



friendship force
GREATER DES MOINES



2018 FFGDM Activities (dates and activities subject to change)

| | |
|--|--|
| Nov 13 | Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm, Crown Point, Johnston, <i>page 1</i> |
| Nov 29 | Christkindlmarket Tree Decorating |
| Nov 30 – Dec 2 | Christkindlmarket Des Moines at Cowles Commons. Look for the FFGDM Tree. |
| Dec 1 | 2019 Strategic Planning Meeting |
| Dec 4 | Happy Feet Holiday Luncheon, <i>page 3</i> |
| | |
| | 2019 |
| <i>The complete list of all 2019 activities will be published in the January-February newsletter</i> | |
| | |
| May 14 - 21 | Journey to FF Ottawa, <i>page 5</i> |
| Jul 23 - 27 | FFI International Conference, Boulder, CO, <i>page 5</i> |
| Aug | Journey from KK Knoxville TN |

A Friendly Reminder

If you haven't paid your 2019 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 4.

If you have any questions, contact Alice Rasmussen at 289-1222 or off4ever@aol.com.

Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines
invites you and your guests to the

Annual Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Pkwy * Johnston, IA 50131

5:30 pm - Social Time & Silent Auction
(cash or checks only for the auction)

6:15 pm - Welcome and Harvest Dinner

7:15 pm - Speaker

8:00 pm - Annual Meeting & Election of
Board Members



Speaker
Consul General Xhavit Gashi
Republic of Kosovo

Paid reservations are due November 6.
For more information: Karen at (515) 278-4491
or Nancy at (515) 289-2800

President's Message



Dear Friendship Force Members,

I'm counting down my fourth and final year as President and sixth and final year on the Board knowing the organization is in good hands. It's been a wonderful experience and I've learned much about Friendship Force, but I learned more about you and how you love to welcome strangers into your homes and make them friends. I also learned that most of you love to travel the world and domestically. Good for you.

New President & Vice-President for 2019... It's almost Thanksgiving and we should give thanks for current Board members Pat Headley and Ginny Renda who have agreed to run for President and Vice-President next year. The Board will vote for the 2019 officers at the planning retreat in December and they are still looking for a Treasurer.

About Pat and Ginny... These two fell a little in love with Friendship Force while attending the Regional Conference last spring. A well-organized conference can do that to you. They are both hardworking and talented as you will discover as you get to know them better over the next few years. I couldn't be prouder of them and hope you will offer Pat and Ginny, and the entire Board, the support you have always shown me.

Annual Dinner and Election of Officers... This is an important event for FFGDM; we need all of you to attend, bring a friend, bid at the Silent Auction, meet Kosovo General Consul Xhavit Gashi, and vote at the business meeting which follows the Dinner. Karen Kilpatrick and Nancy Lundstrom have done most of the planning and have arranged for Trostel's Greenbriar to cater the dinner at a very reasonable cost. The club subsidizes the cost of the evening so take advantage of it. 😊

Where shall we go in 2020? ... After discussing all the options, the Board's strategy was to go all in for Europe knowing it may be difficult to get a match. Our choices are Germany, Austria, Netherlands and France. Cross your fingers that the powers that be at FFI match us with one of these highly desirable and highly sought-after countries. We'll receive an answer in late February. In the meantime, we are working on several domestic journeys for 2019 and 2020 that we hope you'll like.

Australia-New Zealand Journey ... Look for pictures and daily diary excerpts in the January-February newsletter. You'll wish you had gone.

In friendship,
Shelley Bain
FFGDM President

"If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay home." – James Michener

Club Activities

Join us for a festive and fun holiday lunch!

Happy Feet Holiday Lunch



Tuesday, December 4

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 December 1.



Twenty members and friends filled 37 boxes of packaged meals during the Meals from the Heartland annual Hunger Fight on September 1.

Thanks to Cookie Major for organizing our two teams: Adrienne Moen, John Tone, Shelley Bain, Janette House,

Carol Grimm, Charlotte Buttin, Ginny Renda, Marla Carr, Jerry Carr, Mary Marshall, Polly Antonelli, LaVonne Neerland, Kathie Swift, Alice Rasmussen, Ken Rasmussen, and Adrienne's daughter's husband and daughters. It's a great way to start the Labor Day Weekend so put it on your calendar for next year.



"A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face." - Maya Angelou, Letter to My Daughter

Journey News

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND SEPTEMBER 25 - 29

What a good time everyone had on this brief 4-night Journey. The Taurangans who arrived in Des Moines on the first leg of their journey were just as friendly and outgoing as we expected. They travelled via Megabus to FF Cedar Rapids-Iowa City for their next stop, then they were off to FF Kansas and FF Las Vegas.

Thank you to all the members involved in this journey including Home Hosts, Day Hosts, Dinner Hosts, those who attended the Welcome Potluck Party and others who provided for the Farewell Party. The Ambassadors were open to learning about and enjoying greater Des Moines. Our hosts and members were their usual gracious and friendly selves. We couldn't do it without you.



FF Tauranga Journey Coordinator
Brian Grimwood, Helen
Grimwood, Adrienne Moen, and
John Tone



Janice Weir, the
ambassador from FF
Quad-Cities, on her very
first journey with host and
sister Pat Headley.



Faith Huitt, Nanette Cains,
Stuart Cains, and Norm
Huitt.



Pat Westphal and Thea
Straub.



Hazel McKay, Marla Carr,
Jerry Carr, and Gus McKay.



Barb Procter and Carol Grimm.



Sandi Knowlson, Gail Sheridan-Lucht, Gene Lucht, and Gary Knowlson.



Freda Thomson, Mary Marshall, and Sheryl Farrow.



Steve Lundstrom, Nancy Lundstrom, Audrey McLoughlin, and David McLoughlin



OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA JOURNEY MAY 14 – 21, 2019

Co-Journey Coordinators Mike Davis and Mary Marshall report that this journey is currently full at 20 ambassadors.

If you are still interested in participating, send your application to Mike at mjdavisconsulting@gmail.com and ask to be placed on the wait list.

FFI Conference

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JULY 23 THROUGH 27, 2019

Start thinking now about being one of the 400-500 delegates at the FFI Conference at the University of Colorado Boulder campus. FFI will send an email to all members regarding registration, workshops, and accommodations.

The change from a hotel venue provides a lot of pluses for the members. A campus venue offers meeting rooms and large conference rooms, affordable housing, and dining rooms with an array of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner at low prices. Using an academic backdrop for the venue will provide a new direction for the 2019 Conference and future FFI Conferences. The goal is to train members and leaders and have a general feeling that inspires and excites attendees toward our mission. The proposed conference agenda will include 2 days of education and general business and 2 days of activities and social events.

If you are interested in room sharing or carpooling, as a rider or driver, please contact the Conference Coordinator for our club: Janette House at (515) 537-1252 or j.house@mediacombb.net.

Member News

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND YOUR COMMITMENT

We hope you've found the last year as a member of Friendship Force educational, fun, and rewarding. We also hope that you'll renew your membership for 2019 but with a renewed commitment to the success of the club.

We'll say it again...the organization remains strong only with the help and support of all our members. That means that if you plan to take advantage of the direct benefits of membership, such as social activities or traveling with Friendship Force, that you also plan to give back through your active participation in inbound journey activities, standing committees, or special projects.

Don't wait for someone to call and ask you when an email or newsletter article mentions the need for volunteers, be pro-active and volunteer. Active members already know that the more you're engaged in Friendship Force, the more you'll get out of it.

A hardy thank you to those who have served as Board Members or on various committees this year. They made our organization stronger.

JOURNEY COORDINATOR TRAINING

If you've always wanted to be a Journey Coordinator or find out what JCs do then you're in luck. JC Training will be offered this winter. Look for an email with details in late December or early January.

2018 FFDGM Board and Committee Chairs

| <u>Name and position</u> | <u>Term ends</u> | <u>Email</u> |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Shelley Bain - <i>President</i> | 2018 | shelleybain@centurylink.net |
| Jerry Carr - <i>Treasurer</i> | 2018 | Jerry.Carr55@yahoo.com |
| Marla Carr | 2019 | marlakcarr@yahoo.com |
| Carol Corrigan – <i>Scholarship Committee Chair</i> | 2019 | jecorrigan@msn.com |
| Jane Escobar – <i>Activities Committee Co-Chair</i> | 2019 | janeescobar@yahoo.com |
| Pat Headley, <i>Vice-President/President Elect</i> | 2020 | guthrie41@yahoo.com |
| Janette House - <i>Secretary</i> | 2018 | j.house@mediacombb.net |
| Cookie Major – <i>Community Service Coordinator</i> | 2020 | cookster50@gmail.com |
| Ginny Renda | 2020 | grpbears@aol.com |
| | | |
| Karen Kilpatrick – <i>Activities Committee Co-Chair</i> | | karenkilpatrick@gmail.com |
| Alice Rasmussen – <i>Membership Committee Chair</i> | | off4ever@aol.com |
| Cookie Major – <i>Community Service Chair</i> | | cookster50@gmail.com |
| Adrienne Moen – <i>Nominations Committee Chair</i> | | adriennemoen@gmail.com |
| Shelley Bain - <i>Tauranga (NZ) Host Coordinator (inbound)</i> | | shelleybain@centurylink.net |
| Shelley Bain – <i>Perth and Auckland Ambassador Coordinator (outbound)</i> | | shelleybain@centurylink.net |
| Mary Marshall – <i>Ottawa co-Ambassador Coordinator (outbound)</i> | | dpmmgm@msn.com |
| Mike Davis – <i>Ottawa co-Ambassador Coordinator (outbound)</i> | | mjdavisconsulting@gmail.com |
| TBD – <i>Knoxville Ambassador Coordinator (inbound)</i> | | |



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

Please check which activities you can participate in. *Check as many as you like.*

☐ Activities Committee

☐ Community Service

☐ Journey Planning

☐ Membership Committee

☐ Fundraising Committee

☐ Journey Home Host

☐ Newsletter Editor

☐ Website/Facebook Monitor

☐ Journey Day Host

☐ Photographer

☐ Communications

☐ Journey Dinner Host

☐ 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.