



FFCI President's Letter

Dear FFCI Friends,

Greetings on this beautiful August morning! It is good to be greeting each one of you via our wonderful FFCI Newsletter that we now have again, thanks to Dennis Dake. His skills are a positive addition for FFCI.

As the hot summer moves right along into August, we are happily back into our 2022 routine of having planned activities. Various volunteers, assisted by our previous activities committee, Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic, have planned and implemented these and they have been great fun. Two activities (the riverboat cruise and the Olympic games) had to be postponed, but the members who planned those postponed events now have dates and times for both events before cold weather sets in. Those activities with dates and other information are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. You have received the complete list of activities with dates for the rest of this year (August-December 2022) and that also can be found in this Newsletter, in case you didn't read it nor save it when it arrived.

As we do each year, we have scheduled the Annual Meeting, which will include election of officers, for Saturday, October 8, at 10 a.m. via Zoom, with a time for gathering to socialize at 9:45. I will send you a link for the meeting much closer to that date. I hope as many of you as possible will make an effort to attend. And don't forget -- a 15-minute social time at 9:45 via Zoom before the meeting so you may decide to arrive early and talk to a friend or make a new friend.

Our next social activity is a talk by Alta and Jerry Byg sharing with us their slideshow with descriptions about their journey to Ukraine and Georgia with FFCI before Covid-19. If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar for Thursday, August 18, 2-4 p.m. in the Farwell Brown Auditorium on first floor in the Ames Public Library. Several others of you were a part of that journey, as well, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Although the Bygs presented this talk to the Northcrest residents during Covid, we wanted to have them talk to our club now, especially in light of Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine and resulting ongoing war. I am extremely eager to hear and see the Bygs' talk and slides.

Do read the articles about the riverboat cruise and the Olympic games party in this Newsletter, and please stay out of the heat for your health and safety.

In friendship,

Sedahlia

Sedahlia Crase, President, FFCI

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Aug 18 Slide show of 2019 Ukraine and Georgia FFCI Journey** - Alta and Jerry Byg, Farwell Brown Aud, Ames Public Library , 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Sept 8 Sing - a -Long & Potluck** at Moore Park, small shelter, 5:00 pm
Dorothy Dake & Ginny Molgaard
- Oct 3 Empress Pontoon Boat Ride** - Iowa River at Iowa Falls 2:00 pm
First post covid FFCI Outbound Journey
- Oct 8 Annual Meeting** Location TBA or Zoom
- Oct 18 Lawn Games and Soup Supper**, 4:00 pm at Marcia Thompson's house, 2728 Meadow Glen Road
- Dec 3 Annual Christmas Potluck Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange**, Village Co-op 2525 Bobcat Drive, 11:00 - 2:00, Judy Mongin reserved space.

FFCI Treasurer's Report July 22, 2022

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since May 19, 2022. Journey Account check book balance is \$250

The May 19, 2022 General account check book balance was \$5363.75. Since then, 1 dues payment of \$40 was received and deposited. With this transaction the General checking account balance is \$5403.75.

As of July 22, 2022 - 45 membership dues have been received.

Jerry Byg



Save the Dates!

FFCI Activities Schedule 2022

Several people have stepped up to plan activities for our club members to enjoy. Here is a list of what we will be doing. More details will be sent out closer to the events. At least right now, you can **Save the Dates!**

- August 18 Alta and Jerry Byg will present a talk with slides about their Ukraine and Georgia journey with FFCI in October 2019, just before Covid. We will gather in the Farwell Brown Auditorium. Members, please bring snacks to share. Tea and lemonade will be provided.
- September 8 Dorothy Dake and Ginny Molgaard are planning a potluck to be held at Moore Park at 5:00 in the small shelter that is enclosed on three sides. Our entertainment will be a sing-along led by our own musicians.
- October 3 Our club will charter the Empress, a double-decker pontoon boat, on the Iowa River at Iowa Falls at 2:00. We must guarantee 20 fares at \$10. each, which will be easy because we are inviting the Des Moines club to join us. Beverages and snacks will be served on the boat. This is a rescheduled event due to lightning hitting the boat in July!
- October 8 Annual Meeting. 10:00. TBD if meeting is on Zoom or in person.
- October 18 Marcia Thompson will host lawn games and a soup supper at her place, 2728 Meadow Glen Road, at 4:00. A committee consisting of Cheryl Binzen, Carole Magilton, Ron Mowers, Margaret Epplin, and Ginny and Stu Huntington have put a lot of thought and effort into making this a very fun event. This is a rescheduled June event.
- November There will be no planned FFCI activities so you can enjoy Thanksgiving and your own holiday preparations.
- December 3 There will be a holiday potluck and white elephant gift exchange (covid permitting) at the party room in Village Co-op at 2525 Bobcat Drive. Please do not go out and buy anything new; bring a usable gift you already have. One gift can be stolen three times. Party is from 11:00-2:00. Thanks to Judy Mongin for reserving this space for us.

Next Big Event - August 18



**Join us for a
presentation about
Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia
August 18th, 2 to 4 pm**

Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium.

The Friendship Force Board is hosting a PowerPoint presentation about the Friendship Force journey to Ukraine and Georgia.

In fall 2019, 12 Friendship Force ambassadors traveled to Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia. Alta & Jerry Byg will be giving a presentation about the sights and sounds of their first travel with Friendship Force. Along with the presentation, food and socialization are being planned. You are hearing and seeing much about the war in the Ukraine. Come see some of the sights of the area before the war.

**Members, please bring snacks to share.
The officers will provide Tea & Lemonade**

September Event



FFCI Potluck and Sing – a – long Thursday, September 8th - 5:00 pm Moore Memorial Park

Ginny Molgaard and Dot Dake plan to lead a sing – a - long at Moore Park September 8th with some help from Peggy Faden and Kitty Fisher and all of you. Meet around 5 pm at the small shelter nearest the parking lot.

Eating will be the first activity and there are electrical plug-ins for crockpots and electric skillets. No need to tell us if you're bringing a main dish, appetizer, salad, vegetable, or dessert. Surprise us! (Table settings, lemonade, iced tea, and water provided. If you prefer another beverage, bring your own.

Any percussion instruments, especially drums or tambourines, add to the celebration. (FFCI also permits castanets, bells, harmonicas, and wash tub string basses. No more than one cow bell please.)



**This is it in a nutshell:
FFCI Sing – a – long Potluck
Moore Memorial Park
Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 pm
*Bring Food and instruments***





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.

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.



Jerry & Alta Byg

Alta was born and grew up on a farm in South Dakota where she attended a rural, one room school South of Dallas, SD where she graduated 8th grade. High School was in Gregory, SD which was 15 mile from our farm and there was no bus service at that time. Alta stayed in town living with a family during her freshman year, and her soph-

omore year, she lived with and cared for an elderly couple. Her junior year she traveled to Mishawaka, Indiana to live with her Aunt & Uncle where she graduated from Penn High School After graduating, Alta moved back to South Dakota where she worked as a Nanny to 4 children until she left to attend a commercial art school in Omaha, Nebraska.

Jerry was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He went to school grades one thru eleven school at Lyons, South Dakota and graduated from Tri-Valley High School which was a consolidation of schools located in Colton, Crooks and Lyons. After graduation from Tri-Valley in 1968, Jerry went to Rapid City, South Dakota to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and graduated with a BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1972.

Jerry and Alta attended the South Dakota State Fair. Jerry was at the fair where he spent many days for 4H and Alta was on vacation with the mother of the children for which she was caring.

Jerry and Alta married on March 4th, 1972. They moved around quite a lot for the first several years. They lived in Rapid City, South Dakota until Jerry graduated from South Dakota School of Mines &

*(CONTINUED
NEXT PAGE)*

Technology in May of 1972. Alta graduated from an art school from Omaha, Nebraska in June 1972. They lived on the family farm in Hartford, SD until Jerry got his first job. They then moved to Vermillion, SD where he worked for about 1 ½ years. Jerry then got a job with the City of Sioux City. They moved to Sgt. Bluff where they lived until they built their own home in Sioux City. They did most of the work themselves, everything from shingles, insulation, cabinet installation to landscaping. When the house was almost complete, they moved into the new house in Sioux City. They lived there for almost 13 years. Alta worked at McDonalds while the children were in elementary school.

Jerry changed jobs and moved to the Denver, Colorado area. Alta and the children stayed in Sioux City for about 9 months until the house finally sold. They found a home in Littleton, Colorado which is a suburb of Denver. The family lived there for about 4 years. Jerry worked for the construction company that moved him to Colorado until construction slowed down in the Denver area. Jerry then got a job at an airport design engineering company. Jerry worked on the Stapleton Airport in Denver as well as many airports around Colorado. Alta worked at Mervyn's as well as freelancing with a commercial design company. After many long commutes to work, Jerry got a job as Ames Municipal Engineer and moved to Ames in 1989. Jerry worked at the city until he got a job at Fox Engineering and worked there until retirement. Alta got a job at the Ames Tribune as a layout designer after a couple years, Alta then got a job with Iowa Benefits, and worked there until it closed. Alta was able to get a job at Iowa State University in the Photo Service area until that section was eliminated, she then moved to the Department of Residence where she worked until retiring. Both Alta & Jerry still work parttime at Iowa State Center as ushers. Alta & Jerry retired in June of 2015. That is when they were really able to focus on traveling.

Alta and Jerry cruised to the Caribbean, Alaska and took a train trip to Germany, Sweden, Finland and Russia before retiring. After retiring, they traveled to Russia, Finland, England, and Japan. They started cruising with Viking where they cruised the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Budapest as well as Portugal, and Iceland. Their first trip with Friendship Force was to Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia in 2019.

Jerry and Alta have been members of Town & College Toastmasters for about 30 years. They are members the Moose Lodge in North Ames. They love to dance and are members of several dance clubs; Red Friars in Ames, Castle Club in Des Moines, Club 76 in Des Moines, the Polka club in central Iowa, the Sioux Falls Dance Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They love to dance at Lake Robbins, South of Woodward, IA.

They just celebrated their 50th Anniversary last March. They have 2 children, Lanai Michelle and Damon Michael. Both children are still single and living in Ames.



Memories of Recent FFCI Activities

FFCI Celebrates Happy Spring Friday, April 22

We met to observe 'Earth Day' and celebrate the arrival of another spring. We ate together, caught up from when we last met, played some earth day games, and went on a scavenger hunt around the Ames Public Library

FFCI member Lyn Terrill led us on a wonderful virtual tour of spring wildflowers in central Iowa in the library's cozy Dale H. Ross Board Room.



The event organizers were Lynn Avant and Lyn Terrill. Thanks to them and all who attended for getting our FFCI activities year off to a great start.



Wine, Food, and FFCI Friends

May 18, 2022

Fireside Room at Northcrest Retirement Center



FFCI members Charene Starcevic and Diane Bryne planned this exciting and informative event. Beth from Della Viti served a variety of wines paired with cheeses and chocolates and presented a great deal of valuable information about each wine. It was held in the Fireside Room at Northcrest Retirement Center on May 18th and was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.





Outbound Journey to Knoxville, Tennessee

FFCI members Kueier Chung and Bob Strahan combined an April visit to a son and daughter-in-law in Louisville, Kentucky with a Des Moines club journey to Knoxville, Tennessee. The Knoxville club visit included downtown walking, visiting the East Tennessee History Center, a hike and drive through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a visit to Norris Dam State Park and the Civilian Conservation Corps area that housed the CCC dam workers, wandering through the exhibits at the Dogwood Arts Festival, and listening to a mountain music jam session. Also encountered was a hair-raising performance of the Van de Graaff generator at nearby Oak Ridge, Tennessee's American Museum of Science and Energy. Oak Ridge--the "Secret City"--was a counterpart of Ames in World War II's Manhattan Project. And, of course, during Kueier and Bob's trip there were many personal exchanges with their hosts and all the other Friendship Force members (and eating a lot).

Hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains (Kueier Chung and Bob Strahan with their Knoxville, Tennessee hosts Jean and Ron Mayer)

ADDITIONAL IMAGES from Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia 2019 Journey



Come to the **Ames Public Library on Thursday, August 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm** and hear from FFCI members who were ambassadors on this 2019 journey to Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia. See additional information elsewhere in this Newsletter.

