



friendship force CEDAR RAPIDS-IAWA CITY

Calendar of Events

January 9	Club Zoom Trivia
7:00 PM	
January 11	Club General Meeting
2-4 PM	Marion Public Library
Feb 4	LEO
TBD	
March 1	World Friendship Day
	Marion Christian Church
March 9-13	Nebraska Sandhill Crane Journey
April 6 - 11, 2026	Out Going Journey to Birmingham, Al
April 24-26 2026	North American Conference Memphis TN
May 28 - June 4	Incoming From Western Washington/North Idaho
July 13-18, 2026	Quilting Journey
August TBD	Club Day Trip
Sept 7-12 2026	Outgoing Journey to Peru
Sept TBD	LEO
Oct 7-14, 2026	Incoming Journey from Utah

CEDAR RAPIDS-IAWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

Follow us on Facebook:
Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force

January 2026

President's Message

Happy New Year!

And what a year it will be. We begin by learning a new way to pay our dues via FFI online system, then go right into a general meeting Jan 11 to hear about Thailand. The Board has scheduled something each month, a general meeting, a LEO, or an incoming journey to meet new friends. Remember if you are interested in learning more about scheduling journey's, Judy will be glad to work with you.

May your 2026 be a full and exciting year. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Stephanie Schulte

2026 Club President



General Meeting

DO YOU WANT TO SAMPLE MANGO STICKY RICE?

A CR-IC FF General Meeting will be Sunday **January 11 from 2-4 PM** at the Marion Public Library. A business meeting will be followed by a presentation on the Thailand journey.

Patty is trying her hand at making Mango Sticky Rice so hopefully everyone can have a sample. There will be pictures and stories. Come join in on the fun!



Zoom Trivia January 9

The next Club Zoom trivia will be **January 9 at 7PM**. As usual an email with the Zoom link will be sent. Come join the fun. It is always a learning experience. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Membership Dues for 2026

At the Nov. 8 Annual Meeting dues increase for 2026 was presented.

The new fee for each club member will now be \$115 starting January 1. \$100 will be due directly to FFI, and \$15 to the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Club for local dues.

Please go ahead and send your \$15 local dues to Club Treasurer Tom Hess at 785 West Main Street, Robins IA 52328.

FFI dues are paid as follows:

1. Go to https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in
2. Either sign in or establish an account
3. Click on add/renew membership
4. Once paid with a credit card, you will receive an email confirmation.
5. Let Barb Steggall know that your dues have been paid, at
bjsteggall@gmail.com.

We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Barb Steggall

Membership Chair

LEO on February 4

The CR/IC FF board is planning a LEO on **February 4**. The location and time will be announced in a **SignUp Genius**. Bring your friends to show them who we are and what we do.



CR/IC Journey to Chiang Mai, Thailand



A group of 15 ambassadors from 4 different FF clubs journeyed to Chiang Mai, Thailand in November. It was a FABULOUS experience, so much so that we jointly requested, with our host club, that they be assigned to us in 2027. You truly had to experience it, and we will show lots of photos at the **Jan 11 General Meeting**, but I will try to sum it up. We went to many temples and shrines, too many to speak to individually.

We spent time at a private kindergarten and primary school, where young girls performed for us and then my host, Noy, who I called the energizer bunny, led us in a dance class. After a wonderful meal, we strolled the extensive

grounds and many went on a zip line. Another day we went to an elephant sanctuary where we all rode the elephants; it's a pretty bumpy ride! We planted a tree of friendship in an Urban Jungle, which our hosts promised to photograph and send to us every year. Our last day was a handi-

craft day. We saw a jade carving facility, an umbrella making facility, a pottery place and a silk weaving warehouse. All amazing! For the farewell, we went to a wonderful restaurant where we watched performances by dancers and actors. A few pictures are included here but come to the general meeting to

see and hear more. And I will attempt to replicate the Mango

Sticky Rice that we had multiple times on our journey. The country is wonderful, our hosts were fabulous.....and now I'm missing Thailand! Oh, did I mention it was in the 80s the whole time we were there? Their "cool" season.



CHANGED DATE Birmingham, April 6 - 11, 2026



We have **2-3 openings** for this journey. Birmingham, AL is located at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Birmingham was born out of the iron and steel industry. The city is well known for its role in the Civil Rights movement. Modern Birmingham is a much different place brimming with entertainment, the arts, outdoor recreation and world class cuisine.



It is home to art galleries, golf courses, antique shops, and trendy malls. There are many family green spaces such as Railroad Park. With a mild climate many suburbs surround the city giving the metropolitan area a population of approximately 1.2 million.



Friendship Force North American Regional Conference 2026 Memphis, USA

**Experience the spirit of Friendship Force in Memphis—
networking, discovery, and community at the
2026 Regional Conference.**

April 24 - 27, 2026 · Hyatt Centric Hotel

The registration for the North American Regional Conference is now open.

Open up your member's Portal to access the registration information.

There you will be able to see the agenda, speakers, hotel information and sign-up for the special excursions. Check with other club members to see about car pooling and possible room sharing. A riverboat cruise is offered at the conclusion of the conference. It looks to be a great event.



Journey Calendar by Judy Frascht-Miner

NOVEMBER 18-24, 2025 - Outbound to Chiang Mai, Thailand - We had a wonderful time! Come to the General Meeting presentation on January 11th, 2-4.

MARCH 9TH-13TH 2026- SANDHILL CRANE JOURNEY WITH NEBRASKA

Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator. It is limited to 10 and is presently full. There is a waiting list. Have Questions, contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com 319-330-3536 .



DATE CHANGE - APRIL 6-11, 2026 - OUTBOUND TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Jerry and Carol Burke are the Ambassador Coordinators. **There are a couple of openings** and they are accepting applications now. Are you interested??? Contact Jerry and Carol 563-939-0190 jbcburke@yahoo.com Journey # 26188.



JULY 13 - 18 2026 - QUILTING JOURNEY - This is a Special/Global Journey, which means it is posted on the International Website and is open to applicants from across the world. It will be exciting to see where our guest will be coming from. How about home hosting or driving? Curious, contact Patty Potter pattyspotter1001@gmail.com 319-551-5179.

MAY 28 - JUNE 4TH 2026 - INCOMING FROM WESTERN WASHINGTON/ NORTHERN IDAHO - Jerry and Carol Burke are the Ambassador Coordinators. A committee has been formed and they are busy planning the itinerary. Contact Jerry and Carol if willing to be involved!

jbcburke@yahoo.com



DATE CHANGE - AUG 22/23 - AUG 28TH 2026 - OUTBOUND TO

LIMA PERU - The date was changed due to a conflict the Peru club has. Christine Allen is the Ambassador Coordinator who is already busy negotiating plans. If interested contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com. 319-330-3536. Ad on options are in the planning. Journey #26068



3

OCTOBER 7 - 14, 2026 - INCOMING FROM UTAH - Nancy York and Tom Hess will be Host Coordinators putting together a planning committee. Contact Tom and Nancy. 319-929-8208 stamping-nancy@gmail.com and 319-213-7762 tomhess8@gmail.com. Journey # 26135



2026 Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Officers

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