

Incoming Journey from Spokane, Washington

May 26-June 4, 2026

Ambassador Coordinators, Jerry & Carol Burke

From May 26 to June 4, Spokane, WA journeyed to the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Club. The week started with a tour of Cedar Rapids organized by Nancy York. We visited the Grant Wood studio and the Veterans Memorial window in addition to a tour of Cedar Rapids. The African American Museum and History Center were other stops.

The day ended with the welcome party at the Wickiup Conservation Park where we enjoyed dinner hosted by Shirley Rosencrans.



Australia-New Zealand Reunion Group

Another highlight of the evening was the gathering of all the members who had journeyed to Australia and New Zealand. In addition to our own members, guests from northern Iowa, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Spokane were able to join us.



Posing with Garb in Grant Wood Painting

On Saturday the group journeyed to Iowa City where cohosts Christine Allen and Connie Williams led a tour of the Harvest Preserve after which they had lunch downtown and then toured the Stanley Museum of Art.

Sunday was a free day during which hosts and guests could explore whatever they chose. Places visited included a peony farm, Backbone State Park, Amish territory and the Frank Lloyd Wright house.



Harvest Preserve

Monday was Kalona Day hosted by Jim Stegall. Everyone enjoyed the talk led by a former Mennonite gentleman, the Kalona Museum, dinner at a Mennonite home, and a visit with the buggy maker and casket maker. Many also stopped at the creamery for a treat on the way home.



Casket Making Shop



Dinner in a Mennonite Home



Buggy Making Shop

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Tuesday was Camp Courageous Day hosted by Jerry Burke. A golf cart tour of the facility followed an interesting talk by the new administrator.

Next, we visited the Field of Dreams where those who wanted to could try their skill hitting the baseball on the famous diamond. Then a member of the Ghost Players gave an interesting talk about the history of the movie site. The day concluded with a stop at the Camp Courageous Garage Sale in Manchester and information about Manchester and its white water park.



Camp Courageous



Ghost player at Field of Dreams



The week ended with another Cedar Rapids Day hosted by Nancy York and Shirley Rosencrans. This time we visited Brucemore, the Mother Mosque, and then had lunch and toured Kirkwood Community College, including the Katz Family Healthcare Simulation Center.

The Farewell Party was held that evening at Clarke Alumni House at Coe College. Two ambassadors gave an entertaining skit on seniors using tech.



Skit on seniors tech challenges



Simulation Center

Ambassadors: Joe & Rachel Brabeck, Spokane hosted by Jerry and Carol Burke; Beth & Randy Tetzlaff, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas hosted by Marty Novak; Joe Robustelli and Becky Reid, Aurora, Colorado hosted by Connie and Myron Williams; Peggy & Tom Best, Spokane, Washington hosted by Rex & Sandra Meyer; Sheryl Damron, Spokane Washington and Judy Cagle, Baldwin, Missouri hosted by Patty Potter; Lory Miller, Spokane, Washington hosted by Marilyn Benge; Sandra Wetzell, Ashland, Oregon hosted by Barb & Jim Steggall; John Kaiser, Cheyenne, Wyoming hosted by George & Stephanie Schulte; Additional visitors Judy Keetle and Sharre Jahde, Lincoln, Nebraska; and Su Evens, Joice, Iowa.