



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

October 2012



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After 26 hours of travel we arrived back in Madison concluding our Russian adventure. We left our hotel at 3:00 AM St Petersburg time which made for a very short night's sleep. We met many wonderful and interesting people during our home stays. Our ED for the Russian exchange will further elaborate on our adventures in her newsletter article.

In all we have successfully completed our three incoming exchanges and one outgoing exchange for 2012. 2013 promises to be quite active with two outgoing exchanges to Indonesia and Oregon, and incoming exchange from Turkey. We must also submit our requests for 2014 exchanges by November. There will be a 2014 outgoing exchange to Arizona in the winter, and an exchange to Lithuania through our Madison sister city club with FFI support. I will begin working with our sister city club in October. Hopefully Vyborg (the potential new club city we visited in Russia) will return out visit and become our foreign incoming exchange for 2014.

Helen Ann Rugowski is preparing for the trip to the International Convention in Hiroshima, Japan. She is on a mission to make origami cranes for the meeting. I understand that she had board members help her with the construction during the last meeting (way to go Helen!). The cranes have to be sent by October 1. I am sure Helen will return to us with many ideas. In 2013, the FFI international convention will be in New Orleans. I hope many of our members will attend because it is quite an experience.

In Friendship,

**George Wysock, President**

*Explore • Understand • Serve*®

## Adopt - A - Highway



The date is October 13. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at Hwy. 12, Exit 249. We will get organized and start at 8:30 am.

Ten volunteers are ideal. With enough help we can cover about a one mile section in 1½ to 2 hours. If you are willing and able to HELP, we need you.

If you are willing and able to HELP, I would appreciate it if you would please call me before October 6. I would prefer not to make a lot of phone calls.

Thank You.

**Don Gostomski, Chairperson**  
**608-249-8250**



## Peru Exchange Photos Needed

Please send your photos for the Friendship Force website as an attachment in an email to Dave Dohler. [dedohler@charter.net](mailto:dedohler@charter.net)



## MOSCOW AND VYBORG RUSSIA EXCHANGE

Our ambassadors returned from Russia on Wednesday, September 19. We experienced so much during our two week stay but I have to say that the generosity and kindness of our Russian hosts will be remembered forever.

Our first week was spent in Moscow. We visited Red Square where they were celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Borodino battle which marked the turning point in the war against Napoleon. We visited the Kremlin including the Armory with all of the treasures, Gum Department Store, St. Basils Cathedral, the Tretiakov Gallery of Russian art, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, School number 2006 and Sergiev Posad, which is considered to be the birth place of the Orthodox Church. Most ambassadors traveled by metro each day to reach our destinations. We were impressed by the efficiency of the metro system and the endless traffic on the streets and highways. Even when we traveled by car or bus late in the evening we seemed to be stuck in never ending traffic jams. In Moscow we had our first taste of borscht and I think I can speak for us all... its good! Some of us were fortunate enough to visit the Bolshoi during our free time. Others saw additional schools, parks, folk ballets, and the circus, visited family friends, took a boat tour or just hung out with our new friends and played UNO. The weather in Moscow was cold at times so we had on all our layers but we learned the metro was always hot and stuffy.

We left Moscow by train on the Leo Tolstoy number 32 at 10:50 at night. We had very comfortable sleeping compartments but I don't think we slept much. We arrived in Vyborg just before 8:00 AM and were met by Irina and Andrei and taken to the Round Tower restaurant where we were provided with a welcome breakfast. We left our luggage at the restaurant and went on a walking tour of the old town. Vyborg is on the Baltic Sea and it was so nice to be out of the city and feeling the fresh air. We took a boat ride around the harbor and then returned to the Round Tower to meet our hosts. Eleven of us were home hosted by this small new club and the remaining eight stayed at the Hotel Druzhba. During our time in Vyborg we visited another school, a branch of the Hermitage with an art school for children, Mon Repos Park, and a folk park. We were able to deliver a

proclamation to the Vyborg District officials who seemed to be impressed. They have received proclamations before but not proclamations in the name of friendship. We were broken into small groups at the school so that all of us had time to speak to the students. It was one of my more memorable experiences. The teacher in my classroom asked if we could return next year. All in all, the scenery in Vyborg reminded us of Northern Wisconsin – with an ancient Swedish castle in the middle. By the way there are 238 steps to the top or a few more depending upon where you started your count. We are hoping the members of this young club will be able to visit us in the future. They are just getting started and we feel they have a promising future.

Following our visit to Vyborg we boarded a bus for St. Petersburg. We visited Catherine's palace with its famous amber room, toured the city by bus and by boat, and visited both the Hermitage and Peterhof on the same day. That was a long day! We also experienced the metro in St. Petersburg which is nearly 300 feet under the city. When you get on the escalator, you can't see the end. We had some free time to explore the city and do some shopping. On our final day we were at Peterhof when they shut down the fountains at 6:00 PM while playing the Russian national anthem. It was as though Russia was saying goodbye to us.

We were welcomed home by Maggie Dohm at the Dutch Mill Park and Ride. Tired and happy to be home but bringing with us many memories of our new friends in Russia. See you at the Fall Festival!

Sandi Wysock  
**Exchange Director**

### **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](mailto:marylou10@charter.net) or call her at 608-467-2966. Mary Lou will send cards on behalf of The Friendship Force.



## Friendship Force of Urla, Turkey to Visit Wisconsin

In mid to late June 2013 the Friendship Force from Urla, Turkey will be coming to Madison. They will also visit Friendship Force Clubs in Connecticut and Tennessee. We are just getting organized and are looking for committee members to help with:

- Interviewing hosts
- Workshop planning
- Activities for June

As you know, the Friendship Force of Wisconsin visited Urla, Turkey in September and October of 2011. I was lucky enough to be an ambassador. My partner Mary Babula and I stayed with a delightful family in Urla. Their club did an outstanding job of hosting and planning activities for our one week stay.

We would like to welcome Friendship Force of Urla, Turkey here for an exciting, educational, comfortable and memorable visit.

If you are interested in hosting, day hosting, working on a committee or advising us in this process, please call 608-241-0212 or e-mail: [mcbabula@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcbabula@sbcglobal.net).

The information we have so far from Friendship Force of Urla is that they will have 18-20 ambassadors coming. This may change as we continue our planning.

I look forward to hearing from anyone wanting to help.

### Exchange Director

Mary Mastaglio



What a thing friendship is, world  
without end!

ROBERT BROWNING, The Flight of the Duchess



## 2012/2013 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**October 13** – Adopt a Highway\*

**October 28** – Annual Fall Festival, Coliseum Bar\*

**Oct 31 – Nov 2** - Hiroshima Japan FFI Conference  
Check the web site for more information

**December 1** - Holiday Luncheon, Maple Bluff  
Country Club\*\*

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

**March 2013** – 35th Anniversary Celebration\*\*

**June 2013** - Urla Turkey Inbound Exchange\*

**September 2013**- Indonesia Outbound Exchange\*\*

\* Information in this newsletter

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

## OUTREACH EFFORT

Thank you to these members who are doing programs for our club! Mary Ann Fahl presented a program at the Bethany United Methodist church on September 28. Mary Mastaglio and Mary Babula will present a program for the National Mutual Benefit officers meeting on November 1. If you have suggestions for other outreach efforts, feel free to contact Margie Groom at [mgroom053@gmail.com](mailto:mgroom053@gmail.com) or 608-516-2289.

### Outreach Coordinator

Margie Groom

## CLUB PIN DESIGN IDEAS SOUGHT

Email Gail Holmes  
[gholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:gholmes@wisc.edu)

**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

October 2012  
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: Donna Hussin 845-3393

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
*FALL FESTIVAL*  
Sunday, October 28, 2012



**Coliseum Bar**  
**232 East Olin Avenue, Madison**  
(Use the entrance closest to the elevator  
nearest the door facing the street.)

**12:00 PM Social Hour**  
**12:30 PM Seated Luncheon**  
**Cost: \$16.00**

**Donation of bars and cookies is greatly appreciated.**  
*International or Halloween costumes are encouraged.*

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than October 19.**



-----cut and return with payment

Choice of entrée: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Dijonnaise or \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Tenderloin

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending x \$16 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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**