



NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

THIS MONTH'S GUEST COLUMNIST IS BOARD MEMBER GARY MITCHNER

June 2010



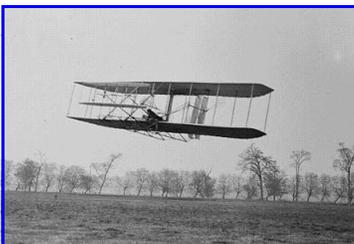
When Kurt Haefeli, the founder of the Solothurn, Switzerland, Friendship Force Club contemplated starting the only club in *Der Schweiz*, he asked Charlotte Paugh (his host when he was an exchange student at Wayne High School in Huber Heights in 1969) and me (his English teacher at Wayne) why the word *force* was combined with *friendship*, we could only reflect upon that significance. He was obviously thinking of aggression and war and violent confrontation; we knew that Friendship Force was not about any of those actions. Our actions developed from other connotations of the word *force*. We thought of nature as a force, of friendship as a positive force in a world filled with conflict. *Force* bespoke of conflict resolution, not aggressive behavior. We were not forcing anyone to be friends but believing that sitting at another's table would lead to friendship instead of disagreement and conflict.

As an English teacher, I frequently taught a short story by the poet William Carlos Williams called "The Use of Force." Students' initial assumptions were that the "use of force" was a negative quality; no student felt that to force anyone to do anything was a good value. To empower the students to comprehend the various qualities of "the use of force," I would excerpt only certain words from the story before they read it and ask them what they thought the main concern of the story was. Invariably, they would guess aggression or violence, but even more significantly, a rape. But the complete story concerns a doctor (Williams was a doctor/poet/writer) who needs to use force to obtain a culture from a young girl's throat to prove that she has diphtheria. Thus "the use of force" in the complete context was a good move since the girl did actually have diphtheria, and ultimately, he saved her life.

As members of Friendship Force, we have all participated either in domestic inbounds and outbounds or international inbounds and outbounds. My wife Marilyn and I are relatively new members of Dayton's Friendship Force Club, but we have already experienced the "force" of friendship. We have forged friendships through the force of ambassadorships in Minneapolis, Louisville, Memphis, Switzerland, and England and friendships from ambassadors from Australia, Canada, and Russia. Friendship is a force that humanizes us. The force of friends can make us healthier, make us more compassionate, make us understand empathy, can make us understand *carpe diem*.

Now that our club has visited Kurt and the Solothurn Club, and they have visited us, my friend Kurt Haefeli must certainly now know why we are known as Friendship *Force*.

Gary



Orville Wright in flight over Huffman Prairie, approximately 1,760 feet in 40 1/5 seconds, Nov. 16, 1904. (Lib. Cong.)

ON THE WEB

www.friendshipforcedayton.com
(Dayton FF web site)

www.thefriendshipforce.com
(FFI web site) **ALL NEW!!**

EXCHANGE NEWS: THE AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND OUTGOING

exchange's dates are Sept 10—Sept 29, 2010, with hosts in Canberra and the Gold Coast, stays in Sydney and an additional land tour of the southern island of New Zealand. **The flights are booked, the ambassador applications sent to AUS/NZ, and we are now waiting for home hosting placements** reports the ED, Gary Mitchner 937-299-1663 gary.mitchner@gmail.com.



Pōhutukawa trees of New Zealand

JAKARTA and ALL INDONESIA Inbound Date Changed. The date for the Indonesia Inbound has been re-scheduled for October. Because of difficulty getting their visas in time for the July departure, both the Iowa and Dayton Clubs agreed to change the dates from July to October. According to Asti Mochtar, the Indonesia ED, they're still wading through red tape at the US Embassy trying to get their Visas. The Ambassadors plan to depart from Indonesia on October 1 and begin their visit to the Quad Cities on October 2. They plan to arrive in Dayton on October 8 and visit here until they leave for the International Conference in Washington, D.C., on October 15. At this point they're uncertain how many Ambassadors will be visiting, but we're still looking for members interested in home hosting. Anyone interested, please contact **Steve Birt** at hetuck47@gmail.com.

AN EXCHANGE TO MOSCOW, RUSSIA AND TALLIN, ESTONIA

Is scheduled for August of 2011 in collaboration with the Solothurn, Switzerland club. If you are interested in serving as the ED for this exchange, please contact a member of the Exchange Coordinating Committee (Bob Remm, Betty Darst or Joe Scullion).



St. Catherine's passage in Tallinn



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn, built in 1894–1900.

MISSION

To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people

VALUES

Mutual Respect • Cultural Diversity • Cultural Exploration Service

VISION

Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations. By connecting the world, one friend at a time, we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

WEBSITE: WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A HABIT OF VISITING OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY.

Joe Scullion has done a great job organizing club materials, providing timely information, giving useful links, documenting our activities with many photographs and putting the newsletter online. Bookmark the link for easy access: <http://www.friendshipforcedayton.com>.

IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

for a meal or a day, please contact Louise Van Vliet at vanvlil@muohio.edu or leave a message on her answering machine - (937) 298-2086.

SPRING PICNIC AT GREENVILLE PARK

The weather was perfect, the park was beautiful, the food was terrific. Too bad that so many of you Friendship Force members missed it!

About 40 members were present for the picnic, which is about one-half of the number that usually attend, but that did not dampen the spirit of those who attended for chicken, home made ice cream (from the Ney's) and great carry-in food from each other. Probably it was one of the best days ever for the weather since the weatherman kept the temperature perfect, no rain, lots of sunshine and breezes. The Committee of Jan & Tom Slagle (co-chairmen) and Betty and Rick Birt (co-chairman), Steve Birt, Bill & Jo Blaine, Ron & Susy De-Latte and Ivan & Claire Patterson had everything arranged and ready for a great day.

This year there will be a Spring and a Fall picnic, so the next one will be October 8th at Hills and Dale, at the Paw Paw Camp. We hope even more of you will be present for this one!

Watch this newsletter for further details and directions.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMBER WINS EPA AWARD



Ralph Dull will receive the EPA Award for Best Environmental Practices in a Small Business in Washington, DC on June 9th.

On May 21, 2010 he also received the highest award given by Green Energy Ohio: "Pioneer of Ohio", which was awarded to Governor Strickland in 2009. Ralph is a member of our Dayton Council on World Affairs.

**Please join us in congratulating
Ralph on this honorable
achievement**

IF YOU NEED A NAME BADGE, let Dick Graf know. He will place an order for it.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND another gala Holiday party on Dec. 12, 2010, at the Hope Hotel.

USING THE INTERNET OPTION FOR RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER IS **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** This will reduce club expenses and the amount of paper that would be used. There are considerable advantages to receiving the newsletter either through the Adobe PDF link Bill Meers sends you or from the Dayton Friendship Force web site. You will be able to access the newsletter 3 to 6 days sooner than through the mails, the pictures look much better on your screen, you can enlarge the print, archive the issues on your computer and, if desired, print out all or part of the issue at your desk.

If you are currently receiving the newsletter by mail and wish to receive it electronically only, please email Tom Graham at thomas.graham@notes.udayton.edu

Mark your calendars! **September 3rd, 3pm: Wright State University Presidential Lecture Series, Ishmael Beah**

Wright State University welcomes Ishmael Beah, author of the 2010 common text *A Long Way Gone*, as the keynote address during Freshman Convocation on Friday, September 3.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah tells a riveting story that he experienced first hand. At age eleven, Beah's life, along with the lives of others in his home country of Sierra Leone, were derailed by the outbreak of a civil war.

At the age of thirteen, after both of his parents and two brothers were killed, he was picked up by the government army and trained to become a child soldier. After two years of fighting, he was released by the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center where he struggled to regain his humanity and to re-enter the world of civilians, who viewed him with fear and suspicion.

In 1998, Beah came to the United States to live with his new family. Ishmael attended Oberlin College in Ohio and has served as an international advocate to bring attention to the plight of child soldiers and children affected by war. His advocacy work includes speaking on behalf of UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, and more. Beah has also served on a U.N. panel with Secretary General Kofi Annan and discussed the issue of child soldiers with Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton.

This event is presented in partnership with the Office of the President and by the Enrollment Management Division of Wright State University.

Please continue to check the DCOWA website at www.wright.edu/ucie/dcowa for future DCOWA programs and activities.

Best regards,

Michelle Streeter Ferrari, Director

University Center for International Education, Wright State University

Program Administrator, Dayton Council on World Affairs

Tel. 937-775-3766, Fax. 937-775-5776

Email. michelle.streeter@wright.edu

Discover Argentina and Explore Chile

October 31 - November 15, 2010 or November 19, 2010 with post-exchange tour

Vicki Vance, ED

vcvance@aol.com

225-275-3816

Join us for FFI's initial foray into amazing Argentina followed by homeshosting in central Chile. Our tour of discovery will begin with your arrival on Oct. 31 in the "Paris of South America" - beautiful Buenos Aires for a two night hotel stay. See the twirl of sultry tango dancers on the streets of San Telmo, the colorful tin homes of La Boca and the cemetery where Eva Peron rests on our 1/2 day guided tour followed by an evening dinner/tango show. Then you'll have the option of heading off to the tropical rainforests to thundering Iguazu Falls for one of the wonders of the world or spend an additional two nights to explore more of Buenos Aires.



Riding through the Pampas where the gaucho is still king, we will meet up with our "Discover" contacts in Cordoba province who are interested in FF. We will spend three nights in a hotel and be day hosted by our new friends who will teach us about Argentine life. In the evenings we will share meals and Friends Force stories with them as we learn about their culture and lifestyles in Villa Maria.



Flying over the majestic Andes to Chile, our Friendship Force hosts will be waiting for us in the seaside resort of Vina del Mar and in the capital city of Santiago. This area is full of vineyards, fishing villages and beautiful beaches along with friendly Chilean hosts ready to welcome you.

Our final (optional) adventure will be a flight down to Puerto Montt where we will traverse through the spectacular Lakes District of Chile and Argentina. Our mode of travel for two days/nights will be via catamarans, buses and ferries as we view the towering volcanoes, waterfalls and glacier-fed lakes before arriving at our final stop for two nights in the mountain resort of Bariloche. Flying back to Buenos Aires we head for home - or you can stay and spend additional time in the city on your own.

Basic exchange, no tours: \$1,730 USD. (15 nights - 8 homeshosting, 7 hotel, 1 flight Argentina to Chile)

Full exchange with both tour options: \$3,320 USD. (19 nights - 8 homeshosting, 11 hotel, 5 domestic flights)

Basic exchange with Lakes District tour only: \$2,800 USD. (19 nights - 8 homeshosting, 11 hotel, 3 domestic flights)

Basic Exchange with Iguazu tour only: \$2,260 USD. (15 nights, 8 homeshosting, 7 hotel, 3 domestic flights)

Please contact Vicki Vance at vcvance@aol.com for add'l details or call 225-275-3816, evenings

Explore • Understand • Serve®



World Conference: More than 350 people are registered for the World Conference, October 16-19, in Washington, DC. This is a record for early registration and we are expecting a full conference. We want to have as many clubs as possible participate. If your club is not yet represented act quickly so you won't miss out. You can register at the FFI website or by clicking on this link: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=792335>

NEW: Worldwide On-line Auction

This year FFI will sponsor a new, on-line auction in conjunction with the World Conference in Washington in October. This will provide a new method for raising funds to expand Friendship Force—and it should be a lot of fun for all our members.

The auction is being organized by members of the FFI Board of Directors who are volunteering their time and effort and have generously put the first items up for bidding. Our Board treasurer, Andrew Stirling of Ottawa, Canada has developed the website and is the coordinator.

Items may be donated by individuals or by clubs. When the website is publicly unveiled, members will be able to bid on items and to donate items on-line. The auction will stay live on-line to its conclusion but people at the World conference will also be able to bid in the traditional Silent Auction format for the last few hours.

All proceeds will go to the Legacy Fund. However, clubs may request that up to 35% of the proceeds from items they donate be retained by the club for local expansion projects. **All clubs and individuals who offer items for sale will be recognized at the World Conference.**

Items to be offered will include home stays, use of vacation properties, tickets to events and access to time-shares, but we can think of many other things. Some offers will be of interest to members all over the world. Some could be more local. We welcome both. For example, the use of a ski chalet would have international appeal; a dinner party hosted by a local gourmet cook would be of interest to people in only one city. We want the members and the clubs to be imaginative.

The success of the Auction depends on building a sizeable list of items before exposing the list to the members. Therefore, we are asking our leadership who receive the **FFI Communique** to consider making one of the early offers so that we can quickly get the site advertised and start to build interest.

Please take a few minutes to visit the website. You'll see examples of items that have already been offered by several Board members. Discuss with members of your club and see if you can come up with an attractive item or two for the auction. Once you are ready to list your item there are two ways to do this.

You can use the website itself at www.friendshipforceauction.org to offer an item or simply send an email to Andrew Stirling with your name, address, phone number, description, photo if possible and suggested starting bid.

We need about 20 additional offers before announcing the website to our global membership, so early responses are particularly appreciated. If you have any questions or want to discuss your ideas, please contact Andrew Stirling by email at iax@magma.ca or phone him at (1) 613 592 8754.



GETTING TO KNOW

Jan & John Slagle



There is BIG NEWS in the lives of the Slagles—our Greenville house has sold and we are moving to Van Wert! The fifth wheel (which contains 2 recliners and the TV) can now move from Van Wert to its summer home at the lake in Celina. No more keeping track of the contents of 3 refrigerators. Cupboard supplies have also been haphazard. We've had one basic rule in our recent lives—whatever you're looking for right now is at the other house. But things are looking up—after June 30 we can just sort boxes.

Our Friendship Force experiences began in 1999 with the Egypt, Jordan, Israel exchange. John's retirement began officially at a restaurant on the Nile. Our cohorts said, "Welcome to the good life," and it has really been so. The New Forest area in England and then on to London for a stay in a dorm at the University completed our next exchange. Touring France with an ending stay at Pau was a delight. The King Arthur fest and tours around England and Ireland were also great. Then came Norway and Sweden. Mere words don't do justice to the beautiful countries we have seen or the many interesting people we have met. So far we have traveled in 22 countries and 11 have been with Friendship Force. We are looking forward to the Australia and New Zealand exchange in September.

Home hosting has been another great experience. We've had guests from Egypt, France and Japan. Language problems resulted in many fits of giggles but always worked out. Our domestic guests were from Kentucky and Michigan and we traveled to Louisville and Memphis last summer on those exchanges. Where else but Friendship Force could we have met so many delightful people? Included in our count are all those fun folks in our Dayton club. Serving on the board for two terms and working with that great Greenville bunch on the annual picnic have been unique experiences.

In addition to traveling we used to work. John was a design engineer and then moved to management in Greenville. Previously stationed at a SAC Air Force base in Louisiana, he then returned to an Air Guard unit at Ft. Wayne for a total of 28 years service as a weatherman. He retired as a Lt. Col. Jan worked for the Girl Scout council at Lima, did various part time PR projects that allowed for full time motherhood of a brood of three, and she finally retired after 6 years as owner-manager of Ohio City Hardware.

Next summer we hope to attain our goal of visiting all 50 states in the USA. Alaska is the only one we've missed. And for the last 8 years we have wintered in Mission, Texas

So what's the big deal about moving?

Where's the next exchange going? AND WHEN DO WE LEAVE??

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**



friendship force
DAYTON

P.O. Box 291992
Dayton, Ohio 45429-1992

FIRST CLASS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 10-29, 2010	Global Exchange to Australia & New Zealand <i>E.D. Gary Mitchner</i>
OCTOBER 3, 2010	Kettering Picnic (Hills & Dales, Paw Paw Camp)
OCT 8—15, 2010	Inbound—Indonesia <i>E. D. Steve Birt</i>
OCT 16—18, 2010	International Conference Wash. D.C.
DEC. 12, 2010	DAYTON FF HOLIDAY PARTY, HOPE HOTEL
AUGUST 2011	Collaborative exchange to Moscow, Russia And Tallin, Estonia <i>E.D. Tbd</i>
AUGUST 26-30, 2011	FFI World Conference, Hamburg, Germany