



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

February 2018



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We usually think of the first quarter as being the “off season” with most of our journeys starting in the summer. This year we are starting out with a bang. The group from Indonesia arrives February 12. March 11 is our 40th anniversary/membership drive event. This is followed by the Super Regional Conference April 20-21 in Cincinnati and our annual meeting on April 29. Of course we also have other social events scattered in between. It’s an exciting time but also a time to have “all hands on deck” as they say.

We are making a substantial investment in the 40th anniversary event. We want to encourage all of you to come. We hope to have at least 30-40 potential members attend so we could have 100 or more in attendance. That means we need greeters, clean-up crews, table hosts and lots of friendly enthusiastic faces (that’s you!!!). It is also extremely important that you give us names of friends, acquaintances and family that you feel would be interested in being citizen ambassadors as we will be mailing personal invitations to them. Jeremi Snook will be sending a video message taped specifically for us. Members of Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison will speak about their experiences and the opportunities that are available. Dave Kalan who has served on the FFI board for the past several years will also have a message for us. It is going to be a fun event in a beautiful venue. Please help us make this a big success!

April 29 is the date selected for this year’s annual meeting. Of course we will elect our new officers, celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and our 40th anniversary and fill you in on our plans for 2019. Performing for us at this event is the West High Okinawan Taiko Drummers. The location hasn’t been confirmed yet but please put the date on your calendar.

Thank you for all that you do! You really are amazing. Because of you we are able to host, fill outgoing journeys with dedicated ambassadors and provide interesting activities for both our ambassadors and our membership. It really does take a village! Thank you, Thank you!

**Sandi Wysock**  
President

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## 2018 CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Monthly Board Meeting –DATE CHANGE**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 12:30 p.m., Bridge Point**  
**Waunona Community Center, 1917**  
**Lake Point Dr, Monona**

**February 6, Tuesday**—Mentoring New Members \*

**February 12-17, Monday-Saturday**—Jakarta, Indonesia  
Inbound Journey \*

**February 24, Saturday**—International Festival ☺ (January)

**March 11, Sunday**—40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event\*

**April 20-22, Friday-Sunday**—FF Super Regional  
Conference, Cincinnati, OH \*

**April 29, Sunday**—Annual Meeting ✍

**June 9-15, Saturday-Friday**—Niagara, Canada Inbound  
Journey\*

**October 27-November 3, Saturday-Saturday**—Aichi  
Prefecture Japan Outbound Journey \*

**November 3-10, Saturday-Saturday**—Oita Prefecture,  
Japan Outbound Journey \*

\* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later



## UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for officers for the year extending from September 2018-September 2019. We do have volunteers for some positions but we are still seeking nominees to fill out the slate. If you are contacted, please consider serving. We have a wonderful group of members but the club can't survive without officers and a board. The board meets for approximately 2 hours each month. I often hear that members can't be on the board because they plan to travel but please don't let that stop you from sharing your skills. All of us miss occasional board meetings because of family or travel plans. Being on the board is a tremendously rewarding experience over all.

**Sandi Wysock, Lise Skofronick, Mary Lou Martino, and**  
**Sandy Drew**

# Save the Date



## RSVP FOR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Membership Committee has put together a wonderful program for this very special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

We will have delightful and inspiring stories about the club's history, journeys, and hosting, as well as information about other opportunities available to club members. In addition, we will have a fun Friendship Force Trivia game, prizes, refreshments and more. Come and join the fun!

**When:** March 11, 2018, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** First Unitarian Society  
Atrium Auditorium  
900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI  
**Who:** Current and Prospective Friendship Force Members

Please see separate article below with regards to inviting prospective members to this event.

**RSVP by February 25** to: Stephanie Sorensen, email: [stevils@charter.net](mailto:stevils@charter.net); phone: 608-819-6646

## WHO DO YOU KNOW...

The neighbors you collect mail for when they travel? Someone in your book club who always wants the details about your latest adventure? Your hairdresser, massage therapist, or exercise class acquaintance who likes to travel or try ethnic food? A person from church, from the neighborhood, your garden club, bowling league or golf, a class you have taken, in your, bridge or other game group? Film festival devotees who go to foreign films?

Travel is often the key, but there are many keys - the person who used to be a Peace Corps volunteer, who worked overseas, who either was or hosted an exchange student, studied overseas, is always reading and commenting on international issues, or enjoys different cultural events? Someone who practices a foreign language, folk dances, or is a peace activist? People don't need to be retired to join us. FFI is emphasizing new journeys for younger, active, working people and we have a history of this.

A special part of our 40th anniversary celebration is a big membership drive. Our goal is 40 new members to celebrate our 40 years. The Membership Committee has been working diligently and now we very much need your help and input to achieve this goal. You do not have to know these people well or be a dear friend. We will mail them a lovely printed invitation. Please take a few moments to think broadly of anyone you know who might enjoy Friendship Force. Then send the names, addresses and emails to:

Mary Lindquist  
5809 Julia St, Madison WI 53705  
[ffwis.general@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.general@gmail.com)

**We need your names by February 8, 2018** so that we know how many invitations to print, can get them in the mail, and finalize our planning. Please put it on the top of your "to do" list - it is most important for our club and mission to go forward. Thanks a bunch for your help!

**Stephanie Sorensen - Membership Committee**

## MENTORING NEW MEMBERS

The meeting for prospective mentors is February 6, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Alicia Ashman Library, NOT the Sequoia Library as was printed in January's newsletter. Our club anticipates an influx of new members this year and we need current members to welcome them and introduce them to all the benefits they can enjoy. I hope to see many of you there! Questions? Contact:



Helen Ann Rugowski, 841-1087,  
[haharrin@hotmail.com](mailto:haharrin@hotmail.com)

## DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS

On behalf of the Board, thank you to all who donated to FFWI-Madison this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

We received over \$950 in tax deductible donations so far and renewals are still arriving. Approximately half will be used to support our March 11 40th anniversary/membership recruitment event. The remaining amount is to be used for sending delegates to conferences or placed in the general fund used for operations. While everyone gives in different ways, the additional monetary donations allows us to explore additional opportunities and help us make sure that the FFWI-Madison club is around for future generations.

### Memorial

Several donations were received in memory of Loree Davies. In Wynn's message to us he said the contribution in memory of Loree was "in appreciation for all of the memorable experiences we had hosting and traveling with friends." Thank you Wynn. Loree will be missed.



**Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront  
668 W. 5th Street, Covington, KY 41011**

## **SUPER REGIONAL CONFERENCE APRIL 20-21, 2018**

The Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati is hosting the 2018 Super Regional Conference with the theme of “Unlocking the Future of Friendship Force”. Dave Kalan will start the conference on Friday afternoon with a discussion of “Embracing Change” followed by a social gathering. The keynote speaker from Sister Cities will begin the Saturday program and then attendees will be able to choose between workshops: Leadership, Re-Energizing Clubs or Understanding FFI. The conference will end with a banquet on Saturday night with entertainment from a bluegrass band. Dayton will offer home hosting before the conference and Cincinnati will offer home hosting after the conference.

We are ready to accept registrations! You can download the registration flyer and registration form on our web site, <https://ffregionalcincinnati.weebly.com/>

We have also provided on the website a place for clubs to share their by-laws, policy documents, new member orientation booklets, etc. At the conference on display will be printed copies of the newsletters of clubs in attendance, so please bring yours.

In friendship,  
**Susan Schmidt, Greater Cincinnati Club**



### **Fitchburg Active Women's Group Presentation January 23, 2018**

Peg Hutnik, with assistance from Lise Skofronick, gave a presentation on the benefits of being a member of Friendship Force to the Fitchburg Active Women's Group on Tuesday January 23, 2018. Peg reported there were 23 members present with 11 indicating an interest in learning more about membership in Friendship Force with nine signing up to attend the 40<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary celebration on March 11. Participant questions ranged from costs and overcoming language barriers.

Volunteers and materials are set for the Overture Center International Exposition that will be held on Saturday, February 24. All members should plan to attend this education event.

A friendly reminder to all members to like and follow our club Facebook page, search for Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. Share with your friends and potential members to help us increase our presence on social media.

If you have marketing and outreach suggestions please contact us at [miller1950@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miller1950@sbcglobal.net).

**Tom and Donna Miller  
Outreach Co-chairs**

## **2018 CLUB JOURNEYS**



### **Indonesia Inbound Journey February 12-17, 2018**

When FFI asked the club if we might be interested in hosting a club from Indonesia who was looking for a winter experience, we accepted the invite not knowing it would happen. It did! We then had to envision an exchange that would provide a winter experience with snow and without snow for the assigned week of February 12-17, 2018. What was a challenge has actually turned out to be a week filled with great winter experiences for our Indonesian ambassadors, our host families and club members.

The reservation form in the January newsletter listed those activities where a group count was needed. Deadline for the reservation form was February 1. As you read through the daily schedule for this inbound journey on the next page, there are other opportunities where you can participate because no cost is involved or you pay the establishment directly. Come on out and have some winter fun!

## DAILY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE INDONESIA JOURNEY

**Monday, February 12:** 2:15 p.m., meet at the Dane County Regional Airport to greet ambassadors. 5:30 p.m., welcome dinner at Imperial Gardens (2039 Allen Blvd. Middleton). *(Required sign-up on reservation form.)*

**Tuesday, February 13:** Time to be determined, Olbrich Gardens/Olbrich Park sledding (3330 Atwood Ave., Madison) A choice or possible to do both activities. The bridge to the Thai Building will be open at Olbrich. Sledding across the street at Olbrich Park. **11:00 a.m., soup lunch,** Plymouth UCC Church (2401 Atwood Ave.) After lunch, bowling at Dream Lanes, (13 Atlas Ct. Madison 53714) two games for \$3.25 and \$3.00 for shoe rental, pay directly to Dream Lanes. *(No sign-up required, come and have fun.)*

Evening home hosted dinners at various homes.

**Wednesday, February 14:-** Happy Valentine's Day! 9:00-11:30 a.m., tour and talk of Edgewood. Meet at Edgewood College, Predolin Hall, 1000 Edgewood College Drive (enter off Monroe St.) Lunch on your own at Memorial Union, UW-Madison.

2:00 p.m., sleigh ride/carriage ride at Licht's farm (2964 County Rd AB, McFarland 53558) Only ambassadors will be given rides.. Hosts will observe the horses being readied for pulling the sleigh/carriage and wait in the walk out basement to stay warm. Hot drinks provided. *(Day's activities limited to ambassadors/hosts.)*

Take your host to dinner/cook them a dinner that evening.

**Thursday, February 15:** 11:00 a.m., meet at the Madison Curling Club (4802 Marsh Rd. McFarland). Curling demo and catered lunch. Opportunity to try curling after lunch. *(Required sign-up on reservation form.)*

Remainder of the afternoon provide the ambassadors with the opportunity to get out on the ice to try ice skating or visit Henry Vilas Zoo and the polar bears, or shop.

5:30 p.m., farewell dinner at Rex's Innkeeper, (301 N. Century Ave. Waunakee) Chicken and Roast Beef served family style. *(Required sign-up on reservation form.)*

**Friday February 16:** 1 p.m., tour of the state capitol and chance for photographs for ambassadors. 4 p.m., tubing at Cascade Ski Hill (W10441 Cascade Mountain Rd., Portage 53901) *(Tubing required sign-up on reservation form)*

Dinner on your own,

**Saturday, February 17:** 10:30 a.m., arrive at Dane County Regional Airport for noon departure of ambassadors.

**Doug and Kathy Johnson**  
Journey Host Co-Coordinators  
[kjohnson44@ameritech.net](mailto:kjohnson44@ameritech.net) or 608-238-1785

## Niagara Inbound Journey June 9-15, 2018

NIAGARA - The name evokes gigantic plumes of water. The mighty power of water.

Actually there are three falls that straddle the international border between Canada and the USA. They are from the largest to the smallest:

- 1) The Horseshoe Falls
- 2) The American Falls
- 3) The Bridal Veil



They are located on the Niagara River which drains Lake Erie into Lake Ontario. Yes, from south to north!

For one week we will have the privilege to host and mingle with 18 ambassadors from this sought after region. We will be calling on you to host seven couples and four single women. We will also need day hosts, drivers and hosts for small dinners. Our club is known for its generous hospitality. Let us put it in action.

**Journey Host Co-Coordinators**  
**George Wysock (608)833-5326** [georgewysock@msn.com](mailto:georgewysock@msn.com)  
or  
**Lise Skofronick (608)274-7732** [lrparadis@yahoo.com](mailto:lrparadis@yahoo.com)



**Japan Outbound Journeys**  
**October 27 - November 3, 2018 - Aichi Prefecture**  
**November 3-10, 2018 - Oita Prefecture**



**Steam Rising from Underground Geothermal Activity**  
**Beppu–Oita Prefecture**

Applications for these exciting journeys were accepted throughout January. Both clubs can host 20 ambassadors, and at this point it looks like these journeys will be filled very quickly. The review process and selection of ambassadors will be completed in February. In case you are interested in joining but have not applied yet, applications will still be accepted in February for any remaining open spots, and/or to create a waiting list for potential future cancellations.

We are currently reviewing itinerary options with both clubs. Some of the possible destinations in Aichi Prefecture include:

- The City of Nagoya
- Old-town Takayama
- Mountain-village of Shirakawago
- Inuyama Castle
- One or more industrial museums such as Toyota Museum of Industry and Technology, Mizkan Vinegar, Tofu-Factory, Inax-Toilet, Noritake China etc.

Possible destinations and activities in Oita Prefecture include:

- Walking tour of Old Town Taketa
- Walking tour of downtown Kitsuki wearing kimonos
- Walk through geothermal area of Beppu
- Hike with a guide in Kuju Highlands
- Tour a Sake Brewery
- Participate in a Japanese tea ceremony
- Dialog with students of a Junior High School about our respective cultures

Both clubs are planning welcome and farewell events for our club. In addition, both weeks will include some free time with host families to explore other interests and aspects of Japanese culture.

If you would like to receive additional information, or need assistance with the application process, please let us know, and we will be happy to help. Our contact information is below:

**Journey Ambassador Co-Coordinator**

**Kathy Speck Kemeny,**  
[kspeckemeny@gmail.com](mailto:kspeckemeny@gmail.com) 608-836-0272 (home)  
608-577-4885 (cell)

**Magdi Sebestyen,**  
[magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com) 608-213-5768 (cell)



**VALENTINE FRIEND**

A Valentine friend is someone you choose  
To share your life with you,  
Someone who is always there,  
Whether you're happy or blue.

With a Valentine friend, you can be yourself  
You don't need to pretend;  
When you're careful to choose a compatible match,  
You create a perfect blend.

With you for my special Valentine friend,  
My life is full and bright;  
You bring contentment, joy and peace;  
You're my Valentine delight!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

**HAPPY**   
*Valentine's*  
**DAY**

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
**Official Publication of**  
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**5809 Julia St**  
**Madison, WI 53705**  
**www.ffwis.org**

**February 2018**

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Super Regional Conference Registration-Cincinnati Area  
Indonesia Inbound Journey Daily Activities

President:	Sandi Wysock	833-5326
Vice-Pres:	Peg Hutnik	334-4647
Secretary	Stephanie Sorensen	819-6646
Treasurer:	Judith Taylor	238-9474
Newsletter:	Donna Hussin	845-3393

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