



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World  
March 2015



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Spring! Seriously, it is only a few weeks away. In no time at all our group of friends will be off to San Diego to enjoy making new friends and seeing some of their city together.

We have received our 2016 matches from International which our board has accepted. We are so blessed and excited to receive these 3 international exchanges. The first is an outgoing to Cleveland County Club, UK, with a suggested date of May, 2016. Next, an incoming from the Nashik Riverside Club in India suggested for July, 2016 when they will also spend a week with the Cedar Rapids Club. Finally, an incoming from San Jose, Costa Rica, suggested for September, 2016, and they will spend a second week with the San Diego Club. As usual, we will need your participation to make these exchanges successful and welcome anyone interested in becoming directors for these exchanges. We are planning to offer a workshop for anyone interested in the exchange director role and have mentors who are ready and willing to help you.

In this newsletter you will read the biographies of members who have come forward to be our new officers for 2015-16. They are a stellar group and I hope you will support them as you have supported me in keeping our Club going and growing. The election takes place at the annual meeting in April and the new officers are installed in September.

The very next club event is book group on March 26. Consider coming. There's even enough time to read the book!

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.

**March 25**—Outreach Committee\*

**March 26**—Book Club \*

**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 18-25**—Arizona Inbound Exchange\*

**July 24-31**—Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange ☺ (February)

**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

## It's Registration Time!

“Building Bridges”  
August 28-31, 2015  
Renaissance Vancouver  
Harbourside Hotel

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

All conference details can be found at  
<https://www.etches.com/ehome/102747>



**Balboa Park  
San Diego Outbound Exchange  
April 7-14, 2015**

April 7 will be here in about a month and we are all very eager to escape these chilly temperatures – San Diego or bust! 19 people are participating in this exchange – 16 from our club, two from the Friendship Force of Greater Orlando and one from the Friendship Force club in Dallas, TX.

The host/ambassador matching process is complete and it appears that we will have a variety of different experiences based on our hosts' location. Some of us will be in the central city while others will be in outlying areas around San Diego – Chula Vista, El Cajon, La Mesa and Spring Valley.

We have a busy itinerary planned that includes such highlights in San Diego as the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park, as well as a day-trip to Tecate, Mexico, where we will tour the Tecate Mexican Brewery for an interesting look into making beer south of the border. We will have to report back as to whether there are any striking differences in the process there compared to our brews.

A pre-exchange get-together will be held on March 4 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Sandi & George Wysock's home, 102 Acadia Drive, Madison.

If you have any questions regarding this exchange, please contact me at [ncbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:ncbrown48@gmail.com) or 608.280.9040.

**Nancy Brown, Exchange Director**



Sarah Rankin  
212 Glen Hollow Rd  
Madison, WI 53705  
608.575.9685  
[rankinsarahjane@gmail.com](mailto:rankinsarahjane@gmail.com)



**Circus World Mother Goose Wagon  
Arizona Inbound Exchange  
June 18-25, 2015**

It's confirmed! 10 ambassadors from the Friendship Force Central Arizona Club-Phoenix, are visiting our club from June 18-25, 2015 and then are going on to spend a week with the Milwaukee club.

The planning committee of myself, Gail Holmes, Treasurer, Maureen Kind, Margo McKnight, and Lisa Simon have a full week of activities--some new and some "old favorites—planned." The activities are: Hinchley's Dairy Farm Tour, Dane County Farmer's Market, State Capitol Tour, Madison Lakes Pontoon Cruise, International Crane Foundation, Upper Dells Boat Tour, USDA Forest Products Tour, half-day on your own at Mineral Point, Circus World, Wollersheim Winery Tour, Old World Wisconsin with special guide William Tishler, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture, UW-Madison.

In addition to the activities planned where you can participate, you can join the group at any of the following dining opportunities: welcome party at Kay Kinney's, fish fry at Tully's II in Monona, lunch at the Walker House in Mineral Point, and farewell dinner at Fitz's on the Lake, Lodi.

Sign-up sheets to be a host, day host or dinner host will be available at our annual meeting on April 26, as well as, the sign-up sheet to join in the activities, if unable to be a host. You can also indicate your interest to be involved in this exchange by contacting me at [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com) or 608.845.3393.

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**

# Outreach



## Book Club



Our book club selected Enrique's Journey for the March 26 Book Club discussion. Join us Thursday, at 7:00PM at the home of Lois Schulz, Oakwood East, Madison to discuss Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario. There are many copies in the public libraries.

Please let Lois know, if you can attend either by calling 608.243.9761 or emailing [loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com).

## Seeking New Committee Members

Join us for a committee meeting March 25 at 3:30 pm at Sandi Wysock's home, 102 Acadia Drive, Madison. It is exciting to have so many members with new ideas relating to Outreach. Our goal is to begin to set a timeline of recurring events, identify leaders for some of the activities and get more involved in our community. If interested in helping with the Facebook Account, setting up a Twitter Account for us, speaking to groups about the Friendship Force, setting up L.E.O's (Let's Eat Outs), helping with the Public Television Auction, connecting with other international groups in Madison, coordinating volunteers for the International Festival, helping with highway cleanup, helping with the FFI Nobel Laureates Children's Art project and similar activities, put March 25 on your calendar.

Most of our meetings are via email with smaller groups or individuals coordinating activities. We want to raise our profile in the community through our activities, share our mission with others and hold educational events attractive to current members and new members. Please let us know, if you are planning on attending the meeting. If unable to make this meeting, but are interested in helping us along the way, please let us know. Please sign up for our activities and remember to bring along a friend! Contact either Sandi Wysock ([sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)) or Mary Babula via email.

## Facebook

Outreach opportunities and community cultural events often come to our attention after the newsletter has been published. Please LIKE us on Facebook: Friendship Force of Wisconsin. We will publish information about these late developing events on our Facebook page.



**Sandra Wysock and Mary Babula, Co-Chairs**

## 2015 Officer Nominations

The following persons have graciously accepted the nominating committee's request for their service. The committee is pleased and grateful to present the following slate of officers for 2015. Elections to be conducted April 26, 2015. The term of office begins at the September 18 Board Meeting.

**President** Mary Babula  
**Vice President** Sandi Wysock  
**Secretary** Loix Schulz  
**Treasurer** Judy Taylor

Article VI of the by-laws;

- Section 3-Only members who are present may vote
- Section 4-The chairperson shall receive further nominations from the floor with the written consent of the nominee

**Respectively submitted: Mary Linquist, Chair  
Committee: George Wysock, Margo McKnight, Helen Ann Rugowski**

## NOMINEES:

### PRESIDENT; MARY BABULA

I am currently your vice-president and am a candidate for President of our Friendship Force of Wisconsin club. My partner of 27 years, Mary Mastaglio, is also an active member of the Friendship Force and we have enjoyed participating in both inbound and outbound exchanges as well as local activities within our club.



I have lived in Wisconsin all my life and since 1968 have lived in Madison, when I came here to attend the University of Wisconsin. I have worked in child care for 44 years, as a teacher and center administrator. Since 1981, I have worked at Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, a statewide membership association for people who work in early childhood care and education. This is a non-profit organization which has given me valuable administrative experience that will continue to help me support the Friendship Force. I am retiring in June, which will give me more time to devote to the work of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin.

I was active as a youth leader in the United Methodist Church, which helped set me on the path to taking on leadership roles in my child care work and as a volunteer

with organizations like the Wisconsin Women's Network and now Friendship Force of WI. My interests outside of my work and Friendship Force include traveling, camping, bicycling, canoeing, reading, knitting, birding, cross country skiing, playing games, and socializing.

As President of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin, if elected, I want to work with Friendship Force International and club leaders around the world to help move our club and the organization into the future as a viable organization. We need to consider how to engage and retain new members of all ages, as well as support current members, if we are to remain a vibrant organization and I look forward to working with our leadership team and others around the world to do just that.

#### VICE PRESIDENT: SANDI WYSOCK

I have been a member of Friendship Force of Wisconsin for seven years joining shortly after I retired from my management position at American Family. I originally learned about Friendship Force from a friend. I loved the concept and kept it in mind for several years. My first exchange was to Great Falls Montana. George and I have since participated in exchanges to Russia, Turkey, Costa Rica and Germany. I have attended three World Conferences, served as a home host for several exchanges, served as an outgoing and incoming Exchange Director, served on several exchange and ad hoc committees and for the past two years I have co-chaired the Outreach Committee. I truly believe that we can be a force for improving understanding between cultures and that our mission is as relevant today as it was 36 years ago. If elected to Vice President I will continue to work with fellow board members to promote Friendship Force in Madison and provide exchange opportunities.



#### SECRETARY: LOIS SCHULZ

I am currently your secretary. I have spent most of my adult life in the Madison area. Mother of four I stayed home raising my family. I attended some classes at MATC. In 1979 I went to work in a brokerage firm, retiring in 2009 as a Registered Administrative Assistant with the Royal Bank of Canada Wealth Management. I have been active with my church as a secretary for the trustees for a year, and currently treasurer for the endowment committee. Recently widowed, I am still active with my children and step children. I enjoy camping, sewing, reading, church activities, sports (especially hockey) and now traveling with Friendship Force!



#### TREASURER: JUDITH TAYLOR

I am currently your treasurer. I have lived in Madison for 65 of my 75 years, attended East High School and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree. For 26 years I worked at the university, mainly in public information, publications, and legislative relations. For 15 years I was treasurer of the Wisconsin Women's Network, a nonprofit coalition of organizations and individuals that promotes the welfare of women and girls.



I enjoy traveling, have been to every continent except Antarctica, and took two trips around the world in the 1990s. In 2009, I participated in the Wisconsin Friendship Force exchange to Azerbaijan, in 2010 I went to a global exchange in Perth, Australia, and in 2013 I was on the Wisconsin/Oregon-Washington exchange. I golf in a nine-hole and an 18-hole league from spring through fall and stay indoors through the coldest of winter.

#### **Friendship Force Valentine Luncheon**



Fitzgerald's of Middleton was the venue for the Friendship Force of Wisconsin 2015 Valentine Luncheon on Sunday, February 8, 12:00 - 2:00 PM. Introduced and welcomed were new member Mary L. Bohlen and guests Tom Buchhauser and John Ely. Prior to the bounteous buffet, several club-related announcements were made. Maureen Kind enumerated types of assistance needed in connection with the visit of ambassadors from Guadeloupe. Sandi Wysock invited attendance to a L.E.O. luncheon at a Turkish restaurant. Gail Holmes displayed a new style of tee shirt for FFW. Maureen Kind led the group in singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and the "Table Grace." John Ely was the winner of the door prize, a box of chocolates. Notable was the meal, with many choices of salads, entrees and desserts. Lively conversations prevailed at each table, affirming the club's mission of friendship.

#### **Fannie Hicklin**

For each petal on the shamrock  
this brings a wish your way.  
Good health, good luck, and happiness  
for today and every day.

## International Institute of Wisconsin



On February 5, Sandi and I were fortunate to host as our guest for dinner Najeeb Al-Saihati from Saudi Arabia. Najeeb was traveling through the United States as a guest of the International Institute. He was on the third leg of a trip to learn about governance in the US, having spent time in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles prior to Madison. Table discussion included many topics from life to customs in Najeeb's country. Sandi visited the local Arab food store to purchase halal butchered chicken for preparation of chicken shawarma. The food was great, Najeeb was charming, and club members George Wysock, Sandi Wysock, Diana Long, Bernie Long, and Ed Reed all had a wonderful time.

### George Wysock



### International Institute of Wisconsin Dinner at Jane Kessnich's February 2015



### Exchange Opportunities

These clubs invite you to participate in their exchanges:

#### *Host Club of Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

May 13-20, 2015

Estimated cost is \$300.

Contact information is Lisa Cordell at  
[lisacordell@embarqmail.com](mailto:lisacordell@embarqmail.com)

#### *Host Club of Netherlands, East*

August 30-September 5, 2015

Estimated cost is \$460 includes club/host fees & activities  
Airfare on your own

Travel with the Sarasota, Florida Club  
Contact information is Peggy Hayden,  
941-306-5197 or [Hayden.peg@gmail.com](mailto:Hayden.peg@gmail.com)

#### *Host Clubs of Schwerin, Germany and Oostende, Belgium*

May 12-30, 2015

Cost is \$1,500 includes 2 weeks of home hosting, fees  
Airfare on your own

Travel with Southwest Florida Club  
Contact information is Lou Rick at 239-561-9164 or  
[Lourick@mindspring.com](mailto:Lourick@mindspring.com)



## In Loving Memory



**Roger John Wiese**  
Death: January 23, 2015

Member since 1987

Full Obituary:  
WSJ January 31, 2015 or  
[www.CressFuneralSrvce.com](http://www.CressFuneralSrvce.com)

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

March 2015  
San Diego Outbound Exchange April 2015  
Arizona Inbound Exchange June 2015  
2015 Slate of Officers

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**  
*Annual Meeting Luncheon*  
Sunday, April 26, 2015



**The Coliseum Bar and Banquet**  
232 East Olin Avenue  
Madison, WI

12:00 PM Social Hour  
12:30 PM Seated Luncheon  
Cost: \$18.00

*Non-registered members welcome for business meeting only at 1:15PM*  
*Donation of bars and cookies is greatly appreciated.*

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than Friday, April 17, 2015.**

-----cut and return with payment 

Choice of entre: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala    \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Roast    \_\_\_\_\_ Pecan-crust-ed Walleye

\_\_\_\_\_ # 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**