



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

November 2012



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the end of October, football season is in full swing, the leaves are falling, fall art tours are available, and the FFI is asking for our club inputs for the next year. I have sent requests for 2014 that include an exchange to Latvia to supplement our sister city exchange with Lithuania along with possible exchanges to three other areas. Hopefully we can be assigned to one of the foreign exchanges we requested. We also have to submit the annual charter renewal. Mary Lindquist reminded me that soon we will be looking for a new slate of club officers. If anyone would like to be President, VP, Secretary, or Treasurer in 2013, please let Mary know. When I was told about that it really seems like we are rushing through the year in a hurry.

Helen Rugowski attended the International Convention at Hiroshima, Japan. She was asked to bring or send paper cranes for convention decorations. She became somewhat of an expert in the folding process and provided a good number of cranes for the festivities.

I am told that Mary Lou Martino (Club Secretary), the last of the participants in the Russian exchange, has arrived home. She extended her tour to see Finland, and Ireland. Nice extension! Welcome home Mary Lou.

Sandra Drew our other extender from the Russian exchange continued on to Moldova. She also arrived home safe and sound and with many stories to tell. Welcome home Sandi.

Lise Skofronick and I will visit the Vilnius sister city club to determine what help they can give us for the 2014 Lithuanian exchange project.

In Friendship,

George Wysock, President



2012/2013 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

December 1 - Holiday Luncheon, Maple Bluff Country Club*

February 10, 2013 - Valentine Luncheon, Westside Club**

March 2013 - 35th Anniversary Celebration**

June 13-20, 2013 - Urla Turkey Inbound Exchange*

September 2013- Indonesia Outbound Exchange**

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or previously announced



Russian Exchange Photos Needed

Please send your photos for the Friendship Force website as an attachment in an email to Dave Dohler. **dedohler@charter.net**

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MOSCOW AND VYBORG RUSSIA SEPTEMBER 2012

Sixteen ambassadors represented the Friendship Force of Wisconsin in Moscow and Vyborg from September 4 through September 19th. Two members of the Lincoln, Nebraska club joined us along with Gary and Mary Lindquist's nephew from California bringing our numbers to nineteen.

Overall, the exchange went smoothly. Outside of a cold that we seemed to pass around, everyone made it through the exchange without being injured or becoming seriously ill. We traveled almost exclusively by metro in Moscow. We had anticipated that we would have to walk a lot and climb stairs and this proved to be true. I was very glad that we had emphasized the travel conditions up front so everyone was prepared. Apparently some exchanges in the past were not prepared and as a result it was necessary to limit the itinerary to accommodate ambassadors that were less physically fit.

Vyborg is a wonderful young club. After the traffic in Moscow it was nice to be in a quieter more laid back environment. The Vyborg Friendship Force is new and has many young entrepreneurs as members. The scenery reminded us of the Lake Superior area with lots of pine trees, water, fresh air and rock outcroppings. The members have many connections to Finland and are interested in helping the Friendship Force find contacts to establish clubs in Finland as well. The group is still learning and anxious to become a club more independent of St. Petersburg which was the club that helped to get them established. We have agreed to continue to mentor them in any way that we can.

For our tour in St. Petersburg, there was a last minute switch of tour companies when the original tour company decided that they would double charge for hotel rooms. We visited the same sites as we had originally planned but the itinerary changed and instead of having one consistent tour guide we had a series of guides arranged by the Ibis hotel. We were told by some of our hosts that this is very common in Russia. I was told that it is not unusual for Russians to learn about additional charges when they arrive at their destinations or in extreme instances the travel company simply runs out of money and doesn't pay

the hotels. Being the flexible group that we are, we all adjusted and enjoyed our visits to Catherine's palace including the amber room, Peterhof, a tour of the rivers and canals, and the Hermitage. We had time to explore on our own as well.

The reunion is being planned for November. The likely date, at the home of Margy and Dick Walker, is November 4th.

Sandi Wysock
Exchange Director

Peterhof Palace



Friendship Force of Urla, Turkey to Visit Madison, Wisconsin

We have more news from Urla, Turkey. Their club will be coming to Madison June 13-20, 2013. There will be up to 23 Ambassadors from Urla. Now that we know the dates, we are looking for more people to help plan this inbound exchange. If you would like to be part of the planning process, serve on a committee, be a host or a day host, or provide a dinner for a small group, please let us know. You can e-mail Mary Mastaglio and Mary Babula at this address: mcbabula@sbcglobal.net or call us at 608-241-0212. We will be having an initial planning meeting soon, so please let us know if you want to be part of this exchange in any way. Call if you have questions.

Mary Mastaglio
Exchange Director

Mid-Willamette Valley Club and Columbia Cascade Club Exchange Evaluation

June 14-20, 2012

Gail Holmes, Exchange Director

Activities were rated from 1-5 with 5 being the best.

Friday--Monona Terrace, State Capitol, Wis. Historical Museum, Overture Center for the Arts
It was mixed with mostly 5s, one 3 and one 4 with the 3 and 4 coming from the individuals who did not like to do a lot of walking. One person thought it was too many activities in one day.

Saturday--National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Everyone gave the day a 5, with the small dinner parties and getting to know other members a bit hit.

Sunday--Day with host or optional activities: Olbrich Park Botanical Gardens & pontoon boat ride

Everyone loved the free time with their host families. The pontoon ride was nice and relaxing, but some thought it wasn't needed, since it was a free day and interrupted their free time with their host families.

Monday--International Crane Foundation, Circus World, Upper Dells boat trip

Crane Foundation Tour where we had an excellent guide who explained things well got a 5, except for person. Everyone enjoyed the Circus World and the Wisconsin Dells Boat trip with exception of one. Overall the day got a 5 with a few 4s.

Tuesday --Old World Wisconsin

The majority of the people that did not give this activity a 5 commented it was too hot. Their comment, "Next time tell the weatherman that you have guests from the West Coast so please have it cooler. We understand, however, that you cannot control the weather." Some also thought with it being outdoors all day that it was too hurried from barn to barn. Others thought it might have been better to concentrate on a couple of homesteads and been more thorough at those sites. They thought the lunch at Old World was well organized. Everyone enjoyed the farewell dinner and the singing at the Edgewater. They said it was relaxing and fun and did not mind that they could not carry a tune. Overall a 5 for the day.

Everyone appreciated all the hard work that went into the planning of the exchange. They commented it was well organized and well planned

One person said it was the first time for them to go on a domestic exchange and was delighted to learn more about WI although they had travelled through the state before. They enjoyed the time to stop and learn a little about the state. Everyone came home exhausted but so very glad that they went.

In Friendship,
Pat Byers and Juanita Weigel



A Note from your Vice-President

By the time you read this, I will have attended the 35th Annual World Conference of Friendship Force International, held this year in Hiroshima, Japan, from October 31st to November 3rd. I am so grateful to our club for allocating \$2,000 toward my travel expenses and thereby making it possible for me to participate. I will have an article in next month's newsletter to tell you about the presentations and workshops I had attended. Presently, I am in Taipei City, Taiwan, visiting with 2 former WESLI students who had lived in my home some years ago. Before returning to Madison, I will be reconnecting with Teruko Kato and Tokiko Suzuki in Tokyo who were here in August as part of our Global Food Exchange.

Helen Ann Rugowski

**HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB
REPRESENTATIVE TO
ATTEND FRIENDSHIP FORCE
CONFERENCES**

We put a lot of thought into staying true to our financial commitment. Still we know there's always more that needs to be accomplished. The conferences have so much good information to help support our club that we should always have as many people attend as possible.

Friendship Force International has requested that we support our Club's attendance at conferences. Our Club's Bylaws contain the following article:

“The Club President or another designated member of the Board should plan to attend the International, District, Regional and Local Conferences to represent The Club. Whenever possible, The Club Treasury will assume the cost of both the travel and conference expenses of the President or another designated member of the Board, at the time of the conference. If The Club is unable to bear the full cost of the conference, the Board may decide the appropriate amount, with the anticipation that in succeeding year the full amount will be provided”

We depend entirely on membership dues and voluntary contributions. These efforts are successful only because of the dedicated involvement of our members. On the renewal form, indicate the amount you wish to provide in support of our Club's delegate. It can be \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, or more.

The real power of Our Club lies with people like YOU. Thank you for your support.

The Board of Directors
Friendship Force of Wisconsin

IT IS RENEWAL TIME AGAIN

Thank you for your support of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin. If you have not received your renewal notice, you will receive it in the mail shortly.

I would like to point out two new areas of the notice.

We have a new category for volunteering. It's called "*Driver for Meetings*". We previously had the category "Transportation" which is now called "*Driver for Exchanges*".

The other category is support for our club representative to attend Friendship Force conferences. There is a special line for donation to support representation to a conference with board approval. Please consider strengthening our club by supporting a delegate at Friendship Force Conferences.

To make changes to your volunteering activities, for any category you volunteered for, simply check the box or cross off the category on the Renewal Notice.

Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair
608.233.9351 marylindquist@charter.net

DRIVERS WANTED



There are times that people would like a ride to a meeting, for whatever reason, but don't really want to ask for one. Maybe it's a night meeting, too far away or maybe they don't want to go alone. Now you have the option to ask for a ride and not feel guilty. There will be a list of volunteers to help in these instances. You may have already seen this with the Fall Festival sign up – "I need a ride" or "I can provide a ride". This is for everyone.

If you were signed up as a volunteer for Transportation you are now signed up as a volunteer for both "Driver for Exchanges" and "Driver for Meetings". To make a change simply check the box or cross off the category on the Renewal Notice.

Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair
608.233.9351 marylindquist@charter.net



Attention Snow Birds

Are you heading south for the winter? You can always read

the newsletter on line on our web page at www.ffwis.org. We send a notice electronically when it is ready. If you would like to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter at your Snow Bird location, let me know where you will be and when you are leaving. I will temporarily change your address so you don't miss anything while you are gone.

Mary Lindquist, 608.233.9351,
marylindquist@charter.net
Membership Chair

Adopt - A - Highway



The weather on Saturday, October 13, could have been a beautiful sun shiny Fall day, but we had showers and an occasional heavy rain.

So a big THANK YOU to Jerry Fuller, Helen Rugowski, Dick and Bea Heyden, Neal and Nancy Denton, Dick Walker, and Pat Huyett for their commitment and for enduring the elements. We picked up 12 bags of stuff. Some of the items other than trash and beverage containers were panties, shorts, a nickel, a car spoiler, a metal conduit pipe and about a 4 foot square piece of 5/8 inch pressed board.

Don Gostomski, Chairperson

Celebrations, Condolences, Best Wishes...

If you are aware of a member who is going through difficult times or celebrating major events in their lives, please contact our secretary, Mary Lou Martino at marylou10@charter.net or call her at 08.457.2966. Mary Lou will send cards on behalf of The Friendship Force.

'TWAS THE NIGHT OF THANKSGIVING



Twas the night of Thanksgiving, but I just couldn't sleep. I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep. The leftovers beckoned--the dark meat and white, but I fought the temptation with all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation, the thought of a snack became infatuation. So, I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door and gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes, pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes. I felt myself swelling so plump and so round, till all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky with a mouthful of pudding and a handful of pie. But, I managed to yell as I soared past the trees.....happy eating to all---pass the cranberries, please!



~~Author Unknown~~

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
Official Publication of
The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
Madison, WI
P. O. Box 56223
Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Madison, WI
Permit Number 1309

November 2012
Holiday Luncheon Reservations

President: George Wysock 833-5326
Vice Pres: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Secretary: Mary Lou Martino 467-2966
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 1, 2012



Maple Bluff Country Club Noon - 2 PM
500 Kensington Dr Cost: \$18.00

*Please bring non-perishable items (canned goods, paper products, soup, etc.)
for contribution to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.*

Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than November 24.

-----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