



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

January 2018



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

" change is necessary in life — to keep us moving ... to keep us growing ... to keep us interested . ... Imagine life without change. It would be static ... boring ... dull." — Dr. Dennis O'Grady

Why am I talking about change? Last month I shared some of our strategic goals with you. Foremost among them was the need to grow and diversify our membership. We welcome new members of all ages, sexual orientations and cultural backgrounds. We will be asking you for referrals from among your friends, families and acquaintances. The referral might be someone at church, a relative, your hair dresser or someone you met in the airport. Perhaps they can't travel now but would like to meet people from around the world right here at home. Perhaps they are not able to host but would enjoy sharing meals and activities with our traveling ambassadors. They could be experienced travelers that would enjoy living like a local versus being a tourist. Perhaps they would like to introduce their children to ambassadors from around the world (remember that children under 18 do not pay membership fees). All will be invited to our grand 40th anniversary event March 11, 2018 at the First Unitarian Society church. **Please put March 11 on your calendar.** You won't want to miss this!

Why the push for membership growth? 40 years ago, our club participated in some of the earliest exchanges. At the time our founding members struck out on new adventures hoping to make the world a better friendly place one friend at a time. They traveled with their children, had parties with dancing and music, and built a thriving organization. Fast forward 40 years and I often hear members indicating that the group is only for retirees. I would argue that our mission didn't change and our zest for life and experiences and our enthusiasm for the mission didn't change but as the group aged our vision of who we were gradually changed. We forgot that we were once multigenerational and that many of our first members were in their 40's or younger. We would like to recapture some of that original enthusiasm and diversify our membership. In today's world of divisive rhetoric our message is needed more than ever. After declining for several years, we grew by about 5% last year. We would like to grow 20% or more this year.

I am a mature member... can I help! YES!!!! You know our history. You know how we started. You have rich stories about the friendships that you developed over the years. You have inspired me and many others! Serve as mentors for our new members. Help them understand why we interview, how they apply for journeys, how they apply for hosting, invite them to activities. Welcome them! Greet them warmly! Help us pass on your enthusiasm and heritage.

And back to that opening relating to change. Help us embrace the fact that new members will reinvigorate and change our club. We



## 2018 CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Monthly Board Meeting - Bridge Point**  
**Waunona Community Center, 1917**  
**Lake Point Dr, second Wednesday of the**  
**month, 12:30 p.m**

**January 11, Thursday, Indonesian Journey Workshop\***

**January 16, Tuesday—Book Club \***

**January 20, Saturday—Winter Party \***

**February 6, Tuesday—Mentoring New Members \***

**February 11-17, Sunday-Saturday—Jakarta, Indonesia**  
**Inbound Journey \***

**February 24, Saturday—International Festival \***

**March 11, Sunday—40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event\***

**April 20-22, Friday-Sunday—FF Super Regional**  
**Conference, Cincinnati, OH \***

**April 29, Sunday—Annual Meeting ✍**

**June 9-15, Saturday-Friday—Niagara, Canada Inbound**  
**Journey\***

**October 27-November 3, Saturday-Saturday—Aichi**  
**Prefecture Japan Outbound Journey \***

**November 3-10, Saturday-Saturday—Oita Prefecture,**  
**Japan Outbound Journey \***

\* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

won't change our mission or our passion for extending a hand of friendship but let's face it, new people will have new ideas. Let's embrace them, welcome their input, include them in our planning committees and extend a hand of friendship.

Wishing you and yours a Happy New Year! See you at the Holiday Party!

**Sandi Wysock**  
**President**

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## Membership Renewal

Dues were due on December 15, 2017.

We thank everyone for being prompt with your renewal forms. We appreciated it very much.

If you have misplaced your renewal form I would be happy to mail or email you a copy. If you are not sure you sent your renewal in, give me a call and I can let you know.

For those of you that are not renewing please call or send me an email that you are not renewing. Otherwise you will receive reminders of past due renewals. We will begin making calls or sending individual emails in January to those that have not sent in their renewals.

If you are not a member yet and would like to become a member, same thing. Give me a call or email me and I will send you a "Membership Application" to complete and send in. Then start enjoying the many activities and sharing of your experience with what Friendship Force is all about.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

In Friendship,

**Mary Lindquist**  
Membership – 608-233-9351 marylindquist@charter.net

Save the Date



### Plan for Some Fun!

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and welcome new and prospective members at a reception on Sunday, March 11, 2018, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society Church in Madison. We hope to see

many of our current members at the event, which will include club members speaking on their experiences as hosts and ambassadors, information on past and future journeys, games, and refreshments. Join us to tell your stories of travel and hosting.

As many of you know, one of FF-Wisconsin-Madison's goals over the next several years is to expand our membership, especially by inviting a younger, more diverse group of people to join the club. Over the next two months, we will be soliciting our members for suggestions on prospective members to invite to the reception. We will send formal invitations to suggested new members and follow up with calls and notes to ensure that as many people as possible feel welcome to attend the reception and learn more about the organization.

We need your help in three ways:

- First, mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend the reception. A large crowd will show our prospective members that FFWI-Madison is a vibrant organization with interesting members, and there will be lots to do to make the event a success.
- Second, think about friends or acquaintances who might be interested in joining. Since the organization, not you, will be issuing the invitation, don't be shy about suggesting people you don't know well but who you think would be great members. What about the young couple down the street who seem interested in hearing about your travels? People at your church, in clubs, and community groups who travel a lot but are not members? Colleagues and friends who are interested in international affairs?
- Finally, we will need many volunteers to help before and on the day of the reception—preparing and serving food, answering questions, staffing information tables, and other tasks. Watch for more information in the newsletter and in email blasts as the date gets closer.

If you have questions or are ready to volunteer, contact:  
**Denise Lamb** [madmiz40009@gmail.com](mailto:madmiz40009@gmail.com) or 608-233-3755



**Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront**  
668 W. 5th Street, Covington, KY 41011

### **SUPER REGIONAL CONFERENCE** **APRIL 20-21, 2018**

The Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati is hosting the 2018 Super Regional Conference with the theme of "Unlocking the Future of Friendship Force". Dave Kalan will start the conference on Friday afternoon with a discussion of "Embracing Change" followed by a social gathering. The keynote speaker from Sister Cities will begin the Saturday program and then attendees will be able to choose between workshops: Leadership, Re-Energizing Clubs or Understanding FFI. The conference will end with a banquet on Saturday night with entertainment from a bluegrass band. Dayton and Louisville will offer home hosting before the conference and Cincinnati will offer home hosting after the conference.

Registration information will be sent out at a later time,

# Activities

## BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 16, 3 p.m.  
Sandi & George Wysock Home  
102 Acadia Drive, Madison,  
WI 53717



**Book:** The Year of Living Danishly  
**Author:** Helen Russell

When Helen Russell, a journalist, was suddenly given the opportunity of a new life in rural Jutland she discovered a startling statistic: the happiest place on earth isn't Disneyland, but Denmark, a land often thought of by foreigners as consisting entirely of long dark winters, cured herring, Lego and pastries. What is the secret to their success? Are happy Danes born, or made? The World Happiness Report of 2016 ranked Denmark #1. Happiness is increasingly considered the proper measure of social progress and the goal of public policy. This is an easy read and our public library has 15 holdings.

**Bonus:** Soup will be served! Come celebrate hygge like a Dane.

Please let Sandi know you will be coming:  
[sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com) or 608-833-5326



Friendship Force will be well represented at the Overture Center International Festival on Saturday February 24. Thanks to all who volunteered at the membership meeting to staff the club table at this event. We will be using our new stand-up banner and table runner with the club logo and a trifold display to help attract prospective members. Thanks to Sandi Wysock and Helen Ann Rugowski for sending photos to be used on this display.

Thanks to Peg Hutnik for volunteering to speak about Friendship Force at the Fitchburg Active Women's Group on Tuesday January 23.

A friendly reminder to all members to like and follow our club Facebook page, search for Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. Share with your friends and potential members to help us increase our presence on social media.

If you have marketing and outreach suggestions please contact **Tom and Donna Miller** at [miller1950@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miller1950@sbcglobal.net).

## MENTORING NEW MEMBERS



We anticipate having a number of new members joining FF and want them to reap the rewards as we have. A one hour meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison, WI 53711 to discuss mentoring new members. Anyone interested is welcome.

RSVP to Helen Ann Rugowski  
[haharrin@hotmail.com](mailto:haharrin@hotmail.com) or 608- 841-1087.

## 2018 CLUB JOURNEYS



### Indonesia Inbound Journey February 11-16, 2018

We welcome 15 ambassadors to Madison from Jakarta, Indonesia February 11-16. You will have opportunities to be involved in several ways while they are enjoying winter weather and activities. The welcome dinner, February 12, will be family style at the Imperial Gardens, and the farewell dinner will be at Rex's Innkeeper on February 15. We welcome all members to join us. A reservation form is included in the newsletter.

We need **day hosts** to accompany the guests for the day's activities. We need members to provide **soup, bars and cookies** at various times during their stay.

**Home hosted dinners** will be on Tuesday, February 13. **We need hosts.** This can be a couple of people hosting together. Please provide the total number of people you can accommodate when you agree to host a dinner to help in the planning.

We anticipate that they **may need to borrow winter gear**, including coats, hats, boots and gloves/mittens.

To participate as a day host, dinner host, donating soup, bars, and cookies and loaning or giving away winter gear, please contact:

**Kathy Johnson, Journey Host Co-Coordinator**  
[kjohnson44@ameritech.net](mailto:kjohnson44@ameritech.net) or at 608-238-1785



## Niagara Inbound Journey June 9-15, 2018

We are looking forward to welcoming twenty members of the Niagara, Ontario, club, after they will have spent one week with the Northern Illinois Friendship Force club.

They sound enthusiastic and would like to see some of the Frank Lloyd Wright sights and other interesting places while here. We are starting to set-up committees and we need volunteers for all positions: home hosting, day hosting, driving, and providing a meal for the ambassadors, working on the itinerary. If you can offer a few hours or ideas, please call or email:

### Journey Host Co-Coordinator

George Wysock (608)833-5326 [georgewysock@msn.com](mailto:georgewysock@msn.com)

or

Lise Skofronick (608)274-7732 [lrparadis@yahoo.com](mailto:lrparadis@yahoo.com)

## Japan Outbound Journeys October 27 - November 3, 2018 - Aichi Prefecture November 3-10, 2018 - Oita Prefecture



Shirakawago Mountain Village –Aichi Prefecture

In 2018 our club will have the opportunity to visit two Friendship Force Clubs in Japan. We, Kathy Speck Kemeny and Magdi Sebestyen, volunteered to lead this exciting journey. Kathy has been a member since 2016, and she has home-hosted ambassadors of several incoming journeys. She has also participated in an outbound journey to Guadeloupe in February 2017. Kathy currently works with our club's Membership Committee, and she has been an enthusiastic and energetic member, whom many of you already met and know. Magdi joined the club only 8 months ago, and has enjoyed day-hosting ambassadors of incoming journeys from San Diego and Noumea, New Caledonia. The two of us will join our efforts to communicate with the host clubs, and to coordinate trip preparation on our end.

Our host clubs are currently working on the itineraries and budgets of these journeys. Based on preliminary, "sample" itineraries, in Aichi Prefecture we can expect to visit Nagoya, old-town Takayama, the mountain-village of Shirakawago, the Toyota Museum of Industry and Technology, and a Beer Brewery. During our second week in Oita Prefecture we can spend time in the city

of Taketa, visit the geothermal area of famous Beppu, hike in Kuju Highland, visit a Sake Brewery, experience a Japanese tea ceremony and walking in kimonos, and meet with students of a Junior High School, to offer them an opportunity to learn about our way of life. We will also have some free time in both areas to explore whatever we are personally interested in.

Even though the final, exact itinerary will be known only later, and we cannot provide cost-estimates at this point, if you are interested, please contact us. We can then provide more details by email, as soon as we get more information. Both the Aichi and the Oita clubs can host 20 ambassadors. You have the option to join our journey for only the first week, or only the second week, or both. Formal applications will require a \$500 down payment, which will be fully refunded in case the member cannot be accepted to the journey for any reason. Application forms can be downloaded from the Friendship Force International website:

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement.pdf>

or can be requested from us. We would like to complete the interviewing process and ambassador selection by the end of January, or early February, so please contact us as soon as possible.

We strive to make this a wonderful experience for all ambassadors involved. In case you have any questions, our contact information is below.

### Journey Co-Ambassador Coordinators

Kathy Speck Kemeny,

[kspeckemeny@gmail.com](mailto:kspeckemeny@gmail.com)

608-836-0272 (home)

608-577-4885 (cell)

Magdi Sebestyen,

[magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com)

608-213-5768 (cell)

## In Loving Memory



**Barbara Infield**

Death: December 21, 2017

Barbara and her husband Dick were members from the beginning in 1978 through 1991. Dick passed away in 1997. They loved to travel and make friends with people around the world. They participated in many of the early Exchanges.

Obituary: Wisconsin State Journal, December 27, 2017

<http://host.madison.com/news/local/obituaries/>

**INTRODUCING DALE MOORE  
NEW REGIONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Dale Moore is our new Regional Representative. Dale is a member of the Cedar Rapids Iowa City Club. He sent this introduction to all the club presidents.

I grew up in rural western Iowa about 30 miles from Omaha. Then attended Iowa State and received a couple of engineering degrees. I married Cheryl in 1968. We have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. After college, we spent 4 years on active duty in the Air Force and then 37 years with a private engineering firm. I retired in the summer of 2012.

We joined FF in 2008 and have enjoyed out bound journeys and hosting. Somehow I ended up on the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City (CR/IC) board very early. My roles have included At Large Director, Treasurer, Pres-Elect, Pres, Past-Pres, and Communications Director. I have concluded board duties for CR/IC and am looking forward to the new role as Field Rep.

We spend the first 3 months of the year in Florida. I would like to get better acquainted with the leadership of each club. To do that, I will schedule a phone meeting with each President. The President may include a few other leaders as deemed appropriate. Cheryl and I will also plan on visiting each club within the next two years.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!  
Dale Moore  
319-560-0242 cell

Dale succeeds Adrienne Moen our Regional Representative for the past two years. She proved to be an excellent resource for our clubs and a great promoter of Friendship Force. I am sure Dale will also serve as an excellent resource and intermediary for the Midwestern clubs. Thanks a million Adrienne! and Welcome Dale!

**Sandi Wysock  
President**



**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**INDONESIA INBOUND JOURNEY  
WORKSHOP**

A workshop for home hosts, day hosts and other interested members will be held **Thursday January 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** at Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison, WI 53711. Please plan to attend.

**Kathy Johnson, Journey Host Co-Coordinator**  
**kjohnson44@ameritech.net or at 608-238-1785**

**Happy New Year**

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As the world celebrates  
With fireworks and cakes  
I'm standing here alone  
Far away from home  
With nothing but a suitcase and memories

As the stars surround me like water  
I raise my hands in full surrender  
To God, my Redeemer  
Lord, this year is far from ordinary  
I've never seen such extraordinary  
People, places and things  
Amazing human beings  
Searching for purpose, just like me.

Looking around, I wonder  
Since a year is like clashing thunder  
Booming suddenly  
Then vanishing instantly  
Why waste time uselessly?  
The old year came and went  
I hope your time was wisely spent  
On helping others and working hard  
So that many people may regard  
Your lifetime as truly great  
And not just because of fate  
So learn this lesson, but not from me!  
Try it yourself and you will see  
Making a difference starts with one step  
With one foot, then the next

So walk right now into the light  
And find yourself shining bright  
Don't worry what people think  
Because right now you're on the brink  
Of showing others what is true  
Happy New Year, from me to you.

**Indonesia Journey Activities Reservations Form**  
**February 11 – 16, 2018**

*For all FFWI-Madison members, family and friends*

**PLEASE enter YES and number of participants or NO for FREE events.**

**Form and payment due by Thursday, February 1, 2018.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost per person</b>	<b># of persons</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Monday, Feb. 12	<b>10:00 AM</b> Tour of capitol	Free ___Yes ___No		
	<b>1:00 PM</b> Tubing at Cascade Mountain, W10441 Cascade Mountain Road, Portage	\$20		
	<b>5:30 PM</b> Welcome Dinner, Imperial Garden, 2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, family style.	\$20		
Thursday, Feb. 15	<b>11:00 AM – 2:00 PM</b> Curling demonstration (free); try curling (\$10), Madison Curling Club, 4802 Marsh Rd, McFarland	\$10		
	<b>Noon</b> Lunch at curling club, hot buffet catered by Cranberry Creek.	\$12		
	<b>5:30 PM</b> Farewell Dinner, Rex's Innkeeper, 301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee, chicken & beef family style.	\$20		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

Name(s) of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison**  
 Send this form and payment to: **Gail Holmes, 3457 Hargrove St., Madison, 53714**

Questions? Kathy Johnson, 238-1785, kjohnson44@ameritech.net

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
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**5809 Julia St**  
**Madison, WI 53705**  
**www.ffwis.org**

**January 2018**

Indonesia Journey Activities Reservation Form  
Membership Renewal Final Reminder

President: Sandi Wysock 833-5326  
Vice-Pres: Peg Hutnik 334-4647  
Secretary Stephanie Sorensen 819-6646  
Treasurer: Judith Taylor 238-9474  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

**Email Accounts:**

[ffwis.general@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.general@gmail.com)  
[ffwis.meeting@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.meeting@gmail.com)  
[ffwis.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.membership@gmail.com)  
[ffwis.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.outreach@gmail.com)

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin- Madison**  
*Winter Party*



Saturday, January 20, 2018  
Middleton Glen Retirement Community Fireside Room  
6720 Century Avenue, Middleton, WI  
12:00 – 3:00 PM  
Catered by Willy Street Co-op  
Meal Cost: \$12.50

Join us as we gather to welcome the New Year and share in the love and fun which is what makes this wonderful gathering last.

Dessert to serve eight is appreciated. Beverages and tableware are furnished. BYO alcohol.

In the spirit of giving, we will be collecting personal toiletry items to be donated to Catholic Charities. Suggestions: toothbrushes for adults and children, toothpaste, deodorant, hand lotion, hairbrush/combs, etc. On behalf of the less fortunate, we thank you.

***Reservation and payment are due no later than Sunday, January 14.***

----- cut and return with payment

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending x \$12.50 = \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a ride \_\_\_\_\_ I can provide a ride

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison  
Mail to: Lois Schulz, 5555 Tancho Dr. #407, Madison WI 53718

Questions? 608-243-9761 or 508-333 or  
loisschulz1942@gmail.com

