FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB OF CEDAR RAPIDS & IOWA CITY

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome November and Goodbye as President!

November is the month of Thanksgiving and along with that comes gratitude. For me I certainly have a lot for which to be thankful. My board members, including Patty, Jean, Tom, Barb, Judy, Gretchen, Sandra, Mary, Marilyn, Lynda and Shirley, who have given me support, advice and kept me in line, John who gets out the newsletter each month, Connie who keeps us informed about the happenings of FFI, Jerry for making sure we have the information for our events through SignUp Genius and all the members who attend our events and offer suggestions for increasing and improving. Without this group, our club would be lifeless but instead is filled with fun and excitement. I am grateful to all our club members who see the need to promote peace by becoming friends with others both domestically and internationally. Thank you all for being friends!

I wish Patty and her new board the success and help that I had throughout the year.

Stephanie Schulte 2026 Club President

CALANDER OF EVENTS

November 8	*Annual Meeting Lawrence Anamosa Community Center 1PM*
November 20	*Club Zoom Trivia 7:00 PM*
May 20-27, 2027	*Inbound Journey from NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST*
June 22-29, 2027	*Outbound Journey to SPOKANE*
Aug/Sept 2027	*Outbound Journey to GEORGIA/AZERBAIJAN*
Sept 12-16, 2027	*50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE IN PORTO, PORTUGAL*

Annual Meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FFC

The date, time and place of the annual meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FFC have been set. It will be at the **Lawrence Anamosa Community Center, 600 East Main St, Anamosa, IA 52205. The date is November 8 at 1PM**. There will be wonderful catered chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, rolls & butter from Sally's on Broadway. The cost will be $20.00. During the meeting election of officers will be held.

The following is a list of those nominated for the elected offices.

President	Patty Potter
President Elect	Sandy Meyer
Treasurer	Tom Hess
Secretary	Marilyn Benge

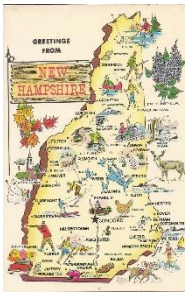
The following are the people on the board and the position they have agreed to fill.

Journey Coordinator	Gretchen Dixon
Activities Coordinator	Shirley Rosencraz
Communications	Lynda Bordwell
Membership	Barb Steggall
Director at Large	TBD

Journey Calander by Gretchen Dixon

To get involved contact Gretchen Dixon

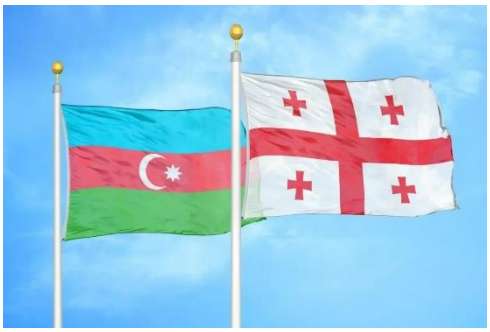
gretchen1218@gmail.com 319-491-6123



May 20TH-27TH 2027 - **INBOUND from NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST** #27312 Christine Allen is Host Coordinator. More specific info will be coming. If you are interested in this journey contact Christine callenivy@gmail.com. 319-330-3536



June 22ND- 29TH 2027 - **OUTBOUND to SPOKANE** #27305 Marilyn Benge is the Ambassador Coordinator. More specific info will be coming. If you are interested in this journey contact marilynlmbenge@southslope.net 319-540-2114



AUG/SEPT 2027 - **OUTBOUND TO GEORGIA/AZERBAIJAN** - Mary Ann and Larry Nelson are the Ambassador Coordinators. Initial Contacts have been made, and more specific info will be coming. If you are interested in this journey, contact Larry or Mary Ann. mailto:mrsmanelson@gmail.com 319-899-2681 or mrlwnelson@gmail.com 319-362-8078

I you are interested in going to the 50th anniversary conference in Portugal, let Gretch know. Maybe we can coordinate our travel. gretchen1218@gmail.com 319-491-6123

SAVE THE DATE
to celebrate

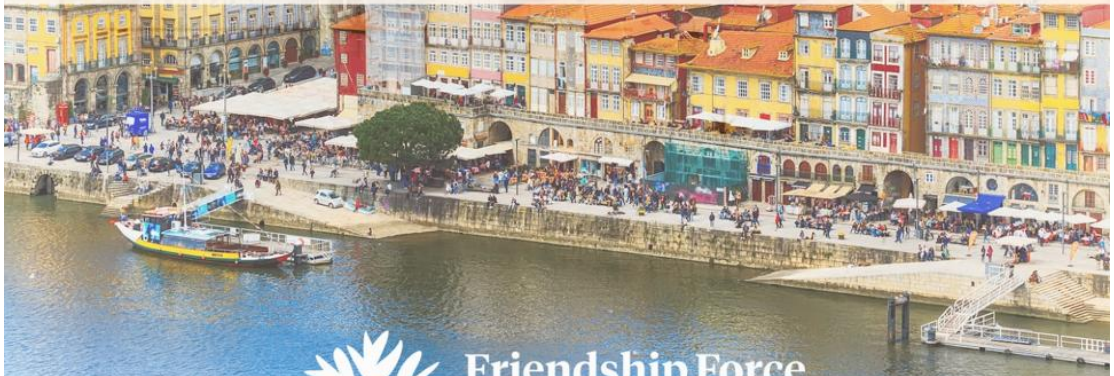
50
YEARS
of Friendship



SEPTEMBER
13-16, 2027

PORTO,
PORTUGAL

MORE INFO
COMING SOON



Friendship Force
International
Building Global Unity

ZOOM TRIVIA NIGHT



The next Trivia Night will be November 20 at 7:00 PM. Look for the email invitation to participate. If you have never joined us, give it a try. It is a fun time with friends, and you might just learn something.

General Meeting October 18



There was a General Meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship

Force Club at the Hiawatha Public Library. There was a presentation of the recent club journey to Peru. Thank you to everyone who presented, brought refreshments and helped clean up.

Friendship Force yearly membership renewal time is coming soon.

Friendship Force CR/IC local dues are $15 each

Friendship Force International dues are $100 each

The process is just like last year. Local membership dues for each member are $15 for next year and can be paid for at our annual meeting on November 8. Cash or checks are acceptable, but we don't have any way to process credit or debit cards. If you are not at the Annual Meeting, checks can be mailed to the club's address.

Friendship Force CR/IC

PO Box 1001

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Friendship Force International dues are the same as last year. They must be paid separately from the local membership dues. Annual dues are $100 each. Your annual dues are due one year after the date that you paid last year. Checks are OK or credit/debit cards (with a 3% processing fee). Dues can be paid on-line or mailed to FFI.

FFI Membership Dues payments are made through the member portal at https://my.friendshipforce.org

Payment options available through my.friendshipforce.org (processing fee applies)

- **credit card payment**
- **eCheck payment**

Additionally, you can pay your dues via:

- **check** mailed to:

Friendship Force International

279 West Crogan Street

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

The following is from FFI about ACH payments to FFI:

Through December 31, 2026: We have a discount code available to waive the 3% fee for ACH payments. Code: **USBANKFEES2027**

Refunds: If a member has already paid the 3% ACH fee and would like a refund, they can email finance@friendshipforce.org

Beginning January 1, 2027: The 3% processing fee will apply to all online Journey payments, regardless of payment method.

Phyllis Seidl



Phyllis Seidl, past member of our club, passed away this week. She and her husband Jerry were active past members of the club. Phyllis led four outgoing journeys: Grand Junction CO, St. Petersburg, Russia, New Zealand and Australia and Germany and England. She also let two incoming journeys from Northern Illinois and New Zealand. Some of our current members traveled with her.

Her funeral is Monday, November 2 at 10:30 at St. Pius Catholic Church. There will be a visitation at Cedar Memorial on Sunday, November 1.

2027 Club Board Members

President Patty Potter **319-551-6850** mailto:pattyspotter1001@gmai.com

President Elect Sandy Meyer **425-466-6140** meyersandra57@yahoo.com

Past President Shephanie Shulte **319-350-5279** mailto:sschulte08@gmail.com

Treasurer Tom Hess **319-213-7762** mailto:tomhess8@gmail.com

Secretary Marilyn Benge **319-540-2114** mailto:lmbenge@southslope.net

Journeys Gretchen Dixon **319-491-6123** mailto:gretch1218@gmail.com

Activities Shirley Rosencraz **319-481-7477** mailto:sarosencrans@yahoo.com

Communication Lynda Bordwell **319-560-3520** **mailto:lynda.bordwell@gmail.com**

Membership Barb Steggall **319-361-2876** mailto:bjsteggall@gmail.com

Director at Large TBD

Midwest Regional Field Representative

Connie Williams **319-361-8452** **mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com**