



FROM FFCI PRESIDENT

Dear FFCI members,

Here is the first FFCI Newsletter of 2022. I hope this will find you all well and ready to join our group as enthusiastic and active members.



The attached Activities Schedule that Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic have put together with assistance from so many of you (thirteen or more to be “nearly exact”) is an amazing array of activities for all of us to partake of in 2022. Please note that some activities have specific dates and times listed and others will be announced as soon as the planners for a particular activity have that information for us.

What a splendid idea Corry and Charene had that they would coordinate and put together this list for us, if you did your part and you certainly have! What a GREAT GROUP we have here at Friendship Force of Central Iowa!! Thank you ALL so much! If you have questions about activities, contact Corry (515) 232-3312 or Charlene (515) 0231-3686.

In friendship and with hope for a great year!
Sedahlia Crase
FFCI President
515-708-4012
sedahlia@iastate.edu

FROM THE EDITOR

With this first Newsletter I am resuming a position as your official FFCI Newsletter Editor. I am taking over these duties, after several years off, for two reasons:

1. After two difficult pandemic years of restrictions for FFCI, and for Friendship Force International, with no outbound journeys, no inbound FFI journeys from other clubs, and health restrictions on our creatively planned local activities, we have responded appropriately. There is now hope that our club and humanity can once again become more active. This

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April Iowa Wildflowers Picnic
- May 18 Wine and Food Pairings 2:00 - 4:00
Fireside Room, Northcrest
- June Lawn games w/ snacks
Marcia Thompson house
- July 11 Pontoon Boat Ride - Iowa River
Iowa Outbound Journey
(see article in this Newsletter for info)
- Sept Potluck at Moore Park
Date and time to be announced
- Oct Nature Walk (Jester Park?)
Date and time to be announced
- Dec 3 Annual Christmas Party
(covid permitting)

will require, I believe, regular, systematic communications about planned FFCI activities and events. This second tour of duty for me as newsletter editor will provide you with timely notice of the status of the activities that your FFCI club has to offer. **Your part is to sign up for and participate actively in as many of these activities as possible.**

2. In rejoining the FFCI Board of Directors, it becomes apparent to me that the valiant band of current and recent volunteer officers, who have carried us through this tough time, now need increased and active participation to fill leadership positions. Finding our way back to a more “normal” Friendship Force will require much more from everyone, not just the few. I will try to publish a newsletter that makes you aware of the opportunities for you to jump in and fill FFCI’s many leadership needs. Please join in helping the Board rebuild an active and reenergized FFCI. **Join in volunteering to do your part. Become a leader in Friendship Force of Central Iowa.**



Our past Activities Co-chairs have arranged a year of Activities for 2022. Will you make this a highly successful year by attending these monthly events and volunteering to plan additional activities for the remaining blank spaces?



FCCI Activities Schedule 2022

Several people have stepped up to plan activities for our club members to enjoy. Here is a list of what we may be doing. Details will be sent out when they are available. Once we know the dates, you can Save the Dates! If anyone would like to fill in the blank months with an activity, please let Corry Bertelsen or Charene Starcevic know.

Mar. No activity planned yet.

April: In mid-April we will welcome spring with a picnic, scavenger hunt, and slideshow about Iowa wildflowers. The date, time, and place to be announced. Planners: **Lynn Avant** and **Lyn Terrill**

May 18. Katlynn Godfrey, the owner of Della Viti, will talk about wine and food pairings in the Fireside Room at Northcrest from 2:00-4:00. Planners: **Charene Starcevic** and **Diane Brynne**.

June: **Marcia Thompson** will host lawn games and a snack at her place. She has already asked **Carole Magilton** and **Cheryl Binzen** to be her helpers.

July: **Corry and Roger Bertelsen** have arranged for our club to charter the Empress, a double-decker pontoon boat, on the Iowa River at Iowa Falls. We must guarantee 20 fares. We will carpool from Ames at 12:30 on July 11 for a ride at 2:00. Beverages and snacks will be served on board.

August: No activity planned yet.

September: **Dorothy Dake** and **Ginny Molgaard** are planning a potluck to be held at Moore Park in the small shelter that is enclosed on three sides. Our entertainment will be performances by our own musicians and entertainers.

October: **Stu and Ginny Huntington** will plan something. (Possibly a nature talk and walk at Jester Park. There is a lovely nature center there with good views. 515-323-5350)

November: No activity planned yet.

December 3: Saturday, Dec. 3 Christmas party--covid permitting

Your 2022 FFCI Leadership Team



FFCI Board of Directors at January 2022 Zoom meeting. From upper left corner clockwise - Sedahlia Crase, President; Dennis Dake, Newsletter, ; Margaret Epplin, Secretary and Information Technology;- Jerry & Alta Byg, Co-Treasurers

Post Pandemic Leadership Needed for FFCI

FFCI is a member led organization. We need several additional leadership positions filled for the board to function effectively as YOUR organization.

POSTIONS THAT NEED WILLING VOLUNTEERS

Vice President	Publicity
Membership	Historian
Communications	

What are your special skills and talents that you can contribute to make FFCI grow and be vital?

Contact President Sedahlia Crase

Phone 515-708-4012 or by email

sedahlia@iastate.edu

to discuss how you can volunteer to help move FFCI forward.

PLEASE PAY YOUR FFCI 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES

This first 2022 Newsletter is being sent to all of you who were members of FFCI in 2021, since we are still collecting 2022 dues. But if you have not paid your dues, and want to remain on the mailing list and be involved with these great events planned,

please send your 2022 memberships dues of \$40 person, \$80 per couple to:

**Alta & Jerry Byg
2127 Coneflower Court
Ames, IA 50014**

FIRST FFCI OUTBOUND POST-PANDEMIC JOURNEY

AFTERNOON RIVERBOAT CRUISE IOWA FALLS IA

JULY 11, 2022

Some Cool Fun on a Hot Day for FFCI



We're taking a 75-minute private cruise on a double-decker pontoon boat on the Iowa River at Iowa Falls. You can sit in the airconditioned lower level or on the open-air upper deck. The boat is handicapped accessible. Our captain will tell us a little history of the river and the town.

Monday, July 11 Leaving from the parking lot of First Christian Church in Ames at 12:30, if you want to carpool. (It takes about 65 minutes to get there from Ames.) The lodge will be open to use the restrooms.



Brought to Iowa Falls by the Fitz family in 1991, the Scenic City Empress is the crown jewel of the Iowa River. The Empress is a 50 passenger double-decker pontoon boat that hosts weekend public cruises as well as private cruises June through mid-October. Cruises offer beautiful scenery of limestone bluffs, man-made waterfall, wildlife, the historic swinging bridge, and more- all pointed out by the Captain's historic narrative. Enjoy the cruise in the enclosed air-conditioned lower level or on the upper deck for breathtaking views. The boat leaves from the Scenic City Boat House (1113 Union St., Iowa Falls) at 2:00.

Bring \$10. admission in cash and a sun hat and sunscreen if you plan to sit outdoors.

Iced tea, lemonade, cookies, and bars will be provided. There is a restroom on the boat.

If you would like to read more about the cruise and see pictures, go to www.empressboatclub.org



REMEMBERING FFCI Activities from 2021

On Friday, February 12, the FFCI celebrated Valentine's Day by having a Zoom Valentine Party. Since neither Activity co-chair knows how to host a Zoom meeting, Roger and Nick Bertelsen did the honors. Finding club members to participate was easy, and **30 audience members logged on to see 19 acts.** There were Valentine quotations, poem recitations, love songs, guitar playing, a comedy act, a story, a memoir, whistling, sewing projects, a demonstration of handmade porcelain dolls, a list of reasons Why I Like to Wear a Mask, pantomimes, and Valentine cards and a pie to get everyone in a festive mood. The party lasted two hours. Corry and Charene received many positive comments about this event and one request to do a get-acquainted activity every month!

On June 23, thirty-three members met at the shelter at Ada Hayden Park for a barbecue lunch. The site, although it could not be reserved ahead of time, was chosen because it had a beautiful flower garden next to it and a beautiful body of water. It was a very windy day, making set up difficult. The meats were prepared by Hickory Park and the sides were made by Charene, Corry, and Dot. Sedahlia, Karen S. and Kueier brought additional dessert items. After the meal, people told jokes, puns, and stories—some related to traveling—as the entertainment.

Because of covid and the new variant strain, **twenty-six club members met outside at Brookside Park on August 17 for a dessert party.** These were the offerings:

Raw Apple Cake—Carole Magilton
Chocolate Trifle—Corry Bertelsen
Caramel Flan and Cream Cheese Flan---Corry Bertelsen
2 Fluffy Sweet Chocolate Pies—Lyn Terrill
Italian Creme Cake—Charene Starcevic
Rhubarb Crisp—Lynne Van Valin
Brownies—Joan Mathews
Rhubarb Crisp---Diane Oppedal
Butter Brickle Chip Cookies---Karen Selby
Stroop Waffles and other Asst. Cookies---Catherine and Pat Burns
Whipped cream mixed with Cool Whip to top everything
Dot and Dennis Dake brought leftover waters (from the past two events) on ice.

People were eager to get out of the house and converse with friends, so there were no games or activities. Sadly, this was the last event attended by member Joan Herwig.

On October 3, 2021, twenty-three Friendship Force of Central Iowa members attended a concert by the Lake Wobegone Brass Band at Ames City Hall, and afterwards some of the concert goers **gathered at Della Viti for drinks and appetizers.**

Band director Michael Hatstenson educated the audience that this band is like a British brass band, which means it is limited to specific instruments and excludes trumpets and French horns. He had each horn player stand and wave his /her instrument in the air as he explained what it was. About one third of the band instruments were percussion instruments.

One of the percussionists is Bob Smithson, son of FFCI club members Polly Gilbert and Lee Smithson. Bob had played in bands at Ames High and also at ISU. It was the Smithsons who invited this all-volunteer, non-profit band to town and made us aware of the concert. Many of the players are retired music teachers and professional musicians. At least thirteen of Smithsons' family members attended the concert and helped fill the balcony, and twenty additional FFCI members sat in a reserved section on the main floor. Everyone was required to be masked, and everybody cooperated without incident.

The concert was a benefit for Cub Scout Troop 160, which has 18 boys and nine girls, eight of whom are Eagle Scouts. The ticket fees went to the troop and will be used for camp fees and scholarships.

The Lake Wobegon Brass Band drove here (from Minnesota) and back on Sunday. They hadn't performed in front of an audience for two years, so they were delighted to be playing for a live audience that showed its appreciation for their music. Corrie Bertelsen



ALL IOWA PICNIC September 19, 2021

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021, stands out as one of the most memorable "Friendship Force" days of the past year. Sedalia Crase, Dennis Dake, and I represented FFCI at Fort Des Moines Park for a picnic on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Hosted by the Des Moines club, there was a contingent of their FFDM members present. There were also nearly 20 FFI members from the Dayton, Ohio club, who were enjoying an FFI outbound Iowa journey experience in Des Moines. A large group from Cedar Rapids and a number from the Quad Cities added to the crowd.

Delicious bar-B-Q, crazy games, and conversation kept us all busy. It should be noted that the FFCI players racked up several wins involving knowledge of various continents and countries in a rousing game of FFI Jeopardy. Prizes were won by all attendees. Pictured above are just a few of the valuable prizes FFCI attendees brought home (the world and the Eiffel tower!) Congrats to these proud winners!

Dorothy Dake