



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World  
January 2015



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past month we enjoyed the annual Friendship Force Christmas Party at the Radisson Hotel. I would like to offer my appreciation to Fannie and the Activities Committee for organizing this and the other activities offered throughout the year.

The membership renewal due date has passed, but if you missed it, we still want you with us! The membership directory comes out early in the year and we want you included in it. Many of you went beyond your renewal dues to give more. Your loyalty and generosity to our Club and its mission is truly gratifying. Thank you so much. The target use for most of these extra contributions will be to support up to 3 members to attend the Midwest Leadership Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held April 30, May 1-2. Their club is offering home hosting and we would love to send 3 people who want to become leaders in our club. Anyone interested should please call me.

The next club event coming up is the book discussion on January 12. Who could have known when this book, Escape from Camp 14, was chosen that we would be reading daily in the newspaper about life in North Korea! I'm looking forward to an interesting evening and hope that many of you will choose to join us. Reading the book is not a requirement for coming out.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article on the proposed changes to our club bylaws. The committee and the board spent considerable time in deliberation on these changes and are open to your input as well. To continue to grow and remain a viable organization we need to represent our entire membership and hope these changes will enable us to work toward this goal. Likewise, the board meetings and the board meeting minutes remain available to all members.

A new year is a time for hope and promise. Atlanta promised they would send out the exchange matching for 2016 in January. I'm hoping that we receive an International Outbound and that it was one of our choices!

In friendship,

Helen Ann Rugowski, President

Explore • Understand • Serve®



## 2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**January 12**—Book Discussion, Escape from Camp 14☺  
(November)

**February 8**—Valentine Luncheon, Fitzgerald's \*

**February 21**—International Festival, Overture Center\*

**April 7-14**—San Diego Outbound Exchange\*

**April 26**—Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Coliseum Bar✍

**April 30, May 1-2**—Midwest Leadership Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA✍

**June 18-24**—Arizona Inbound Exchange\*

**July 25-31**—Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange☺ (December)

**July 30**—Annual Picnic ✍

**August 29-31**—FFI World Conference, Vancouver✍

\* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later



WORLD CONFERENCE 2015  
Vancouver, Canada  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

**"Building Bridges"**  
August 28-31, 2015  
Renaissance Vancouver  
Harbourside Hotel

Hosted by the Friendship  
Force of Vancouver,  
British Columbia, Canada

Registration will open  
January 7, 2015.



Mission San Diego de Alcalá founded in 1769

### San Diego Outbound Exchange April 7-14, 2015

Interviews for the ambassadors were conducted on December 10 and we followed-up with telephone interviews for those who were not able to attend the evening interview session.

We are happy to announce that 19 ambassadors are onboard for this exchange. There is room for one more, so if you are interested, contact Nancy Brown ASAP. For new members, this exchange would be a very comfortable way for you to have an exchange experience and get to know some of our club members.

We will be having a pre-trip meeting toward the end of February to review some of the details of this exchange.

If you have any questions regarding this exchange, please contact me at [ncbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:ncbrown48@gmail.com) or 608.28.09040.

**Nancy Brown, Exchange Director**



### Crafter's Group

Nine gathered in December at the home of Lucy Lasseter to make cozy and warm fleece hats. As you can see, they are not just for children. There is no January meeting. Look in the next newsletter for the next meeting date



### Arizona Inbound Exchange June 18-24, 2015

The Friendship Force Central Arizona club, located in the greater Phoenix area will be joining us for six days beginning June 18, 2015 before going on to Milwaukee on June 24. Members of our club were hosted by them in February 2014. It's our opportunity to show them Madison hospitality and a bit of Wisconsin. Their ED is Pat Forsythe who hosted Bob and Lucy Lasseter. We have also extended an invitation to the Friendship Force of Tucson/South Arizona but have not yet heard back from them.

If you would like to help plan this exchange, be a host, day host or dinner host, please contact me at [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com) or 608.845.3395.

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**



We are always seeking opportunities to reach out into the community to raise awareness of the Friendship Force Club and provide you with more cross cultural learning opportunities. If you have any ideas for great international restaurants, opportunities for us to speak to groups, or if you have connections that may help us connect to the international community or other cultural groups in Madison, let us know.

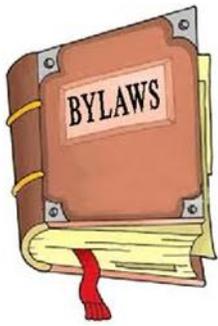


### Book Club

Join us for the second meeting of the Friendship Force Book Club on Monday, January 12, 2015, at the home of Stephanie Sorensen, 1624C North Golf Glen, Madison. The book to be discussed is Escape from Camp 14 written by Blaine Harden. Multiple copies are available at the Madison Public Library. It is not a long book so you still have time to read the book for the meeting.

Please let Stephanie know, if you will be attending. Refer to the membership directory for her email address and phone number.

**Sandi Wysock and Mary Babula**



## Club Bylaws Committee

This committee, comprised of Fannie Hicklin, Kay Babcock, Margo McKnight, Sandy Drew and Helen Ann Rugowski met twice in November to review and update our bylaws. The last update was in 2009. The full Board reviewed the recommendations of this committee at their November meeting, this input resulting in further revisions. The bylaws are now

almost ready to be put to the full membership for review. They will most likely be included in the February newsletter and the vote for acceptance, or not, taken at the annual meeting on April 26. The most notable changes, in summary are:

- We changed our name! The name of the organization shall be The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison, Inc. At the time of our birth, we were the only Wisconsin club. We believed we need to identify ourselves more clearly to the rest of the world.
- Creation of an Exchange Director Committee comprised of a chair, who becomes a board member, and club members interested in positions of exchange director. This committee would meet as necessary to mentor, share ideas and strategies for creating and guiding exceptional exchanges.
- As a result of this change, exchange directors are no longer board members and required to attend board meetings. Exchange directors would still need to be approved, or disapproved, however, by vote of the board.
- Creation of a member-at-large position on the board. This position, like all others on the board, is a voting member.
- The effect of the above two changes reduces the size of the board, from the current 18, to 12 persons. They are: the four elected officers, the immediate past president, newsletter editor, member at large, and the five standing committee chairs (membership, exchanges, activity, outreach and historian).
- Outreach expanded to include all those activities in the community intended to inform and educate others of the role of our club. Consequently, Adopt a Highway and WHA become a part of Outreach.
- Election of officers to be carried out by ballot. This would enable all members to vote on the officers, not limiting the voting to just those who attend the annual meeting.

Anyone wanting to comment on these proposed changes may contact me, or any other member of the Bylaws Committee, prior to our next board meeting on January 16.

**Helen Ann Rugowski, President**

## Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison Midwest Club Report



Regional representatives request a report from each club in their region at the end of each year, which is then sent to Atlanta. The following is our club's report.

When someone asks you, "What does your club do?" here is your answer.

### 2014 Accomplishments:

- Completed five exchanges--two outgoing, both filled, to Arizona (Central AZ & Phoenix clubs), and Berlin; three incoming from Utah, Global Art & Architecture with N. Illinois and Milwaukee clubs, and Wessex, UK, Heredia, Costa Rica, Chiapas, Mexico and USA.
- Resurrected our Outreach Committee which had been missing for almost two years.
  - a. Hosted our first (in a long time) formalized new member meeting to orient and engage our newest members.
  - b. Started a book club
  - c. Started a LEO, Let's Eat Out event.
  - d. Started Club Facebook page
  - e. Held a first bicycling event at Madison's " Ride the Drive"
  - f. Continued to offer speaking engagements to community groups
- Participated for the first time in annual city International Festival
- Updated our club bylaws
- Three board members attended the Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee in May
- Three Board members attended the Global Leadership Exchange in Milwaukee July 10.
- Discontinued our paper newsletter by bulk mail and switched to an online one beginning January 2015.
- Developed a data base for home hosting, day hosting and dinner hosting.
- Offered 10 FF business cards FREE to all members!
- Have FF luggage tags for sale at \$1.00.
- Partnered with the International Institutes of Wisconsin to host (dinner host &/or home host) delegates on five separate occasions while in Madison. Delegates were from Uzbekistan, Japan, Indonesia, India, and Venezuela.
- Continued service projects of highway litter pickup twice yearly for a designated section of state highway, donated to local food pantry at holiday time, volunteered to help with the spring public television auction and continued our crafting group begun in 2013, which meets almost monthly focusing on making craft gifts for ambassadors and friends.



## 2015 Goals

- Plan and complete three exchanges
  1. Outbound to San Diego
  2. Inbound from Central Arizona
  3. Inbound from Guadeloupe
- Host exchange with ambassadors from Guadeloupe that focuses on language learning with more free time for ambassadors
- Update our exchange director manual and policies
- Host a workshop for new and potential exchange directors.
- Financially support up to three members to the Midwest Leadership Conference in Cedar Rapids to bring new leadership to our club.
- Advocate to be selected for an Open World.
- Develop power point presentation to promote FF and respond to requests for information from community organizations.
- Pursue 501 (3) c status
- Have Outreach Committee continue to explore different avenues of increasing our visibility in the community. One such possibility is staffing a booth at Art Fair on the Square.

## **Helen Ann Rugowski, President**



## **Overture Center's Annual International Festival February 21, 2015**

Enjoy an afternoon of performances, cuisines and crafts from around the world and it's FREE! It will take place from noon until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Our club will have a table staffed with two volunteers to educate the public about our organization and its objectives and activities. We still need one or two more people to staff the table for a one-hour shift. It is a fun way to meet people and perhaps recruit new members. If you are interested in participating please contact Kay Babcock ([kay.babcock@gmail.com](mailto:kay.babcock@gmail.com)) or 608.222.2111.



## **Holiday Luncheon**

The 2014 Holiday Luncheon of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin was on sunny December 6, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Drive. Madison. Members contributed non-perishable items to St. Vincent DePaul. Attractive decorations, a delightful buffet luncheon and hearty fellowship launched the group into a delightful holiday season.

President, Helen Ann Rugowski, welcomed the diners and spoke briefly about 2014 accomplishments and plans for 2015. Introduced was Carole McGuire, a new club member. Guests were Donald VanderVelden and Barbara Williams

By tables, diners sought to complete a Christmas Songs crossword puzzle. "Mentored" by Elizabeth Reinartz, her table quickly solved the puzzle. Members at the table were: David Blado, Paul Buckalew, Donna Calvert, Doug and Kathy Johnson. Other 100% table-winner prizes were awarded to Kay and Steve Babcock. Rita Bloomfield, Joan Calkins, Loree and Wynn Davies, Maggie Dohm, Daniel Eggerding, Ariel Ford, Gail Holmes, Carole McGuire, Margo Mcknight, Helen Ann Rugowski, Lois Schultz, Joan and Richard Shropshire, Lisa Skofronick, Judith Taylor, Donald VanderVelden and Barbara Williams.

At Loree Davies' request, the group sang several Christmas songs, led by Wynn Davies with Welsh vigor. To conclude the event, the group sang, in English, a German Folk Song, "The More We Get Together".

## **Fannie Hicklin**



## **In Loving Memory**

Cecilia "Teed" Coyle  
Death: November 22, 2014

Full Obituary: WSJ November 26,  
2014 or  
[www.CressFuneralSrvce.com](http://www.CressFuneralSrvce.com)

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
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January 2015  
San Diego Outbound Exchange April 2015  
Arizona Inbound Exchange June 2015  
Club Bylaws Committee Report  
2014 Club Report

President: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Vice Pres: Mary Babula 241-0212  
Secretary: Lois Schulz 243-9761  
Treasurer Judith Taylor 238-9474  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
*Valentine Luncheon*  
Sunday, February 8, 2014



**Fitzgerald's of Middleton**  
3112 Parmenter St  
Middleton, WI

**12:00 PM**  
**Cost: \$18.00**

*Bring a Friend!*

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than Saturday, January 31, 2015.**

-----cut and return with payment 

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending x \$18 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a ride                      \_\_\_\_\_ I can provide a ride

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: The Friendship Force**  
**Mail to: Fannie Hicklin, 3814 University Avenue, Madison WI 53705 Questions? 608-233-5748**