

CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

May 4, 2004

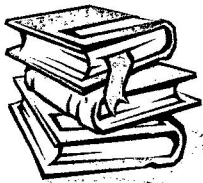
Greetings from Your President

Sally Nelson

- *Hi friends!* Welcome back to those who have been hibernating in warmer climates, we look forward to seeing you again. It has been a pretty busy few months! Following is the "News in Brief":
- The Bylaws Committee has completed a proposal for changes to the current club Bylaws. There will be copies available at the general meeting on June 13 and a vote for acceptance will occur. Also on the agenda, the Scholarship Committee has been developing a proposal for discussion.
- Scotland Outgoing Exchange - Our traveling ambassadors return May 18 - I am sure all will be anxious to share their experiences with you at the general meeting on June 13.
- If you are visiting the FFI website, (www.friendshipforce.org), you may note a portion of the site requires a password - please contact me if you would like access.
- The Russian Open World Leadership exchange in February brought in \$1000 profit to our club - great job Vic! A hearty thank you to Vic and Pat Klopfenstein, Diane Karal, Charlie Kress, Colleen Nieman and Kenan Virlee and all the hosts and others who may have helped. Our Board of Directors accepted another exchange to occur in the fall. The program topic, "Youth Issues", will encompass education, job training, etc. Steve Williams will be attending a training seminar in Atlanta.
- A couple of anniversaries are forthcoming which we will be hearing more about: 2006 is the 20th anniversary of our local Friendship Force club and 2007 is the 30th anniversary of FFI - stay tuned!

General Meeting

Sunday, June 13, 2004, 2 PM



This is an opportunity to trade your used books, videos, etc. with others! Proceeds derived from suggested donations will go to our scholarship fund. Materials left will be donated to the Jefferson-Monroe Library Committee in Swisher and Shueyville.

PLACE: Beems Auditorium, inside Cedar Rapids Public Library

500 1st Street SE in downtown Cedar Rapids.

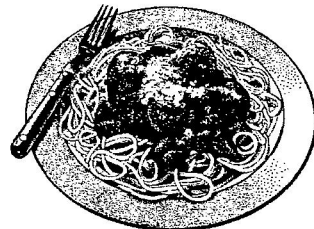
A representative from *Friends of International Students* will be present to enlighten us about opportunities that exist to extend our reach of friendship to University of Iowa student.

Also, we will vote to accept/reject proposed changes to our club bylaws and new membership directories will be available **-BE THERE!**

- *BRING:
- 1) "Gently used" books, CD's, books on tapes, videos, etc.
 - 2) An appetizer to share (finger food). Beverages and service provided.

Let's Eat Out (LEO)

On Thursday, May 13, 2004, L.E.O. will gather at Zio Johno's in Marion (7th Ave.). There will be a social time from 6:00 - 6:30, and we'll plan to order at 6:30 pm. Come check out the new facility just recently opened - and yes, they serve drinks. To reserve a spot, please call Joan Jacob by Wednesday, May 12 @ 366-3365.



Earned Travel Credits



IRIS EARNED MONEY REPORT - The following people (last names listed) have monetary travel credit for hosting with IRIS or Open World exchanges. You can use this for FF travel, to attend FF conferences, or to pay your dues. Please call Steve Miller at 393-3580 or Colleen Nieman at 396-5892 to learn you total credit amount.

Belgum, Bryant, Cambell, Carson, Dioif, Elliot, Faas, Borotjuk, Jurgensmeier, Hansen, Healy, Karal, Klopfenstein, Knappe, Kress, Kutter, Larson, Lovetinsky, McCoy, Mealhow, R&M Miller, S&N Miller, Milligan, R&M Nelson, Nieman, Pratt, Ringgenburg, Rinkenberger, Rosencrans, Schmitz, Scott, Sohm, Trammel, J&D Williams, S&N Williams and Virlee.

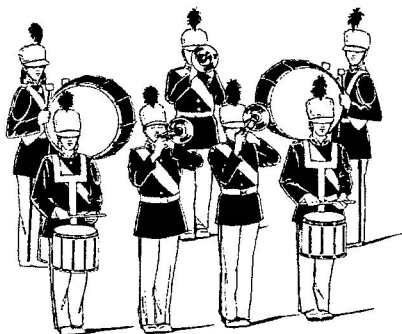
If you do not intend to use this credit, please call Steve Miller and have him donate it back into the general fund. It will help our accounting system. If you attended the Heartland Conference in April, and did not request your credit in advance, you may now do so.

A Colorful Thought

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box

Upcoming Exchanges

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FF CLUB & BRASS BAND FESTIVAL IN JUNE:



Our club will be hosting a few members of the Northern Illinois Friendship Force Club June 17, 18, and 19. Some of their club members are traveling to Cedars Rapids to attend the brass band festival at Usher's Ferry Pioneer Village on Saturday, June 18. Two of their club members "founded" their community brass band. This band has won national competitions several times. At the time of this publication, arrangements have not been finalized. If you are interested in hosting Northern Illinois members, please call Marceil Edson, 393-8053

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OUTGOING DOMESTIC EXCHANGE TO TWIN CITIES September 15-19, 2004.

Our club members will be going north to Minnesota this fall to renew friendships with Twin City Friendship Force members who visit here in 2002. The exchange will include Renaissance Festival on Saturday 18. Lunch at the Intrepid Traveler in Harmony, Minnesota is a possibility with a tour of the Amish area. Members interested in this exchange will meet briefly after the General Meeting on June 13 for further information and to share ideas for the trip. A deposit of \$30 will hold your place. Total cost is \$75 which includes Friendship Force fee of \$25. Group size is limited to 25 people and we have 23 signed up at this time. A waiting list can be established. Any questions, please call Margaret Miller 364-2135.



Heartland Regional Conference, April 24, 2004

The following members from our club attended the Heartland Conference in Milwaukee: Jerry and Phyllis Seidl, Winston and Marceil Edson, Shirley Rosencrans, Sally Nelson, Betty Emrich, Bernita Walker, Hally Adams, Madeline Sullivan and Steve and Nancy Williams. I think all will agree it was energizing, informative and a good time. We attended ethnic fish fries at various locations around the city of Milwaukee Friday night and some enjoyed home hosting experiences and luncheons before and after the conference. Hospitality was abundant and the Milwaukee Public Museum is a must-see when in the area. The museum has an excellent permanent exhibit on Native Americans in addition to the current Egyptian exhibit. A member of the Milwaukee club won the handmade quilt (it was beautiful!) and three of our members won door prizes.

It was really nice to meet George Brown, the new President of Friendship Force, International. He spoke of plans for the future as well as answered questions by members. His immediate action plan is briefly stated as: 1)Secure the past 2)Stabilize the present and 3)Sieze the future. I will elaborate on this a little more at our meeting in June.

This conference also served as an opportunity for the Festival, 2005 planning committee to meet. The dates have been set as July 12-22, 2005. The dates for hosting in our area are July 17 and 18, planned around the Czech Dance Festival on the 17th. Stay tuned for more details in the near future.

Next year's Heartland Regional Conference will be hosted by the Lincoln, Nebraska Friendship Force Club. They are hoping to arrange lunch or dinner in the Governor's mansion!

By-Law Changes and Scholarship Program

In a separate mailing, you will receive revised club by-laws which will be discussed and presented for a vote at the General Meeting on June 13. In the same mailing there will be a proposal for use of our scholarship funds. This proposal will also be considered at the June 13 meeting. Please review both documents and participate in the discussion at the general meeting. Revisions made are in italics and if you would like to compare to the old by-laws, please request a copy from Sally Nelson. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can send comments to Sally Nelson by e-mail: nelsmaddie@aol.com or mail comments to: 2807 Deer Valley Dr NW, Swisher, IA 52338

Welcome New Members

We are very happy to welcome:

Jim and Donna Williams hosted a Russian guest with the last Russian Open World Leadership exchange. Jim works at Midamar Corp., is fluent in many languages and has assisted us with translations in the past. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. Donna enjoys being home, reading, doing needlework, cooking and spending time with their 2 grandchildren, ages 4 and 1 1/2. They have two married children who both live locally. Jim and Donna have traveled extensively in Europe, the Far East, Central and South America.

Kenan and Jill Virleen also hosted a Russian guest with the Russian Open World Leadership exchange in February and they were instrumental in getting many people out on the dance floor at the farewell dinner! Kenan, a former Russian teacher, assisted with translating when needed. Jill is an administrator at Marion Independent Schools. They have traveled extensively in Europe and Asia. They live on a farm north of Mt. Vernon and have one daughter living in Des Moines and a son living in South Carolina.

Lance and Rhonda Miller were the winners of a club membership as a result of attending the Cultural Diversity Festival in Iowa City. They recently moved back to Iowa City to be near family after living in Virginia. Lance spent a year in Paraguay while Rhonda traveled in West Africa. They both worked in Port-Au-Prince with the Mennonite Central Committee from '95-'98 and more recently led a learning tour to Haiti and Nicaragua. They are parents to a 3 yr. old daughter and a 1 1/2 yr. old son. We look forward to meeting the entire family at a meeting soon!

Fred and Ellen Ziska - Many thanks and much gratitude to Fred and Ellen for hosting a Russian guest visiting with the IRIS exchange this month. After an emergency cancellation, they consented to host with less than 24 hours notice!!! Fred works at Rockwell Collins and Ellen is a real estate appraiser. They are currently interested in learning the Russian language to enhance communication with a soon-to-be daughter-in-law who is from Russia! Fred likes to play the saxophone, Ellen enjoys singing and they both like to dance.

Keith and Donna Koch also are hosting a Russian guest visiting through IRIS. Keith and Donna are friends of Dick and Veryl Hansen and also Kenny and Janis Schmitz. Keith is a retired attorney and Donna is a retired teacher. Prior travels have taken them to Turkey, Greece, Italy and Germany. They have traveled extensively in the United States and find themselves in Oklahoma often to visit their daughter and 3 grandchildren.

Additional Travel Opportunities

A Promise of Health (APOH) operates a free health clinic for the Maya Indians of the Yucatan in Mexico. Carl & Mary Carson, FF members have been involved personally with APOH since its start in 2001 and serve on its Board of Directors. Carl remodeled a donated motorhome into a doctor's office and it is being used five days a week, seeing an average of 35 patients a day and giving free medicines. For details check out the website at www.promiseofhealth.org. We are fortunate to have a talented volunteer who donates his time for this website. Right now any pledge of \$10 a month for a year to

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APOH will be matched with a gift of \$100 by the Gilhousen Foundation. Those who might be willing to help can send their pledge to Carl & Mary Carson or to **A Promise of Health, P.O. Box 13639, Salem, Oregon 97309**. Thank you.

Would you like to visit the villages of Merida yourself? Carl and Mary would love to have some FF members join them the first week in February of 2005. Call Carl or Mary at 366-4545

Want to go to India? If Minny Deol Olson, the guest speaker at our January meeting, got you intrigued about India, here's your chance to visit and be home hosted! You will even have the opportunity to ride an elephant! Don Johnston, a member of The Friendship Force of Missouri-St. Louis, will be the Exchange Director for a week of home hosting and tour of Northern India from September 23 - October 8, 2004. The cost is anticipated to be \$2895. Departure will be from Newark and they will return to JFK in New York - ambassadors are responsible for getting themselves to and from New York. For more information, contact Don at 314-843-0541 or email at Skip7603@aol.com

If you are a **"ham" radio enthusiast**, and would be interested in a reciprocal exchange with a similar group of radio operators, contact Peter May at FFI (see website for contact info).

2004 Board of Directors

President	Sally Nelson (319) 857-5296	nelsmaddie@aol.com
Vice President	Stephen & Nancy Williams (319) 447-5761	williams.stephen@mcleodusa.net
Secretary	Joanne Smith (319) 395-9440	jmariesm@msn.com
Treasurer	Steve Miller (319) 393-3580	mytrains@mchsi.com
Directors at Large	Margaret Miller (319) 364-2135 (term ends 12/04)	zrmam@juno.com
	Gerry Stoner (319) 351-9067 (term ends 12.05)	g_stoner@msn.com
Exchange Directors		
<i>To Scotland 5/04</i>	Nancy Miller (319) 393-3580	namrabbit@mchsi.com
<i>Midwest Festival 7/05</i>	Shirley Rosencrans (319) 462-4132	
<i>To Twin Cities 9/05</i>	Margaret Miller (319) 364-2135	zrmam@juno.com
Past Exchange Director	Phyllis Seidl (319) 377-5619	seidlgerald@msn.com
Past Presidents	Pat Klopfenstein (319) 377-5502	v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

IRIS Representatives	Jim and Colleen Nieman (319) 396-5892	nieman.jim@mcleodusa.net
Membership	Richard Miller (319) 364-2135	zrmam@juno.com
	Diane Karal (319) 378-0084	toy4di@msn.com
Communication	Betty Emrich (563) 886-2349	demrich@iowatelecom.net
Newsletter:	Frank and Mary Stull (319) 393-6254,	fpstull@aol.com
Historian:	Mary Carson (319) 366-4545	mcarson484@yahoo.com
Activities:	Margaret Nelson (319) 393-1209	ronnmarg@aol.com
Hospitality:	Jill Rinkenberger (319) 377-5077	krinkenber@aol.com
IRIS	Jim and Colleen Nieman (319) 396-5892	nieman.jim@mcleodusa.net
Russian Open World Leadership:	Vic Klopfenstein (319) 377-5502	v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net

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

Friendship Force 2004 Calendar of Events

- May 11- 18** Outgoing exchange to Glasgow, Scotland
May 13 L.E.O. 6:00 pm at Zio Johno's in Marion - call Joan Jacob for reservations - *ALL ARE WELCOME!*
- June 7** **Board Meeting**, 6:15 pm Metro Grill (Board meetings are open to any member wishing to attend - please RSVP to Sally at 857-5296)
- June 13** **General Meeting & Book trade** @ Beems Auditorium, 2 pm, bring appetizer to share
- June 17-20** Host members of Friendship Force from Northern Illinois in conjunction with brass band festival at Ushers Ferry Village on Saturday, June 19
- August 15** Tri-Club picnic with Dubuque & Quad Cities FF clubs, Murphy Park, Dubuque (details TBA)
- August 28** Inter-club picnic with U of I Friends of International Students at Iowa City Park
- Sept. 15-19** Outgoing domestic exchange to the Twin Cities FF Club - Margaret Miller, Exchg Dir.
Sept/Oct Russian Open World Exchange - "Youth Issues"
- Nov. 4 - 7** Friendship Force International Conference in Los Angeles
November 14 Club Annual dinner 5 pm at "A Touch of Class" Banquet Center 5977 Mt. Vernon Rd

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.*