



friendship force
GREATER DES MOINES



2019 FFGDM Activities
(dates and activities subject to change)

May 2	Cinco de Maya Celebration
May 10-17	Journey to FF Ottawa
Jun 23	Summer Potluck Picnic
Jul 13	All-Iowa FF Picnic in Cedar Rapids
Jul 14	Bastille Day Celebration and Potluck
Jul 23 - 27	FFI International Conference
Aug 7-12	Ambassadors from KK Knoxville TN
Aug 31	Meals from the Heartland
Sep TBD	Sundae on Sundays
Oct 28	Annual Meeting
Dec 3	Happy Feet Holiday Lunch
2020	
TBD	Ambassadors from FF Ottawa
Sep 18-20	FFI Regional Super Conference, Twin Cities



Summer Potluck Picnic

Sunday, June 23
Noon

W.C. Walker Shelter at MacRae Park
1021 Davis Ave, Des Moines 50315

The upper part of MacRae Park sets on a bluff with dramatic downtown views. Walker Shelter is a newly refurbished enclosed shelter.

Hola! Join us in celebrating



Thursday, May 2

Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
Johnston, IA 50131

6:00 – Social / 6:20 Dinner
Followed by Loteria!

\$18.00 per person (all inclusive)

Taco Bar includes 2 choices of meat, rice, frijoles refritos, chips, salsa, taco accompaniments, dessert, ice tea, sangria, margaritas, and beer.

Your check is your reservation.

Please send \$18 per person, *made payable to FFGDM*, by April 27 to Shelley Bain, 1008 38th St, Des Moines, IA 50311.

Questions: Shelley at 279-8908

Guests are always welcome!

President's Message



Dear Friendship Force Members,

This club is “rockin.” Since the last newsletter was published, FFGDM has offered two events in addition to a community service project. The “Irish Celebration” in March provided an opportunity for our club and the Scottish Heritage Society to have a joint celebration. We ate together, talked together, learned a bit about each other’s programs, and heard some great music by Celtic Jam. The reviews from that event have all been positive and attendance was great. As a bonus, we learned how to write limericks. Note: some were better than others. Perhaps we will consider having future joint events with another group again.

April’s event, called Springfest, proved, once again, just how creative programming can be fun and informative at the same time. The potluck lunch provided an abundance of good food and the table conversations, as usual, were just as satisfying. Despite all that, the programming was the biggest hit of the day. Three groups of people set up stations with displays, pictures, and stories of grand adventures on recent Friendship Force journeys. We enjoyed presentations from club members who traveled to Peru, Russia, New Zealand and Australia. Their stories were funny, poignant, informational, and inspirational. Their presentations did exactly what they were designed to do; make us wish we had been on those journeys and help us look forward to our next one. If you weren’t at either of these events you missed out.

You can join us for the Cinco De Mayo party mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. You can also find an article about a small, but mighty, group of FFGDM volunteers who packaged meals at Meals from the Heartland.

What’s in our future? A group of twelve will have attended the “Mystery Adventure” by the time you receive this newsletter. A picture of that group is on page 4. In May, nineteen members are going on a journey to Ottawa and seven of those are planning an extended stay in Montreal and Quebec. Of course, there is our annual summer picnic in June, and the “All Iowa FF” picnic in July. Also, in July, six board members will attend the world conference in Boulder Colorado. More news about all of this will be in the next newsletter. This is the stuff that makes a president happy. This club is “rockin.”

Mark Your Calendars...

FFI has just announced that the next Super Regional Conference will be held in Minneapolis on September 18-20, 2020 at the downtown Embassy Suites. This is great news. It’s an opportunity for FFGDM members to showcase our strength by attending this event. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could have a dozen or two people attending this conference?

In Friendship,
Pat Headley
FFGDM President

Club Activities



Members travelled the world during Springfest on April 7 when they rotated through information tables for three recent journeys - Peru, New Zealand, Australia, and Russia. The presenters told tales of adventure, making new friends, and reacquainting with old friends while answering a wide range of questions.



The following people helped make Springfest successful...
Co-Coordinator – Gail Sheridan Lucht; Greeters – Polly Antonelli and Jane Flagler; Photographer – Gene Lucht; Set Up & Clean Up – Shelley Bain, Janette House, Jane Escobar, Sandra Thorpe, Ginny Renda, Carmie Renda, Karen Kilpatrick, and Chuck Kilpatrick; Presenters – Shelley Bain, Janette House, Jane Escobar, Susan Stroope, Sharon Dunkin, Jerry Dunkin, Mary Marshall and Elyse Johnson. Thank you to all of them.

– Marla Carr, Springfest Co-Chair



On short notice, five FFGDM members packaged meals on March 19 during Meals from the Heartland's Meals Madness event during Spring Break. We were joined by a family of five to complete our table.



During our two hour shift, we were able to fill 20 boxes with 36 meals per box for a total of 720 meals. We were a small group this time but enjoyed working together for a great cause. Thank you, Beverly Lytle, Janette House, Cathy Jensen and Michael Davis for joining me in helping to alleviate hunger both locally and around the world.

An example of where the meals we pack may go...In early March, Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Nearly 1,000 people have died and over 3 million have been affected by the cyclone. The United Nations reported Idai could potentially be one of the most devastating disasters to hit the Southern Hemisphere.

Meals from the Heartland along with partner groups Blessman International, Convoy of Hope, and Rotary International began working on the ground, situated to respond to the needs of local communities with emergency food provided to those hit the hardest. As a result, 191,000 Meals from the Heartland meals were sent to Mozambique.

– Cookie Major, Community Service Chair

 IRISH CELEBRATION

The March 17 Irish Celebration, co-hosted with the Scottish Heritage Society, drew over 65 people who enjoyed the music of Celtic Jam, too many desserts, and an exercise in limerick writing.

A big thank you to the following people who pitched in to make it possible: Jerry Carr, Marla Carr, Jane Escobar, Janette House, Gail Lucht, Gene Lucht, Nancy Lundstrom, Steve Lundstrom, Alice Rasmussen, Ken Rasmussen, Ginny Renda and Dee Willemssen.

-- Shelley Bain, Irish Celebration Chair



Limerick leader Marla Carr's favorite limerick of the day –

*There once was a Scottish Society,
Who were not known for their sobriety,
They danced and they sang,
A very close-knit gang,
And they lost all sense of propriety.*



MYSTERY ADVENTURE

Twelve members were intrigued by the idea of a Mystery Adventure and set off on April 23 for places unknown. The intrepid travelers – (row 1) Polly Antonelli, Mike Davis, (standing) Ginny Renda, Rosemary Fritzjunker, Ronda Davis, Cheryl Oderkirk, Carol Grant, Sandy Thorpe, Pat Headley, Carol Grimm, Adrienne Moen, and (not pictured) Isabella Hurless-Banks.



"To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted." - Bill Bryson

Journey News

FF KNOXVILLE TN INBOUND JOURNEY

August 7 – 12

Our soon-to-be friends from Knoxville will travel to Des Moines in August and your help is needed to make them feel welcome. Please consider serving as a Home Host, Day Host, or Dinner Host. The planning committee will meet soon to plan the Welcome Party, Program, and Farewell Party, including a day at the Iowa State Fair.

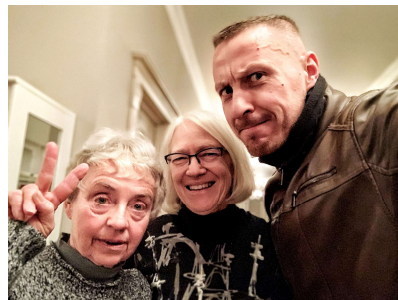
We expect a reciprocal journey to Knoxville in 2020.

To volunteer for any aspect of this journey, you can contact me at 287-3999 or grpbears@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you.
– Ginny Renda, Knoxville Host Coordinator

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE CAROL GRIMM, MARY MARSHALL, AND ELYSE JOHNSON?

In one of the coolest journeys of 2019, Carol, Mary, and Elyse participated in the global journey to Moscow, St Petersburg, and Lake Baikal in March.

But the coolest part was that Mary and Carol met with the Russian journalists they home hosted in 2015 during an Open World program.



OUR 2020 JOURNEY MATCHES

Our club's 2020 international matches were a mixed bag. We look forward to an inbound from FF Ottawa but received no outbound match. Mike Davis, Journey Director, is working with FFI to remedy that. Our club has arranged for domestic inbound and outbound journeys in 2020 so you can look forward to those.

FFI encourages all members to take advantage of the Journey Catalogs, either via emailed or online, so you can travel on global journeys or with other clubs. Many FFGDM members have travelled this way and had great experiences, made new friends, and even found new travel companions. Try it, you'll like it!

Member News



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deana Carfrae
DeCarfrae@gmail.com

Shirley Treanor
shirleytreanor@yahoo.com

CAN YOU HELP?

FFGDM is in possession of three boxes of files from past year's events and meetings. We need someone who can scan these files, put them into proper electronic folders, and save them on a thumb drive. The result will take up considerably less storage space. This is a volunteer job you can do from your own home. Can you help? If so, please contact me at guthriep41@yahoo.com.

-- Pat Headley, President

BOOSTING SPIRITS AND COMMEMORATING MEMBER MILESTONES

As Secretary of the Board of Directors, one of my new duties is sending cards to club members for various life events such as birthdays, weddings, births, deaths, and illness. If you know someone who should receive a card then send the name and life event of the recipient to me at j.house@mediacombb.net.

– Janette House, Secretary

2019 FFDGM Board and Committee Chairs

Board Members	<u>Term ends</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pat Headley - <i>President</i>	2020	guthriep41@yahoo.com
Ginny Renda – <i>Vice-President and FF Knoxville Host Coordinator</i>	2020	grpbears@aol.com
Janette House - <i>Secretary</i>	2021	j.house@mediacombb.net
Jane Escobar – <i>Treasurer</i>	2019	janeescobar@yahoo.com
Marla Carr – <i>Activities Committee co-Chair</i>	2019	marlakcarr@yahoo.com
Carol Corrigan – <i>Scholarship Committee Chair</i>	2019	jecorrigan@msn.com
Mike Davis – <i>Journey Director and FF Ottawa co-Ambassador Coordinator</i>	2021	mjdavisconsulting@gmail.com
Cookie Major – <i>Membership Committee Chair</i>	2020	cookster50@gmail.com
Mary Marshall - <i>FF Ottawa co-Ambassador Coordinator</i>	2021	dpmmgm@msn.com
Other Committees and Tasks		
Shelley Bain – <i>Newsletter Editor</i>		shelleybain@centurylink.net
Nancy Lundstrom – <i>Activities Committee Co-Chair</i>		nancylundstrom@mchsi.com
Open – <i>Nominations Committee Chair</i>		

Introducing FFI's Homestay Auction Fundraiser

Dear FFI Club Leaders and Officers,

As your Board of Directors, we continually work to help our organization grow and adapt to our ever-changing world. Many of the advancements needed to keep us current in this increasingly global environment require significant investment on behalf of FFI. For 2019, the Board has identified the translation of our website into six additional languages as one of our top priorities, making it easier for our current and potential members around the world to learn what we are about and participate in our mission.

Instead of simply identifying this as a fundraising priority, we wanted to find a fun way to bring in donations to fund these translations while also encouraging new friendships – an international homestay auction!

We are challenging each of our clubs to find at least one volunteer member to host a new friend for up to one week. The host commitment is to provide a bed and breakfast for up to one week, (1-7 days) with no obligation to provide additional meals, tours, or entertainment unless the host wants to provide these to their guest(s). We ask that all volunteer hosts fill out their host information using [this form](#) by May 15.

The host's information will be available on the online auction site - www.myminiauction.com/friendshipforce/ - but no names or contact information will be listed, only information about the home and homestay available.

Each homestay will begin with a minimum bid of \$100.00 USD, payable to FFI. Bidding will be open to all FFI members, and each bidder will be notified via email of their bid or if they are outbid. The host's name and contact information will only be shared with the winning bidder when the money for the homestay has been received by Friendship Force International. Winning bidders should be prepared to provide references and answer basic questions for the host as any member would if participating in a regular Friendship Force Journey.

Bidding will be open for approximately six weeks, beginning in the middle of June and closing at the end of July. After the auction, the host and winning bidder will be able to communicate about the logistics of the homestay, set to occur between August 15, 2019 and December 31, 2020. There will be no refund if the homestay is not used.

This auction to fund the translation of our website and club support documents will only be successful with the participation of our exceptional clubs and members. Please consider offering up a homestay or encouraging others in your club to do so. This is a unique chance to not only make a new friend, but to also support the organization that has given so many people fantastic new opportunities for cultural exploration over the last 42 years.

In friendship,
Lyn Hargreave, Board Vice-Chair
Writing on behalf of your FFI Board of Directors

Contact ffiboard@friendshipforce.org with questions.

