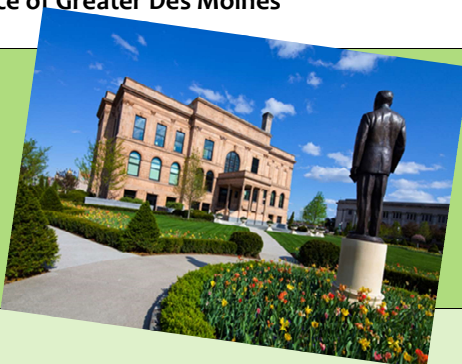




friendship force
GREATER DES MOINES



2017 FFGDM Activities

(dates and activities subject to change)

Nov 13	FFGDM Annual Meeting at Paglia's Pizza, 6 pm
Dec 1	Happy Feet Holiday Lunch at Trostel's Greenbriar
2018	
Apr 20-22	FF Multi-Region Conference in Greater Cincinnati
June 6 - 11	Outbound Journey to Central Virginia
Aug	Inbound Journey from Central Virginia
Sep 25 - 29	Inbound FF Tauranga (NZ)
Oct	Outbound Journey to FF Perth (Aust) and FF Auckland North Shore (NZ)

Join us for a casual...

Annual Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017

Paglia's Pizza * 5312 Merle Hay Road * Johnston

6:00 pm - Social

6:30 pm - Welcome and Business Meeting
Treasurer and Committee Reports

2018 Journeys
Election of Board Members
Q&A

6:45 pm – Dinner

Please RSVP, if attending, by November 8 to Janette at
(515) 537-1252 or j.house@mediacombb.net

Join Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines
For a festive and fun holiday lunch!

Happy Feet Holiday Lunch



Friday, December 1

11:30 am

Trostel's Greenbriar
5810 Merle Hay Road, Johnston

**Please bring new or lightly used adult socks
for the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter.**

Bring your merriest self and plan to have a grand
time with your Friendship Force Friends!
Bring a friend if you like!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED... to Karen at
278-4491 or karenkilpatrick@gmail.com by
November 28.

President's Message



Dear Friendship Force Members,

As I close in on the end of my third term as President, I look back on the successful year we've had growing the membership and stretching our expectations. 2018 will require us to stretch even more as we face a time where peace is elusive and our fellow humans are maligned out of prejudice or for political gain. Although it may be more difficult today, Friendship Force's mission of extending the hand of peace and friendship to our neighbors at home and internationally, remains vastly important. As our 40-year history demonstrates, FFGDM has done a small part in promoting good in the world. Let's continue that legacy in 2018.

The Annual Dinner Meeting has been pushed back to November 13 due to the 40th Anniversary Celebration. This is our time to reflect on the year, elect new Board members, and hear about 2018 Journeys. It will be a casual meeting, but important, and a great time to socialize with fellow club members. I hope to see you there.

I invite all of you to become active members who will contribute to our success next year by joining a committee or taking on a task, voluntarily or when asked. Just a few hours of your time will make a huge difference.

In friendship,
Shelley Bain
FFGDM President

Club Activities



SEPTEMBER LEO

Thirty-five members and guests heard updates of FFGDM activities and enjoyed dinner at the Tavern on Wednesday, September 30. A good time was had by all 😊

ALL-IOWA FRIENDSHIP FORCE PICNIC



Six members attended the All Iowa FF Picnic on September 30. Host club, Friendship Force of the Quad-Cities, did a fabulous job on lunch, complete with many homemade pies. Yum. The attendees enjoyed a tour of the historic Deere Wiman House. It was a wonderful opportunity to greet old friends and make a few new ones. Thank you FFQC!



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 40th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 29, was a big hit with our members and guests. Chairs Adrienne Moen and Nancy Lundstrom organized a lovely late afternoon party that was attended by current and past members, potential members, friends from other Midwest clubs, new Midwest Regional Director Dale Moore, and FFI CEO Jeremi Snook. Mike Pace served as Master of Ceremonies.

Mike did a superb job setting the historic tone of the evening by reading a letter from Governor Robert Ray who founded Friendship Force in Iowa. Irish step dancers from Ames and the Valley High Mariachi Band book ended the entertainment as a tribute to our first and last international journeys. Tri-fold displays of some of our most recent journeys were created by the Journey Coordinators and the Silent Auction, which benefitted the FFGDM Scholarship Fund, exceeded expectations.

For many, the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Wayne Smith Medal to past President and outgoing Regional Director Adrienne Moen. Earlier this fall the Board of Directors, for the first time in its 40-year history, voted to honor Adrienne for her undaunted promotion of Friendship Force in our community. Adrienne joined the club at a time when her leadership was greatly needed; when she pushed the Board and members to make the club better, she led by example. Thank you, Adrienne, for your successful years of service to FFGDM.

A heartfelt thank you to Nancy, Adrienne, and all the members who helped by sponsoring the celebration, creating journey displays, writing the 40th Anniversary booklet, acquiring auction items, staffing the reservations table, managing the silent auction, processing auction payments, home hosting, and welcoming our guests. You all performed an important task and the club thanks you for that as well as handling split-second changes with grace and understanding.





Journey Reports

DES MOINES JOURNEY TO AUSTIN OCTOBER 12 - 20, 2017

Fourteen ambassadors traveled to Austin as a return trip from their visit to Des Moines several years ago. We were told that 150 people moved to Austin every day, and the travel would indicate that is true! The Austin Club planned activities day and night, including visits to the LBJ Library, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, Esther's Follies, The Museum of Texas, the State Capitol, First Community! Village, a lunch cruise on Lady Bird Lake on the Colorado River, Oktoberfest at Wahlberg's German Restaurant, Blanton Museum of Art, and other activities. Much of the venues we visited are downtown, near or part of the University of Texas.

After the Austin journey, we traveled to San Antonio by Greyhound or car to spend a few days in San Antonio on our own. The San Antonio part of the trip was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better.

What follows are reflections from some of the ambassadors.



AMBASSADOR REFLECTIONS

Charlotte Buttin

The Community First Village visit during the Austin, Texas exchange was both unique and inspiring.

Meeting the man behind this innovative project and his insight that what the homeless lack is family/community rather than just housing made this experience very real. An added treat was meeting the bride and groom (for the ceremony that afternoon) who were practicing their "wedding dance" on their patio. A real community experience!

Isabella Hurless-Banks

This was my first journey with Friendship Force and it exceeded my expectations. My hosts, Edward and Louann Sledge, were truly awesome and the members of the Austin Club did a great job of making us welcome and providing many opportunities to learn about Austin and the history of the State of Texas. It was also a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members from our own club. My favourite activity was the visit to The Community First location. What an inspiring story! What has been accomplished there should be a model for every community in the country.

Kathie Swift

Greater Des Moines Friendship Force's journey to Austin, TX, October 12-17, was a reminder that FF exchanges never get old. From befriending gracious hosts to enjoying dinners with eclectic cooks in cosy kitchens, and visits to historic libraries, stunning capitols, and amazing new homeless communities, every moment was packed with discovery.

My home host, German-born Gerhild Rogers, and her kitty cat Henrietta (Hetta), welcomed me to their sunny, book-lined home where roaming deer visited her sunny yard occasionally. Gerhild charmed me by stylishly serving breakfast on colorful mats, coffee poured into china mugs and bowls of raisin-and-walnut-studded yogurt on matching service plates.

She and friend Joe also took me to see "Singing in the Rain" and many beautiful homes of Austin, plus serving homemade carrot cake with unlimited whipped cream. When I left to move on to San Antonio, we hugged and I told her that we could talk forever. Our friendship was just that quick.

Jane Escobar

This was my very first Friendship Force exchange trip, and it was more than I thought it could be. I truly did make friends on this trip to Austin, TX! My host, Trish, had thought of everything to make my stay with her the most comfortable it could be. I am so glad that I was matched with her. I had so many laughs and good times that it would be hard to pick just one favorite. I think I enjoyed the tour of Community First Village above all. The whole concept of becoming a part of creating their own village, and finding



homes for those without, is brilliant. I did not take any pictures there because I wanted to respect peoples' homes and privacy, but it made a lasting impression and showcased the good being done there. All the places we went were new and exciting to me, but the lasting friendships really are what stick with me and will continue to. I can't wait to go on the next journey!

Shelley Bain

My favorite Austin activity, besides hanging out with my fabulous, kind, and generous hosts, Zoshia and Joseph Hunt, was the Blanton Museum of Art. The Blanton's collection of Latin American art features over 2,000 works from more than 700 artists, and is one of the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive collections of Latin American art in the country. My favorite exhibit was a 3-year installation of Spanish Colonial Art. My favorite activity in San Antonio was spending a day with Elese, Sandra, and Kathie. We visited the 33-acre Austin Botanic Gardens and lunched at an innovative restaurant (called 'Supper') at Hotel Emma which is part of the old Pearl Brewery. It was a delightful journey.



FF Perth and FF Auckland 2018

WE'RE GOING TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND!



In October 2018, our club will visit FF Perth (in West Australia) and Auckland North Shore (on the north island of New Zealand). Applications are being accepted through December 1.

For more information, contact Shelley Bain, Journey Coordinator, at shelleybain@centurylink.net or 515-279-8908.

Stories of Friendship



STORIES OF FRIENDSHIP ARE STORIES OF PEACE



They are stories of our experiences that have helped eliminate the barriers that separate us, bringing us closer together. This is our sixth and last story. We hope you have enjoyed reading them this year.

AN EARLY FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMORY

by Karen Selby

I wasn't a member with Bob Ray but I first heard all about the Friendship Force from Wally and Lois Olsan, our best friends from Nevada, who went on the first or second FF trip to England with the Des Moines Dixieland band. Wally played in the West Des Moines Dixieland Band (Red Sneaker Dixieland Band) and my husband and he started a band in 8th grade (1945) in Nevada and played at dances all the way through school and after Bill came home from the Navy in 1952. Lois was from Maxwell and lives at Ramsey Village, now. Their host lady, Hilda, on that trip to England came back to visit them in Des Moines and they came to have tea at our home in Nevada on a Sunday afternoon and to show her around this area. I asked if she would like coffee rather than tea and she said "Don't you have any whiskey?". She was a real character and we had fun.

Our other good friends who I learned about Friendship Force from were Tom and Phyllis Rittgers and Doris Whitaker, all from Nevada. I joined in 2008 when I retired and love this organization and hope to be able to be more active. My husband Bill passed away in May so I have downsizing on my schedule, too.

Member News

A Friendly Reminder

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues, please do so by December 15 using the form on the last page. You may mail it to the PO Box on the form or bring it to the Annual Meeting on November 13 or the Happy Feet Holiday Lunch on December 1.

If you have any questions, please call Alice Rasmussen at 289-1222 or send me an email at off4ever@aol.com.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Marilyn Chiodo
3131 Fleur Dr #402
Des Moines, IA 50321
515-288-5999
chiodomarilyn@gmail.com

Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. -- Mary Ritter Beard

Friendship Force Super Conference

FRIENDSHIP FORCE 2018 SUPER CONFERENCE

GREAT LAKES * MIDWEST * SOUTHWEST

APRIL 20-22, 2018

You're
invited

Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront
668 W. 5th Street, Covington, KY 41011

Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati is hosting a multi-region FF Super Conference.

* Adjacent to Mainstrasse Historic Preservation District * Free Parking for Guests

* 5 minutes from I-75, 20 minutes from Airport

Arrive at 2:00 pm on Friday for the “Executive Board” meeting and depart on Sunday at 11:00 am after the “Farewell Breakfast.” FF Dayton (OH) and FF Louisville (KY) are providing home stays prior to the Conference. FF of Greater Cincinnati is planning post-conference homestays. You are invited to attend and see all the special attractions in both Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Janette at j.house@mediacombb.net or (515) 537-1252. The conference planners would like attendance estimates to help with their planning.

2017 FFDGM Board and Committee Chairs

<u>Name and position</u>	<u>Term end</u>	<u>Email</u>
Shelley Bain - <i>President</i>	2018	shelleybain@centurylink.net
Marla Carr - <i>Vice-President</i>	2019	marlakcarr@yahoo.com
Jerry Carr - <i>Treasurer</i>	2018	Jerry.Carr55@yahoo.com
Carol Corrigan - <i>Nominations Committee</i>	2019	jecorrigan@msn.com
Jane Escobar	2019	janeescobar@yahoo.com
Janette House - <i>Secretary</i>	2018	j.house@mediacombb.net
Beverly Lytle – <i>Nominations Committee</i>	2017	bdlytle@gmail.com
Cookie Major – <i>Community Service, Fundraising Coordinator</i>	2017	cookster50@gmail.com
Alice Rasmussen – <i>Membership Committee</i>	2017	off4ever@aol.com
Adrienne Moen – <i>Past President & Regional Representative</i>		adriennemoen@gmail.com
Adrienne Moen - <i>40th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chair</i>		adriennemoen@gmail.com
Nancy Lundstrom - <i>40th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chair</i>		nancylundstrom@mchsi.com
Karen Kilpatrick – <i>Activities Chair</i>		karenkilpatrick@gmail.com
Cookie Major – <i>IPR Media Project</i>		cookster50@gmail.com
Alice Rasmussen – <i>Central Virginia Journey Coordinator (outbound)</i>		off4ever@aol.com
(open) - <i>Central Virginia Journey Coordinator (inbound)</i>		
Shelley Bain – <i>Perth and Auckland Journey Coordinator</i>		shelleybain@centurylink.net



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	\$
Newsletter mailed at \$12	\$
Contribution*	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

Please check which activities you can participate 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"/> 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.