

CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

July 21, 2004

Greetings from Your President

Sally Nelson

For those members not on our club's email chain, there has been sad news. **Wayne Smith, Friendship Force founder and President of the organization for 24 years, passed away June 16.**

The Reverend David Wayne Smith, age 69, was born in S. Charleston, W. Virginia, and graduated from W. Virginia State College and Union Theological Seminary of Virginia. He served a portion of his ministry in Brazil, establishing the Christian Leadership Movement. In 1979, he became Pres. of The Friendship Force which he founded in 1977 with participation from Pres. Jimmy Carter and Rosalyn Carter. He was instrumental in guiding the organization into new territories like Russia, and most recently, in December 2003, he led a delegation to participate in homestays with Iraqi families in Jordan. George Brown, current Pres. of FFI, said, "Wayne believed that if people could just spend a few days in each other's homes they could become friends; and that if enough people did this, the world would gradually become more peaceful." (*excerpts taken from article published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 6/19/04*). If you are interested in reading more about Wayne Smith, log on to the FFI website. A card was sent from our club to his family as well as a message of condolence to the Atlanta office.

On a more exciting note, our request to host Varel, Germany in 2005 was accepted! The suggested timeframe is August for their arrival, with finer details to be worked out by the Exchange Directors, Ron and Joyce Swanson. If you would like to assist them with planning, please let them know.

For our outgoing exchange, one week in Cairns, Australia in May 2004 has been assigned. I am working with Atlanta to get a second week added to this. I am optimistic this will happen. If you think you may be interested in going to Australia in

2005 and would like to have a voice in the planning process including possible destinations, then NOW is the time to volunteer to be Exchange Director. This is a great way to time the exchange to your needs and possibly even get a free airline ticket! Yes, I said **FREE** - Alan Melkerson of Northern Illinois FF led a delegation of 20+ ambassadors to Australia this month and earned himself a free ticket! There is a wealth of materials and past ED's who are willing to assist in the process.

Thank you to the home hosts and day hosts of the Northern Illinois FF members who were here to support the Northern Illinois Brass Band at Ushers Ferry in June. The brass band festival made for an old-fashioned, enjoyable summer afternoon.

Please take note of early registration deadline of August 6 for a discounted fee to attend the International FFI conference in Los Angeles. (more details inside). Seize the opportunity to attend an International Conference, enjoy California's balmy climate, meet people from all over the world and learn more about our FFI.

I hope many decide to participate in one or both picnics in August detailed inside. The FIS picnic on Aug. 21 is an opportunity to spread the word about FF and attract new members in Iowa City as well as make an international friend - please help!

Thank you to Bernita Walker, Pat Klopfenstein and Janis Schmitz for agreeing to help Steve and Nancy Williams on a nomination committee.



HELP WANTED!

-Enthusiastic person to lead an exchange to Australia in the spring of 2005 - please call Sally Nelson 857-5296. Also, please contact Sally if you are interested in traveling as an ambassador on this exchange.

-Home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, & travel assistance for Russian Open World Exchange to occur September 25 - Oct. 3. If you are able to help, please call Steve Williams, Program Director, at 447-5761

-Board members for 2005 - the nomination committee will soon start the selection process for 2005 board members. If there is a position you would like to help with, please call Steve or Nancy Williams. This is the best way to learn more about our club and to share your ideas!

-Webmaster - someone who enjoys working with computers and is interested in seeing our club have their own website. This person need not be a computer "whiz" but just willing to talk with other clubs and Atlanta and research the process. Call Sally Nelson

Photos from recent exchanges (the last 5 years) - Carl & Mary Carson, are working hard to update and pull together our history in preparation for our 20th Anniversary celebration in 2005. There is a photographic void in recent years. However, when sending photos, PLEASE, provide information about where the activity is taking place and who is in the photo. Mail photos to: Mary Carson 3013 Tiperary Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Let's Eat Out (LEO) Would you like to pick a date and a restaurant and make the reservations for an outing in September? Call Sally Nelson 857-5296. This month's LEO had 39 people enjoying dinner and conversation at Gwen's restaurant in Lisbon.

Friendship Force International Conference



Friendship Force 28th International Conference November 4-7, 2004 Los Angeles, California

A Special Invitation to all Friendship Force Members

Reach For The Stars! - A time to look to the future, strive for the highest ideals, and follow what is the most meaningful to us in our involvement with FFI.

The Conference will take place at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills, California. The early registration deadline is August 6, final registration deadline is September 3. Space is limited, so don't delay! All inclusive package is \$550, it jumps to \$575 after Aug. 6. Price without hotel is \$395 and \$420. Optional tours and homestays are priced separately and require advance reservations. Homestays are being offered in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Orange County and Kern County.

A downloadable registration packet is available at the FFI website (www.friendshipforce.org). If you prefer a printed registration packet, email your request to conf@friendshipforce.org with your complete mailing address or call Sally Nelson for assistance.

August Picnics

Tri-Club Picnic with Dubuque and Quad Cities FF Clubs

Sunday, August 15, 2004 1:00 p.m.

Eagle Point park @ Shiras Memorial cabin (right above the lock & dam)



The menu will be brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, chips and dessert. Coffee and lemonade will be provided, if you prefer another beverage, feel free to bring one. We will start eating approx. 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$4.00 each - please **call your reservation in to Tom Meaney at 563-582-5155 or email to "tommeaney@aol.com" by August 12.**

If you would like to extend your day, consider joining those who will be going on to the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens for

Dubuque Winds concert at 6 P.M. The Dubuque Club will also be entertaining their Australian ambassadors visiting from the Sunshine Coast.

Directions: If you come into Dubuque from the south on Locust St., continue on to Loras Blvd. and turn right for 4 blocks to White St., turn left and go 6 blocks to 20th St., turn right and follow 20th around to the left as it turns into Rhomberg Ave. at the 2nd stop light. Follow Rhomberg for 18 block (2 blocks past Roosevelt) until you reach Shiras Ave. Turn left on Shiras and the Eagle Point gate will be the first turn to the right, about 2 blocks. Entrance to the park is \$1/car then follow the signs to Shiras Memorial

Friends of International Students (FIS) Picnic

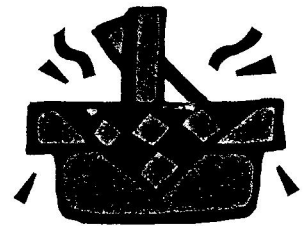
Saturday, August 21, 2004, 4-6 PM

City Park, Iowa City, Shelter 6, (Lower City Park, first shelter on the left)

[From I-80 take the Dubuque Street exit south to Park Road (across from Hancher Auditorium)]

Details: FIS is an organization that supports cultural exchange between American Friends and international Students. This picnic is open to those friends and students who are already matched and those who are interested in being matched.

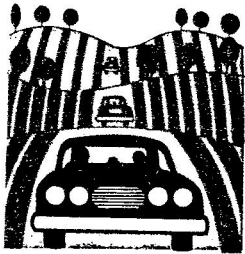
Friendship Force will have a table set up to distribute information and answer questions. **This is an opportune time to "spread the word" about our club to the Iowa City area. Please, consider attending and help spread the word.** Bring a dish or two to share (students do not bring anything) - drinks and table service are provided. Come join us for this great Fall Get-Together!



To get more information about City Park, please go to www.icgov.org. You will be able to see a map of City Park by clicking on *Maps* in the red line directly under the top blue tabs, then clicking on *Park Maps*, then *under Listing of Parks*, under *Northwest* click on *City Park*. If you don't know where City Park is located, click on *Location Map*, and then click on *City Park Map Including Facilities* to find the location of Shelter 6.

Travel Opportunities

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



There is still room available for a few more ambassadors to join us!

The exchange will include the Renaissance Festival, sightseeing, and hopefully fall foliage. Total Cost: \$75 - call Margaret Miller 364-2135 to sign up or with questions.

VIETMAN - Laurie-Ann Scott, FFI Coordinator of U.S. Field Representatives will be leading this exchange immediately following the International Conference in Los

Angeles. The cost is \$2195 for two weeks, ALL INCLUSIVE (except insurance): airfare to & from Los Angeles, all interior flights, 4 nights homestay with the Ha Noi Friendship Force, 8 nights hotel during touring with an English speaking guide, all meals, tips, and baggage handling and the FF fee. Single supplement is \$325. Peter May, FFI Program Coordinator in Atlanta, has lived in Vietnam and has much praise for the -beauty of the country, the warm, friendly, welcoming people, and some of the best food in the world!

For more information, please call Laurie Ann (402-488-1915) or e-mail (lalpscott@aol.com).

YUCATAN - This is not a Friendship Force exchange, but an opportunity club members Carl and Mary Carson would like to share with you. With the help of AAA, they have organized two separate tours to see A Promise of Health, the mobile medical clinic which they have been instrumental in getting off the ground. The seven-day cruise will depart from Galveston, TX on Jan. 30, 2005 and include ports of call of Progreso, Cozumel and Belize City. Cruise package is \$1250/ea incl airfare, or \$780 w/o air). A land tour is Feb. 1 - Feb. 6; and costs \$725/ea w/o air. Carl and Mary will meet the cruise ship at Progreso and the land tour in Merida and accompany each group on a tour to the village of Huhi to see the mobile medical clinic. Call Carl or Mary Carson, 366-4545 or Nycole Rydell, AAA Travel 395-7325 for details.

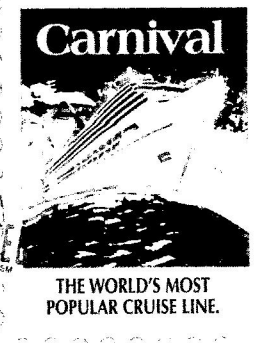
OTHER EXCHANGES And, there are many more 2004 Friendship Force exchanges that still have openings to destinations such as Brazil (many different cities), Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Russia, Ukraine, and Taiwan. More information on these exchanges are on FFI website, or you can call Sally Nelson.

AUSTRALIA - (Our 2005 Outgoing exchange) - LET'S GO "DOWN UNDER"

Tell all your friends about this travel opportunity - it's not too early to start planning for this spring destination. Please call Sally if you are even a little bit interested at this point. (857-5296). Cairns, Australia is the destination with a 2nd week of homestay still to be assigned. May is the assigned month for this exchange, but may be flexible. Following is area information taken from the club's website:

Cairns is a tropical area with mountains, major national parks, tropical beaches, tidal wetlands, freshwater lakes, mudflats, mangrove swamps, bays, rivers, estuaries, rich coastal plains and The Great Barrier Reef. Geographically Cairns is located 1700 km north of Brisbane on the East Coast of Australia. Tourism is Cairns' foremost industry, followed by sugar and commercial fishing. The dry Season runs from May to October, the best time to be in Cairns with warm days and cooler nights. Population, approx. 130,000 is multicultural. If you would like more information, check out the website for yourself at: <http://www.geocities.com/~apecsfriend/Cairns.htm>

A Promise of Health



**Carnival Elation 7 night Western Itinerary
Sailing from Galveston Texas on January 30, 2005
Ports of call: Progresso, Cozumel and Belize City**

Experience a special tour provided by a local guide and Mr. & Mrs. Carson to Huhi.
Visiting the clinic in Huhi and Merida City.
Enjoy snorkeling, sightseeing and shopping in Cozumel.
You may wish to take a tour of the Mayan Ruins in Belize.

Rates are \$729.00 per person for the 1st and 2nd passengers in each cabin.

Included in the above rates are:

- ✕ All taxes, port charges and insurance are included.
- ✕ Tour to Huhi at the port of call in Progresso
- ✕ Casual dining at the Lido Restaurant and 24 hour Pizzeria
- ✕ Captain's gala dinner and cocktail party
- ✕ Supervised Camp Carnival program for children
- ✕ Wide range of entertainment, including different Vegas styled shows every night at sea
- ✕ Singles cocktail party
- ✕ Nautica Spa program and three pools
- ✕ Full Casino, including table games and slots
- ✕ Onboard duty-free shopping and dozens of fun activities
- ✕ Fine dining, including late night buffets and 24 hour room service
- ✕ Gala midnight buffet

What a better way to experience cruising than to travel with someone you trust. If you need airfare or additional travel arrangements please call me for further details. Deposits of \$100.00 per person are due at time of booking to hold your space.

**Nicole Rydell, AAA Travel
1519 42nd St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 395-7325 direct
(800) 222-1333 and ask for the Cedar Rapids office
Nicole.Rydell@mn-ia.aaa.com
(Rates are based on a minimum of 10cabins)**



A Promise of Health Treasures of the Yucatan

6 Days

February 1 - February 6

Rates are \$725.00 per person based on double occupancy.

Merida, Uxmal, Kabah, plus the ruins at Chichen Itza and Celestun.

****Included: American breakfast daily, taxes, baggage handling, gratuities and insurance.****

Day 1 (Tuesday) - Upon arrival in Merida, transfer to your hotel the Hotel El Conquistador. This day is at your leisure to meet with other passengers on your tour and take in the sights of Merida. You may wish to take part in the big band music of the 40's that will be playing in Santiago Park or enjoy Trovo night at the Olimpo.

Day 2 (Wednesday) - Enjoy a complete American breakfast at your hotel followed by a city tour of Merida. Later take the excursion to Kabah visiting the Temple of the Masks, Temple of Columns and the famous Maya Arch. Enjoy Uxmal, considered by the connoisseurs as the most beautiful of all Mayan cities, where you will admire the perfection of the Nunnery Quadrangle, climb the steep gradins of the Temple of the Sorcerer with its particular echo, and awe at the beauty of the Palace of the Governor, and the House of Turtles. Then we will attend the magnificent Light & Sound performance in Uxmal.

Day 3 (Thursday) - Today we drive across the Yucatan lowland, with it's peculiar vegetation, past tiny Mayan villages and through *henequen* plantations - the famous *sisal* fibre which made some of Yucatan's great fortunes at the turn of the 19th century. On to the impressive archaeological site of Chichen-Itza, one of the largest in the Americas. Our visits will include the classical Maya, as well as the Maya-Toltec sectors, with such landmarks as the Observatory, Kukulcan Pyramid, the Ball Game Court and the Thousand Columns' Hall. When Chichen-Itza was first settled it was largely agricultural. Because of the many *cenotes* in the area, it would have seemed a good place to settle. Tonight you may want to enjoy an evening of open air concert downtown Merida featuring Yucatecan dreads, dance, music and folklore.

Day 4 (Friday) - This day we will go through, incredibly narrow country roads until reaching the Gulf of Mexico coast, and the fisherman's village of Celestun. Here we shall embark in small motorboats that will take us through the marshes and mangroves of the marvelous coastal inlet, allowing us to watch an unusually rich variety of wildlife. The high point of this outing will be, of course, our approach to several large flamingo colonies (best time is March - August), which have made their home of this estuary. It will be an unforgettable experience to watch these sophisticated, stylized birds, elegantly flying over the water surface, tinging the entire seascape with the vivid colors of their pink-and-orange plumage.

Day 5 (Saturday) - Experience an all day tour provided by a local guide and Mr. & Mrs. Carson to Huhu, visiting the local clinic in Huhu. Other activities will be disclosed at a later date. This last night in Merida you may want to enjoy the Fiesta Mexicana on Paseo de Montejo.

Day 6 (Sunday) - Time this morning to relax in your hotel before heading back to the airport. A transfer will be offered for your return flight home, the time is to be determined based on flight schedules.

What a better way to experience the Yucatan Maya than to travel with someone you trust. Please give me a call for further details and assistance with airfare from your departure city. Deposits of \$200.00 per person are due at time of booking to hold your space.

**Nicole Rydell, AAA Travel
1519 42nd St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 395-7325 direct**

**(800) 222-1333 and ask for the Cedar Rapids office
Nicole.Rydell@mn-ia.aaa.com**

**(Rates are based on a minimum of 12 couples)
(Itinerary is subject to change based on availability and participants)**

Copies of our club's newly revised bylaws are now available. Contact Sally Nelson to have a copy emailed to you or to receive a hardcopy.

2004 Board of Directors

President	Sally Nelson (319) 857-5296	nelismaddie@aol.com
Vice President	Stephen & Nancy Williams (319) 447-5761	williams.stephen@mcleoudusa.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 9/04</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.

If there is something you would like to see published in the next newsletter, contact Frank or Mary Stull

An Old Irish Blessing

***May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you.
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.***

Friendship Force 2004 Calendar of Events

- August 15** Tri-Club picnic with Dubuque & Quad Cities FF clubs, Dubuque Eagle Point Park @ Shiras Memorial cabin
- August 21** Inter-club picnic with U of I Friends of International Students (FIS)
4-6 pm City Park, Iowa City, Shelter 6, (Lower City Park, first shelter on the left)
- August 23** Scholarship Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13** FF Board Meeting, 6 pm,
- Sept. 15-19** Outgoing domestic exchange to the Twin Cities FF Club - Margaret Miller, Exchg Dir.
- Sept 25 - Oct. 3** 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.*