



FFCI Celebrates Happy Spring Friday, April 22

Let's gather this 'Earth Day'
Friday, April 22 to celebrate the arrival of another
spring

Here is the plan for the day:

**12:00 to 12:30 Bring your picnic lunch to
Bandshell Park**

We'll eat, catch up since we last met, play some earth
day games, go on a scavenger hunt, and end up at the
Ames Public Library at 2:00 pm

**2:00 p.m. Virtual tour of spring wildflowers in
central Iowa.**

If you missed FFCI member Lyn Terrill as your 7th
grade eco-trip guide, here's your lucky chance. Ms
Terrill will lead us on a virtual tour of spring wild-
flowers in central Iowa in the library's cozy Dale H.
Ross Board Room.

RSVP

Please let organizers know if you are planning to
attend:

Lynn Avant: avant6428@gmail.com

Lyn Terrill: scoutnina@aol.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 22

**FFCI EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
PICNIC AT BANDSHELL PARK**

12:00

and Iowa Wildflowers Presentation
at Ames Public Library

2:00 p.m.

May 18

WINE AND CHEESE PAIRINGS

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Fireside Room, Northcrest Retirement Center

RSVP by April 22

June Lawn games w/ snacks
Marcia Thompson house

July 11 Pontoon Boat Ride - Iowa River
Iowa Outbound Journey

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)



**IF YOU
HAVE NOT
ALREADY
DONE SO!**



Wine, Food, and FFCI Friends!

If you're a person who really wants to understand and enjoy wine, there is only one way to do that--by tasting wine.

Come to a wine tasting event!

Wednesday, May 18, from 2:00 - 4:00 p. m.

Beth from Della Viti will serve four wines paired with cheeses and chocolates and present information about each wine.

Wednesday, May 18, from 2-4 P.M.

Fireside Room at Northcrest Retirement Center

Cost is \$15.00, payable at the event.

RSVP by Friday, April 22 to

Charene Starcevic, 515-231-3686

larcha6@aol.com

or Diane Bryne, 515-450-8030

dmbryne@msn.com





meet our MEMBERS

After 2 years of pandemic imposed separation it seems like a good time to get reacquainted with each other. So with this issue of the FFCI Newsletter we will begin a new feature for the NEWSLETTER. **Meet our Members:** we'll let Friendship Force members tell their personal stories of life, interests and how they got involved in **OUR ORGANIZATION.**

As a start, Joan Mathews forwarded to me several FFCI member profiles that she started collecting these past two years. They will be the foundation for this ongoing feature. Let these members reintroduce themselves and tell their Friendship Force stories.

This feature will only work if everyone who receives this Newsletter takes it upon themselves to write their FFCI experiences and send in a story and a picture to your FFCI Newsletter editor:

ddake@iastate.edu

Here you will meet some of the people that make FFCI such a great organization to belong to.



Bob Strahan and Kueier Chung

Hello Joan,

Below and in the attachment is Kueier's and my combined FFCI biography.

Regarding birthdays: Kueier — February 25; Bob — May 6.

Thanks for all your work.

Bob (with Kueier)

Recognizing Friendship Force as a marvelous way to meet people and explore different cultures, Kueier Chung joined FFCI in 2014. The next year, along with husband Bob Strahan, she hosted an ambassador from Wyoming for our club's Global Biking Exchange. Shortly thereafter Bob became an FFCI

member, and since then the two have participated in several inbound and outbound journeys. They have traveled in most of the United States, some in Canada and Mexico, variously in Europe, and in Taiwan and Japan.

Kueier is a native of Taiwan, recently touring in neighboring China. Long ago Bob spent a year in London, driving through Europe before returning to this country. They were the 2019-2020 period's FFCI Co-Presidents.

Kueier taught in elementary and middle schools in Taiwan before coming to Ames for a doctorate at ISU. She retired from Grand View College in Des Moines as director of teacher education and head of the education department. A native of Kansas, Bob retired from ISU as professor of psychology and of statistics, before then having taught at the University of Rochester. From previous marriages, the couple has four sons and three granddaughters, residing variously in Ames, Des Moines, and Minneapolis.

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Before joining FFCI, Bob and Kueier were longtime members of Toastmasters International, Kueier being an Iowa district lieutenant governor and holding other offices in those years. Both have been active in the OLLI at ISU program, Bob giving two classes there. They continue to be members of several discussion and book clubs in Ames. Bob's interests center in philosophy and psychology and science in general. He



Cheryl Binzen

FFCI by way of Disc Golf

My family introduced me to the game of disc golf. While it was a fun experience, I knew it would be a lot more fun if I could ever get that darn disc in the basket. So I enrolled in an OLLI class offered by Dennis Dake, Stu Huntington and a couple of their good buddies. I did get to the point where that darn disc did get into the basket ... usually after way too many darn tries.

But the other fun thing that came out of the class was FFCI. During one of our outings, the subject of a trip to Costa Rica came up. I'd always wanted to travel to that country so – bam! I joined FFCI and traveled to Costa Rica in 2014. My one and only trip so far. Costa Rica was everything I'd hoped it would be, but the travel experience was even way more than that. Wonderful travel companions who have become friends and lots and lots of laughter. The good times and laughter have continued through my just ended 4-year tenure as club treasurer and the many LEOs that we used to be able to have.

The bio bit is that I'm native Amesian (is that a word?!). Graduated from AHS in 1962 and left town --- by my choice. Lived most of my adult life in the Twin Cities, Three years in Vermont. A year in Cleveland for a temporary job and then back to Ames. I thought I was just passing through on my way back up to the Twin Cities but that return was in 2004 and I'm still here. Ames is a great place to live. FFCI is a great group of people. Guess I'll stay and continue to look forward to our next in-person, full-blown LEO. Stay safe. Stay happy.



CHARENE STARCEVIC

I was born and raised in Des Moines, and have lived in Ames 49 years. My husband and I will be married 60 years in August. We have been blessed with four daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren (all amazing, if I do say so).

I love working outside in my yard, quilting, cross stitching and traveling.

I'm not sure how many years I have belonged to Friendship Force but have found it to be very rewarding. I have served in different positions throughout the years and am now serving as co-chair of the activity committee.

Even though I have been unable to travel much with Friendship Force, I have traveled with trips in the United States and one overseas trip of a life time to Australia. I would never have met and become friends with such wonderful members had I not joined.