

# CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

March 12, 2007



## Greetings from Your President, Dianne Karal

Lion.... lamb...I'm not sure but it felt like a lion to me, and I'm ready for some nice weather How about you? We had a nice turn out for the LEO at Pei's and everyone seemed to have a great time. Thanks again to Steve Williams for making the arrangements

The event on March 25<sup>th</sup> is our last chance to make a sizable contribution to the Legacy Campaign to support expansion efforts by FFI. Remember to bring items for the Silent Auction. I'm sure there will be a treasure there that you will want to bid on and take home.

Have you started talking to your friends about the upcoming events and Exchanges? Don't be shy; share the wonderful story about Friendship Force with your friends. Invite them to broaden their horizons, travel or home host or just share in the experiences of others.

In friendship, Dianne

## At FFI's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & International Conference



Stephanie Schulte & Tressa Youngbear at CNN in Atlanta

## Information from the International Conference

**Stephanie Schulte:** *First, many thanks to the Board and the membership for allowing me to go to Atlanta for the International Conference. It was an exciting time to meet people from all over the world as well as several staff members. The conference began with the gala on Thursday night. I sat at a table with members from Atlanta, Brazil, Colorado and Iowa. We found out later we were with celebrities, Bev and Bob Reilman, some of the original members of FFI. This was my first introduction to George Brown.*

*On Friday, the day started with the whole group meeting. We heard a talk from Dr. Sherry Mueller about citizen diplomacy. Then we heard from John Suddes, his suggestion and thus his talk concerned setting up a strategic plan. George Brown suggested this will happen over the next year with input from the general membership. One question John asked was, "Will Friendship Force still be in existence in 30 years?" He asked us to look at our core values and purpose. These will define our mission. He also asked if the younger generation is interested, if not, why? To continue as a group, we need to bring in the next generation.*

*From my workshops, I heard strong suggestions that FF become a social organization and instead of just having cultural exchanges, have exchanges that involve more. The "more" could be extending assistance in poorer countries similar to church missions. We would connect with the host group but then be "put to work" on that communities behalf. This is just another aspect we have to consider as we look forward.*

*I did find that unlike other conferences I have attended, this one encourages talking to one another. Everyone is anxious to hear about different communities both domestic and world-wide. George Brown had much difficulty starting sessions because everyone was talking. It was truly a wonderful way to meet others and gain enthusiasm for FF.*

**Tressa Youngbear:** *I also want to thank everyone for providing the opportunity for me to attend the FF International Conference. I came back with many ideas and feeling overwhelmed by all the possibilities of how we can enhance the operations of our club in the future. It will be exciting to see where our club will be in 30 years. The workshops I attended were Fill Your Exchange and Beyond the Inner Circle: Publicizing Friendship Force. Both workshops included publicizing exchanges and the club. Here are some of the ideas: 1) Network with other organizations, i.e.: Quota, Lions, Rotary, etc. 2) Promote via websites, newspaper, radio, & TV 3) Network with Language Teachers to tap into students who would like to practice their new languages. 4) Have school kids perform for incoming exchanges and invite parents to attend – promote FF to them 5) Make a DVD/CD on your club and make it available for the incoming club to help promote the trip. 6) Do a follow up article about the exchange to help promote the club and peak interest in future exchanges 7) Take treats to media staff- helps get your foot in the door.*

*I also was able to make contact with a person from the Long Island Club that is willing to help with material development for our club and a FF staff person who is willing to help develop a website for us. FF has a lot of members with skills they are willing to share – how lucky we are to be part of such a group! I made contacts with the following countries: Japan, Brazil, Thailand, Germany & Canada, and with these US clubs: Long Island, NY; Fairburn, GA; Denver, CO; Omaha, NE; Memphis, TN; and Sandy, OR..*

Ask other members who attended for their thoughts, Vic & Pat Klopfenstein and Steve & Nancy Williams.





**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!**

**AN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM IS BEING PLANNED FOR APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> AT BEEM'S AUDITORIUM by Vic Klopfenstein**

**In preparation for our Outgoing Exchange to Japan, plan to attend and learn about Japanese customs, culture, weather, the food and our planned agenda.**

**The Tokyo Club just received the award for the Outstanding Hosting Club for 2006 for the whole world.**

On World Friendship Day - March 25<sup>th</sup> Vic Klopfenstein has some exciting information to share about the Outgoing Exchange to Japan in October. If you are thinking about going to Japan, Please arrive at 4:30 for a brief meeting.

## Calendar of Events, 2006

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** World Friendship Day, Chairperson: Connie Williams  
 Topic: Celebrating FFI's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Purpose: Fund raiser to support expansion of FFI around the world.  
 Social Hour 4:30 to 5:30, Czech Dinner at 5:45

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday** Board Meeting held at Beem's Auditorium, CR Public Library

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday** General Meeting - Beem's Auditorium, CR Public Library

Chairperson: Vic Klopfenstein - Topic: Japan and information regarding Outgoing Exchange in October

**May (Date TBD)** L.E.O.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** Latin themed Social Event, Family Merchants Bank, C Ave & Boyson Rd NE  
 Time: 2-5pm Chairperson: Margaret Miller

**July 15<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** Board Meeting

**July 15<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** General Membership Picnic @ Lowe Park, Marion, Chairperson: Charlie Kress

**July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>** Outgoing Exchange to Shelby, N. Carolina, Exchange Director: Jim Nieman

**August 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** Tama Meskwakie Pow Wow Social Event  
 Camping available at the Pow Wow grounds Chairperson: Tressa Youngbear

**September (Date TBD)** Board Meeting held in conjunction with Peru  
 Incoming Exchange from Peru & General Meeting, Exchange Director: Margaret Miller

**Late Sept (20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> ?)** Open World Leadership Exchange, Exchange Director & Topic TBD

**First week of October** LEO held in Coralville/Iowa City area, Chairperson : Mary Lukas

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** Midwest Festival in Dubuque

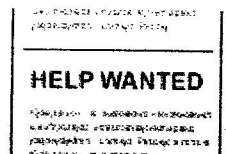
**October 23<sup>rd</sup> – November 6<sup>th</sup>** Outgoing Exchange to Japan, Exchange Director: Vic Klopfenstein

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday** Annual Meeting

### Opportunities to Help:

Mary Carson, Club Historian, wishes to remind members to send her extra photographs you may have of exchanges or events for the club scrapbook.

We have an open position on the Board for a **New Member Mentor**. This person would assign mentors to new members in order to help keep them involved and interested. Please call Dianne Karal if this interests you.



## Board of Directors 2007 Friendship Force Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Area

<i>President:</i>	<b>Dianne Karal</b>	319-378-0084	<i>toy4di@msn.com</i>
<i>Co-Vice Presidents:</i>	<b>Tressa Youngbear</b>	641-484-5239	<i>ityoungbear@iowatelecom.net</i>
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	<b>Mary Lukas ('08)</b>	319-337-3886	<i>mlukas@aea10.k12.ia.us</i>
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<i>Exchange Directors:</i>	<b>Mary Carson (San Diego)</b>	319-366-4545	<i>MCarson484@yahoo.com</i>
	<b>Jim Nieman (N. Carolina)</b>	319-396-5892	<i>nieman.jim@mcleodusa.net</i>
	<b>Margaret Miller (Peru)</b>	See Above	
	<b>Victor Klopfenstein (Japan)</b>	See Above	
<i>Past Exchange Directors:</i>	<b>Phyllis Seidl</b>	319-377-5619	<i>seidlgerald@msn.com</i>
	<b>Mary Lukas</b>	See Above	
	<b>Steve Williams</b>	See Above	
<i>Activities:</i>	<b>Jill Rinkenberger</b>	319-377-5077	<i>kjrink@mchsi.com</i>
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<i>Historian:</i>	<b>Mary Carson</b>	See Above	
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**Mission Statement:**

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