



friendship force  
GREATER DES MOINES



## FFGDM Activities

Sept 12 Sat	Isle of Wight ambassador interviews, Park Ave Christian Church, 3219 SW 9th St in Des Moines, 10 am.
Sept 13 Sun	Potential Member Blitz
Sept 17 Thur	Isle of Wight Ambassador informational meeting, Wig and Pen in Ankeny, 11:30 am.
Sept 18 - 22	Austin inbound exchange
Oct 26 Mon	Annual Dinner Meeting
Oct 30 – Nov 7	Open World – Young Professionals in the Media delegation from Russia

## Annual Dinner Meeting Monday - October 26

### Urbandale Golf and Country Club

The most important activity at the Annual Dinner Meeting is to elect three members to the Board of Directors to 3-year terms. We expect Board members to be actively engaged in the club and to lead projects after settling into the position. If interested, contact one of the Nominating Committee: Adrienne at 223-4129, Shelley at 279-8908 or Isabella at 278-2067.

Look for your invitation in early October.



## FF Austin Farewell Potluck

September 21

All FF Greater Des Moines members and their friends are invited to say farewell to the ambassadors from Austin and San Antonio.

6:00 Social / 6:30 Dinner

Crown Point Community Center  
6300 Pioneer Parkway, Johnston

Please **RSVP by September 20** and indicate whether you will bring a main/meat, salad/side, or dessert that will serve 10 people.

shelleybain@centurylink.net or 279-8908.

## President's Message



Dear Friendship Force Members,

Thank you to the many members and friends who participated in the **Napier NZ exchange**. It was a success for the ambassadors due to our wonderful hosts and exciting city. Special thanks to two couples who are friends of members and who home hosted for us – John and Wanda Lewis and Steve and Jen Jensen. We couldn't have done it without them.

I'd like to thank Linda Robel for underwriting the **Membership Blitz** to be held September 13. We collected contact information of potential members from several of you; potential members being people who love to travel and could potentially home host. The Blitz program will include a little FFGDM history, an explanation of the different type of exchanges, how members benefit Friendship Force and how Friendship Force can benefit members. Thank you to Marla Carr and Polly Antonelli for pulling this together.

Speaking of **Marla Carr**, the Board elected Marla to the Board of Director to fill the open position that expires at the end of 2016. Congratulations to Marla – she'll be a great addition to the Board.

**Membership renewal** for 2016 starts now. Please use the form on the last page. You can mail it in or bring it with you to the Annual Dinner Meeting on October 26.

In friendship,  
Shelley Bain  
FFGDM President

### Looking toward 2016... WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – Creates and distributes the newsletter. Creativity and attention to detail are helpful.

**PUBLICITY** – Sends information about our activities to the media and interested organizations.

**SPRINGFEST COMMITTEE** – Plans the annual Springfest celebration, usually held in April.

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** - Plans LEOS (Let's Eat Out), Summer Picnic, and Holiday Party.

**EXCHANGE DIRECTOR FOR QUAD-CITIES** – Organizes a two night inbound exchange with FF Quad-Cities. An excellent opportunity of a new ED.

Contact one of the Board members to discuss the possibilities.

## Upcoming Exchanges



### Isle of Wight

June 18 – 26, 2016

(optional extension 6/26 – 7/4)



Central Iowa and Greater Des Moines Friendship Force Clubs have been paired for an Outbound Exchange to the Isle of Wight, Great Britain, in June of 2016. The ED's have been working on plans for this exchange since April and now it's time for any FFGDM member who is interested in participating in this exchange, to submit an application. Print the Exchange Application form on the FFI website. Return the completed application to Charlotte Buttin or Mary Marshall ASAP, or by August 29th at the latest.

We know people have questions about trip cost and the optional extension tour that follows our week of homestay. To update everyone on plans thus far, we have scheduled information/interview meetings.

Please note the meeting dates on your calendar. We look forward to receiving your application ASAP. If you have problems with the form, let us know.

In Friendship,

FFGDM CO ED's, Isle of Wight

Charlotte Buttin: 4211 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310, [cbuttin@gmail.com](mailto:cbuttin@gmail.com)

Mary Marshall: 326 Virginia Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315, [dpmmgm@msn.com](mailto:dpmmgm@msn.com)

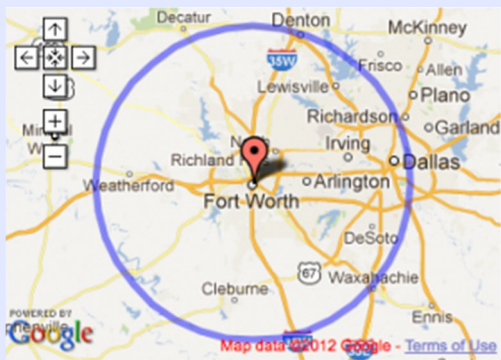


### Isle of Wight Important Dates

August 29: Deadline for receiving applications.

September 12: Information/interview meeting for FFGDM members at 10:00 AM, at Park Ave Christian Church, 3219 Park Ave, Des Moines.

September 17: Combined Ames/Des Moines lunch meeting for the selected ambassadors at the Pig and Pen British Pub in Ankeny at 11:30 AM. Details to follow.



### Exchange to Fort Worth in 2016?

We are in the final stages of negotiating an exchange to Fort Worth for late March, when spring first arrives in Texas. The Exchange Director, Alice Rasmussen, will provide dates and cost information to members as details are completed.

This is an exciting match for our members. Fort Worth is drivable from Des Moines and there are also direct flights between our cities.



## Exchange Report

### Napier Exchange August 9 – 15



The FF Napier Exchange is now part of our club's long history of exchanges. I was lucky, as a first time Exchange Director, to have a strong planning committee with great attention to detail: Beverly Lytle, Faith Huitt, Mary Marshall, Pat Reeves and Penny Thomsen. Over 43 members and friends participated in some aspect of the exchange, making it a memorable week for ambassadors. The highlights for the ambassadors were the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, the Iowa State Capitol, Sticks Studio and the Iowa State Fair.

Home Hosts were: Carol and Jerry Grant, Carol Grimm, Faith and Norm Huitt, Jen and Steve Jenkins, Mary Marshall, John and Wanda Lewis, Adrienne Moen, Alice and Ken Rasmussen, Anne and Steve Schodde, and Penny Thomsen. Dinner hosts were: Pat Westphal, Charlotte Buttin, Isabella Hurless-Bank, Elaine Bredesky, Craig and Annick Ibsen, LaVonne Neerland and Steve Voit, and Marla and Jerry Carr. Day Hosts, who allowed the Home Hosts some time to themselves, were: Polly Antonelli, Charlotte Buttin, Marla Carr, Janette House, Isabella Hurless-Banks, Cathy Jensen, Beverly Lytle, Lavone Mann, Paul and Cheryl Oderkirk, John Tone, Pamela Sadler and Pat Westphal.

Thank you one and all, for what you did to promote our club, our city and our state. Some of the ambassadors had this to say:

*"What a wonderful experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it and have made lifelong friendships"*

*"The happiest and most friendly club we have ever encountered."*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the whole exchange. You are to be congratulated for a wonderful week."*

*"A really enjoyable week with lovely hosts, in a lovely city – clean and green, nice architecture. A real delight."*

*"Our hosts were fabulous and graciously took us in a day early. The World Food Prize Building was very educational. A beautiful city and extremely friendly people."*



And a shout out from who must have been guests of the Rasmussens –

*“Match Stick Museum was very impressive and the Maid Rite lunch was very good”.*

What can we say in return except the ambassadors were incredibly friendly, fun to be with, and generous in their praise.





## Activities Reports

### BASTILLE DAY BASH

Tuesday, July 14



#### *Tout le monde avait passé un bon moment*

Several members of our club and FF Central Iowa joined Alliance Française of Central Iowa, the Des Moines Sister Cities Commission, and the local group of Francophones et Français to celebrate Bastille Day on July 14, 2015 at the Birdland Park Ding Darling Shelter.

The celebration included wonderful food and wine, crazy good desserts, an accordionist that could make you feel you were strolling along the Seine, and a pétanque tournament.

### All Iowa FF Club Picnic

Saturday, August 8



Seven members of our club joined members of the three other Friendship Force clubs in Iowa at the All-Iowa Club Picnic. The picnic was hosted this year by FF Cedar Rapids-Iowa City and attracted nearly 80. A few of our members competed in the bean bag toss and the spelling game but brought home no awards.

We look forward to hosting the picnic next year, probably when the Quad-Cities visits us on a mini-exchange.



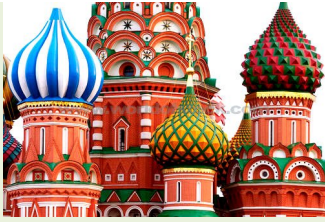
### Wines of Iowa Wine Tasting



The picture says it all – eleven members, had a fine time tasting wine at Wines of Iowa on July 9. Thanks to Kathy Jensen for planning this fun activity and for the Wines of Iowa staff who provided cheese and crackers and couldn't be nicer.

*Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.  
-- Marcel Proust*

## Open World



### Young Media Professionals from Russia

At the end of October, our club will host a five-person delegation (1 woman and 4 men) of Young Media Professionals from Russia. This is part of the Library of Congress Open World Program. Carol Grimm is coordinating the effort; watch your email to learn how you can participate.

The Open World Leadership Center's mission is to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and its free-market

## Membership



### Great Time To Pay 2016 FFGDM Membership Dues!!

The Annual Dinner Meeting, scheduled for October 26, has always been a great time to pay your dues for the coming year. The membership form is on the final page of this newsletter, so please fill it out and bring it with you to the dinner with your payment. We would like you to start using the form this year.

If you can't attend on October 26, send the form with your check to: FFGDM, Box 13136, Des Moines, IA 50310.

The dues remain the same as last year -- \$30 for single membership, \$40 for a family membership. Starting in January, there will be a charge of \$10 if you prefer a printed newsletter be mailed to you. Please add \$10 to your membership total if you want that service.

**Welcome New Members Sharon and Steve Dunkin.** They are a great addition to our club and experienced hosts of foreign students.

Please update your directory:

New members	Sharon and Jerry Dunkin 409 Felton St New Virginia, IA 50210 (641) 449-3722 dunkinsj@iowatelecom.net	Email Change	Lavone Mann lavone.mann@gmail.com
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## 2015 Board of Directors

Adrienne Moen, Regional Rep adriennemoen@gmail.com	2015	Janette House, Secretary j.house@mediacombb.net	
Shelley Bain, President shelleybain@centurylink.net	2015	Beverly Lytle bdlytle@gmail.com	2017
Carol Grimm davycarol2@gmail.com	2015	Cookie Major cookster50@gmail.com	2017
Ron Grohe, Treasurer reggsg@hotmail.com	2016	Alice Rasmussen off4ever@aol.com	2017
Marla Carr marlalcarr@yahoo.com	2016	Susan Stroope sustroope@gmail.com	2016



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Mail membership application and check to:  
FFGDM, PO Box 13136, Des Moines, IA 50310

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership at \$30	\$
Family Membership at \$40	\$
Newsletter mailed to you at \$10	\$
Contribution	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

Please check which activities you are interested in. *Check as many as you like.*

- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Planning    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Home Host   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts/website | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Day Host    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications       | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Dinner Host |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |   |   |

Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.