



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

October 2011



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first article as the new president of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin. I would like to offer my thanks to Mary Lindquist for the excellent job she has done leading the club in the past two years. I will be fortunate to be able to lean on her experience as the past president and I know she will still be active with club recruitment.

I would also like to thank the club for sending me to Hamburg for the FF International conference. This gave us a chance to interact with officers from other clubs and meet some of the people who will be involved with the 2012 Russian exchange. The exchange will offer an opportunity to view and learn about some of the most important cities in Russian history. Much time was spent at the conference on new theme exchange ideas and the workings of already completed theme exchanges. A successful garden exchange was conducted by the Cornwall club in the UK. Instead of two ED's they only used a host ED for the exchange. The ambassador screening was by application, and club president recommendation.

The FFI Exchange policies changes were also reviewed, especially the new Health and Mobility section, and the new guidelines for recruiting ambassadors from other communities. Another thing we learned was to always carry our club business cards.

The new board of directors is comprised of George Wysock as President, Helen Ann Rugowski as Vice-president, Mary Lou Martino as Secretary, and Margo McKnight as Treasurer. In addition we will have a host of supporting and multi tasking characters.

This promises to be a busy fall for the friendship force with an incoming exchange from Germany, the outgoing exchange to Turkey and the Halloween gala on October 30. In addition to all of those things happening the Badgers are off to great start, the Packers won their first game, and the Brewers look like they will be in the playoffs and perhaps World Series bound. So until the next news letter in November have a great Fall.

In Friendship,

**GEORGE WYSOCK. PRESIDENT**

## Adopt - A - Highway

**The date is October 22.** Meet at the Park and Ride lot at Hwy. 12 and Parmenter Street exit 249. We will get organized and start at 8: 30 am and clean-up to County HWY K

Please volunteer now and I would appreciate it if you would call me after October 15. Ten people work well and PLEASE I do not like to call for volunteers.

Thank You.

**DON GOSTOMSKI, Chairperson**  
**608-249-8250**



## The Norderstedt, Germany Exchange

Our members stepped up once again to make another Friendship Force adventure a rousing success. The Norderstedt Exchange, which ran from September 19-26, explored Milwaukee's beautiful art museum, Harley Davidson and the Pabst mansion. Across the state on the Mississippi the wonderful aquarium in Dubuque was a highlight for all our German friends. Not to be outdone, Madison's capitol and Camp Randall Stadium made lasting impressions. Rides on funiculars and pontoon boats gave different views of the world. A demonstration by our very own horse whisperer, Kay Kinney and Indy, and the musicianship and enthusiasm of the UW marching band left our guests duly impressed, knowing they wouldn't see anything similar in Germany.

With tailgate parties, lunches on Lake Mendota and the Milwaukee River, one of the best burgers in America, two home hosted dinners, Babcock ice cream cones, a traditional Friday night fish fry at Quivey's Grove, and a final progressive brunch, nobody returned to German weighing fewer kilos than when they arrived.

Individual diversions included a Badger football game, polka dancing in New Glarus, quilt shows at Olbrich, biking around Lake Monona, theater at the Fireside and much more.

Like most exchanges, the Germans returned home after seeing things they'd never seen, savoring experiences they will always remember, meeting strangers who rapidly become friends. For those of us involved in the exchange, we now have a cadre of friends in Deutschland.

Kudos and Thanks for Your Work and Gemütlichkeit

A successful Friendship Force Exchange is always the work of many people. Special thanks go to our hosting members for the big time commitment: Patty Kexel and Tom Herman, Margie and Dick Walker, Florence Folbrecht, Ann Dolderer, Margo McKnight, Lise Skofronick, Kay Kinney, Nancy and Richard Mueller, and our brand new member Ernie Thieding. Without your valuable time and willingness to host and drive, nothing would occur.

Grateful thanks are also due to the wonderful chefs who home hosted dinners for our German visitors who loved the opportunity to visit more American homes and enjoy a variety of foods: George and Sandi Wysock, Jane Kessenich, Katherine Masden, Maggie Dohm, Gary and Mary Lindquist, Ann and Ben Sowaske, and Kathy and Doug Johnson who also organized the dinners.

We also appreciate Tom and Kay Wiedholz and their friends Carol Christman and Don Srales who added the

final sweet touches to our Progressive Brunch which Tom Herman and Patty Kexel started off with muffins, drinks and funny faces and Kay Kinney and her friend June "Bug" Bennet followed up with dahlias and delicious delicacies.

A very special thanks to Marsha Michel from the Chicago FF club, who after meeting some of the Germans in Hamburg at the World Conference, took it upon herself to drive them from Chicago to Madison along with her friend Robert Hernquist. She also joined us on our journeys in Wisconsin. She truly represents the spirit of the Friendship Force.

We also thank Pat and Tom O'Brien for the tour of their dairy farm and Gary and Mallory Gorman for the use of their stables.

Und Danke Schön to all our German visitors: Sibylle and Detlef Warmbold, Hilde and Frank-Cliff Boodeea, Gisela and Manfred Wagner, Joachim Peemueller, Antje Krametz and Barbara Weniger. You give us the opportunity to open our homes, our minds, and our hearts to see our small world through your eyes. We appreciate the opportunity, and we will cherish your Friendship. May the Force be with you.

**RICHARD MUELLER, German Exchange Director**  
**608-838-3575**

## Wisconsin to Turkey September 27 - October 15

Twenty three Turkey Ambassadors got off to a good sendoff hosted by Departure Chair Maggie Dohm and several other members, at the Dutch Mill Park & Ride on September 27.

They were joined by five more Ambassadors at Chicago O'Hare for the late evening 10:20 departure for Istanbul, Turkey.

**Return is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 at 8:20 pm**, again at the Dutch Mill P&R. If there is any change in that arrival time (something beyond 15 minutes) Maggie will call the pickup person who you indicated. **Come to see and greet ambassadors upon their return.** To verify the arrival time Maggie's number is 608-274-7886.

**JERRY FULLER, Turkey Exchange Director**  
**608-846-5533**



## 2011-2012 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

Sept. 27 – Oct. 15, 2011 – Wisconsin to Urla, Turkey \*

October 21 – Board Meeting & Newsletter Deadline

October 22 – Adopt-A-highway \*

October 30 – Fall Festival \*

December 3, 2011 – Holiday Party \*\*

June 2012 – Trujillo Peru to Wisconsin \*\*

August 10 – 14, 2012, Food Exchange \*\*

September 2012 – Wisconsin to Moscow \*

\* Information in this newsletter

\*\* Information to be announced

## SILENT AUCTION AT THE FALL FESTIVAL

**Do you have any items around your home which you would like to share with someone else? Could it be a travel trinket or a household item you no longer have use for that you can donate for the auction? Bring your items to the Fall Festival and Indicate a suggested amount as a starting bid.**

**Activities Committee, Fannie Hicklin for questions.**

### Attention Snow Birds

Are you heading south for the winter? You can always read the newsletter on line. We send a notice electronically when it is ready to read on line. If you would like me to send you the hardcopy newsletter, let me know where you will be and when you are leaving. I will temporary change your address so you don't miss anything while you are gone.

**MARY LINDQUIST – Membership Chair**  
**608-233-9351**

## Membership Renewal

Dear Fellow Members,

Thank you for your past support in being a member of The Friendship Force of Wisconsin, Inc. We appreciate your support, no matter how small or big. It takes many members to make a club function well. Your past support has been appreciated.

Your membership in Friendship Force brings the world to your door step. It allows you to connect to people from different countries at the personal level with local hosts opening their homes to visitors from other cultures and understandings that develop through the sharing of meals, conversations and the routines of daily life. You have the access and opportunity to travel with any Friendship Force club throughout the world. It also brings you together with your fellow ambassadors and host families from past exchanges by attending the many activities that are planned, such as our Fall Festival and Holiday gathering.

A year ago Friendship Force International (FFI) raised the club affiliation fee we pay to maintain our affiliation. FFI increased the affiliation fee we pay to them by about 60%. We must pay this fee on an annual basis, due each January to remain in good standing. At that time, last year, we, the board, elected not to pass on the increase to our members. Now it has come time that we must raise the membership dues. This increase will bring our dues in line with other clubs in our area. Our board members will continue to monitor our expenses for possible reduction to minimize future increases.

The board made the decision to raise the membership dues beginning with your January 2012 renewal. The new membership fees are:

Individuals - \$30

Families - \$38

Your membership renewal form will be available at the Fall Festival. If you are unable to attend, we will mail the form to you in early November. Please return your form promptly as we must pay our affiliation fee in early January 2012.

Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair

### HELP WANTED!

We need your help!!! Are you a member of an organization that invites speakers? We have a group of individuals with programs about trips taken to Peru, South Korea, Australia, Azerbaijan and Costa Rica. If your club or organization would like to have one of these programs, please have your leader call or e-mail **Margie Groom at 608-516-2289 or mgroom053@gmail.com.**

Help the Friendship Force of Wisconsin grow!

Thanks to Mary Ann Fahl for her program on Azerbaijan to the Golden Opportunities group at St.Luke's Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 15! She and her topic were well received.

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**October 2011**  
**Fall Festival Reservations**

President: George Wysock 833-5326  
Vice Pres.: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Secretary: Mary Lou Martino 467-2966  
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
**FALL FESTIVAL**  
Sunday, October 30, 2011

**Knights of Columbus Hall 12:30 PM Costume Parade**  
**5256 Verona Road, Madison 12:45 PM Meal Service**  
Cost: \$17.00



**Wear fun costumes of the season which will be judged!      Silent Auction!**  
**Cookies or bars are most welcome.**

Catered by Edith's: Apple glazed pork loin, scalloped potatoes, green beans Almondienne, sweet potatoes, pea salad, mock crab salad, spinach/strawberry salad, toffee apple salad.

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due by October 24.**

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**Make check payable to: The Friendship Force.**

**Mail to: Fannie Hicklin 3814 University Avenue Madison WI 53705      Questions? 608-233-5748**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_