



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

December 2016



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was introduced to two quotes this week from historian and social activist, Howard Zinn. Both quotes resonated with me and spoke to the mission of the Friendship Force. Zinn said “ We are to be reminded that the seemingly smallest acts of kindness, acknowledgement, appreciation: a smile, a hello, holding the door for someone, telling a child how good she/he is, a wave to the neighbor can have a profound effect and make a big difference. It is the compounding effect we can’t anticipate. You never know how far positive kind work or action will travel and for how long.”

Each year we send our smiling ambassadors around the world and we host ambassadors from the countries always with the mission of simply being a friend to the world. We certainly enjoy traveling but the essence of who we are and what we do is making friendships with the hope that our efforts will increase understanding and break down barriers between cultures. It would be easy if you could see a direct and immediate impact but the truth is we often don’t know just how much we influence others. I know that my experiences have changed me but have I made any difference in the lives of others or changed their opinion of Americans? Zinn goes on to say, “We don’t have to engage in grand heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world. Even when we don’t “win” there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that we have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile.” So I conclude that I am on a wonderful adventure with great friends and perhaps together our acts of kindness will indeed transform the world. If not, I will have been surrounded by other good people in the pursuit of something very worthwhile.

Thank you for renewing your membership and for continuing on this journey with the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. As our friends and neighbors here and around the world celebrate their holidays and holy days, let’s remember to send them messages of peace and kindness.

Wishing you and your families a very happy holiday season.

**Sandi Wysock**  
President

*Explore • Understand • Serve*®



## 2016 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**December 11, Sunday**—Holiday Party Potluck\*

**December 15, Thursday**—Membership Renewal Form Deadline\*

**December 28, Wednesday**—Newsletter Deadline

## 2017

**January 11, Wednesday**—LEO, SWAD Indian/Nepalese Restaurant\*

**January 20, Friday**—Book Club, Leonora: The Buried Story of Guadeloupe\*

**January 22, Sunday**—Islands of Guadeloupe Outreach Program\*

**February 22-March 1**—Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange

**March 25, Saturday**—Book Club ✍

**May 10, Wednesday**—Book Club ✍

**May 19-26**—San Diego Inbound Exchange

**June 23-30**—Noumea, New Caledonia Inbound Exchange

**August 8-14**—Medicine Hat, Canada Outbound Exchange

**August 15-22**—Vancouver, Canada Outbound Exchange

**August 24-28**—FFI 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Conference, Manchester, UK

\* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later



# Activities



## Holiday Party Potluck

### A Gentle Reminder

We look forward to seeing you **Sunday, December 11, 2016**, at the Middleton Glen Retirement Community, 6720 Century Ave, Middleton, WI.

*Social 12:00 noon.*

*12:30 p.m. Approval of The Bylaw revision and a guest speaker from the Catholic Multicultural Center.*

Please register by phone: Margo McKnight (608) 345-6827 or [memcknight1@yahoo.com](mailto:memcknight1@yahoo.com).

Activity Committee

## BOOK CLUB

October 11, 2016, seven club members and one guest enjoyed a lively discussion lead by Bernie Long on the book, I Am Nujoid by Delphine Minoui.



January's book club selection is LEONORA: The Buried Story of Guadeloupe by Dany Bébel-Gisler. Leonora's father was a veteran of WW I and she was born soon after the war. The story immerses us into the cultural and social life of the common people of this Caribbean island nation. Leonora talks about child rearing, marital life, religious practices and beliefs. The culture and family life developed from Carib Indians and then the African slaves who were brought by the inhuman slave trade after the invasion of the Spanish. The Carib Indians gave us the beautiful name – Caribbean after their murderous decimation by the Spanish Conquistadores. Chapter 3 has the title, "My Favorite Celebrations, the Vigils for the dead". The village wake was the biggest event, the most elaborate party. A question; what powers do the dead have?

DATE: Friday, January 20, 2017  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Lakeview Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave,  
Madison

Stephanie Sorenson



L.E.O.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

1:00 p.m.

SWAD—Indian/Nepalese  
6007A Monona Dr, Monona, WI

Mark your calendar for the next Let's Eat Out activity! SWAD offers a lunch buffet at this time. The cost will be between \$12.00 and \$13.00. Please RSVP to Mary Mastaglio at 608-241-0212 or email [mamastaglio@gmail.com](mailto:mamastaglio@gmail.com)

Mary Mastaglio



**The Caribbean Islands of Guadeloupe**

**Sunday, January 22, 2017**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Rd**

The Outreach Committee, in a joint effort with the Exchange to Guadeloupe, is reaching out to the community to present a program to warm all of us in the middle of winter. Let's escape the January cold and go to the Islands of Guadeloupe for an afternoon of music, dance, and of course food.

Guest speaker is Dr. Jérôme Camal, U.W. Madison Anthropology Department, who will share with us the history of his native land.

Come and have fun. Come and meet the ambassadors. Come and travel without leaving town.

Lise Skofronick, Outreach  
274-7732 or [lrparadis@yahoo.com](mailto:lrparadis@yahoo.com)

### Club Information



**Membership Renewal Time  
Deadline December 15, 2016**

Many of you have already sent in your renewals. Thank you for being ahead of the game. Over 70% of our members have already renewed their membership with Friendship Force. This saves us time and effort with fewer phone calls or mailing additional forms.

The renewal notices were mailed to you on October 25. If you did not receive one, you may download the "Membership Renewal" form on the website at [www.ffwis.org](http://www.ffwis.org). If you are not a member yet and would like to become a member, you may download the "Membership Application" on the website. Then start enjoying the many activities and sharing of your experience with what Friendship Force is all about.

If you are not sure if you have renewed, give me a call. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair**  
608-233-9351 or [marylindquist@charter.net](mailto:marylindquist@charter.net)

## CLUB'S NON-PROFIT STATUS

Just a reminder that the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison was approved as a 501(c)3 organization on February 11, 2016. This means that your donations will be tax deductible if they were made after that date. You will receive a letter thanking you for your donation that can be used for your tax records.

There have been some questions asking whether the dues are also tax deductible. As we understand the tax laws, the answer depends upon whether you receive anything of value for your donation. Generally speaking dues less than \$75.00 with minimal or no goods or services received in return may be deductible. We can tell you that your dues are not used to provide any goods or services to our members. We would suggest that you review with your accountant.

**Sandi Wysock**

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING VIDEO

Fitchburg Community Television taped our program with Bernie Long, Kay Babcock and Joan Calkins speaking about the early days of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin. We will be editing the video for future use but you can see the entire program by copying the link below into your browser.

<http://factv.fitchburgwi.gov/vod/7823-History-of-Friendship-Force-10-18-16-Low-v1.mp4>

**Sandi Wysock**

### Exchange Information

#### Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange February 22-March 1, 2017

Twenty-three ambassadors from our club will be heading to French-speaking Guadeloupe to reconnect with the club we hosted in Madison July 2015. Nancy and Richard Mueller and Donna Hussin interviewed applicants on Monday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 19. Co-Eds Lise Skofronick and Maureen Kind invited the ambassadors to a get-together on Thursday November 3. We played get-to-know-you Bingo, had snacks and shared information on flights and other travel plans. The Guadeloupe club has host families for all 23 ambassadors and the matching process is in their hands. The ambassadors were interested in reading the January book club selection, *Leonora* by Dany Bébel-Gisler and in attending the discussion. There are also plans to attend another Caribbean-themed event in January being offered by the Outreach committee. Announcement is in this newsletter.

The ambassadors will be David Blado, Patrick Fleming, Sueli Goulart, Jan and Ivan Gruetzmacher, Peg Hutnik, Kathy and Doug Johnson, Kathy Speck and Gabor Kemeny, Lucy and Bob Lasseter, Audrey Liimatainen, Mary Mastaglio, Lise and Kyle Thomas-Prince, Donna Ulteig, Mary and John Witte, Sandra and George Wysock.

We are delighted to have many new members and first time travelers joining with long time members.



**Maureen Kind and Lise Skofronick**  
Co-Exchange Directors

### THREE Exchange Director Opportunities

Our club has selected the exchanges for 2017 and now needs your assistance in providing leadership. From May 19-26, 2017, there are 20 ambassadors from San Diego eagerly anticipating a reciprocal exchange with Wisconsin. An exchange director and perhaps an assistant exchange director are needed.

For the international inbound exchange from Noumea, New Caledonia from June 23-29, 2017, Dan Eggerding has volunteered to be an exchange director for the first time. He would like an experienced ED from our club to assist him as a Co-Ed or assistant ED.

One of our new members, Peg Hutnik, has volunteered to be one of the exchange directors for the two-week outbound exchange to Canada in 2017. We're invited to the Medicine Hat club from August 8-14 and to the Greater Vancouver club from August 15-22. Again, she would like an experienced ED to partner with her. Each ED would coordinate just one week and would be supportive of each other. The host clubs plan the activities for our ambassadors.

There are a number of you who could provide this leadership which is at the heart of our successful exchanges. You will be supported by the Exchange Coordinator, former EDs, other club members, and a detailed Exchange Director Manual. Consider volunteering for a personally-satisfying adventure! If you have any questions, please contact me. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Gail L. Holmes, Exchange Coordinator  
608 249-1846 or [glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)

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

**December 2016**  
**Membership Renewal Reminder**  
**Club Non-Profit Status and Tax Deduction**

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

**Email Accounts:**

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[ffwis.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.outreach@gmail.com)

## **Missing FFI Ambassador Handbooks and Host Handbooks**

You may have participated in one of our club's exchanges and were given a 5" x 8" Friendship Force International Ambassador Handbook or Host Handbook by the Exchange Director. If you find one or both of these in your exchange materials, please return them to me so that we can give them to our next exchange participants. We will have four exchanges in 2017! Many thanks.



*Gail L. Holmes*  
*Exchange Coordinator*  
*608 249-1846 or [gholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:gholmes@wisc.edu)*

