



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

## Changing The Way You See The World

July 2012



### A note from the President

We have completed our first inbound exchange of the year which included 27 ambassadors from clubs in Washington and Missouri. A bus was rented and we took the visitors to all the local attractions we could fit in during their stay. They really enjoyed traveling in the bus and seeing our area. I hope you had a chance to meet them during some of the activities. Next month we will host the group from Peru. I believe the number of ambassadors involved will be about nine. The Peruvians will be at the Summer Pig roast in July. Be sure to sign up so you can meet them.

Pat Meyer our FF Midwest Regional Representative has made a proposal to the club presidents to coordinate our exchange requests to Atlanta. This approach would help avoid duplicate destination assignments within the Midwest. (i.e. this year the FFW and another club in the Midwest were both assigned Indonesia.) The second problem addressed is filling exchanges. The Midwest appears to have four clubs, Madison, Milwaukee, Lincoln, and Chicago that fill their exchanges from within their own clubs. The other nine clubs are currently attracting 6 to 10 ambassadors from their own clubs. At least one club in the Midwest has had to cancel an exchange because they had fewer than 5 ambassadors. If the exchanges are coordinated the hope is we will be more easily able to fill exchanges. The six clubs in the Florida Region have coordinated their requests to guarantee that no two Florida clubs are assigned the same destination. If we participate in this program we will have to give Pat Meyer our out bound exchange preferences by the end of August. This all sounds like a very logical approach to the problem.

We are looking for EDs for next year. We are in need of outgoing EDs for the incoming Turkish exchange, an outgoing Oregon Exchange, and an outgoing Indonesian Exchange. If you have and interest please let us know.

**George Wysock**  
President FFW

**SILENT AUCTION at the  
ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC,  
Thursday, July 12  
What can you bring to  
contribute?**



### 2012 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

July 9 - 15 – Trujillo Peru to Wisconsin \*

July 12 – Annual FFW Picnic \*

August 10 – 14, Global Food Exchange \*

August 25 – Russia Workshop \*\*

September 4-19, 2012 – Wisconsin to Moscow/Vyborg \*

October 28 – Annual Fall Festival \*\*

Oct 31 – Nov 2, Hiroshima Japan FFI Conference  
Check the web site

March 2013 – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration \*\*

\* Information in this newsletter

\*\* Information to be announced later or previously announced

### NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members at our Annual Summer Picnic and our upcoming exchanges.

Lucy & Bob Lasseter  
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608-574-7114

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## OREGON AND ST. LOUIS EXCHANGE INCLUDES FOUR CLUBS

Four Friendship Force clubs joined together for a week from June 14 to 20, 2012. Fifteen ambassadors from the Friendship Force of Missouri, eight from the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley and two from the Columbia Cascade Friendship Force of Oregon joined with dozens of members of our Friendship Force of Wisconsin for an adventurous time.

Coming from St. Louis were Richard and Ellen-Kay Augustine, Rich and Nancy Brower, Lorraine Constantine, Dick and Carol Drury, Bill (ED) and Dee Ebert, Dorothee Elowe, Ann Fortune, Bob and Jean Hoffman, and Herb and Arlene Nichols. From Mid-Willamette Valley were Patricia Byers (ED), Louise Claassen, Polly Davenport, Kay Macpherson, Paul and Mary Anne Scheele, and Juanita (ED) and Lloyd Weigel. Eleanor Heitmeyer and M. Fern Momyer came from Columbia Cascade in Oregon. They are a wonderful group of ambassadors!

Of course, this large group of ambassadors necessitated many hosts: Pat Fleming and Kaye Beyer, Neil and Nancy Denton, Dave and Jane Dohler, Jan and Ivan Gruetzmacher, Janet Harvey, Richard and Bea Hayden, Gail (ED) and Don Holmes, Kay Kinney, Mary Lou Martino, Richard and Nancy Mueller, Lisa Simon, Stephanie Sorensen, Shirley Swenson, Judy Taylor, and George and Sandi Wysock. In addition to the 15 hosts, there were ten day hosts: Kay Babcock, Rita Bloomfield, Mary Ann Fahl, Jerry and Betty Fuller, Rita Harring and Lois Hindhede, Donna Hussin, Mary Lindquist, and Katherine Masden.

Dinner hosts were: Fritz and Laurine Carstens, Jan & Ivan Gruetzmacher, Donna Hussin (coordinator), Jim and Ruth Knutson, Kay Kinney, Nancy and Richard Mueller, Richard and Margy Walker, and Jan and Bob Weber. Treats on our bus trips were provided by the cookie bakers: Nancy Denton, Gene Dewey, Ginger Gostomski, Jan Gruetzmacher, and Mary Lindquist. The promise of a cookie, pop or water lured everyone back to the buses on time!

Irene Ilgen and Mary Lindquist handled interviews, and workshop assistance was provided by Mary Ann Fahl, Jane Kessenich, and Gene Dewey. Maggie Dohm laundered and pressed all the Friendship Force vests and Judy Blodgett provided our banner. Assisting with the Welcome Bags were Mary Ann Fahl, Ariel Ford, Mary Lindquist, and Margo McKnight. Emily Holmes, my granddaughter, helped distribute them to the ambassadors at the Welcome Dinner. Patricia Stone, playing the accordion, and Bill Scott on the guitar provided entertaining music at the Welcome Dinner. The room "rocked" with almost everyone participating in the funky "Chicken Dance"! Rick Daluge played piano music for our Farewell Dinner and each table chose a song to sing while standing around the piano. Richard Walker drove one of the pontoon boats, and Emeritus Professor Bill Tishler provided our personalized tour of Old World Wisconsin.

Two invaluable women are part of the team: Joan Calkins, the exchange treasurer, and Mary Lindquist who provided advice and assistance at every stage. She also took ambassador and host photos and prepared a beautiful booklet for this exchange. There are not enough words to express my deep appreciation to Mary.

In my planning of the itinerary, I wanted to provide educational and enjoyable days that showcased the beauty and uniqueness of Madison and southern Wisconsin. Our first day had tours of Monona Terrace, a group picture at the State Capitol before a tour, lunch on State Street, tours of the Wisconsin Historical Museum and Overture Center. A Friday night fish fry was at Kavanaugh's Esquire Club with almost 40 of our members in attendance..

We boarded a Lazer bus for a day at Dubuque, Iowa on Saturday. We toured the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, had a buffet lunch on a Mississippi River boat cruise, and optional time in the afternoon to return to the museum, ride the trolley to Dubuque's downtown, or visit the casino. Home-hosted dinners were enjoyed that evening.

Sunday was a day with your host or a guided tour of Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Limited seating was on the three pontoon boats departing from the Yahara River, going through the locks, around Lake Mendota, and back through the locks to Lake Monona. We ate our picnic dinners at Schlueter Park and bought Babcock Hall ice cream for desert. Our three-hour cruise brought us to view Monona Terrace and the State Capitol while the sun set across the lake. We have been blessed with beautiful sunny days. Monday's bus trip was to the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo for a guided tour and then on to the Big Top performance at Circus World. We bought our lunch before viewing circus wagons and learning the history of many circuses. Mid-afternoon we traveled on to Wisconsin Dells for a two-hour Upper Dells boat trip with two landings. Instead of a dog jumping over to Stand Rock, we had a young man! Dinner was with hosts tonight.

Our third bus trip was east to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle on Tuesday. Narration and a personalized tour were provided by the professor of landscape architecture who had studied and laid out the master plan for OWW. A sandwich buffet was served in the Clousing Barn for lunch. We boarded the trolley to continue our tour, seeing the German, Polish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Crossroads Village areas. It was a hot 94-degree day as we gathered around the blacksmith's forge for a demonstration! Everyone enjoyed a rest in the air-conditioned bus on our return trip. Tonight was our Farewell Dinner at The Edgewater with almost 40 of our members attending along with the 25 ambassadors. Gifts and accolades were exchanged as well as farewells. As an expression of appreciation to our club, the other clubs donated a total of \$200 to the American Family Children's Hospital "Sick Kids Can't Wait" capital campaign fund. All joined in a very large circle around the dining room as we sang "Let there be Peace on Earth."

On Wednesday, the Oregon ambassadors flew on to Minneapolis for another week's exchange, and the St. Louis ambassadors left to drive home. We had a very successful exchange because so many members were involved. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways. We have great memories of new friends from Oregon and renewed friendships with those from St. Louis. They are a congenial and cooperative group of ambassadors who appreciated each day we were together!

**Gail L. Holmes, Exchange Director**

## WPT AUCTION VOLUNTEERS

A sincere thank you to the 17 Friendship Force of Wisconsin volunteers who worked at the recent auction June 3. All had a rewarding and great time. The WPT organizer Erika Balgard sent a special note of thanks for our help.

Betty & Jerry Fuller, George and Sandi Wysock, Gail Holmes, Mary Lindquist, Neil and Nancy Denton, Donna Hussin, Don Gostomski, Kay Babcock, Richard Shropshire, Mary Lou Martino, Maggie Dohm, Marian Ehrenberg, Susan Becker, and Reta Harring were our FFW volunteers.

**Reta Harring, WPT Volunteer Chairperson**

### Outreach Efforts

Thank you to Richard and Nancy Mueller, and Gary Lindquist for presenting a program on New Zealand at the REI on June 6, 2012. If you are a part of a group and would like to have a member come to spread the word of the Friendship Force, contact Margie at 516-2289 or mgroom053@gmail.com.

**Margie Groom, Outreach Coordinator**

### Russia: Moscow, Vyborg and St. Petersburg Departs September 4th

A workshop for the ambassadors was conducted on June 23rd. Visas are being processed and final plans are being arranged for tours and transportation between cities. We are hoping to receive our host assignments soon. In two short months we will depart.

We viewed a video from the Dubuque club's visit to the same three cities last year. It provided us with many beautiful photos of all of the cities and re-emphasized the amount of walking and stairs that are part of touring in Russia. We included a 40-minute walk in our workshop and everyone was encouraged to keep walking. Lise Skofronick and Maureen Kind provided a short language lesson so that we are able to say a few words in Russian. **Our next workshop will be held August 25th at the Alisha Ashman Library from 9 o'clock to 12 Noon.**

**Sandi Wysock, Russia Exchange Director**  
608 833 5326      [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)

### Help, Help

**In the event one a members is in need of a ride to attend one of our activities, please contact an officer. Also please bring to our attention any member in ill health who would like a visit.**

### IN MEMORIUM

Louise Bakke recently passed away. She was a member of FFW from 1981 to 2006 and traveled to China, Turkey, Sweden, Africa and Russia as well as other locations. All will miss her.

## SILENT AUCTION at the ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC,

Thursday, July 12

**Can you bring something to contribute for  
our fundraiser?**

### The Friendship Force Newsletter

Bernie Long helped to locate the following information about the history of the Friendship Force Newsletter. This is a brief outline:

In 1980 the Friendship Force Office was at 2001 W. Beltline Hwy. The office space was provided by David Carman. At that same time, Catherine Garst was the office manager. Sid Talbot worked in the office as well as other volunteers. The Newsletter was produced, printed and mailed from the office.

The Jan. 4 1983 issue of the FF Newsletter contained this paragraph: [Appreciation to Dave Carman](#)

“Once again it is time to give our appreciation to Dave Carman. He has so generously given office space to the Friendship Force now beginning our 4<sup>th</sup> year. Our sincere thanks, Dave Carman and Associates.”

Catherine Garst was still office manager and Sid Talbot seemed to be spending the most time in the office. Bill Erickson was running off the label list. In March 1985 Virginia Salisbury and Lois Parsons were secretary. They may have been producing the Newsletter on office machines.

From March 1989 to August 1990 the computer typesetting and design was by Spectrum Communications. Sid Talbot and other board members submitted and composed the material. When Sid resigned, Margo took over the composition of the newsletter and typing on her Selectric typewriter. I began working with Margo in November of 1990 then; a few months later began the set up with my computer. The exchange directors and others provided the articles to be included in the newsletter.

During this time Margo Lindl, the Artz's, Lois Parsons and Frank Lindl were doing the labeling and mailing of the newsletters. Others have helped with Mary & Gary presently doing it.

I have enjoyed the challenge of producing the newsletter for The Friendship Force since 1991. It now is time for someone new to provide and share their ideas.

**Thank you, Janet Lonergan**

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**July 2012**  
**Annual FFW Silent Auction**

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Vice Pres: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Secretary: Mary Lou Martino 467-2966  
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

## **Oh, What Fun!**

A few years ago as a new member of Friendship Force, I signed up for the Mystery Exchange to St. Louis with a courageous spirit of adventure. On the train I did not know the people in my group and did not know where I was going. I was hosted by Dorothee Elowe, another stranger, who chose me as an ambassador because I indicated in my application that I spoke French. It did not take Dorothee and me very long to discover that our families had probably known one another in Quebec City in the 1600s when the city was new. We bonded not as much as host and ambassador but more like long lost cousins who share the same culture and roots.

Excited that the St. Louis FF was coming to Madison, I requested that I be her host. We picked up our friendship without missing a beat where we had left off three years ago. We slid from English to French with comfort and ease.

As a 21 year old, Dorothee had stepped of the train in Madison in 1951 in order to attend UW's graduate school. She spoke only French but could read English. She had walked to the YWCA for that first night and then set out to find housing but couldn't remember what she had done with her suitcase, ice skates and skis. I wanted to retrace those steps for her once again. Our initial nostalgic tour began at the train depot on W Washington, the YWCA on the Capitol square, the house on W. Washington that she and her newlywed husband, Louis, had rented during their three year stay here. We were unable to find the old School of Pharmacy or the Heart Institute where she had worked or the graduate housing that she had remembered on University Ave.

Babcock ice cream was enjoyed in the Memorial Union. She remembered the familiar Rathskellar with smiles but commented that it did not smell of beer as she had recalled. I pointed out that the students were drinking their beer outside on this beautiful, warm summer night while listening to music on the terrace. I was not able to accompany her to Baraboo but she was delighted to be able to return to the Dells where she and her husband to be had had their first date.

Our second campus exploration took us to the parking lots and back areas of the older buildings as we looked for the buildings that she remembered. Finally, we found the new School of Pharmacy which is housed in a beautiful new high rise. Dorothee got out of the car to photograph the Rennebohm building with joy. The hosting experience was so much fun for me. Rekindling a new friendship and watching Dorothee revive her Madison memories was great. So was the socializing at the welcome and farewell dinners, the hosted dinner in the Carsten's home, the bus rides, reviving friendships with the St. Louis club members, and making new friends with the Oregon ambassadors. I'm looking forward to my next hosting experience in August.

**Host: Mary Lou Martino**