



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

April 2016



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The book club had a wonderful discussion on March 21, 2016 about the book, "Cuba Diaries." Since President Obama was in Cuba at the time, it was a very timely discussion. As we left, Bernie Long indicated that participation in the Friendship Force had changed the way he reads the headlines. I couldn't agree more. Only last week, I received a message from Ezgi Varol, a college student in Ankara, Turkey and prior ambassador to Madison, assuring me that she is safe although the bombing in Ankara was at a bus stop she used frequently. Without Friendship Force the news from Ankara would have been a footnote amongst all the other news but because of the Friendship Force, the news was more personal and I was able to see and read comments from my hosts in Turkey and their friends. I would agree with Bernie Friendship Force has changed the way I read the news.

With the recent attack in Brussels, I would ask that you light a candle for those victims and all of the victims of terrorism worldwide. Once again events will seem more personal because The Friendship Force has "Changed the Way We See the World." Although there are fewer conflicts around the world today, the randomness of terrorism increases the perceived threats. Experts say the likelihood of being injured in an attack is very small compared with many other risks that we face each day, but it is hard to listen to the news and not be affected by the images we see. There are many voices that would caution us to distance ourselves from the world and seek to build our fear of anyone that is different. This is exactly the type of perceptions Wayne Smith sought to eliminate when he boldly suggested sharing a home and hospitality for 5-7 days would allow you to see another person for their common humanity and reach across barriers of religion, language, culture and distance. So, let's keep the vision alive and keep the headlines in perspective. At the same time, it is only smart to be aware of travel conditions that may not only present a danger but could cause delays. Register for the State Departments STEP program so you can be located in an emergency. Stay in touch with friends and family. As always, travel safely and wisely.

Speaking of opportunities for sharing hospitality, our July incoming exchange from India can use your help. Helen Ann Rugowski is still seeking hosts and day hosts. All 22 of the ambassadors have received their visas with Jerry Fuller and Helen Ann's help. It is a younger group with a few teenagers included and the itinerary sounds like great fun. Please help Jerry and Helen Ann give them a big friendly Madison welcome.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting April 10. We have exciting news regarding the possibility of an exchange from Winnipeg to replace our fall exchange from Costa Rica that was canceled. Our board has been busy tackling



2016 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting – Third Friday – 11:30 AM
Everyone welcome - 615 E. Washington Ave., 2ndfl.

April 10—Annual Meeting and Luncheon*

April 23—Adopt a Highway*

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference ☺ (Feb)*

May 11-18—Cleveland County, UK Outbound Exchange*

June 2—Book Club*

July 8-15--Nashik Riverside Club India Inbound Exchange*

July 14—Annual Picnic

September 16-19—FFI World Conference☺ (Feb)

2017

January 2017—Outbound Exchange to Guadeloupe

May 2017—Inbound Exchange from Noumea, New Caledonia

September 2017—Outbound Exchange to Vancouver &
Medicine Hat, Canada (One week each)

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

membership growth, strengthening our presence in the community, and developing exchange activities. We have added several new members in the past quarter. Please seek them out at the meeting and make them feel welcome. My hope is we will develop a strategic plan as the year progresses that will also include plans for leadership growth and development and strengthen our programs. All good things but they won't happen without your support. If you can help us in any way big or small or just have new ideas to share, speak to any of the board members, especially Maggie Dohm, your member at large. We want to hear from you.

In Friendship,

Sandi Wysock

Explore • Understand • Serve®

Club Exchanges 2016



Walled city of York, England

Cleveland Co, England Exchange May 11 – 18, 2016

Our group of ambassadors is eager to begin their adventure in England and Scotland. We are meeting on April 9, 2016 for our workshop to discuss details about what to expect on the trip.

We know we will have a group trip to tour the City of York and visit the 13th-century Gothic cathedral, York Minster, with its medieval stained glass and two functioning bell towers. A bus trip will take us to Durham and the local cathedral and we will visit by car Whitby, a fishing village on the Yorkshire coast facing the North Sea.

The remainder of the time in England remains a mystery until we make arrangements with our individual hosts to see things they wish to share or we feel we need to see. We hope we have good weather. After the exchange we are off to Scotland where the weather can be quite variable, and the local brogue quite thick. We will enjoy our new experiences no matter the weather. Spring will have arrived by then.

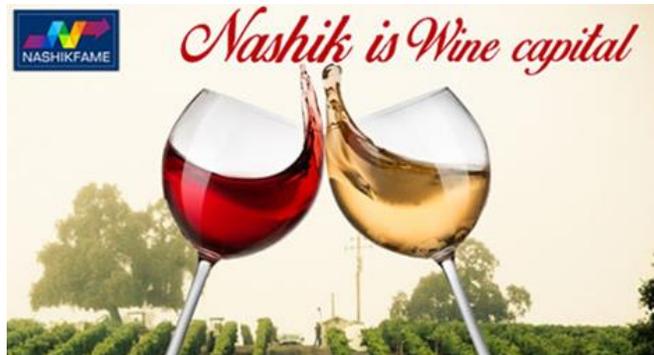
Stephanie Sorensen and Nancy Brown
Exchange Directors

Exchange Coordinator's Report

Five of us just returned from an exchange with the Florida Club of Greater Orlando. 22 ambassadors from various clubs in the U.S. came together from March 11-18, 2016 for a week filled with many adventures. We visited downtown Orlando, Gatorland, the Kennedy Space Center, took a scenic boat ride in Winter park, toured the Albin Polasek museum, residence, chapel and sculpture garden, visited a museum featuring the collection of works by Louis Tiffany, visited Blue Springs State park, and enjoyed an eco-boat tour on the St. Johns River.

At our Annual Meeting, we will recognize the 12 ambassadors going on the Cleveland County, England exchange May 11-18,

Nashik Riverside Inbound Exchange from India July 8-15, 2016



The update from the ED, Subash Badjugar, informs us we have two more coming for a new total of 22 ambassadors. This additional couple is the club president and his wife. All the ambassadors have booked their tickets and are arriving in Chicago on June 30. After spending two days in Chicago as tourists, they travel to Cedar Rapids, IA on July 2 for the week of hosting with the Cedar Rapids club. They come to our club on July 8. We will meet the Cedar Rapids hosts and ambassadors in Dubuque, IA for a picnic lunch to make the exchange.

Our planning group is busily putting together a week of activities which we expect all to enjoy. We still need a few more hosts, including hosting a single man, as well as, day and dinner hosts. As this is our only exchange on the calendar for the rest of 2016, we hope you will choose to participate in some way. The opportunity to sign-up will be available to you at the annual meeting on April 10, otherwise, please contact us directly.

Jerry Fuller, bfuller@centurytel.net, 608-846-5533
Helen Ann Rugowski, haharrin@hotmail.com, 608-841-1087
Exchange Directors

Exchange Coordinator's Report cont.

2016 with a British themed meal, an activity played at parties that originated in England and sing together a popular Beatles song.

Among our Indian ambassadors is a physician, who is head of a hospital in India. It would be of great interest to this couple to have the opportunity to meet a likeminded medical colleague while they are here. If you could help make this happen, please contact the EDs, Helen Ann or Jerry for the exchange.

Our hosting cup is overflowing since last month's newsletter. The Santa Barbara, CA club would like to add Wisconsin to an exchange with the Twin Cities, Minnesota club happening in September 2016. The San Diego Club, whom we visited in April 2015, is interested in a June or July 2017 exchange to Wisconsin. The Denver, CO club would like to visit either in the spring or fall of 2017.

Gail L. Holmes
Exchange Coordinator

Activities

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting is Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Margo McKnight, 321 N. Midvale Boulevard, Madison. We are offering a choice of books to read and discuss with the focus on India and its culture. Possible choices are:



- "The Pink Sari Revolution" by Amana Fontella-Kahn, a tale of women and power in India.
- "The End of Karma" by Somini Sengupta, hope and fury among India's young.
- "Beyond the Beautiful Forevers" by Katherine Boo, a tale of life, death and hope in a Mumbai undercity.

The focus on India culture is intended to give us an introduction to the India exchange in July. Please let Margo know, if you will be joining the group either by phone 608-345-6827, or email memcknight1@yahoo.com.

Stephanie Sorensen, Activities Co-chair



**Saturday April 23, 2016
2PM- 3:30 PM**

Join in on our highway pick-up/clean-up project along Hwy 12 from the Parmenter exit to County Hwy K. All supplies except gloves are provided. For our efforts in beautifying America we are rewarded with a sign recognizing and perhaps advertising our FF club. Look for the sign that is posted near the Parmenter exit.

Please give me a call to volunteer with whatever time you have available. We will meet at the Park & Ride Parmenter exit off Hwy 12.

Sarah Rankin
608-575-9685



Cultural Experiences Outside of Friendship Force

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) invites the members of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin to their annual meeting. It's a **FREE** event.

Where: First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison.

When: Monday, April 25, 2016, starting at 7:00 pm.

What: desserts and coffee/tea, silent auction, and time to meet and greet.

Come to see old friends and make new ones.

Touring India on a Folding Bike

Join Stefan Koehler for a look at his recent bicycle tour of India. He will share photos and stories about his trip, and also talk about India as a country.



Where: Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison

When: Saturday, April 9, 2016, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

No registration required.

Stefan Koehler is currently a lecturer for the Weinert Center of Entrepreneurship at the Wisconsin School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Conference

**Building Bridges with Friendship
April 28-May 1, 2016, Davenport, IA**

Registration Still Open

Details in the February 2016 Newsletter

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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April 2016
Adopt a Highway

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The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, April 10, 2016—12:00-2:00 p.m.
Great Dane Pub & Brewing Co East
876 Jupiter Drive, Madison

12:00 PM Social Hour Cash Bar
12:30 PM Seated Luncheon

Non-registered members welcome for business meeting only at 1:15PM

We hope you have made plans to join us for this British themed event and to vote for the 2016-2017 officers. If you are not attending, you received an email or letter in the mail on or around March 21, 2016 providing you with an opportunity to vote by absentee ballot. The ballot was included. Absentee ballots must be received by Saturday, April 9, 2016. Mail to Sandy Drew, 7305 Cedar Creek Trail, Madison, WI 53717.