



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

August 2017



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, we need to thank the journey coordinators for New Caledonia, Lise Skofronick and Dan Eggerding. From the chatter and the enthusiasm shown at the venues throughout the week we can say that our ambassadors from New Caledonia all enjoyed their visit. I think I speak for everyone when I say we truly enjoyed having our ambassadors from New Caledonia with us and the wonderful entertainment that they provided at the farewell party. What an energetic group! We have been invited to visit New Caledonia in the future. A trip to the South Pacific is certainly very tempting! The farewell party was moved to the Goodman Center at the last minute to escape the severe storms that were predicted. As we sat in the Goodman Center and watched the deluge outside we were very happy that Jane Kessnich was able to find a dry location at the last minute. THANK YOU Jane. Thanks also to Lois Schulz and the activity committee for all their work. We had 60 members at the picnic which was a fabulous turn out. We owe the Goodman Center a big thank you as well for allowing us to use their space with only a few hours' notice.

Our journey schedule for 2017 is drawing to an end. We still have the outgoing journey to Medicine Hat in September and the Open World delegation from Ukraine that are in the US to explore Media Literacy and Countering False Media. The Open World delegation arrives on September 8, 2017. You will have an opportunity to meet the delegation at an ice cream social on September 10. Additional details are in this newsletter. The committee comprised of Martha McGregor, Helen Ann Rugowski, Sandy Drew, Judy Taylor and myself is still working on the program and putting final details together.

Believe it or not, we are already thinking ahead to 2019. Our requests for 2019 outbound journeys are due to our regional representative by September. We asked you to provide input at the picnic and also contacted a number of you via email. There was strong interest in New Zealand, Australia, Maritime Canada, New Caledonia, Brazil and Germany.

I will provide additional information in upcoming newsletters as our plans for 2018 and 2019 continue to develop.

Sandi Wysock
President



2017 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting - Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, third Wednesday of the month, 1:15 p.m.

August 25-28, Saturday-Tuesday—FFI 40th Anniversary World Conference, Manchester, UK ☺ (February)

September 8-16, Friday-Saturday---Open World*

September 10, Sunday—Ice Cream Social *

September 12-17, Tuesday-Sunday—Medicine Hat, Canada Outbound Journey *

October 1, Sunday—L.E.O. ✍

October 18, Wednesday—Book Club *

October 29, Sunday—FF Greater Des Moines 40th Birthday Bash*

2018

April 20-22, Friday-Sunday—Great Lakes, Midwest, and Southwest Regions FF Combined Super Conference, Cincinnati, OH ✍

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later



Peg Hutnik
mhutnik13@gmail.com

Email Change

Roger Vrooman
rogervrooman@gmail.com

Email Correction

Explore • Understand • Serve®

Activities



OPEN WORLD

September 8-16, 2017
Delegates from Ukraine

BOOK CLUB



Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.
Helen Ann Rugowski's Home
7359 Tree Lane, Madison 53717

Book: Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia
Author: Anne Garrels

The book is a portrait of the mid-size city of Chelyabinsk and how it is faring in the new Russia. It covers a number of topics, all nuanced and socially relevant, with themes including political and social stability, identity, family, healthcare, prisons, religion, ecology, nuclear energy, freedom of speech and many others. Putin Country answers the simple question asked by many Westerners: *How can the Russian people so adamantly support President Putin?*

The author, Anne Garrels is a longtime NPR correspondent who has been covering the USSR and Russia for nearly four decades.

The South Central Library System through its catalog, LINKCat, has 10 copies of the book, if you don't wish to purchase it. It is also available as an audio book through the system.

Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening discussion.

Nancy Brown



Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Location: Tamarack Club House
110 S. Westfield Road, Madison, 53717

We are welcoming our Open World Delegates from Ukraine. There are five delegates, a facilitator, an interpreter and probably 4-5 other guests that will assist with translating. All club members are welcome! There is no cost, but there will be a donation jar!

We will be serving two, perhaps more, flavors of ice cream with toppings, and beverages.

Please respond by September 6, 2017 to:
jpkessenich@charaater.net or 608-836-0324

Jane Kessenich
Activities Co-chair

Topic: Media Literacy and Countering False Information

Five delegates from Western Ukraine will arrive in Madison September 8, 2017 with a facilitator and an interpreter. Our committee is hustling to put together the required 32 hours of programing around the assigned topic. We are almost there! After programing is in place we will work on the social activities.

This is the information we have received about our delegates. Anton is the head of an internet radio station. Alina is with the research center, Prometheus, which is described as an organization studying Russian hybrid warfare. Olga is the lead artist for the National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity. Kyrylo is with VoxUkraine which engages in research and economic activities and publishes an online magazine. Viktoriia is an Associate Professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University. As you can see we have a fascinating group of young professionals.

You are invited to join us for the ice cream social on September 10 announced under Activities. Please remember to register.

Co-leaders

Sandi Wysock & Sandy Drew

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bobbie & Roger Vrooman

655 Sanibel Ln
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
864-905-2268

bobbiesque@gmail.com
rogervrooman@gmail.com



Roger & Bobbie Vrooman recently joined our ranks. They moved to Sun Prairie about two years ago. Roger is a development engineer for flexible packaging at American Packaging Corp in Columbus. He has worked in the plastics industry in a similar capacity for 30 years. Bobbie has been a stay-at-home mom to their two children and active in volunteering over the years with the schools, Girl Scouts, the church and Optimists International. She enjoys her bible study groups and is a fur momma. They have enjoyed traveling over the years, even though Roger has traveled more for business and Bobbie doesn't always get to go along.

We are excited to be part of this group and look forward to participating in future events!

2017 Club Journeys

Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada Outbound Journey September 12-17, 2017



World's Largest Chess Set

Good news! Four of our club's members will be going to Medicine Hat joining a group of 12 ambassadors from Fukuoka Japan. According to the draft itinerary sent by Medicine Hat, the ambassadors of both clubs will spend time in the city's historic centre home to the world's largest chess set weighing in at 870 pounds and also includes the Stations of the Cross, St Pat's Church, Veteran's Memorial Park, Esplanade, and Courthouse, visit Medalta Potteries, the Saamis Teepee and some of their regional and interprovincial parks, learn about their greenhouse industry and the Fieldberg farm hemp operation, and tour Medicine Hat College. In addition to the welcome and farewell dinners, two of the other evening meals include dancing, one of which is country line dancing.

Our ambassadors to Medicine Hat are:

Peg Hutnik, (Journey Ambassador Coordinator) Madison, WI

Peg joined the club in 2016 and was a first-time ambassador to Guadeloupe. Since taking on the coordinator role, she also was a host for the group from New Caledonia. She is single and has lived in Wisconsin most of her life. Prior to retirement she was a real estate broker, a teacher, and also worked for the State of Wisconsin. She enjoys hiking, traveling, water aerobics, reading, knitting, DIY crafts, the theater, good conversation and meeting new people. Also keeping her busy are her Scottish Terriers. In September she will take on the role of club vice-president.



Mary Marshall Wales, WI

Mary is a retired Wisconsin Department of Transportation employee, where her work involved acquiring the right-of-way for highway improvement projects and now works part-time for an engineering firm in downtown Milwaukee. She has four children, and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 22 years to 18 months that keep her busy from theatre to fishing. She enjoys traveling and besides road trips with family has visited Africa, Europe and Hawaii. Her main hobby is having fun but she also enjoys gardening, both vegetables and flowers. She is looking forward to future trips with the club.



Jan Gruetzmacher New London, WI

Jan and her husband, Ivan, have been involved with FFWI-Madison since 1995 and have hosted and been ambassadors many times. She is a retired middle school family and consumer education teacher. She enjoys cooking, sewing, shopping and entertaining. Jan and Ivan have been married 49 years.



Judy Endle Estero, FL

Judy is a retired teacher, having taught in the Madison school system in both high school and middle school arenas; a retired banker, having worked for then Cuna Credit Union, now Summit, and finally and most important, a mother of two women, Kirsten in Florida and Kathy in Madison. She is a widow and now live in Florida but considers her legal home to be Egg Harbor in Wisconsin. She first joined FF in about 1982 or 1983 to visit Australia. It was a fantastic trip and made lifelong friends with whom she still communicates. Since Australia, her other travels include visits to Japan, Brazil, New Zealand, and Germany.



New Caledonia Inbound Journey June 23 - 29, 2017



Farewell Party Goodman Community Center

We had many interesting activities and educational experiences for 16 (four couples, seven women and one male) ambassadors from the Nouméa, New Caledonia Club. Plus there were four American ambassadors who joined them, one couple and two women. We had our traditional Friday night fish fry, visit to Hinchley Dairy Farm and tour of the State Capitol with free time to wonder around downtown Madison. We explored the University of Wisconsin campus and enjoyed the Memorial Union Terrace. We took wonderful boat tours on the Mississippi, Wisconsin Dells, as well as, optional pontoon boats around Madison. We visited the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa and the continually evolving International Crane Foundation. Dinner highlights included a Table Top Spaghetti Dinner, a singular experience, as well as small group dinners hosted by club members. The visit culminated in an almost rain-swept farewell dinner party featuring a memorable music/dance review put on by the women from New Caledonia.

The members of the planning committee for this seven-day journey were Dan Eggerding, journey ambassador coordinator, Lise Skofronick, assistant journey ambassador coordinator and Audrey Liimatainen, Peg Hutnik, Helen Rugowski, Dorothy Baldwin and Mary Lou Martino.

The New Caledonia Club ambassadors were: Annie Bernard, Eric Blanco, Patricia Coulon, Sylvie Dauliac, Suzanne Duquesne, Orane Fritsch, Monette Goudet, Marie-Ange Le Bail, Jacky Martin, Marie-Aimée Martin, Gérard Mignier, Gilles Poilve, Nicole Poilve, Jean-Pierre Poulain, Françoise Poulain, and Mireille Schneider. The American ambassadors were Jane Flagler, Charlie Johnson, Gail Caddell and Elke Armoni.

The Club's home hosts were Lise Skofronick, Robert & Lucy Lasseter, Kathy Speck & Gabor Kemeny, Sandra Drew, Tom Herman & Patty Kexel, Jane & Wes Licht, Sarah Rankin, Doug & Kathy Johnson, Peg Hutnik, Mary Lou Martino, Maureen Kind, Maj Wiese and Mary & John Witte.

Dinner hosts who created such delicious meals and good conversation were Kay Kinney, Sandy & George Wysock, Jane Kessenich, Margo McKnight and Chris Manke, Gloria Stange,

Donna Hussin, Susan Becker & Lucy Lasseter and Bobbie and Roger Vrooman. The dinner coordinator was Lucy Lasseter. Day hosts were Helen Ann Rugowski, Martha McGregor, Pat Kexel and Tom Herman, Magdolna Sebestyen, Sarah Rankin, Mary Lou Martino, Audrey Liimatainen, Lise Skofronick, Doug and Kathy Johnson, Maureen Kind, Donna Hussin and George and Sandi Wysock. Dorothy Baldwin was the day host coordinator.

Janet Lonergan was treasurer. Lise Skofronick purchased the welcome bags, Gail Holmes helped finding the contents, including our club pin, luggage tag, and Susan Becker assembled the final welcome packages. David Blado was the photographer. Gail Holmes was a very resourceful journeys' manager. Dan Eggerding created the journey booklet. It's been said many times that it takes a large group of Friendship Force of Wisconsin members to have an exchange be successful! Many thanks to everyone!

Dan Eggerding, Journey Ambassador Coordinator
Lise Skofronick, Assistant Journey Ambassador Coordinator

Journey Ambassador Co-coordinator Needed for 2018 Japan

We have one person who expressed an interest in being a co-coordinator and are in need of a second person for our 2018 two-week outbound journey to Japan. One week will be with the Aichi club on the island of Honshu and the other with the Oita club on the island of Kyushu. Tentatively they are suggesting late October/first week of November when the fall foliage is in its prime. Each ambassador co-coordinator would coordinate just one week and would be supportive of each other. The host clubs plan the activities for our ambassadors. Preferred is someone who has been on an outbound journey.

Gail L. Holmes, Exchange Coordinator
608 249-1846, glholmes@wisc.edu

40th Friendship Force Anniversary Celebration Invitation

The Friendship Force Club of Greater Des Moines has extended an invitation to our club members to join them in celebrating the wonderful past and exciting future of their club and Friendship Force International. Besides the wonderful dinner, entertainment, and silent auction, the special guest is Jeremi Snook, President/CEO FFI.

Home hosting is available on a first come, first serve basis. The Country Club borders, I-80, so location is very convenient.

If interested, please complete the reservation form on the next page.

Adrienne Moen, Midwest Regional Rep
Friendship Force International

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

The Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines

Would be Honored by Your Presence

at their

40th Year Birthday Bash

AND

FFI 40th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017

4:00-7:00 P.M.

Des Moines Golf & Country Club

1600 Jordan Creek Pkwy.

W. Des Moines, IA-- EXIT 121 OFF I-80

(\$35. Inclusive)

Keynote Speaker: JEREMI SNOOK, President/CEO, FFI

*RSVP: Adrienne Moen
4800 Aspen Dr.
W. Des Moines, IA 50265
515-223-4129
adriennemoen@gmail.com*

Please "x" any preference and submit \$35. To Adrienne

Oct. 29 home hosting?

Entrée: Hazelnut Crusted Chicken Diet Restriction?

"Ethnic Attire Encouraged"

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
Official Publication of
The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison
5809 Julia St
Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

August 2017

Open World Program
Ice Cream Social
FF Greater Des Moines 40th Invitation

President: Sandi Wysock	833-5326
Acting Vice-Pres: Sandy Drew	833-5811
Secretary Stephanie Sorensen	819-6646
Treasurer: Judith Taylor	345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin	845-3393

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com

ffwis.meeting@gmail.com

ffwis.membership@gmail.com

ffwis.outreach@gmail.com