

# The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids / Iowa City

## President's Message

We have fourteen ambassadors arriving from San Cristobal, Chiapas Mexico. The excitement is building as **Colleen Nieman** and her team of exchange activity and host families finalize the last minute details. We anticipate their arrival on July 9 for the one week exchange but the flight details have not yet been received. A full schedule of fun and interesting activities are in this newsletter. Join the group when you can to feel part of this exchange..

Call **Colleen** at **319-396-5892** and volunteer to help. I am sure she has a job you could do. Become involved in this very special way of making international friendships. It helps us expand ourselves to experience first hand the joy of discovering how much we have in common with people of a different race or culture. Let's all get together and show a warm welcome by having a good turnout for each activity. Then we can share our joys, stories, and memories at our next quarterly meeting Sunday, August 9th at Jones Park in Cedar Rapids. It will be 11 AM to 4 PM and we will eat at noon.

Jim Nieman, President

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**Facts In Brief...** The incoming exchange group from Chiapas, Mexico will be arriving July 9! Homes are still needed for ambassadors. Let Colleen know if you are able to home host or day host by calling her at 319-396-5892. Thanks!

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## Make Your Reservations Now!

**Reserve your spot at the July 15 Farewell Dinner for our friends from Chiapas, Mexico.**

**Date: Wed., July 15**  
**Time: 6:00 social**  
**6:30 dinner**  
**Place: Ox Yoke Inn**  
**Amana**  
**Cost: \$15.00**

**Send reservations by July 3 to:**

**Sue Denham Jordt**  
**49 Koser Ave..**  
**Iowa City, IA 52246**

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Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners @ \$15 ea.  
for:

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## **1998 Mexican Friendship Force Exchange - July 9 - 16**

We need several hosts for the ambassadors from San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico scheduled for July 9 - 16, 1998. San Cristobal De Las Casas is a city in central Chiapas, Mexico's most southerly state. Bordering the Pacific Ocean and Guatemala, it is situated on the central plateau at about 7000 feet above sea level. Chiapas is a leading agricultural and livestock state and is the chief producer of coffee and cacao. Chiapas is famous for some of the most important archaeological sites of the classic Mayan period. In addition, San Cristobal has many colonial buildings dating to its founding in 1527.

Los Mexicanos will arrive in Cedar Rapids on July 9 but arrival time has not yet been determined. We will host them the first week of a three week exchange for them. The second and third weeks will be in Lincoln and Omaha. Note our schedule:

**Thursday, July 9:** Formal welcome by club and host families at the airport. A potluck dinner may follow depending on time of arrival. Ambassadors will need time to relax at homes.

**Friday, July 10:** Community welcome. We will be greeted by a representative at the Cedar Rapids Mayor's office. From there we will stroll down to Theatre Cedar Rapids for a tour. Lunch will be at the Dragon Cafe. (Club members will be at their own expense.) At 2:15 we will tour Bruce more. (\$4.00 for non-exchange guests, except for Bruce more membership holders) The day will conclude with dessert and coffee at Zindrick's Restaurant in Czech Village.

**Saturday, July 11:** Free day with hosts. Home hosts are encouraged to show ambassadors some of the sights and how you and your family live.

**Sunday, July 12:** Free day with hosts. Enjoy the gifts God has sent us.

**Monday, July 13:** Iowa City Day. We will begin with a tour of the hospital with Spanish speaking tour guides. Following will be a walking tour of the Field House and dinner at the Quad cafeteria. As in all activities our guests lunch is paid for and the hosts will pay for their own. At 1:30 we will tour the Old Capitol building and finish up the day with the Natural History Museum.

**Tuesday, July 14:** "Solon Day" will start at Stone Academy (an 1850 one room school house) and then tour St. Peter and Paul Church which is part of the National Historic Registry. Pasta, salads, and kolaches will be supplied by Susan Zacharakis-Jutz. Cost is \$6.00. After lunch Susan will give us a brief description on how they grow and market fresh organic products. A farm tour will include the gardens and goat dairy herd. She will have 4-H members helping.

**Wednesday, July 15:** Free day with hosts. Farewell party at the Ox Yoke Inn at 6:00 P.M.. See front page for details.

**Thursday, July 16:** Depart for Lincoln, Nebraska. Travel arrangement to be finalized.

As you can see, we are planning a good ol' Iowa welcome for our friends from Chiapas. We hope you will join us for some or all of the activities. Please call Colleen Nieman if you have questions: 319-306-5802.

## **Board Meeting Items June 17, 1998**

### **Friendship Force Board and Committees Meet at C.R. Country Kitchen**

At the June 17 meeting of the Board and Exchange Committees, reports were made on recent and upcoming events as follows:

**Rita Maher** reported on her trip representing our club at the San Francisco FF Festival April 29 - May 6. Wayne Smith was a featured speaker and as an aside mentioned his dogs, Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara! The International Festival this fall will be in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Gerry Stoner** reported on attending the Heartland Regional Conference April '18. Fundraising ideas were a major topic. Another idea was to create a web-site for our club to attached to the international FF website. Any volunteers? Call Jim Nieman if you could do this for us. The phrase "Friendship Is a Force" was promoted.

**Mary Stull** reported on the Germany Belgium exchange. The twelve who went had a wonderful time with experienced and very caring clubs. Mary and the others will be eager to share their experiences at future meetings. Join us on August 9 to hear more.

**Mary Carson** reported that the Reno-Tahoe domestic exchange has been canceled due to lack of ambassadors from there. It seems they are very busy with incoming international groups.

**The next quarterly Cedar Rapids/Iowa City meeting will be a potluck dinner at Jones Park on Sunday noon, August 9. 1999 International FF dues:**  
The International membership dues are being increased by \$3 per person or \$5 per couple next year to cover increasing operating cost. This will be discussed at our annual meeting in November.