



friendship force
GREATER DES MOINES



2022 FFGDM Calendar

(Dates and activities subject to change)

May 3-8	FF Big Canoe IB Journey
May 3	FF Big Canoe Welcome Party
May 6	FF Big Canoe Farewell Party
May 19	Table of Friends
May 23	Book Friends
June 8	Road Trip - Brunnier Art Museum
June 16	Table of Friends
June 25	All-Iowa FF Picnic
June 27	Book Friends
July 21	Table of Friends
July 25	Book Friends
August 18	Table of Friends
August 22	Book Friends
Sep 7 - 14	FF Dayton OB Journey
Dec 6	Happy Feet Holiday Lunch

Brunnier Art Museum and Lunch at Dublin Bay Irish Bar & Grill

Wednesday * June 8 * 10:00 am
295 Scheman Building, 1805 Center Drive, Ames

Join us as we tour the Brunnier Art Museum at the Iowa State Center --- the only accredited museum emphasizing decorative arts in the state of Iowa and a hidden treasure. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$8.

We'll lunch at 12:30 pm at Dublin Bay Irish Bar & Grill at 320 S 16th St and for those who want more art and a longer daytrip, The Octagon Center for the Arts at 427 Douglas Avenue is open until 5:30 pm.

Reservations for the Brunnier and lunch are required, by May 31, to Pam at 515-225-8948.



FF Big Canoe Ambassadors Farewell Dinner

Friday, May 6
6:00 pm

Luther Memorial Church
1201 Grandview Avenue
Des Moines

Last name starting with
A-M - Bring Salads
N-Z - Bring Desserts

If you have not already made your reservation, please contact
Alice (515-865-6331) or
Nancy (515-289-2800)
by May 4.

**Friends are always welcome!*

President's Message

Hello Friendship Force Members and Friends,

In the forward of the book *The Other Side of the Mountain*, by Charlene Terrell, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter talk about being asked by Rev. Wayne Smith to establish The Friendship Force. The Carters readily agreed. What resulted is the “people to people diplomacy” we now know as a worldwide organization, made up of, as the Carters say, ordinary men and women reaching out to other ordinary men and women all over the world. I’m sharing this history with you because the author, Charlene Terrell, was a member of the Big Canoe, Georgia Friendship Force Club; the club we will host May 3-8, 2022.

By all accounts, Wayne Smith was a dreamer. He was also ebullient, energetic, enthusiastic, and downright unrelenting in making his dream of worldwide friendship become a reality. He first presented the idea to Jimmy Carter in July of 1976 while the presidential campaign was still in full swing. He was so convincing, that after the election, President Carter brought the idea to a Governor’s Convention. From there, our own Robert D. Ray, took the idea seriously, and with his wife Billie Ray, made things happen. Des Moines was the first club in 1977 to conduct a journey with Ireland (formerly called exchanges) shortly after Atlanta exchanged with England. Georgia and Iowa set examples for the rest of the world.

These exchanges were important for obvious reasons, and succeeded because President Carter pledged his personal support, but no government involvement whatsoever. “We’ll give you no money – and no orders,” he said. And that was good enough for Wayne Smith, who worked tirelessly while also maintaining his duties as a minister, eventually becoming a full-time ambassador for Friendship Force International, officially chartered on March 17, 1977. By 1985 there were clubs all over the world, eventually reaching 15,000 pre-Covid.

Merely a month after that charter, FFI had developed an official purpose, too long to reprint here, but basically promoting world peace through home stays. It was made clear that these exchanges were NOT tourist trips or shopping excursions, but personal diplomacy exchanges, designed to help people all over the world make friends with each other. People would discover that they were “more alike than different,” said Smith. They were to eat at each other’s tables, visit each other’s milieu, and go home feeling refreshingly good about having made new friends.

Georgia and Iowa have a long-shared history in that they were pioneers in a new concept called The Friendship Force. Please welcome our Georgia ambassadors, whether you are hosting, day hosting, or attending any of the other wonderfully planned activities for this journey.

Terrell, Charlene *The Other Side of the Mountain*, 1997 Wolfe Publishing Fernandina Beach, FL

In Friendship,
Pat Headley
Co- President FFGDM

News from FFI – Global Membership

Because many clubs ceased operations during Covid, and because some people don’t live near an active club, FFI has instituted Global Membership, so far in the USA and New Zealand. Candidates are interviewed before being accepted. They meet via ZOOM, and are eligible to join outbound journeys, and host other ambassadors, possibly before or after another journey. Global members pay the same FFI dues. The contact person for US Global members will be Allison Lindsey. Note: what used to be called Global Journeys is now called “Special Journeys,” There is some planning for individual journeys, which would be a good fit for Global members.

Fundraiser for Ukraine

Pysanka for Ukraine



Our club has been gifted 40 beautiful Ukrainian eggs to use as a fundraiser for Ukraine humanitarian relief.

The eggs will be available at the FF Big Canoe Welcome and Farewell Parties, we are also looking for places to offer them to the wider community. We are accepting donations of cash or check made payable to FFGDM with the proceeds directed to USA -UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) or World Central Kitchen, Chef José Andrés' organization that feeds refugees and the displaced. If you have questions, please contact Shelley at shelleybain@centurylink.net.

Journeys



Join Us in Dayton! September 7 – 14, 2022

Journey leaders Cathy Jensen and Lenne Orona are looking for 14 Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines members to join them for a 7-night visit to Ohio's "Surprising Place" --- Dayton. The city of 138,000 is diverse in its culture, business and history. While Dayton is proud of its aviation heritage, Wright Patterson Air Force Base and US Air Force Museum, it also appeals to those interested in art, archaeology, science, horticulture, and the outdoors. Westcott, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is the only prairie style house in Ohio, Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is one of the oldest garden cemeteries in the US, and the Packard Museum will thrill automobile enthusiasts. The Dayton International Peace Museum is the dedicated to conflict resolution, equity, social justice, tolerance, and protecting our natural world. Young's Jersey Dairy promises homemade ice cream, and the Dayton Art Institute ranks in the top 3% of all art museums in North America. Most of these sites are scheduled for our packed visit. We will also join them for their annual picnic.

For those who want to start the journey early or continue travel afterward, Dayton is 50 miles from Cincinnati, 135 miles from Lexington KY, 75 miles from Columbus, and 255 miles from Pittsburgh. From Des Moines to Dayton is 589 miles.

The journey cost is estimated to be \$435 which includes all fees and program costs. If you are interested in this journey, please complete the Ambassador Application on the FFI website or click [Journey Application](#). You can complete it online and then print it or print it first. Mail the application, with a \$25.00 check made payable to FFGDM, to: Lenne Orona, 4307 41st Street Des Moines, IA 50310. The deadline is June 1.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the application form mailed to you, please email Lenne at lenneorona@gmail.com (put Journey #22508 in the subject line of your email) or call Lenne at 630-290-66549 after May 15. Once we receive all applications, we will look at assisting in developing transportation alternatives.

- Cathy Jensen and Lenne Orona, Co-Ambassador Coordinators



Our Journey to the Smoky Mountains

FF Knoxville * April 20-26



4/20 – WELCOME

Breaking the Covid pandemic spell, Wendy Johnson flew from Tallahassee, Florida to join seven Iowans on a journey to Knoxville, Tennessee. Those from Iowa are Kueier Chung and Robert Strahan of Ames; Shelley Bain, Ginny Renda, Mike and Ronda Davis, Pat Headley, Marla Carr, and Anita Lindfield of FFGDM.

Most of us had met our hosts in Knoxville before attending the warm welcome dinner at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse where we overlooked the city. With President Jayne Raparelli's introductions and Mike McDonough's briefing of the activities, we look forward to our adventures with friends in Knoxville the next day. – Kueier



4/21 – DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE

We met at a church to begin a tour of downtown led by HC Mike. He told the story of the Tennessee theater. We saw the Bijou theater and then walked to the Old Courthouse, which is still used. There we saw the monument to John Sevier, first governor of Tennessee, and his two wives. We heard their very interesting stories. He had 10 children with his first wife, who he married when he was 17 and she was 15. After she died, he married his second wife, who he had saved from an Indian raid and had 8 more children. A bonus was that another visitor to the monuments was a descendant who happened to visit at the same time.

We went to WDVX radio 89.9 at the visitor center to attend the Blue Plate Special show at noon. The show is on Tuesday-Saturday and features local and traveling musicians. The station is a public community listener-supported station focused on roots music, and the show is free. – Mike

We also toured Market Square where we saw the monuments to women's suffrage and Senator John Burn and his mother. Burn cast the deciding vote to give women suffrage after an appeal from his mother Febe to "do the right thing". Good for Knoxville that they honor such important people in the fight for women's rights.

The small group dinner that night was a delight of mixed messages. We were warmly greeted by our hosts, Janis and Bruce Robinson who served sangria and champagne, prepared a delicious and healthy low-carb dinner and THEN offered dessert - fruit cobbler, flourless chocolate torte, chocolate mousse, and whipping cream. Ginny thought it was the best torte she'd ever had and I loved the silky smooth mouse. We got the recipes. Our hosts also mentioned that they regularly use the potholder they received from Janette House when they visited Des Moines. – Shelley

4-22 GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

My host and I, while driving along the Cades Cove Loop, an 11-mile route that gives people a glimpse of Smoky Mountains history by stopping at places such as log cabins, churches, a cantilever barn, and a mill. Diana and I hit gold by seeing two sets of black bears, a mother and three cubs frolicking in a clearing and a little further down the road - another mother and two cubs. The bears and people watching them all seemed to have a good afternoon. After bear spotting, we treated ourselves with dinner at Hot Rods, a 50's diner that was a lot of fun. - Shelley



May - June 2022 Newsletter – Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines



Barbara, our host, Ginny, and I spent more time in the Smoky Mountains Friday afternoon. We went to the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center and were introduced to all the plants, animals, and birds we might see there. They have possum, black and white warblers, wild lilies and a lot of wildlife to see.

We drove to the top of the mountain to Newfound Gap where they dedicated the Smokey National Park. Kids saved their lunch money in a coal bucket a couple of days a week to help buy the land, and the Rockefellers gave 5 million dollars to finish the purchase. It is the only national park that doesn't charge an admittance fee.

We went on to Gatlinburg and visited some art and craft galleries. Last stop Friday afternoon was Santa's Claus-et in Gatlinburg. It was a very cute Christmas store with many rooms of decorations. Ginny bought 2 Christmas ornaments. I bought some learning activities for the boys. She wanted you to know that she hasn't bought one clothing item.

4/23 – FREE DAY

For my free day, I really enjoyed the UT Gardens especially the kitchen garden where I was able to identify plants. We also enjoyed a wonderful dinner with host Leslie, other ambassadors Mike, Ronda, and Wendy and hosts Mike and Jayne and Karen. - Anita



My day host Bill Cherry and I started the day at the University of Tennessee botanical gardens which had a wonderful collection of trees and flowers. Then to the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture which was also on the campus.

We had lunch in the historic district at Central Flats and Taps at 1204 North Central Street. Nice sitting on the outside patio with the sunny weather.

Next, a visit to the Old Gray Cemetery to see the graves of several of the founding members of Knoxville as well as Civil War heroes. - Wendy



Dinner at Corner 16

On Saturday we went to the Sequoyah Museum to learn about the history of the founder of the Cherokee written language, Sequoyah.

Fort Loudon in the Vonore area was a focal point where the British fought side by side with the Cherokee to prevent the French from taking over the area. Then the British wanted to take the land from the Cherokee which backfired on the British.

We had an enjoyable lunch at Tallico Grains Bakery in Tallico, TN. It was a very old reclaimed building that had been the home to many businesses

4/24 - NORRIS AREA AND FAREWELL DINNER

Lunch at Clinch River Brewing, where owner/host Cathy Taylor regaled us with stories of the inception of this restaurant, including how one of its beers happened to be named Chunk Lite after a rescued otter.

Then to the Rice Grist Mill, where a Norris Dam State Park Ranger took his day off to tell us the history of this 18th Century preservation. This was followed by another Park Ranger's historical talk before a visit inside the Lenoir Museum where several bluegrass musicians were playing. - Bob

This is an abbreviated version of the journey journal. The complete journal will be published on the FFGDM website.



Club Activities



First Friday at Mainframe Studios

Seventeen members started off March by attending First Friday at Mainframe Studios. They gathered in the Big Room where most had food or drinks before scattering throughout the building to enjoy the open artist studios. Thanks to Marla Carr for organizing the evening and letting me take her picture with glassblower J. J. Gaffer.

Daytrip to Southeast Central Iowa

Twelve intrepid members braved the drizzle and had a great time on a road trip to Pella, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Albia, and Chariton, on Tuesday, March 22. The first stop was at North Creek Antiques near Pella where several members bought newly-cut pussy willow branches and other items.



The group then traveled to Oskaloosa for a visit to the Mahaska Drug & Gift Shop, emphasis on gift shop because that store had something for everyone.

The next stop was The Book Vault, an awesome town square book store housed in a former bank.

You can see the photo of the travellers in one of the vaults. A second vault is devoted to a wonderful selection of books about Iowa. Learning about Chief Mahaska and seeing his statute was also on the Oskaloosa itinerary. One car in the caravan took a detour to shop at Jaarsma Bakery since they missed out stopping in Pella. What a yummy treat! For lunch, the group travelled to Ottumwa where they ate loose meat sandwiches at the 17-seat Canteen in the Alley.

In Albia, the travelers met with a local historian to learn about the history of Albia including its lovely town square, the Carnegie library, coal mining, and early railroads. The Soldier Memorial was viewed on the way out of town. In Chariton, the stop was at Piper's Grocery & Homemade Candies where many purchased a few candies to enjoy on the way home. During the day, the travellers viewed three impressive county court houses with their unique architecture and inviting town squares. Thanks to Barbara Bailey for organizing the day and keeping everyone on time.

FF Walkers – Time to Get Moving Again!



If the weather says rain, get the parade in before it happens. The FF Walkers walked the St Patrick's Day parade route on March 17 as the participants lined up. We were given some beads and talked with the paraders before the rain. How fun it would be to be IN THE PARADE with our FF banner next year!

The Riverview Park has gone through a great renovation. Lots of space in the middle for activities, a nice walking path along the river, and McHenry Park overlooking it all. A great place to walk during National Walking Week April 1-7.

Some warmer walking weather will be coming up in May and June. Send me an email at skyhicathy@q.com if you have a favorite place to walk or even a fund raiser like the Heart Walk which happened the end of April.

--- Cathy Jensen, FF Walkers Coord

"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles." – Tim Cahill



Springfest is a long-standing club tradition, going back to the day when we had a "Fest" for each season. It usually involves a potluck and a speaker. This year, the added component was community service.

Deb Powers, from Catholic Charities, was the guest speaker at Springfest on April 3. Over forty members enjoyed the potluck and brought donations for the St Joseph Emergency Family Shelter. Dawn detergent, bathroom tissue, and cash appeared to be the most popular donations.

Ms Powers spoke on the areas her organization concentrates, including refugee and humanitarian resettlement, emergency shelter, food security, and domestic violence/sexual assault. She emphasized that because they receive government funds, they provide services in a non-proselytizing way; most the people they serve are not Catholic and are not asked to participate in religious activities.



A Spring festive dessert of cookies and candy provided by Pat Headley.

After Ms Powers, several members spoke about upcoming activities. Alice Rasmussen and Nancy Lundstrom distributed the list of FF Big Canoe inbound activities and invited members to participate, especially the Welcome and Farewell Parties. Lenne Orona and Cathy Jensen made a pitch for applications to the outbound journey to Dayton in September. Marla Carr listed the monthly activities from June through January 2023 generated by the Activities Committee. Ginny Renda did a fine job as MC.

Thank you to the many volunteers who made the event possible: Dee Willemsen, Deana Carfrae, Mike Davis, Ronda Davis, Janette House, Kay Hertz, Alice Rasmussen, Carol Grimm, Karen Kilpatrick, Chuck Kilpatrick, Gail Sheridan Lucht, Gene Lucht, Marla Carr, and Ginny Renda. – Nikki Hubbard and Shelley Bain

Book Friends

Book Friends meets the 4th Monday of each month, from 3:00 - 4:30 pm at Northwest Community Center 5110 Franklin Ave, Des Moines. Call 515 279-2767 if the door is locked when you arrive.

Zoom link, in case of weather or pandemic closings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89069582933?pwd=bHFtaHZ3Zy9USFlpZjd3M2VDcWViZz09>

Join Us! Contact coordinator Connie Walters at yourfriendconnie@gmail.com or 515-971-1916.

2022 Remaining Selections

Discussion DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	Host	NOTES
May 23	The Firekeepers Daughter	Angeline Boulley	Nikki	Ojibwe People
June 27	West with Giraffes	Lynda Rutledge	Anita	U.S.
July 25	The Henna Artist	Alka Joshi	Ronda	Jaipur, India
Aug 22	A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khalid Hosseini	Dee	Afghanistan
Sept 26	The Duchess	Wendy Holden	Ginny	Great Britain
Oct 24	Member Recommendations	For 2023		
Nov 28	The Four Winds	Kristin Hannah	Polly	U.S Depression Era
Dec 26	Unbound	John Shors	Mary	China

Table of Friends

On March 24, Kathie Swift hosted nine of the group at Bubba, a southern style restaurant in downtown Des Moines. Favorite items included fried chicken, catfish, red beans and rice, and crispy brussel sprouts.

In a break with the evening tradition, eight of the group enjoyed lunch at the ICI Bistro at DMACC on April 12, the last week the Bistro was open for the season. On April 28, Nikki Hubbard hosted 9 members and friends at Villaggio, a family-run pizza restaurant in Norwalk. It was Cavatelli Thursday so the favorite selections were cavatelli and pizza.

We meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you would like to join the group, let me know at shelleybain@centurylink.net.
--- Shelley Bain, TOF Coordinator

All-Iowa Friendship Force Picnic

All-Iowa Friendship Force Picnic

Host: FF Quad Cities

Date: Saturday, June 25

Location: Duck Creek Park, Shelter #2, 3300 E Locust St, Davenport, IA 52803

Agenda:

11: 00 am – optional walk along the bike path

11:45 am – Register at Shelter

Noon – 1:00 pm – Eat!! (Chick Filet deluxe box)

1:00 – 3:00 pm – Presidents' reports, networking, fun!



If you plan to attend, let Marla know at marlakcarr@yahoo.com so we know the number from our club.

Deadline: Wednesday, June 15

Contact: Barbara Jacobsen at Smajbaj@gmail.com / 563-320-2764

Name (s):

Club:

Email:

Phone:

Indicate # of: Meat option (chicken) ____ or Vegetarian option ____

Cost \$16 per person x _____ people

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: FFQC and mail with this form to: FFQC, PO Box 504, Bettendorf, IA 52722

Community Activity of Interest

Des Moines Register

**Storytellers
Project**
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Des Moines Storytellers Project

Voyages: Life-changing experiences through travel

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - 7:00 PM

Standard Admission Individual event: \$12

Hoyt Sherman Place * 1501 Woodland Ave * Des Moines, IA

Member News



Marla Carr - May 12
 Elese Johnson - May 14
 Cathy Jensen - May 15
 Chuck Kilpatrick - May 16
 Pam Sadler - May 16
 Sharon Fisher - May 18
 Anita Lindfield - May 20
 Beverly Lytle - May 21
 Jane Escobar - May 23
 Karen Selby - June 1
 Ron Grohe - June 8
 Isabella Hurless-Banks - June 17
 Lee Ann Bakros - June 16
 Elaine Bredesky - June 21
 Ronda Davis - June 24
 Cookie Major - June 24
 Darlene Blake Beers - June 26



New Member

Del Christensen
 317 N 13th St, Adel, IA 50003
 del@iris-center.org
 H-515-993-4734 / C-515-971-0953



Our Sympathy
 to the families of former
 members
 Carol Scheibe Brown
 and
 Maxine Clemons

Directory Correction

Beverly Lytle 515-414-6431

2022 FFDGM Board and Committee Chairs

Board Members	<u>Term ends</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pat Headley – <i>Co-President</i>	2023*	headleypatricia651@gmail.com
Ginny Renda – <i>Co-President</i>	2023*	grpbears@aol.com
Janette House - <i>Secretary</i>	Appt'd	j.house@mediacombb.net
Barbara Bailey – <i>Treasurer and Vice-President</i>	2023	dcblbailey@gmail.com
Marla Carr – <i>Activities Committee Co-Chair</i>	2022*	marlakcarr@yahoo.com
Mike Davis – <i>Journey Director</i>	2024*	mjdavisconsulting@gmail.com
Gail Sheridan Lucht	2022	gail.lucht@gmail.com
Connie Walters - <i>Book Friends Co-Coordinator</i>	2022	yourfriendconnie@gmail.com
Nikki Hubbard – <i>Book Friends Co-Coordinator</i>	2024	nihubbard@aol.com
Anita Lindfield	2024	anitalindfield@gmail.com
	* 2 nd term	
Other Committees and Tasks		
Shelley Bain – <i>Newsletter Editor, Table of Friends Coordinator</i>		shelleybain@centurylink.net
Cathy Jensen – <i>Friendship Force Walkers Coordinator</i>		skyhicathy@q.com.
Nancy Lundstrom – <i>Activities Committee Co-Chair</i>		nancylundstrom@mchsi.com
Alice Rasmussen – <i>Membership Chair</i>		off4ever@aol.com

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 _____

Street

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Birthday MM and DD for newsletter _____ / _____

[illegible]

<input type="checkbox"/> Activities Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Journey Coordinator	<u>Inbound Journeys activities</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member (future)	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor	<input type="checkbox"/> Day Hosting
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer	<input type="checkbox"/> Farewell Party Team
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Speakers	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker's Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/> Host Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Hosting
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer (future)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Team
<input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at events	<input type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Dinner Hosting
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical/Archiving	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Party Team

Please list a skill or interest you have, not listed above, that you are willing to share.

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