



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

January 2016



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank everyone who helped to make our Christmas party a success. Maggie Dohm made arrangements for the spacious and beautifully decorated Fireside Room at Middleton Glen. A nice collection of personal items were donated by members for the Catholic Multicultural Center and delivered by Lise Skofronick. Maj Wiese and George Wysock arrived early to set up and many others too numerous to mention pitched in. Nancy Brown and Stephanie Sorensen, our busy activities co-leaders, were busy scurrying around to make things just perfect. It seemed that everyone in attendance had a good time and enjoyed socializing with each other. We also welcomed three new members.

Our membership dues have been rolling in. In addition to dues, our members have contributed over \$1000 in donations to support the Friendship Force "I'm In" campaign and over \$400 to our General Fund and Delegate Fund. Thank you to all who renewed early and a special thanks to those of you who were able to make an additional contribution. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! The Board has voted to add \$1000 from our account to the "I'm In" campaign. The total will be forwarded to FF International at the end of December. If you are one of the few that has not renewed, there is still time. We want you! We have plans for social and educational activities throughout the year, two incoming international exchanges, and FF International is continuously adding new and interesting trips to the catalogue. You won't want to miss all the excitement!

Finally, a personal note of thanks to all of you from our board. The past several months have been emotional for many of us as we have carried on through the uncertainty of Mary's illness and passing. This week the board voted to elect me as the President of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison for 2015-2016. I am honored to serve you and will do my best to provide strong leadership, but leaders are only successful when they are surrounded by good people. I am fortunate to be surrounded by a strong board and a strong membership that truly cares about our club. I am going to be counting on all of you to help make this a memorable year.

In Friendship

Sandi Wysock, President

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2016 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

January 20--February Newsletter deadline

February 2—Book Club*

February 20—An Evening with Mary Bergin*

March 11-18—Florida Club of Greater Orlando Outbound Exchange*

April 10—Annual Meeting and Luncheon*

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April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference *

May 10-17—Cleveland County, UK Outbound Exchange*

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

July 14—Annual Picnic

September 3-10--San Jose, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange*

September 16-19—FFI World Conference*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

**Friendship Force of Wisconsin –
Madison
Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

You're Invited

Sunday, April 10, 2016

Great Dane East Side

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Welcome to new FFI President & CEO Jeremi Snook

Jeremi Snook has been selected as FFI's sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015. He has a Master's degree in Business Administration and brings with him both the experience of working as a senior executive in the nonprofit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies' award.



The search committee believes that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability we want for the organization. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us

He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioral challenges.

"Friendship Force is much in alignment with who Jeremi is as a person", commented a former boss and CEO. Jeremi concurs: "I have loved all my previous jobs but the mission of this one resonates with my soul. I tell my friends and family that I will work for peace by bringing people from around the world together." We hope to see Jeremi in the Midwest in 2016

Activities

The Activities Committee will be focusing on organizing events with the goals of getting to know each other better, developing community among our members, having some fun, and hoping to make such activities available and attractive to potential new members.

One method we will use to accomplish these goals is to have more events held in homes and clubhouses where we can move around more, interact with more people, and hear each other more easily.

Such events will involve more work than simply going to a restaurant entails. We will need a setup and cleanup crew for each event as well as people to bring food and/or drink. The advantages are more interaction and a less costly event - at least some of the time. If you are willing to help out in any way, please contact us to let us know. We can distribute the tasks so that the same 4 or 5 people are not doing it all the time. If 15 to 20 of you volunteer, it is likely you will only be asked to do one event during a year.

We will continue with some things held in restaurants such as our LEO's as well as our annual meeting. We will also continue with

our summer picnic. We will be experiencing both new and traditional events during any one year.

Please send an email to stevils@charter.net or call me at (608) 819-6646 to tell me what you are willing to do to help us have fun. I'll keep a list and rotate work. Thank you all so much for your willingness to participate.

Stephanie Sorensen
Activities co-chair

Friendship Force Book Club

Please join us for our next book club discussion on February 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sandi & George Wysock, 102 Acadia Drive, Madison. The book for this meeting is titled, Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back by Janice Nimura.

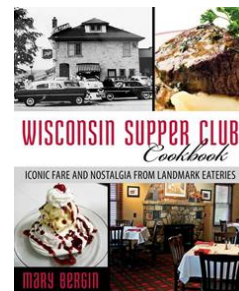


Please RSVP to Sandi Wysock at 608-335-0759 or sandrawysock@msn.com or sign up on **EVENTBRITE!** It's quick and easy. Simply click on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=19718664055>

Nancy Brown,
Activities Co-chair

An Evening with Mary Bergin

Join us on Saturday, February 20 at 3:30 p.m. to hear Mary Bergin discuss her book, Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook-Iconic Fare and Nostalgia from Landmark Eateries. Mary will be available to autograph your copy of her book, talk to us about how supper clubs are a unique part of Wisconsin culture and answer questions. We will meet at the Tamarack Trails Condominium Clubhouse, 110 South Westfield Road, Madison. We will first have our talk and discussion, then sample some of the soup and dessert recipes from the cookbook.



You are most welcome to invite friends who are potentially interested in joining Friendship Force.

We will have limited space of approximately 25 places at this event. Please contact me at stevils@charter.net or call (608) 819-6646 by **January 15** to let me know how many of you will be attending and if you are willing to prepare a soup or dessert for this festivity. We will also need help with setup or cleanup. We look forward to a delicious and informative event.

Stephanie Sorensen
Activities co-chair





Friendship Force International Announces New Cruise Partnership

We are excited to share the exciting kick-off to the 2016 cruises that Friendship Force International is offering. The initial trips are to the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Panama. Panama is a combination of a land tour and cruise with the cruise ship reserved exclusively for members of the Friendship Force for the trip through the Panama Canal locks. All of the cruises are wonderful opportunities to have fun, be educated, and offer some humanitarian assistance.

Fathom is a cruise line that is owned by Carnival and based from Miami. These cruises are unique and very attractive. Share this information with friends and family!

We also now have a special page on our catalog for FFI Cruise Programs:

http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/cruise_list

CONFERENCES 2016



Midwest – Great Lakes Regional Conference Building Bridges with Friendship April 28-May 1, 2016, Davenport, IA

The Quad Cities club is the official host and will be welcoming members from 20 clubs in 9 states. The theme is Building Bridges with Friendship. All members are encouraged to attend.

The conference will be held at the brand-new Holiday Inn and Suites, 4215 Elmore Avenue, which has easy access to I-80. Optional activities highlighting the unique assets of the Quad Cities will also be available. Additional information will be available in January

Mark your 2016 calendar now to attend!



FFI World Conference: Marrakesh, Morocco

September 16 - 19, 2016

(Arrival and registration on September 15)

Further details and registration coming soon. For questions, contact Debbie Powell, World Conference Director, dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org

**In Loving
Memory**



Mary Babula

Death: December 3, 2015

Current club president and participated in several exchanges. Served as co-director for the Urla Turkey Inbound Exchange in 2013.

Full obituary: WSJ
December 6, 2015 or
www.866allfaiths.com

William Wayne Knickmeyer

Death: December 22, 2015

Bill and his wife Donna were members from 1982-present. They participated in many exchanges. Recently were hosts for Arizona July 2015 exchange.

Full obituary: WSJ December 23, 2015 or
www.hooversonfuneralhomes.com



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

January 2016

Welcome New FFI President Jeremi Snook

President: Sandi Wysock 833-5326
Vice Pres: (Vacant)
Secretary: Lois Schulz 223-1287
Treasurer: Judith Taylor 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

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In April of 2014, we provided home hospitality for three young journalists from India who were traveling in the U. S. to explore journalism's impact on human rights. The arrangements were made through FFWisconsin-Madison's connection with the International Institute of Wisconsin. We spent a wonderful evening and ended by agreeing to stay in touch. For the past year, we have observed events in India through Saleem's reporting and comments on Facebook. This year he began to promote his book, USA As I Found It, a 360 Degree View On America for Travelers. We promised Saleem that we would read the book and he requested a critical review.

We ordered the book on Amazon. It has many interesting observations regarding topics such as tipping, our work ethic, American individualism, our fast-paced life, our clean paper smooth roads, our history, government and our direct style of communication. The book also describes Saleem's experiences in Phoenix, Washington D.C., Cincinnati, Madison, Penn State, Niagara Falls, and New York. Imagine our surprise to find photos of Lise Skofronick, Marjie and Pete Marion and Sandi in it. We laughed about his comment indicating that the elderly gentleman, Mr. George picked him up at the hotel. During his visit, he noticed that we seemed quite happy so he was wondering what the secret was to a happy marriage. Sandi's response ended up in the book.

At any rate, this book is an interesting read.

Sandi & George Wysock

