



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

January 2017



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each year begins with encouragement to re-evaluate and re-new. If you are like me, you start with a list of resolutions all focused on finding ways to improve this, that or the other thing. This year I personally like the quote from a blog by Neil Gaiman. He says, "I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something. So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make new mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life."

I'll admit that I have never started the year with the intent to make mistakes but there is a certain liberation in giving yourself the permission to try something and fail or at least not be quite perfect. Too often, insisting on perfection creates such a fear of failure that we don't accomplish anything. I think it is a great philosophy for us to keep in mind as a group as well. We have new members, new ideas, and new challenges each year. It's good to stretch a little and try new things. They won't all work but I would argue that we will be stronger for having made the effort.

As we look forward into 2017, our calendar is falling into place. It promises to be a busy year with two outgoing international exchanges, an incoming domestic, an incoming international and an Open World delegation. We also have our local activities. In other words, lots of opportunities for all of you to learn, participate, and connect to friends around the world.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Sandi Wysock
President

March 1, 2017
Friendship Force celebrates
its 40th Anniversary!

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2017 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

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*

January 25, Wednesday—Newsletter Deadline

February 22-March 1, Wednesday-Wednesday-- Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange

February 25, Saturday—International Festival*

March 25, Saturday—Book Club ✍

April 23, Sunday—Annual Meeting ✍

May 10, Wednesday—Book Club ✍

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

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

June 28, Wednesday, Annual Picnic

August 8-14, Tuesday-Monday—Medicine Hat, Canada Outbound Exchange

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

August 25-28, Saturday-Tuesday—FFI 40th Anniversary World Conference, Manchester, UK*

September 8-13, Saturday-Thursday--Open World*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

Activities

HOLIDAY PARTY CANCELATION

Unfortunately we found it necessary to cancel the Holiday Party Potluck on December 11, 2016 due to the winter storm and icy road conditions. We were able to reach most of you by telephone, but not all, and for this we sincerely apologize. We always want to go forward with planned events but sometimes we must forego an activity for safety concerns.

The intended programs for this party were our donations and a speaker from the Catholic Multicultural Center in Madison. We still want to offer our donations of toiletry items to the Center and they can be brought to the **Lets Eat Out (L.E.O.) on January 11, 2017**. Suggested items included toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, lotions, brushes, etc. Your offerings can also be dropped off at Margo McKnight's, 321 N. Midvale, Madison or she will pick them up by calling her at 608-345-6827. Last year our Club collected four large shopping bags of these items and was of great joy to those less fortunate. Thank you for your generosity!

The Activity Committee

BOOK CLUB

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



Book: **Lenora: The Buried Story of Guadeloupe**

Columbus was the first European to land on this island on his second voyage in 1493. The Spanish tried to colonize the island but the fearsome Carib Indians repelled them. The French succeeded in 1635 and eliminated the Caribs. The French brought in African slaves to work the sugar plantations. Leonora grew up in the black, post-slave, French and Creole speaking culture. Leonora tells us a lot about family life, school for the children, religion, love, marriage, and relationships outside of marriage. She talks with mixed feelings about France and the French language vs Creole.

Come to the Book Club meeting even if you haven't read the book. It will be an enjoyable discussion, especially in view of the out-bound exchange to Guadeloupe at the end of February 2017.

Bernie Long



L.E.O.
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
1:00 p.m.

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

Join us for a lunch buffet! The cost will be between \$12.00 and \$13.00. Please RSVP to Mary Mastaglio at 608-241-0212 or email 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 and the ambassadors going to Guadeloupe are offering to the community at-large a program to warm us all.

Dr. Camal from the UW-Madison Anthropology Department will talk about his native land. There will be tropical snacks, Latin music to dance to (we are looking for an instructor), and fun fellowship.

The committee could use many helping hands to set-up and clean-up. Please contact Sandy Drew at sdrew24@tds.net or 608-833-5811.



Children of the Rainforest

Olbrich Botanical Gardens is offering a series to celebrate the cultural differences in rainforest regions around the world with authentic performances of music and dance.

DATES: Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.00 for ages 13 and up, including members, \$3.00 for ages 3-12, and free for ages 2 and under

For more information, please contact Olbrich directly at 608-246-4718

These events fit well with the Friendship Force outlook to the world. See if you can include one of them in your busy life.

Lise Skofronick, Outreach Committee



OVETURE CENTER 2017

Overture's International Festival, the annual celebration of global cultures through the work of local artists, will take place throughout Overture Center for the Arts from 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 25,

2017. Now in its 36th year, this free festival features more than 30 performances by artists representing 25 cultures. Take a trip around the world in a day! Experience all the cultures that Madison has to offer through food, crafts and free performances.

Our Club will again have an information table at the festival and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the table to talk about Friendship Force to anyone who stops by. Ideally, we hope you could offer us 2 hours but we will accept as much time as you can give.

To volunteer, please contact me at 608-841-1087 or via email, haharrin@hotmail.com, with the times you can help. Come in out of the cold and connect with cultures from across the globe!

Helen Ann Rugowski

EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange February 22-March 1, 2017

The Guadeloupe exchange directors have sent us the match list of hosts for the February 22 - March 1, 2017 exchange. Seven of the hosts are ambassadors who came to Madison in July 2015. The Madison ambassadors will be emailing their hosts to get the friendships rolling before the New Year. There will be 21 Madison ambassadors going to Guadeloupe. As the snow falls and the temperatures drop we all look forward to the sunny Caribbean.

Maureen Kind and Lise Skofronick
Co-Exchange Directors



Carnival

San Diego Inbound Exchange May 19-26, 2017

Were you an ambassadors on the San Diego April 2015 outbound exchange? Are you someone who loves to have dinner parties? Are you someone who enjoys showing others what Madison and Wisconsin has to offer any season of the year? Volunteer to serve on the planning committee or be a home/day host or dinner host We need you!

We anticipate 20 ambassadors. To aid in our planning, we have sent them a list of suggested activities and await their responses.

They showed 20 members of our club a great time in April 2015. Let's do the same.

Sign up at any of our upcoming January club events. You can also call or email either of us. Our contact information is listed below.

Co-exchange Directors

Gail L Holmes
608-249-1846

glholmes@wisc.edu

Donna J Hussin
608-845-3393

djhussin@yahoo.com

Noumea, New Caledonia Inbound Exchange June 23-30, 2017

French are Coming, Again!

The French are indeed coming again, June 23 - June 29, 2017. This time it's New Caledonia, a tropical island paradise in the south Pacific. It's as French as Tahiti, only better. No crowds, dazzling palm-lined beaches and a huge lagoon, with warm, wonderful people.

Our group had such a great time with our Guadalupe Inbound Exchange in July 2015. Here's your chance to join in on the fun again! This is a regular exchange and not one that concentrates on the ambassadors learning English in any structured way. Day to day program details are still to be developed.

I, Dan Eggerding, am a new exchange director. Right now, I need volunteers to sign up for **home, day and dinner hosts** for this exchange. Plus I'm looking for an assistant exchange director, as well as, volunteers for the **Exchange Planning Committee**.

You can email or call me to volunteer. My contact information is below. I'll contact you for details. Many thanks in advance.

Dan Eggerding, Exchange Director
408-583-7021
de_news@hotmail.com





OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

September 8-16, 2017

Delegates from Ukraine
Topic: Media Literacy

The Open World Leadership Center is an independent government agency of the United States Congress. The center sponsors and funds the Open World Program which brings emerging leaders from mostly Eurasian countries to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise.

The Friendship Force-Wisconsin-Madison has been invited to participate in the Open World Program for 2017. Our assigned topic will be Media Literacy - meaning the ability of audiences to think critically and objectively analyze data—as a key way to withstand the information war, lies, and hate speech. Our delegates will be from Ukraine. According to the preliminary information, Ukraine has been flooded with disinformation that divides, confuses, and destabilizes. Our assignment is to develop 32 hours of programming where delegations will work with seasoned journalists and media professionals to see how they expose false reporting/information and search for objectivity (or explain the role of bias). Our programming is also to help them learn how society can be better prepared to think critically, check facts, and respond to disinformation in effective ways.

We will need seven home hosts. We are assuming that we will very likely rent a 15-passenger van to transport our delegates to and from various programming locations which means we will need people willing to drive the van. If you have any connections to people that are in the media or would have specific programming knowledge in this area, please let us know. Committee members welcome! We do have a number of initial ideas but additional contact information is welcome.

Sandi Wysock
608-833-5326
sandrawysock@msn.com

Sandy Drew
sdrew24@tds.net

Join fellow members at one or all of the January events and **sign up** for the **2017 Inbound Exchanges:**

San Diego, May 19-26
Noumea, New Caledonia, June 23-30
Open World, September 18-23

Friendship Force 40th Anniversary World Conference Manchester, UK August 25 – August 28, 2017



We'll celebrate our past and talk about a plan already underway for the future.

We'll explore Manchester and beyond with day tours, including a Beatles tour, indoor skydiving, the Imperial War Museum, the National Football Museum, a private canal cruise, city walking tours, an English Manor House and gardens, the BBC headquarters, and a local brewery.

You'll get to enjoy Manchester's most iconic building, the Midland Hotel, where the conference will be held. This grand Edwardian hotel opened in 1903 and has played host to kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers and rock stars.

Our opening night party takes us back to 1977 when Friendship Force began. The music, costumes, dancers, décor, food and atmosphere will have you waxing nostalgic about the '70s.

For our gala banquet, we will dine under Concorde's wings and have the opportunity during the evening to board the Concorde to experience the aircraft firsthand and learn a little more about this piece of aviation history.

Will you be there?

Online registration coming in January 2016.



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

January 2017

Inbound Exchange Information
Open World Information

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:

ffwis.general@gmail.com

ffwis.meeting@gmail.com

ffwis.membership@gmail.com

ffwis.outreach@gmail.com



CAN YOU HELP?



In the past 12 months we have had 16 new members join our club. How many of these 16 have you gotten to know? Sometimes, there's a long gap in time between when a member joins and when they meet other members. We would like to fix that.

The Membership committee has endorsed the idea of providing a mentor or personal contact for any new member who wishes to have one. What would this contact person provide?

- Invites and/or offers to pick up for an upcoming club activity
- Share some of their personal club member experiences
- Explores with the new member their interests so they can become more involved
- Answers questions and offers information

We are looking for a handful of seasoned members who are active, welcoming and want to see our club grow. If this describes you, please give me a call or email me.

Helen Ann Rugowski
608-841-1087
haharrin@hotmail.com