ever needs to be done. She also spends her time volunteering at St. Luke's hospital in the Surgi-care department and as a driver for Linn County Aging Services. If that weren't enough Esther has also taught English as a second language for over 6 years at the Catherine McAuley Center.

We are proud to have her as a representative of our club. You can view the article on Esther by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.kcrg.com/2024/01/22/local-woman-volunteers-time-between-three-different-organizations/>

## Nancy Williams



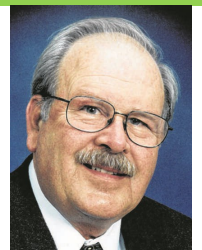
Long-time member, Nancy Williams, 88, passed away on January 24, 2024. Nancy and her husband, Steve, were co-presidents of the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force club in 2005. She and Steve enjoyed traveling and hosting with Friendship Force. They have been hosted by families in nearly a dozen countries, making many life-long friends. She was beside Steve's side in all of his

work, which he acknowledged when honored with the Wayne Smith medal from Friendship Force International.

She was a talented seamstress and cook, whose recipes are treasured by family and friends. Nancy enthusiastically followed her grands' and greats' local activities and celebrated their milestones and successes.

## Brent Harstad

We have be informed of the passing of another past member of our club. Brent Harstad November 5, 1943 - December25, 2023





# Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

**SIGN UP SOON!** Say **YES** to getting involved in our journeys! There are so many ways to be involved whether you travel on a journey or help host visitors. It takes a village! Don't wait to be asked, contact me and discuss options: Judy Frascht-Miner [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com) 319-540-1701

**MARCH 15th-23rd 2024-OPEN WORLD WITH KOSOVO** Six delegates will be visiting us. There will be an all club event on March 17th. Come meet our friends! Contact Connie Williams with questions, [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com)

**JULY 19-22-2024— Shared Inbound from Milwaukee** — The Quad Cities along with us, Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, will host Milwaukee. The journey will be divided between the two locations. Patty Potter is our Host Coordinator. Volunteers are needed for home/day/dinner hosting. Please contact Patty [pattyspotter1001@gmail.com](mailto:pattyspotter1001@gmail.com) or myself [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com) if interested.

**AUGUST 19-26 2024 Outbound to Edmonton** — Jerry and Carol Burke will be the Host Coordinators. Planning is in process. We are checking back to confirm with those that have already signed up. This will help us determine if there are any additional openings. Contact Jerry and Carol Burke, [jbcburke@yahoo.com](mailto:jbcburke@yahoo.com) or Judy Frascht-Miner with questions [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com).



**SEPTEMBER 4TH-10TH 2024 OUTBOUND TO KOSOVO**— This will be Kosovo's first time to host a journey! YEAH! If interested contact Connie Williams

**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6th 2024 Incoming from Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley**— If you would like to be part of the planning of this incoming Journey contact Judy Frascht-Miner, [jjbm526@aol.com](mailto:jjbm526@aol.com)

**OCTOBER 9-12TH— Outbound to Milwaukee.** We have been invited to stay in Milwaukee a few extra days after the North American Regional Conference

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



**Safe/Fun Traveling in 2024**

# 2024 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers

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