



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

March 2014



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yesterday ended another great exchange with the Tucson and Phoenix FF Clubs. Our appreciation goes out to Nancy Mueller, ED for her stellar planning of this exchange and her able assistants, Donna Hussin on the home front and Richard Mueller, bus driver and tour guide extraordinaire. Look for the highlights of this exchange in next month's newsletter.

No final word yet on the possible incoming England exchange we hoped to get this September. We have been notified our 2015 incoming Club will be from Taiwan. Sadly however, we were not given an outbound International for 2015. There are many other USA Clubs without International Outbound exchanges as well. We will make extra effort to keep you informed of clubs with space available for you to join them. You can look for exchanges on the FFI website as well.

In the meantime, let's focus on what we do best, welcoming strangers into our homes and communities. The Salt Lake City Club of Utah will be here in July and 20 ambassadors from Canada, Brazil and the USA will be here in August for our Global Art and Architecture Exchange. Day, home and dinner hosts will be needed and we want you to participate if you can.

In Friendship,

Helen Ann Rugowski

Explore • Understand • Serve®



2014 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

March 24 – Crafter's Group Meeting*

March 29 – Polish Cooking Class*

April 19 – Art & Architecture Interviews, Sequoya Library*

April 23 – Art & Architecture Interviews, Pinney Library*

April 27- Annual Meeting, Coliseum Bar**

May 1- 3- Midwest Regional Conference Milwaukee**

May 15-June 1 - Berlin/Poland Outbound Exchange**

July 16-22 - Utah Inbound Exchange*

August 23-28 - Global "Arts & Architecture" Inbound Exchange*

October 14-16 – World Conference, New Zealand*

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or previously announced

In Loving
Memory



Lois Westbury Parsons

Death Date: February 2, 2014

Member since early 70's. Most recent trip 2011 to Turkey.

Donations in Lois' memory may be made to Agrace Hospice at

<https://www.agrace.org/>

www.cressfuneralservice.com

Full obit: WSJ, February 9, 2104

Friendship Force of Wisconsin on Facebook



Be sure to check out our Friendship Force of Wisconsin Facebook page. See the new messages and photos from the recent exchange to Arizona. Facebook is a new way we are spreading the word about the Friendship Force. You can help by inviting your friends to “like” us on Facebook. You could also post a comment or a photo about a positive experience you have had as a member of the Friendship Force. Let’s get the word out to people who like to travel, meet new people and learn about different countries and cultures. Here is the link to Facebook on the internet: <https://www.facebook.com>

Mary Babula and Sandi Wysock Outreach Committee



The International Festival



On Saturday, February 22, Friendship Force of Wisconsin observed World Friendship Day by participating in the International Festival. This festival is held each year at the Overture Center and is attended by thousands of people. The festival included 31 performances that were held throughout the day; 28 vendors and representatives from cultural and/or international service organizations; and an international café with restaurants serving tasty foods from Costa Rica, Italy, Jamaica, Poland and India.

It was a wonderful day full of entertainment and opportunities for expanding cultural awareness and understanding. This festival is the perfect venue for us to promote Friendship Force and share our goal of exploring new countries and cultures from the inside by bringing people together at the personal level.

Many thanks to Kay Babcock, Nancy Brown, Joan Calkins, Donna Calvert, Marian Ehrenberg, Reta Haring, Patty Kexel, Tom Herman and Maureen Kind who volunteered their time to represent our club at the festival.

Nancy Brown, Coordinator



2014 marks the 37th anniversary of the Friendship Force. Visit the conference website at: <http://www.cvent.com/events/friendship-force-world-conference-2014/event-summary>
Registration is now open.

Valentine Luncheon



Fifty members of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin, Madison Chapter, celebrated Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 9th at Fritzgerald's in Middleton on a cold, cold snowy day. There we dined on a sumptuous brunch/lunch buffet. We were seated at round tables, ten people each, which facilitated easy conversation.

President, Helen Rugowski, welcomed the attendees and noted the death of Lois Parsons, a long-time member. Fannie Hicklin introduced her guest, John Tyler, a retired minister. "All that Jazz," quintet entertained with agreeable music and a hand slapping finale. Once again a special thanks to Fannie Hicklin and the Activities Committee for planning this fun get together. It was a heartfelt occasion in the true spirit of Valentine's Day.

Elizabeth Reinartz



YUMMY!

In preparation for our trip to Berlin and Poland, we thought of a cooking class to learn, taste, and eat some Polish specialties.

ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB are welcome to join in. The more the merrier.

DATE: Saturday, March 29

TIME: 10 AM to 1 PM

COST: \$10. per person if we have at least 20 participants.

TEACHER: Lydia Critchley from “All Through the House”, creative cooking by Lydia.com

WHERE: Lydia's teaching kitchen at 4709 Poplar Creek Dr., Madison

Please call or email Lise Skofronick, 608-274-7732, lrparadis@yahoo.com to reserve your place before March 5th. Leave a message with my electronic secretary, if I am away from the phone.

Lise Skofronick. Co-Exchange Director

2014 Midwest Regional Conference, Milwaukee, May 1-4



PLAN to ATTEND!

Arts/architecture Global Exchange

August 23-28, 2014



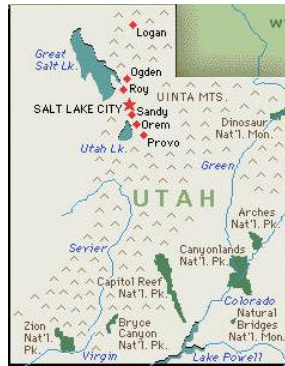
Interview dates are scheduled for selecting hosts for this exchange. April 19, 9:30-11:00 AM at Sequoya Library and April 23, 7:00-8:30 PM at Pinney Library.

If you have not previously indicated your interest in hosting and would like to, please contact Kay Babcock, 608-222-211, or Donna Calvert, 608-233-7536.

Donna Calvert, Exchange Director

Utah Inbound Exchange July 16-22, 2014

The Utah Exchange Director has informed me that 20 ambassadors, five couples and 10 individuals, from the Salt Lake City Club will be visiting us this July. They have expressed interest in Frank Lloyd Wright, #1 on the list, Farmer's Market, Sunset cruise on Madison lakes, State Capitol, Upper Dells, Olbrich Gardens and UW campus tour.



The planning committee, Helen Rogowski, Donna Calvert, Mary Babula, Gail Holmes, and Lois Schulz will take these all into consideration. Our treasurer is Joan Calkins and Marian Ehrenberg is dinner host coordinator.

If you have not signed up yet to be a host, day host or dinner host, please contact me at 608-845-3393 or djhussin@yahoo.com.

Donna Hussin, Exchange Director



Crafter's Group

Next meeting is March 24, 1:30PM at the home of Donna Hussin, 406 Lucille St, Verona, WI 608-3393 or djhussin@yahoo.com. Sewing crafts will be part of this gathering, making No-slip Hanger Covers and Potato Baking Bags along with the ribbon necklaces and knitting or crocheting dish clothes. **Please let the hostess know if you plan to attend and your interest in order to provide a list of sewing materials, as well as, if you have a portable machine.** All are welcome to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of crafting!



A message from Joy DiBenedetto, President, Friendship Force International

Joy will be coming to our Midwest Regional Meeting in Milwaukee in May.

Hello friends,

As we celebrate our organization's founding with World Friendship Day, March 1, and throughout the month of March, I want to wish you all a fulfilled life, lived in friendship.

US President Jimmy Carter and Wayne Smith introduced the concept of a Friendship Force at the White House in 1977. Their goal, they said, was to "promote the cause of world peace."

Today, 37 years later, the Friendship Force has shown that peace and harmony in the world truly can be cultivated through individual friendships, and that a "world of friends can become a world of peace."

As we commemorate World Friendship Day, let us remember the legacy which we have created together and that we have to share with generations to come, to be able to carry Friendship Force forward long into the future.

Since I joined FFI last July, I have thought many times that, for all of us who are committed ambassadors of friendship, every day is "World Friendship Day". I challenge all of you to think the same, in each moment we have.

Make small steps, as the opportunity presents itself - to be a "force" of friendship at every turn, on both a global and local level - wherever you are this month.

Hold open a door for someone, smile as you cross a stranger's path, say hello as you order a meal or pay your check. It is both the little gestures and our global efforts which make a difference towards collective world change for the better - one person, one friendship at a time.

Our work remains as relevant today as in the days we began, if not more so. To our volunteers and ambassadors throughout the years, I say thank you. Your dedicated efforts have made an impact on our world, and it is your support that brought us to this celebration today.

To our members today, I say, let us make the most of our firm foundation of friendship, building upon it together with new friends and old.

I hope you enjoy the exciting activities your clubs and communities have planned for this 37th anniversary, and I look forward to our bright Friendship Force future together.

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March 2014
Midwest Regional Conference, May 2014
FF World Conference, October 2014

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Vice Pres: Mary Babula 241-0212
Secretary: Jan Weber 223-1287
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

Small Group Custom Tour – June 2015 – Northern Ireland/Ireland
Hosted by Edie Devine, friend of Pat Fleming, FFWI

Join us for a terrific time with a private custom tour! We are looking for 6 or 7 more people to participate in a Northern Ireland/Ireland trip in June 2015. Our family group so enjoyed the format of our 2013 trip with personal driver/guide last July that I have planned the same type of trip to places we didn't get to the first time around—with more emphasis on cliff walks and mountain hikes. Flexibility is built in for those travelers not up for as much walking with simultaneous alternate activities. As a custom tour, it is affordable with 11 to 13 group members. This is a perfect venue for parents with adult children—a bonding trip of a lifetime! At this point, we have three young adults and three 60-somethings ready to roll.

The itinerary has been planned with my tour specialists—Special Group Tours of Delaware and another in Ireland. Depending upon who else is interested, we can change the itinerary somewhat at this point. We will be adding in two golf dates for those on the tour who would like to try out a couple Irish courses. There is a plan for non-golfers (like me!) to be doing something else during those times.

We will be using Vagabond tours for the first 5 days in NI—they specialize in more off-road experiences in a modified Land Rover. Then we will hook up in Westport and continue southwest and then east with O'Callaghan Tours of Killarney (which we used in 2013), for next 8 days in the comfort of their 16-seat Mercedes Riada. We are on the bus together, but during activities, hikes, dinners, etc., you are free to go at your own pace, where and how you want to do it.

Tour companies will need a commitment by end of May this year to secure our June, 2015 date. We found the trip is perfectly delightful and stress-free with a hired driver handling all transport and arrangements. The base tour price for 14 days is approx. \$2800, and we will be in some B&Bs and the remainder in reputable local hotels.

I am happy share more details, on the itinerary, as well as, spectacular photos from our last trip with anyone interested. Please contact me via email: edevine@charter.net