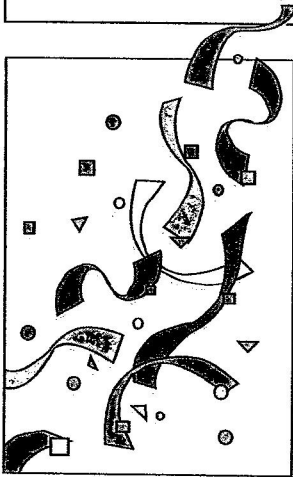


# CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

January 5, 2004

## Greetings from Your President

Sally Nelson



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** At the onset of another year, I reflect back on the past year which holds very special memories of Friendships made through this unique organization. Greg and I had the opportunity to host Uliana from Bulgaria, Paul and Gerald from Nigeria (even if only for a couple days), Jack and Jean from Minneapolis, and Yuri and Satmar from Russia. In addition, we were able to reconnect with our Canadian hostess in Budapest as well as a former guest and now dear friend in Ukraine. I encourage you to seize the many opportunities that exist in Friendship Force to create special memories. Offer to host or help someone else host, invite a host and guest to your home for dinner to share the experience or even help with transportation or get involved with a committee.

Our club will be hosting a Russian Open World delegation again at the end of February. This was a very interesting experience for those who hosted in October. Try it this time if you didn't last year. Call Jim or Colleen Nieman if you would like to host a Russian the last week of Feb. There will be the potential of hosting a few more Nigerians and Russians coming through IRIS in the spring.

If you want to travel, there are openings to Scotland May 11, and to Minneapolis to visit the Twin Cities FF group the end of September and wouldn't it be fun to get a group going to the International Conference to be held in Los Angeles this year! Don't forget the Heartland Regional Conference in Milwaukee on April 24 (more details inside). I am also trying to get another incoming exchange assigned after Colombia canceled - (still waiting for a response).

Thank you to all who consented to be on our Board this year. We are all very appreciative for your valuable time and energy for the benefit of our club. Anyone can attend any Board meeting. Please call and offer your help. I envision a growing membership with each member actively participating - please help this happen! Also important, is that we are a friend to each other, so if you know of a member in need of our friendship, please share that information so we can help.

## General Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2004, 2 PM



The first general membership meeting for 2004 will be Sunday, January 25 at 2 pm. Join at the First United Methodist Church, Marion, 1295 7th Ave. (Use door on 13th St.). Just bring yourself and a guest - dessert and beverage will be served. Our speaker will be Minny Deol Olson, who will share some insights on her native country, India. Friendship Force is active in India - please come, listen, and see if this is a country you would like to see us travel to!

## NEWS FROM ATLANTA

Following are excerpts from the December 9, 2003 message our club received from FFI President Susie Smith.

“It is with great excitement that I share with you some happy personal news that will impact my role as President of FFI. Next year I will be getting married and will move to California to be with my future husband. While I am thrilled about my personal news, I remain committed to the well being of this wonderful organization. In order to ensure a smooth transition of FFI leadership, I will continue to serve as President until April 2, 2004 or as soon as the Board of Trustees has elected a new leader....

The opportunity to serve as President of FFI has been a life-enriching experience. I am grateful to have had this chance to play a small yet meaningful part in the life of our organization. Since I will continue to work with you over the next several months, I will not say goodbye yet. Instead, I look forward to working with you to further friendship and peace in our world as we carry on with our plans for the coming year.”

*Note from Sally Nelson: Susan Smith will be greatly missed, but I am happy for her and have every confidence she will leave the organization in capable hands.*



## IMPRESSIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST HUNGARY

Sally and Greg Nelson attended the FFI Conference in Budapest Hungary in early November and provided the following summary.

There were over 300 attendees on the roster from 24 countries. We met the office staff working in Atlanta, a very talented, hard-working group of people. Also introduced were a new Board of Directors and a new Board of Trustees. In addition to the aforementioned Boards, there is a network of volunteer field representatives in place to facilitate communication and education between local clubs and Atlanta. A balanced budget has been achieved as well as a clean audit and paying off a bank line of credit of \$147,000. It was very apparent Susan Smith and the staff has worked very hard to stabilize the organization and are continuing to build accountability and increase transparency to its members. Financial information will be posted on the website - check it out.

For your information, the following awards were given at the conference:

- Excellence in Programs: FF Koriyama, Japan for development of a website coordinating all Japan clubs with translations.
- Excellence in Public Relations: FF Whidby Island
- Excellence in Service: Norma Hassinger (FF Atlanta, GA) for programs getting medical supplies to orphans in Tblisi, Georgia (government is paying shipping costs!)
- Outstanding Achievement:
  - Individual* Horst Neuman, FF Varel, Germany for encouraging youth involvement; organizing an exchange with 150 musicians
  - Club* Dayton, OH for Festival of Flight and bonds with sister city, Sarajevo resulting in the development of a FF club in Sarajevo.

**Next Board Meeting**  
January 12, 2004,

The first board meeting for 2004 will be Monday, January 12. at 6:15 p.m. at the Metro Buffet 448 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids **\*Please note change in meeting place.** Everyone is welcome.

**2004 Exchanges to Scotland**  
May 2004

Nancy Miller will be the exchange director for our club's exchange to the West of Scotland Club, departing May 11, 2004. There will be one week of home hosting, and many ambassadors are making their own plans for a second week of travel. This looks to be a very popular trip with openings filling up. If you are interested in traveling to Scotland, contact Nancy Miller right away at 396-3580 - deposits are needed now. Nan and Arrick Wilkins are the West of Scotland FFI club exchange directors. You may have met them when they were with the exchange from Scotland in 2002.



**LEO (Let's Eat Out)**  
January 2004

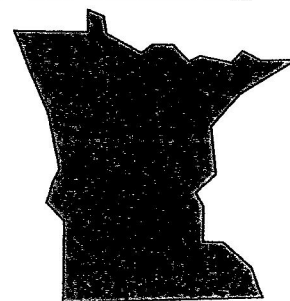


Do you want to enjoy a relaxing dinner and conversation with Friendship Force members? Then don't miss the next Let's Eat Out dinner on Tuesday, January 20. We'll meet at 5:30 pm the Long Branch. 90 Twixt Town Road NE, Cedar Rapids. Early bird specials from 4 to 6 pm are prime rib, small fillet, catfish or chicken for \$9.99, which includes the salad bar.

Reservations to Phyllis or Jerry Seidl, (319) 377-5619 by Thursday, January 15.

**HELP WANTED:**  
**Exchange Director - Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Our club has been invited to Minneapolis for a five-day visit in late September 2004, so we are looking for someone to serve as our club's exchange director. This trip will enable us to renew friendships that began when our club hosted guests from the Twin Cities in September 2003. The exchange director would be involved in planning the driving route and working with Jack Champion of Minneapolis to determine cost and exact dates. This should be an easy one to plan - please call Sally at 857-5296 to volunteer your help.



**HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

April 24, 2004

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Midwest Regional Heartland Conference in Milwaukee on April 24, 2004. The Milwaukee and Madison clubs have exciting activities before and after the conference so plan some extra time for a mini vacation and let's get some car pools going!



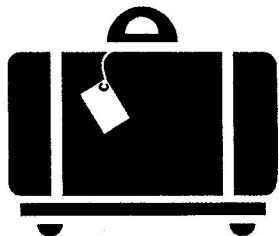
Home hosting will be available on Wednesday and Thursday before the conference. On Friday, Milwaukee Club members will provide city tours and at night there will be a traditional Milwaukee fish fry. Saturday is the Conference with a full agenda planned including an evening banquet in the Streets of Milwaukee exhibit in the Milwaukee Museum. The Museum also has a spectacular display of a world class Egyptian exhibit which is larger than the Tutankhamen exhibit which toured

the country in the 1970's. On Sunday, some Milwaukee members will open up their homes for lunch parties to interested attendees.

**ADDITIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES**

Other Midwest region Friendship Force clubs would like you to be aware of the following travel opportunities, call me (Sally - 857-5296) if you would like more information:

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Club Traveling</b>
Peru,	Mar. 2-13, 2004	- FF Madison Club
China,	May 16-June 4, 2004	- FF of Greater Milwaukee
Wolfsburg, Germany	May 11-19, 2004	- FF Lincoln, NE



Elderhostel/Friendship Force joint ventures:

- Australia in April
- Germany in June
- Japan in September

<b>2004 Board of Directors</b>
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<b>President</b>	Sally Nelson (319) 857-5296	<a href="mailto:nelsmaddie@aol.com">nelsmaddie@aol.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Stephen & Nancy Williams (319) 447-5761	<a href="mailto:williams.stephen@mcleoudusa.net">williams.stephen@mcleoudusa.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Joanne Smith (319) 395-9440	<a href="mailto:jmariesm@msn.com">jmariesm@msn.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Miller (319) 393-3580	<a href="mailto:mytrains@mchsi.com">mytrains@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Directors at Large</b> (2-year term)	Margaret Miller (319) 364-2135 Gerry Stoner (319)	<a href="mailto:zrmam@juno.com">zrmam@juno.com</a>
<b>Exchange Directors</b> <i>Russian Open World 2/04</i> <i>To Scotland 5/04</i>	Vic Klopfenstein (319) 377-5502 Nancy Miller (319) 393-3580	<a href="mailto:v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net">v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net</a> <a href="mailto:namrabbitt@mchsi.com">namrabbitt@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Past Exchange Director</b>	Phyllis Seidl (319) 377-5619	<a href="mailto:seidlgerald@msn.com">seidlgerald@msn.com</a>
<b>Past Presidents</b>	Pat Klopfenstein (319) 377-5502 Nancy Miller (319) 393-3580	<a href="mailto:v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net">v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net</a> <a href="mailto:namrabbitt@mchsi.com">namrabbitt@mchsi.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>IRIS Representatives</b>	Jim and Colleen Nieman (319) 396-5892	<a href="mailto:nieman.jim@mcleoudusa.net">nieman.jim@mcleoudusa.net</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mary Carson (319) 366-4545	<a href="mailto:mcarson484@yahoo.com">mcarson484@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Frank and Mary Stull (319) 393-6254,	<a href="mailto:fpstull@aol.com">fpstull@aol.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Richard Miller (319) 364-2135 Diane Karal (319) 378-0084	<a href="mailto:zrmam@aol.com">zrmam@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:toy4di@msn.com">toy4di@msn.com</a>
<b>Communication</b>	Betty Emrich (563) 886-2349	<a href="mailto:demrich@iowatelecom.net">demrich@iowatelecom.net</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Margaret Nelson (319) 393-1209 Jill Rinkenberger (319) 377-5077	<a href="mailto:ronnmarg@aol.com">ronnmarg@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:kinkenber@aol.com">kinkenber@aol.com</a>

Feel free to contact any board member with questions or to volunteer your talents.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Friendship Force 2004 Calendar of Events</h2>
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|----------------------------|---|
| January 12, 2004           | Board Meeting, 6:15 p.m. <b>Metro Buffet 448 33rd Ave. SW</b><br>Cedar Rapids <b>*Please note change in meeting place</b> |
| January 25                 | General Meeting 2:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church, Marion<br>Speaker: Minny Deol - "India"                          |
| February 21-29             | Hosting - Russian Open World Leadership - Economic Development  |
| March - April (Approx.)    | Host 3 Nigerians  |
| April 24, 2004             | Midwest Regional Heartland Conference in Milwaukee  |
| April 21 - May 25 (approx) | Host Russian Businessmen (5?)   |
| May 11                     | Ambassadors leave for Scotland  |
| 4th wk in Sept.?           | Outgoing exchange to Minneapolis  |

**The Friendship Force**

Frank & Mary Stull  
5819 Golden Court NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

**Mission Statement:**

*To create an environment where friendships can be established across international borders.*