



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

September 2015



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to assuming the job of president of our Friendship Force Club. I want to first thank Helen Ann Rugowski for her leadership as president, her support for our club and our members, and all the time and effort she has put into leading our club as our president. Thank you Helen Ann!

As president, I appreciate the people who have taken on leadership roles on the board of directors and as exchange directors...important roles to support the mission of our club, plan programs and activities that provide you, our members with meaningful opportunities to be involved, and to help us reach out to attract new members, which will be essential if we are to remain a vital organization. We are developing a survey for our members to complete, so you can evaluate the programs, strengths, needs and opportunities of our club and tell us what else you would like us to do. Look for that survey in the October newsletter.

We revised our by-laws at our April 2015 annual meeting, and added a position of member-at-large to the board of directors. If you are interested in being considered for that position for the coming year, please contact me by September 12 to let me know of your interest either by phone (241-0212) or e-mail (mcbabula@hotmail.com). The member-at-large will be approved by the board at the September 18 meeting and will be expected to attend the monthly meetings, beginning the third Friday of October.

In friendship

Mary Babula, President



Joan Shropshire

FFW-Madison was the recipient recently of a \$100 donation from one of our members in honor of Joan. She joined the club in 1989 and participated in many exchanges over the years. Joan passed away on July 18, 2015. Her obituary was included in the August 2015 newsletter.



2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

September 14—Crafter's Group Meeting*

September 23—October FFW-M Newsletter Article Deadline

September 24—L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out)*

October 10—Adopt a Highway*

October 27—Book Club*

November 7—Exchange Director Workshop*

2016

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference*

May 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

FF Midwest Regional Conference 2016

Save the Dates April 28-May 1, 2016

The FF Quad Cities is happy to host the Friendship Force Midwest Regional Conference for 2016 in Davenport, IA. The Co-Chairmen are Harry and Marilyn Frick and Eldon and Judy Greiman.

More information will follow as details become available.

Explore • Understand • Serve®



Seeking Members Who Want to Be More Involved in Our Club

We are looking for members who want to help plan some of the programs and activities of our club by joining one of our standing committees. Here is a list of the committees along with a brief description. Please look at this list and consider whether you might want to join one of them this year. If you do, or if you have questions, you can call or e-mail me (241-0212 or mcbabula@hotmail.com). I will pass your name on to the committee chair. Thank you for considering possible involvement, or continuing your involvement.

Activities Committee: responsible for arranging and conducting several activities of our club each year including the summer picnic, fall festival and spring luncheon.

Membership Committee: responsible for communicating with prospective members, welcoming and orienting new members, organizing meet and greet events for new and continuing members, and maintaining the membership list with contact information so members receive all club communications.

Outreach Committee: sponsors and participates in events designed to increase the club's profile in the community and attract new members. Examples include Ride the Drive (bicycling), Highway Clean Up, WHA TV Auction, speaking to various community groups, participating in the International Festival, identifying and sharing community cultural events of interest to members, and developing programs with cross cultural themes such as the book club and Let's Eat Out's (LEO's) that are open to members as well as potential members.

Historian Committee: maintains historical records and documents for our club.

Exchange Directors Committee: this new committee was established to provide support and mentoring for exchange directors (ED's) of both inbound and outbound domestic and international exchanges. Current ED's will be committee members and ED's from past exchanges are welcome to serve as mentors. This committee will work on planning current exchanges and the committee chair will be the liaison between the board and the ED's.



L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out)

The Outreach Committee is planning another Let's Eat Out event--this time with a Latino focus.



Date and Time: Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 PM
Location: Las Islas Del Mar (The Islands of the Sea) at 5696 Monona Drive, Monona.

Las Islas Del Mar has been on Monona Drive for almost three years. It is run by a Latino family from the State of Nayarit near Puerto Vallarta, on the central Pacific coast of Mexico. They specialize in seafood but also offer other typical dishes from Mexico. The host, Diego Valdivia said we may each order from their menu when we arrive. Their prices vary from as little as \$3.00, with most full dinner items at \$12.00-\$20.00.

Come join us for an authentic taste of Pacific Coast of Mexico. Please register by **September 18** by calling 241-0212 or sending an e-mail to: mcbabula@hotmail.com or by using the link to Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leo-lets-eat-out-tickets-18279134383>.

Any questions, contact Mary at the phone or e-mail above.

Mary Babula, President



Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9 -11AM is when FFW-M will make a sweep along the Friendship Force section of Hwy 12, from the Park & Ride lot to CTH K picking up the trash and checking that our sign is in good condition. I am a new member of FF and have volunteered to take on this project.

Now I need your help! Please give me a call to volunteer with whatever time you have available on October 10. All supplies are furnished. Please bring your own gloves. We will meet at the Park & Ride Parmenter exit off Hwy 12.

Sarah Rankin
608-575-9685 (cell)

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. The address is: 7359 Tree Lane, Phone: 238-9731, Email: haharrin@hotmail.com. Please let Helen know if you will be attending.

Sandi Wysock, Vice President

**Exchange Director Workshop
November 7, 2015 2-4PM
Location: To be announced later**

Make sure to put this date on your calendar!

Have you ever wondered what it means to be an exchange director? Why do some of us take on the responsibility over and over? What are the rewards? Challenges? Is mentoring available? How many exchange directors do we need each year? If you are curious but not sure if this is for you or if you would consider being an exchange director but would like more information, please put November 7 on your calendar. This workshop is for you! The meeting is open to all members of the club. Past exchange directors are strongly encouraged to attend. We can always use mentors who are willing to coach others and share experiences. Deadline to register is Friday, October 30, 2015.

Sign up directly through Eventdrite.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/exchange-director-workshop-tickets-18266296986>

Sandi Wysock, Vice President
sandrawysock@msn.com

International Institutes of Wisconsin—Dinner guests from Russia, July 23, 2015



Richard and Nancy Mueller hosted an evening meal for Mr. Alexander Maydanyuk, Lawyer at the Institute of Stock Markets and Management, Odintsovsky, and Dr. Mariia Vladimirovna Radchenko, Chair of the Economics and Finance Department at the Priamurskiy State University (PSU) in Birobidzhan, Jewish Autonomous Region. Both are influencers of peers, students and the people of their country. Each has written over 200 publications.

These two Russians are part of the group invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their area of study while in the USA is a financial literacy program organized by the Wisconsin International Institute.

While it is a privilege for both to be doing this extensive traveling, both admitted to missing home. Maria leaves her 2 year old son and husband and Aleksandr leaves his new bride.

We were joined by our friends, Al and Kathy Anding who have visited Russia and Cyril, the translator. Cyril was essential to our dialog since we had no common language. His simultaneous translation is an amazing skill. Among the many things we learned, we found our state and their country have a number of similar issues. Examples include: the universities are threatened by large budget cuts, and consumer protection for personal financial issues and legal rights for people with disabilities are necessary here and there. Not only did we share stories this evening, we are swapping Mother Mueller's éclair dessert recipe for a Russian beet salad recipe.

Nancy and Richard Mueller

In Loving Memory



Jane Dohler
Death: August 23, 2015

Member since 2001 with husband, Dave, club communications and web site manager. Participated in many exchanges and often hosted several couples at the same time. Jane will be missed.

Full Obituary: WSJ August 30, 2015 or www.gundersonfh.com



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, September 14, 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.



John and Dorothy Baldwin Address and Email

314 Saddle Rdg
Portage, WI 53901

janddbaldwin@gmail.com

Janet Lonergan EMAIL

janetlonergan@icloud.com



New Members

Please welcome seven new members to our club. They were recruited and hosted ambassadors for the Guadeloupe Exchange, which was a very successful exchange.

Lisa Thomas Prince and Tim Prince
202 Acadia Drive
Madison, WI 53717
lthomasprince@yahoo.com

Mary and John Witte
7418 Cedar Creek Trail
Madison, WI 53717
marpowitz@yahoo.com

Stephanie Kessenich and Tom Christensen
1243 Jenifer Street
Madison WI 53703
skkessenich@gmail.com

Dr. Susan Carson
1706 Yahara Place
Madison WI 53704
carson.susan@gmail.com

Mary Lindquist, Membership
608-233-9351



Welcome to Eventbrite

This issue of the newsletter introduces you to upcoming events that encourage you to register on the internet versus calling the person in charge. Those events are: L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out) on September 24 and the Exchange Director Workshop on November 7.

What is Eventbrite?—a free event planning software program on the internet.

How does Eventbrite work? Our organization creates an event webpage. A member can go directly to register and receive a ticket for the event. Anyone surfing the web who discovers our event and whose interest is peaked can register and receive a ticket for the event.

Why use Eventbrite? Allows FFW-Madison to reach out into the community to broadcast events and tap into social media such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Manages the registration process for the coordinator of the event and provides a guest list print out.

Where is Eventbrite on the web? The main web address is <http://www.eventbrite.com>. In the search box at the top of the page, type in the FFW-M event.

The organization is currently posting free events or events where you can pay at the "door". Our goal is also to be able to include events where registration and payment is required. This involves a small fee but is a convenient method of payment for those who do most of their banking, etc., electronically.

Check it out! If you access our website for information or use email to communicate with members you can use this tool. It's that easy!



BICYCLING IN IOWA

One of the many benefits of being in the Friendship Force is the opportunity to travel with other club exchanges when there are openings. I found the Central Iowa exchange, "Ride the Rail Trails of the Heartland," from July 20-26 advertised on the FFI website. I joined with 15 others meeting up in Ames, Iowa for the seven-day exchange.

Loved cycling in Iowa! It's flat and all the trails were paved. Rides were generally about 25 miles and interspersed with small towns for rest stops and ample time to get acquainted with new friends.

The High Trestle Bridge Trail was a particular highlight, as the bridge is a half a mile long and 130 feet high. Another treat was the opportunity to learn and play disc golf with the Central Iowa members.

While this was an active exchange, there was dinner hosting, pot lucks, which I just love, and singing. I had a great time with my host, Diane Oppedal, and look forward to seeing her visit here soon.

Helen Ann Rugowski



Exchange Opportunities

http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/

Travelogue

Introducing Travelogue Programs in 2016

Looking for members of FFW-Madison that have been on exchanges and took photos to capture the experience and memories. These photos can be stored on a computer or be in slide format.

Why is the club asking? Travelogue series are a current and popular program event public libraries are offering as a service to people in their respective communities. It's an untapped resource for Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison to show people how they can travel and see the world through the eyes of the people who live in the particular city, country or region. It's reaching out to make people aware of our organization and encouraging them to participate.

If you already have a script to go with your photos/slides, it's a ready-made program. If just the photos/slides, help would be available to write the script.

Program length 45 minutes to one hour followed by 30 minutes of informal Q&A. It would be limited to libraries in the Dane County Library System. We would like to introduce this program in 2016.

If you would like to participate, please send your topic with a description to djhussin@yahoo.com or call 608-845-3393.

Donna Hussin, Newsletter Editor



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

September 2015
Eventbrite
Travelogue Programs 2016
Volunteer for Committees

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