

The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

The CIVIC membership is very good at what it does: home hospitality. Our international visitors like to see how we live and often cite home hospitality as one of the highlights of their visit to Iowa City. Since home hospitality began in 1986 Tom Baldrige can recall no bad experiences and the evaluations of participants have ranged from "extremely pleasant" to "marvelous". That is the reason that home hospitality has been the focus of recent issues of the *CIVIC Citizen*.

That focus might leave one with the impression that many members are active. The unfortunate reality is that for any group of international visitors, home hospitality is usually offered by only one CIVIC member and sometimes no one volunteers. It's unfortunate because our visitors are well educated, open-minded and influential. Although they sometimes arrive with an anti-American bias and deeply skeptical about American intentions, dinner and conversation in the home of CIVIC members can often change those attitudes. So if you have room at the dinner table for a visitor or two, please consider sharing a meal and conversation. We need your help.

Our members helped raise funds for CIVIC programs at *the Night of a Thousand Dinners* and the Christmas shopping program at Younkers. We also held our once-a-year dinner for participants in the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) that provides support for a year of education and research for citizens of countries of the former Soviet bloc, Serbia and Bosnia. It was a happy time with ample mingling, eating, and conversation and live music provided by an Uzbek and his saxophone.

In previous newsletters we mentioned some of the difficulties faced by the JFDPs when they came to Iowa City for the school year. Thanks to the support from International Programs and the community they are all settled in. When they first arrived, they decided to stop here briefly and to do their internships elsewhere. (One of them said: "After all, who has ever heard of Iowa City?") They have now all chosen to stay in Iowa City.

In addition to the newsletter we have attached a peace message which is also an advertisement for CIVIC. If you have a printer, and if there is a friendly bulletin board in your neck of the woods, could you post it? It would help us in our membership drive, and we definitely need to increase our membership.

Editorial staff
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