



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

October 2015



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nine members of Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia to attend the international conference. We joined over 500 delegates from 27 countries. This was my third international conference. Each time I am completely overwhelmed and get the chills when 500 plus delegates stand, hold hands, and sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth". This year's conference theme was "Building Bridges". Much of the discussion centered on staying true to our mission and what makes us unique while finding ways to re-energize and expand our membership to new audiences. From my perspective, the vision of creating peace through friendships is as relevant today as it was when the first exchanges started in 1977. The challenge for the Friendship Force and for all of us is finding ways to connect to the next generation of ambassadors while staying true to our mission and vision. Declining membership and reduced hosting capacity threaten our survival. At the same time, there are clubs brimming in enthusiasm, healthy and growing.

How does Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison compare to other clubs? We have many strengths. We have added new members who have enthusiastically accepted board and leadership positions. We have an amazing core of legacy and long term members that help keep us connected to the original mission and vision. We remain one of the largest clubs in the U.S. We are normally able to fill exchanges. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. To keep our club healthy and strong, we need to add new members of all ages and ethnicities and find ways to compete in an electronic world where people have many choices. We have had to reduce our hosting capacity from 30 to 20 and that impacts our ability to accept new exchange opportunities. Each year the hosting capacity is becoming a bigger challenge. The challenges we face are not insurmountable, but we do need to build a bridge to the future, if we want to remain strong and healthy.

Finally, you may wonder why your vice-president is writing the president's message. Mary Babula officially became president at the September board meeting. Mary had emergency surgery shortly after her return from Vancouver and has since had a second surgery. We are not sure when she will be able to assume the responsibilities of president. I ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Until Mary is able to return, I will be working with our talented and dedicated board to keep our exchanges and activities moving forward. We can't promise that there won't be any bumps along the way, so we ask for your patience and support.

In Friendship,

Sandi Wysock, Vice President



2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

October 10—Adopt a Highway*

October 19—Crafter's Group Meeting*

October 27—Book Club*

November 7—Exchange Director Workshop* (CANCELED)

November 17—General Membership Meeting*

2016

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference ☺

May 10-17, 2016—Cleveland County, UK Outbound Exchange*

July 2016—Nashik Riverside Club India Inbound Exchange

September 2016—San Jose, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

IMPORTANT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

When: November 17

Time: 2pm-4:20pm

Location: Fitchburg Public Library 5530 Lacy Road.

Regional Representative, Adrienne Moen, will visit our club on November 17. Discussion will include information from the international conference, as well as, a discussion of the strategic plans that are being put in place to ensure that Friendship Force continues into the next generation while staying true to its mission, peace through friendship.

Pizza and beverages provided following the meeting.

RSVP to Helen Rugowski, haharrin@hotmail.com 608 238 9731 or sign up on Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/important-ffw-m-membership-general-meeting-tickets-18779571203>

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Exchange Director Workshop

ED Workshop for November 7, 2015 is cancelled. We will re-schedule for a later date. In the meantime, if you are interested in being an exchange director or a co-exchange director, or if you simply need more information about the position, please contact the exchange director coordinator, Gail Holmes, through her email address: gailholmes@wisc.edu.

Exchange Director Manual

The Exchange Director Manual has finally been updated, by a committee of five, working very hard to streamline the contents. We spent many hours hashing over what should and should not be included. We clarified the inequities. We took out redundant areas. It was many hours of hard work that was extremely worthwhile.

If you are thinking of being an exchange director (ED), this new manual will be of considerable help to you.

Respectively,

Committee members: Nancy Brown, Donna Hussin, Mary Lindquist, Janet Lonergan, and Stephanie Sorensen



Last month we told you about Eventbrite as a way to sign up for activities. This has worked well for FREE activities, i.e., the Board Meeting and L.E.O.

The easiest way to access an event on Eventbrite is by clicking on the link while reading the newsletter article on line. This month we have links to the following: Adopt-A-Highway, Book Club, and General Membership Meeting.

Tips to access Eventbrite:

In your search engine, such as Google, Mozilla Firefox, Yahoo, etc., enter Eventbrite on the search line. Once on the Eventbrite website, there is a place where you can search using words. Enter Friendship Force or FFW-M. Be sure you have Wisconsin in the location place. Eventbrite will bring up all the activities available for Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison.

Try it now by clicking on this link that will take you directly to Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com>

Mary Lindquist



Book Club



Ready to read another fascinating book and discuss it with your fellow members? The Friendship Force Book Club is reading The Underground Girls of Kabul by Jenny Nordberg.

Jenny Nordberg is an investigative journalist who uncovers a hidden Afghan custom that will change your understanding of what it means to grow up as a girl. Through extensive in-depth interviews, she offers a story of how girls can be willed into looking, behaving and acting as boys to counter the restrictions and difficulties that they face in Afghan society where they have almost no rights. One of our members, Pete Marion, has lived in Kabul. He will join us for the evening and will share some of his observations.

The library system has several copies but it appears there are also some requests for copies pending. You may need to place a hold on the book.

The Friendship Force Book Club will meet on October 27 at 7:00 PM at the home of Helen Ann Rugowski, 7359 Tree Lane, Madison. Please let Helen know via phone, 608-238-9731, or email, haharrin@hotmail.com, or **SIGN UP ON EVENTBRITE! IT'S QUICK AND EASY. SIMPLY CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ffw-m-book-club-tickets-18736511410>

Speaking Opportunities



We have had several requests in the past few weeks for presentations. We do have members that are prepared to speak about their travel experiences and people that are also willing to share information about the Friendship Force. If you would like one of our members to speak to an organization, please contact Stephanie Sorensen via her email, stevils@charter.net.

Sandi Wysock, Vice President



Help needed on Saturday, October 10, from 9-11 AM to work on trash pickup along Hwy 12 from the Park & Ride lot to CTH K where our Friendship Force sign is located. All supplies except gloves are provided. Any time you can spare is appreciated. Call me at 608-575-9685 to indicate your availability.

Sarah Rankin



Edinburgh Castle, Scotland



Crafters Group

The "crafters" will be re-grouping to plan an itinerary for our future. If you have ever wondered what this group is all about, please join us. We will meet on Monday, October 19, 2015, at 1:00 PM at Margo McKnight's. 321 N Midvale Blvd. Apt 1, Madison WI 53705. 608-345-6827.

Please mark your calendar. Hope to see all of you so we can plan our strategy.

Margo McKnight

**COMING SOON
Board Agenda & Board Meeting Minutes**

The FF Wisconsin-Madison website will have a link to the board's agenda and the board's meeting minutes on its web site. The agenda will be posted as it stands approximately one week prior to the board meeting and is subject to change. The minutes will be posted following approval at the next month's board meeting, a delay of one month or longer if the board does not meet.

We are posting this information to keep you informed. As always, members are welcome at board meetings, however, if you wish to make a presentation, we ask that you contact the president first to make sure that time is available.



**Exchange Opportunity
Des Moines & Ames Clubs Exchange, Isle of Wight**

Departure date is June 18, 2016 for a six-day homestay followed by Best of Britain tour of Scotland, Wales and London June 26-July 4. The Isle of Wight is 3 miles by ferry off the south shore of England. Estimated total cost under \$5000. For more information or to apply, contact Diane Oppedal, ED, at 515-233-2300 or dianeopp@gmail.com

**Exchange to Cleveland County, England
May 10-17, 2016**

Plans are underway for a one week home-stay with the Cleveland County Friendship Force Club, England. Cleveland County is located in northeast England. The area has a significant industrial heritage arising from its central role in the 19th century iron boom, but is also home to a rich cultural history that dates back hundreds of years.

After our home-stay, we will transfer to Edinburgh, Scotland, which will be our base for the next four nights. From Edinburgh we will do day trips to historically significant and architecturally amazing sites such as Stirling Castle, Melrose Abbey, Rosslyn Chapel, Edinburgh Castle and Old Town in Edinburgh.

The number of ambassadors Cleveland County FF club is able to host is 12, which makes for a very intimate experience for everyone.

Nancy Brown & Stephanie Sorensen, Co-exchange directors

**In Loving
Memory**



Marilyn Lindau
Death: September 17, 2015

Member from 1984-2003. She and her husband Paul participated in many exchanges.

Full Obituary:
WSJ September 19, 2015 or
www.gundersonfh.com

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October 2015

General Membership Meeting

Eventbrite

Book Club

Highway Clean-Up

Cleveland County, England Exchange 20160

President: Mary Babula 241-0212

Vice Pres: Sandi Wycosk 833-5326

Secretary: Lois Schulz 223-1287

Treasurer: Judith Taylor 345-6827

Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393