



friendship force
GREATER DES MOINES

2015 Memberships are past due!

If you haven't paid your membership for 2015, a membership form is on the last page.



2015 FFGDM Events

January 17, Saturday	LEO Brunch Iowa Machine Shed, Urbandale
February	Program Meeting
March 1	World Friendship Day
March 10, Tuesday	LEO Tavern Pizza & Pasta, West Des Moines
March 24-31	Outbound Exchange, FF Western North Carolina
April 19, Sunday	"Springfest" Social Potluck, Lutheran Memorial Church
June 14, Sunday	Picnic Potluck at Crown Point, Johnston
July 9, Thursday	Wine Tasting, Wines of Iowa, Valley Junction
August 9 - 15	Inbound Exchange, FF Napier, New Zealand
Aug 28 - 30	Friendship Force World Conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada
September	Program meeting
October	Inbound Exchange, English Learners Global
October	Annual Dinner Meeting
December	Holiday Party
2016	
October 3-5	FFI 2016 World Conference, Marrakech, Morocco

**Saturday, January 17
10:00 AM**



Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant

11151 Hickman Road, Urbandale, by
Living History Farms
I 80 & 35 Exit 125

Blast away the cold by joining us for a warm **Breakfast Brunch Buffet** at the newly remodeled Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant! Brunch is \$12.50 or order from their breakfast menu! (Drinks not included in buffet price.)

Please RSVP to Karen at
karenkilpatrick@gmail.com or 278-4491 by Thursday, Jan. 15

President's Message

What a time the last half of 2014 has been as Friendship Force International reworks the concept of exchanges and asks for more accountability and creativity from the clubs. The backbone of the organization has been international and domestic club-to-club exchanges. Most of us joined Friendship Force to participate in this type of exchange and haven't looked back – enjoying many trips and making new friends around the world and within our club.

Under FFI CEO Joy DiBenedetto's leadership, FFI has challenged clubs to be creative and build exchanges that are more active, more inclusive of all age groups, and theme-based. Members of our club met last fall to brainstorm around this challenge; we submitted two ideas to FFI and will hear soon whether they have been accepted. The first is a "Farm-to-Table" exchange for 2016 where we will show how important Iowa is to food production, food history, and food creativity. The second, for 2017, is "Play Des Moines" where ambassadors will participate in a variety of light sports such as hiking, dancing, bowling, canoeing, and biking.

The club's goals for 2015 are:

- ~ Increase active membership
- ~ Ongoing community service with the immigrant/refugee population
- ~ Increase collaboration with other friendship force groups in region
- ~ Increase networking with other global organizations
- ~ Reestablish a mentoring program for new members

This year the club plans to host one social or education activity a month so members have a variety of activities to choose from. The calendar is the best way to keep track of club activities so please print a copy and keep it handy.

In friendship,

Shelley Bain

FFGDM President

Welcome new members!

Paul and Cheryl Oderkirk
14098 Summit Drive Clive, IA, 50325
515-777-1488 cloderkirk@aol.com

Please add this information to your membership book.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES--Please send NOW If you are a member who has not renewed your membership for 2015, please do so NOW! If we do not receive your dues in the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving a reminder call. Mail your \$30 single and \$40 family checks to: Friendship Force, PO Box 13136, Des Moines, IA 50310. Please include the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions, please call Alice Rasmussen at 289-1222. Thank you.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ADRIENNE MOEN

Hello everyone,

Well, this will be my last President's message, and where have three years gone??? I've had great Board members to work with, and without them and all of you, the Des Moines Club could not accomplish the activities necessary to retain its Charter from Friendship Force International. Soooo, MANY thanks go out to EACH of you.

International and domestic exchanges are the lifeblood of this organization because that is how we learn about different cultures and the people. Our goal is to ENGAGE, UNDERSTAND, AND SERVE. The longer I am a member, the more I appreciate Friendship Force and all it has to offer. It's not possible to really understand this organization until you take the opportunity to travel with our group or another Club. The concept of having friends literally all over the world is definitely unique in the numbers that we see with many of our members. Email has made communication so easy to keep in touch.

Des Moines had four exchanges this year, which is outstanding. Outbound to Costa Rica, and Inbounds from Los Angeles, Vietnam, and Oklahoma. We can all be very proud. There are already two exchanges planned for 2015, and more opportunities with Clubs in our Region as well as the FFI catalog online. Please check your email as we send important news your way from time to time. Remember, being a member of The Friendship Force means participating and saying "yes" when asked to lead or serve in any way; or better yet, volunteer.

I was sorry to miss you all at the Annual Meeting/Dinner, but feel confident that everyone had an inspirational and fun evening. Thanks to LaVonne Neerland and her committee for a successful event.

A good reminder to all of us is the following: *"Too often, a vast collection of possessions ends up possessing its owner. The asset I most value, aside from health, is interesting, diverse, and long-standing friends."* ---Warren Buffet---

Your FRIEND and President,

Adrienne Moen

Holiday Luncheon at Mezzodi's



Thirty-two of us enjoyed a jingle jangle great time at Mezzodi's restaurant December 3 to ring in the holidays! Lots of non-perishable food items were brought to donate to the Food Pantry and White Elephant gifts were exchanged! Some even had their gift "swiped" and were lucky enough to choose another. It was overheard that one could even save this year's gift for next year's exchange since "shopping" was not the goal here!

We had new faces and seasoned faces and enjoyed lively conversation with all! Brief presentations about the 2014 and 2015 International Conferences, news about upcoming activities, and a gift presented to Adrienne Moen for her service as President rounded out our time together.



Tavern Pizza and Pasta

March 10, Tuesday, 6:00pm

Join your FF friends for dinner at 1755 50th Street, West Des Moines. **RSVP to Janette House at 537-1252 or j.house@mediacombb.net by March 6th.**

Community Cultural Events

Iowa International Center Dialogue

Series – Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue,
Tuesday, January 6 Noon to 1 p.m. Stories from a Diverse Continent: Insights from African Community Leaders in Iowa

Tuesday, February 2 Noon to 1 p.m. Join Salsa Des Moines as they present a tour of Latin America through dance.

For additional information go to:
www.iowainternationalcenter.org

The Peking Acrobats February 14, 1 pm
Des Moines Civic Center Based on the ancient Chinese tradition from more than 2,000 years ago, The Peking Acrobats perform astounding acrobatic feats accompanied by live music.

Shoes (and more) for Guatemala

In late February, I am going on a Guatemala. The word exchange is there is no plan to start a FF club in the “upper class” of Guatemala does or to host others.



global humanitarian exchange to really not appropriate in this case, since the country. The middle class or even not have the disposable income to travel

Sixteen ambassadors from around the U.S. and Canada will spend about 4 days volunteering with local Mayan people in the cities of Antiqua and Panajachel. We will be partnering with other organizations that assist the Mayan communities. One of these is the Lavosi School for the Deaf. Lavosi is an acronym for Las Voces del Silencio – The Voices of the Silent. The children of the school have a great need for shoes. Tennis shoes that our American kids have worn but outgrown are highly prized there. For some reason, little girls receive more donations than the boys, so sneakers for boys size 2-9 are needed.

I am asking the members of FFGDM to help me take shoes to Guatemala. I am NOT asking for new shoes, but those your own sons, grandsons, nephews, neighbors have outgrown and are willing to donate to me for this purpose. I will be taking them down with me, so will need to have them before February 23rd. If you think you can help me, call me (278-4057) or send me an e-mail at davyccarol2@gmail.com. I know I said “more”. If you have used children’s books in English or Spanish, I’ll take those, too. New toothbrushes/toothpaste...I have a dental appointment in mid January, so my dentist is going to receive a major request on that day!

Thank you very much for anything you can contribute. ~ Carol Grimm

Exchanges

Outbound Exchange WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

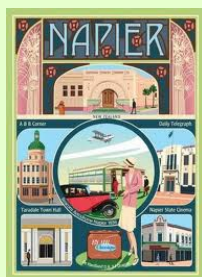
March 24-31, 2015



WE ARE GOING TO TRAVEL TO ASHVILLE!

March 24-31 is the date of our exchange to Western North Carolina. Twenty ambassadors are planning to make the trip by car and by plane. The ambassadors are: Shelley Bain, Charlotte Buttin, Jerry and Marla Carr, Carol Corrigan, Jane Flagler, Carol Grimm, Ron Grohe, Claudia Holcomb, Janette House, Else Johnson, Chuck and Karen Kilpatrick, Bev Lytle, Adrienne Moen, Ken and Alice Rasmussen, Diane Roberts, Susan Stroope and John Tone. Our last meeting before leaving will be on March 14 at 10:30 at Luther Memorial Church. **Contact Alice Rasmussen (289-1222) for more information.**

Inbound Exchange with FF Napier NZ August 9 – 15, 2015



The Napier Planning Committee is planning a great exchange for our New Zealand friends. We are taken applications for Home Hosts, and compiling names for Day Hosts and Dinner Hosts. **If you can help in any of these capacities or what more information, please contact ED Shelley Bain at 279-8908 or shelleybain@centurylink.net.**

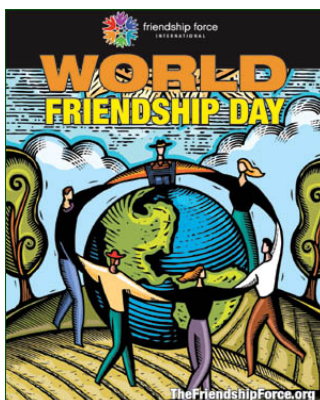
We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

World Friendship Day

March 1, 2015

March 1, 2015, will be the 10th observance of World Friendship Day by Friendship Force clubs worldwide. The first celebration, March 1st, 2005, was known as “Friendship Day Around the World.” March 1st is officially designated as the anniversary date for the entire organization. The selection of March 1st is a tribute to founder Wayne Smith based on the original founding day of the Friendship Force on March 1st, 1977, in a White House ceremony announced by President Jimmy Carter.



FFI encourages Friendship Force clubs around the world to celebrate World Friendship Day 2014 with club activities and public events that will:

- increase public awareness for the Friendship Force
- provide a platform for gaining new members
- create opportunities for real-life examples of executing the FFI mission to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

“Friends Around the World”

Children make the most interesting and beautiful art. Our World Friendship Day project for 2015 is a poster contest for students in grades K – 8 enrolled in the Des Moines Public Schools.

If successful, it will expand to other schools in subsequent years.



Theme: “Friends Around the World”

Deadline: Thursday, February 27, 2015 (tentative)

Size: 11 x 14 poster stock

Media: all except chalk or charcoal

Prizes: 3 prizes per group (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)

If you want to get involved with this fun project, contact WFD chair, Sue Stroope at sustroope@gmail.com or 266-1376.



We Love Volunteers! You can help!

Here are ways to participate in your FFGDM club:

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – This committee arranges, among other activities, LEOS (Let's Eat Out), a summer picnic, and a holiday party. We are considering adding a few more activities for this year. **Please contact Karen Kilpatrick at 278-4491 or**

karenkilpatrick@gmail.com to join the committee.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – This committee is all about recruiting new members, retaining current members, and engaging all members. The committee goals for 2015 are: create a new member booklet, create a new member welcome activity, develop a member recruitment plan, formalize the member renewal process, and create a method of tracking members' participation in the club. It sounds like a lot of work but a few people can knock out a plan in a couple of meetings. **Please contact Alice at off4ever@aol.com or Shelley at 279-8908 for more information.**

NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND EXCHANGE (August) – The Napier Planning Committee is planning a terrific exchange for our New Zealand friends. We are taking applications for Home Hosts, and compiling names for Day Hosts and Dinner Hosts. **If you can help in any of these capacities or want more information, please contact ED Shelley at 279-8908 or shelleybain@centurylink.net.**



2015 Friendship Force International Convention

“Building Bridges”

August 28 to 31, 2015

Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel

Hosted by the Friendship Force of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Registration will open January 7, 2015: www.thefriendshipforce.org

The official site of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse cities in Canada, with 52% of the population speaking a second language.

Surrounded by water and mountains, it has a spectacular harbor, an amazing restaurant and entertainment scene, and plenty of adventure and cultural activities to enjoy before, during, and after our conference.

Join us to explore how we can build bridges of peace and global understanding together, sharing new ways to strengthen our global mission. We're sure to have fun and adventure along the way!

NOTE: Special activities are being planned for the evening of Friday, August 28th, 2015. The conference will officially open the next morning on the 29th. Please plan your arrival in order to attend the Friday activities, which will be cultural events arranged by the host club.



2015 Friendship Force International Convention, continued

From Cathy Jensen, who researched the conference for our club:

- There will be home hosting pre and post convention from August 20-27 and September 1-7.
- During the convention there will be a tour desk with suggestions for trips on your own. The host committee will escort excursions. UNIGLOBE is being used for trips - pre and post Alaska cruises, Whistler and wine trips.
- There are several nearby hotels to choose from in the area in addition to Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside.
- Paula Menke (515 250 9090, paulacmencke@gmail.com) from Indianola has started some tour options for myself (Cathy Jensen) and friends. We're interested in trains in the Rockies. She can help you with any travel arrangements for the trip.
- Please send your questions to Conference Director, Maria Ebrahimji: conf@thefriendshipforce.org



Savor Some Conversations (And Coffee)



English learning adults and community members wishing to share their local knowledge are invited to come together for English conversation and light refreshments. The program is open to all levels of English speakers and activities are provided to prompt and encourage conversations. **This original program continues every Tuesday at 12:30 pm at the Forest Avenue Library.** For additional information, please contact Ashley Molzen at armolzen@dmp.org at Forest Avenue Library.

Beginning on Thursday, February 12, a second weekly offering will begin at North Side Library on Thursdays at 2:00 pm. For further information, please contact Jon Hobbs at jthobbs@dmpl.org at North Side Library.



2015 Board of Directors

Adrienne Moen 2015
Midwest Rep to FFI
(515) 223-4129
adriennemoen@gmail.com

Shelley Bain 2015
President
(515) 279-8908
shelleybain@centurylink.net

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Carol Grimm 2015
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Janette House
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Beverly Lytle 2017
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bdlytle@gmail.com

Cookie Major 2017
Board member
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cookster50@gmail.com

Alice Rasmussen 2017
Membership
(515) 289-1222
off4ever@aol.com

Susan Stroope 2016
Development & Outreach
266-1376
sustroope@gmail.com

The Mission of The Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines, Inc. is to create an environment where individual friendship and peace can be established across the international barriers that separate people.



Membership Application

FFGDM membership dues cover a calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Mail this form along with your check to:

The Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines
PO Box 13136
Des Moines, IA 50310

Name(s) _____
(please list other household members)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal

			Enclosed
Membership Dues	Single	\$30	
	Family	\$40	
Contribution	Contributor	\$1 - \$49	
	Sustainer	\$50 - \$99	
	Patron	\$100 - \$199	
	Benefactor	\$200 and over	
		Total	

Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.
All or part of your contribution may be tax deductible.

Do you need a FFGDM name badge? You can order through the FFI website at:
www.thefriendshipforce.org \ Member Resources (red tab) \ Store \ Name Badges

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

Explore • Understand • Serve®