

CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

September 12, 2005

Greetings from Your Presidents, Steve & Nancy Williams

A special piece of information:

Some of our club members have family or friends in the hurricane stricken area. Don and Liz Underwood have a son and his family in the immediate New Orleans area. No doubt, many others have connections.

The Baton Rouge Friendship Force Club, the only club in Louisiana, has offered to find homes for people coming to work in the area. George Brown FFI executive sent out the information by email this week. Baton Rouge FF has a web site and the president is listed as

Jeanne George at jlgeorge@bellsouth.net. Another example of the openness and caring of our members around the world.

Varel has come and gone. Thanks to all of the membership for outstanding attendance at the barbeque at Steve and Nancy Millers and at the Farewell dinner. Thanks to Sally Nelson for a great job as ED. Sally stepped in late for the Swanson's after they moved and completed another great mission. As always, Sally sets a high standard for the rest of us. In addition, Ron and Joyce Swanson came back from Kansas City to day host and help.

Weren't the Germans fun to be with? Nancy and I did not home host this time, but being day hosts and being with the group was a fun experience. These people know how to have a good time. I was reminded again of the fun times they have playing Street Ball. Anyone have a heavy ball? Vic can be the instructor as he was champ in Germany.

Moving on to two big events:

- 1) We need home hosts for the Mystery Exchange October 7-9. Only two nights with folks who know how to speak Midwestern. About 20 homes are needed. Contact Mary Stull, ED, fpstull@aol.com
- 2) October 15 -23, eight ambassadors and two facilitators, plus two interpreters arrive from Russia for the Open World experience in economic development. Colleen Nieman nieman.jim@mcleodusa.net is in charge of host homes and Vic Klopfenstein is ED. vklopfenstein@worldnet.att.net.

Keep the good times rolling. Thanks for all the support we have felt this year, but remember it's still mid September. Vic is filling committees and offices for next year. Good time to volunteer!!

NEWS/REQUESTS FROM ATLANTA HEADQUARTERS:

FFI has a new digital photo archiving system. Please send all digital images and encourage club members to send photos to Lauren Tepley at ltepley@friendshipforce.org. Quality guidelines: please sort through your photos and send pictures which depict the spirit of FFI. For instance, a picture of the Hanover club having a picnic in Matsuyama under cherry blossom trees gives a better picture of the exchange than a group photo shot.

The Friendship Force of Malang continues their efforts to support 46 Indonesian students orphaned or otherwise affected by last December's tsunami disaster in Banda Aceh. There has been good response from concerned Friendship Force members and clubs around the world who have donated close to \$8,000. There are still many students without any family or finances to finish their studies and they need support. If you would like more information about the project or would like to sponsor a particular student, please email Ismah at ismah@indo.net.id.

Humanitarian missions to Cuba, are being organized by Friendship Force with ambassadors participating in a restoration project in assisted living communities in Havana and Santa Clara. Take advantage of this special opportunity to travel legally to Cuba and participate in a wonderful program.. Work project does not require skills. Please contact Peter May at FFI, or visit the following webpage: <http://www.friendshipforce.org/Events/Cuba.html>

OOPS – THANK YOU FRANK & MARY STULL!!!!

I would like to give a very big thank you to Frank & Mary Stull for preparing all of the maidrites for the Midwest Festival picnic in July. It was probably one of the hottest days of the year, but the friendship and food was great. Thanks, again, you two for sweatin' it out. -Shirley Rosencrans, Midwest Festival ED

Auf Weidersehen

On Aug. 30, we said good-bye to 16 German friends from the Varel Friendship Force Club. The week started with a little disappointment when all of them were not able to get on the flight in Ottawa, Canada to arrive here in time for the welcome barbeque. However, the rest of the week went off without a hitch and I received nothing but rave reviews by the ambassadors about their hosts and likewise from the hosts about their ambassadors. There were two host families who were able to continue friendships made a couple of years ago by hosting the same people who hosted them in Germany. There were a couple ambassadors who were experiencing their first home hosting and members of our club who were hosting their first Friendship Force exchange. Personally, I enjoyed getting back to a "Friendship Force" exchange, where the focus is on making friends as opposed to an Open World hosting focused on business and occupations. It was my observation that friendships were indeed made and fun was had by all. A HUGE thank you to the many people who helped make this exchange possible, especially the home hosts and day hosts and dinner hosts. Please read the commentary below from the Schultes and the Youngbears. They had a hosting arrangement that may work for others also.

In friendship, Sally Nelson, ED

We (The Schultes and Youngbears) co-hosted two of the German Ambassadors and the experience was wonderful. The Schulte's were the night host and the Youngbears were day host. When possible, we did things together with our guests during the evening and over the weekend.

By co-hosting you are given a little break during the week, which can be very tiring if the full burden is on you. This arrangement would work great for people who are working but would like to night host and not worry about finding a day host all the time.

The other advantage is for the ambassadors. They get a chance to fully experience two different families without having to pack up and move. Our German Ambassadors liked the arrangement so well they were going to take the idea back to their club to give their members another option when hosting. Co-hosting is an excellent way for two host families to experience the joy of guests without having to take all the responsibility.

—George & Stephanie Schulte and Ervin & Tressa Youngbear

Celebrate 20 Years!!!

The 20th anniversary of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Area chapter of Friendship Force will be celebrated at our annual meeting on Sunday evening, November 13, 2005. The meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Clarion Hotel, just off 33rd Ave. in Cedar Rapids. It will feature a sit-down dinner with choice of roast beef or chicken, with potato, vegetable, salad, rolls, butter and beverage. A cash bar will be available. The beef dinner will cost \$17.00 and chicken will be \$18.00 each, which includes tax and gratuity. Please invite prospective members and former members with whom you are still in contact.

The guest speaker will be Bill Mueller from Cedar Rapids. Bill is founder and director of REAP International. REAP stands for Rural Enterprises Adaptation Program, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help stabilize villages in Russia with a focus on youth. This will be of particular interest with our outgoing exchange to St. Petersburg and Latvia. Further details and reservation forms will be forthcoming in the next newsletter but please mark your calendar now for this special event.

Everyone Loves a Mystery - Hosting October 7-9, 2005 (continued)

Friday, October 7, welcome guests at 4:30; potluck dinner at 5:30 pm, First United Methodist Church 12th Street and 8th Avenue, Marion. After dinner, hosts and guest head home to get acquainted.

10 am Saturday, October 8, docent-guided tour of Grant Wood's studio, 5 Turner Alley – behind Turner Funeral Home at 8th Street & 2nd Avenue SE, followed by viewing of Grant Wood's American Gothic at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Avenue SE. Cost is \$13 or \$10 for seniors (62)

3 pm attend the play, *It Runs in the Family*, at Old Creamery Theater, Main Amana
 About the play: From the writer of great farces such as *Out of Order* and *Caught in the Net*, this play is just what the doctor ordered. You'll want to check into this crazy hospital full of farcical nuts running in and out of doors, mistaking everybody for someone else.
Cost for the play is \$16. We must pay for play tickets by September 23

5:30 social, 6 pm dinner Ox Yoke Inn, Main Amana. Enjoy a popular eastern Iowa tradition, a three-meat, family-style Amana dinner with dessert and get acquainted with our guests. Cost is \$20.

Yes, I want to help - Please check all the events you will attend:

Home host: indicate: couple, single or 2 singles _____

Help host welcome potluck; _____ Day host Saturday activities _____

Number Attending	Total Cost	
_____	n/c	Welcome Potluck. Bring two dishes to share
_____ x \$13 or \$10	_____	American Gothic Studio and Museum Tour
_____ x \$16	_____	Old Creamery Theater, Amana, <i>It Runs in the Family</i>
_____ x \$20	_____	Dinner at Ox Yoke Inn, Main Amana (if you are hosting, no charge, your guest will treat you to dinner)
Total enclosed \$ _____		
Name _____		Phone: _____
Send your check payable to Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force by September 23 to Mary Stull, 5819 Golden Court NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 Phone: 393-6254		

Friends, you and me - - You brought another friend and then there were three. We started our group. Our circle of friends . . . There is no beginning or end.



Russian Open World Hosting October 15 – 23, 2005

We have received details of the delegates & facilitators for our next Open World Program. There will be 8 women (28 - 45 years of age) and 2 men (30 & 53 yrs old). They will arrive Saturday, October 15 (mid-afternoon) and leave Sunday morning,, October 23rd. The Theme is Economic Development and all delegates have an interest in this field and are very well educated. Colleen Nieman is arranging for hosts – please call her at 396-5892 if you would enjoy hosting.

Remember, with an Open World hosting, your guest is at a business during the day, and your help is needed basically to drop them off in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day.

Mark your calendar for the following all-member events:

Tuesday October 18 - an Iowa Picnic with hosts, Open World guests, speakers and members (Catered Rib Dinner - \$7.50 each) at Eagle Ridge Community Bldg 1st Bldg just north of the Microtel Hotel on Hwy 13 at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP by Monday, October 17th.

Friday, October 22 - The Gala Farwell & Awards Ceremony at the Prairie Hill Pavilion just north of the Microtel and Eagle Ridge on the left on Kacena Ave. & Hwy 13. Dave Hamm, who has been to Russia & the Ukraine will be the DJ Entertainment with a terrific mix of Ruski & Americanski music for our listening & dancing pleasure! Open Bar at 6:00 p.m., turkey & roast beef buffet at 7:00. Cost: \$13.50 each, RSVP necessary by Wednesday, Oct. 19.

RSVP's can be sent to Margaret Miller at 364-2135 or e-mail at zmam@juno.com

Call Program Director, Vic Klopfenstein at 377-5502 if you have any questions.

Thank you for Midwest Magic and the Mighty Mississippi Festival Hospitality

The following letter was received from a couple who attended the Midwest Magic and the Mighty Mississippi Festival in July:

“ The Witheringtons left the Atlanta airport on July 14 for a 12 day Friendship Force Festival in Iowa, with an optional 3 day extension to Chicago. It was absolutely GREAT. We joined FF people from Tennessee, North Carolina, Japan, Colorado, California, Canada, Texas, Missouri and other areas.

We especially enjoyed the Dubuque and Cedar Rapids areas; picnics, dinner parties, sweet corn, great Iowa and Kansas steaks, Iowa pork, the musical GREASE, a visit to the Herbert Hoover Library and Museum, a visit to the John Deere Pavilion, the River Experience Museum, a Czech museum and Festival, a two day River Cruise on the Mighty Mississippi, and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Festival had an optional three day Chicago extension which we took and cannot understand why people visit New York rather than Chicago, where they have huge department stores, great museums, an aquarium, planetarium, theatre district, professional sports, Chinatown, a very clean city with boat rides, parks, fountains and flowers everywhere, all overlooking Lake Michigan and best of all, very friendly people.

This is our second Festival and we sincerely hope FFI will continue them. We also believe a domestic exchange between Lake Hartwell and the Quad Cities area should be explored some time in the near future”

-Marilyn and Ralph Witherington



Mark Your Calendars!!!!

Sept. 19	Board Meeting
October 7-9	Domestic hosting
Oct. 15 - 23	Open World Hosting: Oct. 17 – Picnic RSVP needed Oct 19 – Farewell event RSVP due
Nov 3-6	Int'l Conf. in Sao Paulo, Brazil
Nov. 13	Annual Mtg/ Club 20th Anniv. Celebration
March 1, 2006	World Friendship Day Celebration

Board of Directors:

Co- Presidents--	Steve/Nancy Williams swill1234@msn.com	447-5761
Vice-President	Victor Klopfenstein v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net	377-5502
Secretary	Doris Faas ddfaas@msn.com	857-4177
Treasurer	Winston Edson Wdedson1@msn.com	393-8053
Directors at Large	Gerry Stoner (12-05) g_stoner@msn.com	351-9067
(Two Year Terms)	Dianne Karal (12-06) toy4di@msn.com	378-0084
Exchange Directors (2005)	Phyllis Seidl (St. Petersburg, Latvia 2006) Seidl.Gerald@msn.com	377-5619
Past Exchange Director	Phyllis Seidl	
Past President	Sally Nelson nelsmaddie@aol.com	857-5296
Membership	Richard and Margaret Miller zrmam@aol.com	364-2135
Communications	Betty Emrich demrich@iowatelecom.net	886-2349
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	Jill Rinkenberger krinkenber@aol.com	377-5077
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	Sally Nelson (publication) nelsmaddie@aol.com	857-5296

The Friendship Force

Frank & Mary Stull
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Mission Statement:

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