



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World
December 2015



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a fabulous meeting at the Fitchburg Public Library with our Regional Representative Adrienne Moen. Thirty seven members attended and many more were able to attend small group dinners with Adrienne. I believe everyone that attended learned something new.

We spoke at length about the importance of membership growth and changes that are being made to attract more members. Declining membership around the world is reducing the hosting capacity and the number of traveling ambassadors. Adrienne has challenged all of the clubs in the Midwest Region to increase our membership by 20%. This means that the target for Friendship Force of Wisconsin is 26 or more new active members.

How can you help us grow?

Share our mission of peace and friendship and reaching across the cultural barriers that divide us. Invite family, friends, and acquaintances to participate in our activities.

All of us speak about our experiences with Friendship Force. If you are speaking to someone who is interested in the Friendship Force, take it one step further, give them an FFWIS-M business card and ask if they are interested in attending an informational meeting. If the answer is yes, send their name, email address and phone number to Mary Lindquist or anyone on the board.

Carry FFWIS-M cards with you and always wear your Friendship Force of Wisconsin pin. When you are asked about the pin, share information about the club. Pins are available from Gail Holmes and I will bring a supply of cards to each of our events.

Finally, join us in reaching out to other organizations and groups in our community. We are one of the world's best kept secrets. When we raise our profile and members of our community learn about us, we will also have others that want to join. If you are willing to help with Outreach, contact me.

If each and every one of us refers just one person, we will easily grow by 26 members or more. The key to this is to always ask for a name, email and phone number for people that are interested in Friendship Force and share it with Mary Lindquist or any board member. We will make sure your referral receives a personal invitation to future activities and informational meetings for potential new members.

On a final note, it is time to renew your membership with the Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison. Renewals are in the mail. You will note that the cost of a Family membership increased to \$50.00 this year. In the past, the single members paid



2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

December 5—Christmas Party Pot Luck*

December 23—Newsletter Deadline

2016

February 2—Book Club*

February 20—An Evening with Mary Bergin*

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference *

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

July 2016—Nashik Riverside Club India Inbound Exchange

September 2016—San Jose, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange

September 16-19—FFI World Conference*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

\$30.00 per person and those who were members of two person families paid \$19 per person, so single members were bearing a larger burden for supporting the club and activities. The increase in the family membership reduces the discrepancy. Our dues are in line with those for other FF clubs in the Midwest. Most charge \$30-\$35 for a single and from \$45 to \$70 for a family.

As I write this, Mary Babula remains in intensive care. Please continue to keep Mary and her family in your thoughts. See you at the Christmas potluck December 5.

In Friendship

Sandi Wysock Acting President

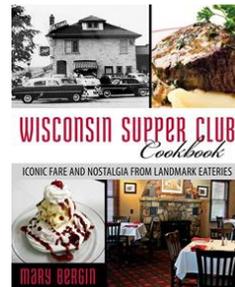
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FFI "I'M IN" CAMPAIGN

Are you in? Friendship Force International's "I'M IN" campaign is close to reaching their goal of raising \$40,000 for a new data base and web improvements by the end of December. The current data base is outdated and in danger of crashing. Retooling the web and data base will provide improved support for all members and clubs. In addition, it will also provide the support that is needed to expand to a more global membership. A contribution of \$50 per member is suggested but any amount is appreciated. If you have not made a contribution, we are asking that you do so before the December 18 board meeting. We will combine all of your contributions and forward them to FFI. You may send your contribution with your membership renewal. Simply note your donation amount for the "I'm In" campaign on the membership renewal form and include your donation with your renewal check. If you have already renewed your membership, send a check made out to Friendship Force of Wisconsin to our treasurer, Judy Taylor.

An Evening with Mary Bergin

SAVE THE DATE: February 20, 2016 – time and location TBA for an evening of food and conversation with Mary Bergin. Mary is an author and lifelong journalist whose specialties are travel and food writing, especially in the Midwest U.S.



Mary's latest book, *Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook: Iconic Fare and Nostalgia from Landmark Eateries*, will guide our discussion. Mary will discuss how the book came about, specific dishes that are the hallmark of Wisconsin Supper Clubs and the history of Wisconsin Supper Clubs.

Activities

Friendship Force Book Club

The next gathering will focus on a book titled *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back* by Janice Nimura.



The book is based on in-depth archival research in Japan and in the United States. It describes a little known, but extraordinary historical event that began in 1871 when five young girls were sent by the Japanese government to the United States. Their mission was to learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan. The young girls, who were raised in traditional samurai households during the turmoil of civil war, came to the United States where they grew up as typical American schoolgirls. Upon their arrival in San Francisco they became celebrities, their travels feted by newspapers across the nation. The passionate friendships they formed reveal an intimate world of cross-cultural fascination and connection. Ten years later, they returned to Japan—a land grown foreign to them—determined to revolutionize women's education.

We will meet on February 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the home of Sandi & George Wysock, 102 Acadia Drive, Madison. Please RSVP to Sandi Wysock at 608. 335. 0759 or sandrawysock@msn.com or SIGN UP ON EVENTBRITE! IT'S QUICK AND EASY. SIMPLY CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=19718664055>



Activities Committee Seeking Members

The Board has reviewed the charges to all of the FFI-W committees. Stephanie Sorensen and Nancy Brown have accepted and been appointed as the co-chairs of the activities committee.

Going forward, this committee will be responsible for on-going social activities such as the upcoming Book Club meeting, the Christmas potluck party, and the Supper Club potluck we will be holding over the next few months. (See notices in this newsletter) We will also continue the LEO's.

We are eager to have members join us to help manage these activities or share ideas for other such social events. We are planning to organize events that allow our members to interact and get to know each other better as well as be the kind of event you would like to invite friends and potential members to enjoy.

Please contact one of us; if you would like to join the committee. We need your thoughts, ideas and help to organize our future activities.

Stephanie: stevils@charter.net
Nancy: ncbrown48@gmail.com

EXCHANGES

2016 Outbound Exchange Cleveland County, UK, May 10-17 Post Exchange Tour: May 18-21



Scarborough to Filey Along the Cleveland Way

Our international outgoing exchange for 2016 is coming together nicely. We have all of our ambassadors selected; our post-exchange tour to Edinburgh is booked; and several of us have our airline tickets and hotel rooms for before and after the exchange reserved. Some of us have decided to include Glasgow and the Isle of Arran as well. Arran is said to be "Scotland in miniature" with highlands, lowlands, ancient ruins, castles, beaches, and a ferry ride required to reach it. Other ambassadors have different pre or post exchange activities planned. It should be quite a varied adventure.

We anticipate hearing from our hosts in England about the details of our itinerary after the beginning of the New Year so that we can complete our planning process and schedule workshops.

Nancy Brown & Stephanie Sorensen, Co-exchange Directors



Sun Shines on Inbound Guadeloupe Exchange July 24-31, 2015

Eighteen ambassadors from Guadeloupe and one ambassador from Brazil spent the week of July 24-31 with 27 gracious hosts in Madison. One ambassador from Brazil was unable to come due to a health problem. The weather was perfect for both day outings and evening concerts. Hosts included members Mary Babula, Mary Mastaglio, Susan Becker, Sandy Drew, Maggie Dohm, John

and Jane Scharer, Dan Eggerding, Pat and Kay Fleming, Doug and Kathy Johnson, Reta Haring, Mary Lou Martino, Sandi and George Wysock, Maj Wiese, Lise Skofronick and Maureen and Don Kind. Complimentary memberships have been offered to hosts Mary and John Witte, Susan Carson, Stephanie Kessenich and Tom Christensen, and Lisa and Tim Prince. Dan Eggerding produced the program booklet for the Exchange. Lucy Lasseter provided a delicious welcome breakfast for the ambassadors when they arrived at 3:30 am on the 24th. To earn their welcome fish fry, ambassadors, hosts and guests had to participate in an English language activity ice breaker. Donna Hussin and Lise Skofronick staked out shady spots for the Baraboo circus parade, Doug Johnson assured good places at Opera in the Park and Paul Buckalew put down Margo Mc Knight's tarp for the Concert on the Square. Lucy and Bob Lasseter, Kay Kinney, Margo McKnight, Wynn and Loree Davies, Gail Holmes and Stephanie Sorensen and Stephanie Kessenich and Tom Christensen hosted small group dinners. Jane Kessenich organized these dinners and recruited the hosts. More than 20 French speakers participated in the Franglish event, a special language activity requested by the ambassadors which was much enjoyed by all. Donna Hussin led the group on a walking tour of the UW after they sampled ice cream during a visit to Babcock Hall. For another language activity, more than 20 participants were on hand at the Chazen Museum of Art to engage in conversations with the ambassadors about American Art. Leatha Stanley and Jackie Colbert of Mount Zion Baptist Church introduced the group to praise worship and gospel music. Pat Fleming provided the expertise for a tour of the New Glarus brewery. Day hosts included Helen Findley, Melissa Keyes, David Blado, Judy Taylor, Gerry and Betty Fuller, the Davies, Margo Mc Knight, Dorothy and John Baldwin and Connie Seversin. Day Host Irene Geller was our welcome host for the fish fry, provided refreshments for the Franglish event and secured entries for the ambassadors to the Olbrich Gardens Butterfly Exhibit. Mary Babula arranged a special price for bike rentals and with Mary Mastaglio led us around Lake Monona. Car pools of hosts and day hosts allowed us to visit Monroe, New Glarus and Mount Horeb without the expense of a bus. Fannie Hicklin and the social committee assured that our club could say "au revoir" to the Guadeloupeans with a wonderful picnic. The ambassadors sang several songs and then invited all to dance to the rousing singing of Karim. As this report suggests, many members and many prospective members helped create this fun-filled exchange, truly exemplifying the "Force" in Friendship Force. Félicitations!

Maureen Kind & Lise Skofronick, Co-exchange Directors





**Global Exchange –Discover Israel
October 26-November 6, 2016
FF Chicago**

Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Haifa, Nazareth, Tiberias, Galilee, Yardenit, Jerusalem, and Beit Shean, Israel

Travel through Israel, a cultural hub of religion, history, and archaeology on this exchange that couples a guided tour with traditional home hospitality provided by the Friendship Force Club of Central Israel. Explore the cities, learn the history, and meet the locals on this enriching journey!

Price: \$2159 USD. Includes FFI and host fees, 8 nights' accommodations, hotel portorage, all transfers (with purchase of Gate 1 Airfare), 11 meals (7 breakfasts, 4 dinners), sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach, services of English-speaking tour manager per itinerary, and entrance fees per itinerary.

Book by December 18 for the Gate 1 Base price of \$1299, price will increase after this date!

Must make a \$200 deposit on [Gate 1 page](#) by December 18. FFI portion is \$860 to be paid on FFI website

Ed Ekis, Exchange Director

Email contact:

<http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/exchanges/details.aspx?eid=12884>



**FFI World Conference: Marrakesh, Morocco
September 16 - 19, 2016
(Arrival and registration on September 15)**

Further details and registration in December. For questions, contact Debbie Powell, World Conference Director, dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org

MAKE ME A MATCH

Have you ever wondered how we are assigned outgoing and incoming exchanges and why is it we don't get assigned to Norway or Sweden or why it is that we request X country and always end up with Y.

Each year our club submits a form to Friendship Force International. We indicate how many weeks we are willing to host, how many people we can host and what time of year we prefer to host. We also complete an outgoing exchange form where we list the countries we would like to visit, how many ambassadors we will take and how many weeks we are willing to travel.

There are FF clubs in 70 countries and half of those have only one club (Norway, Korea, Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden etc.). Norway can host only one week and there were 42 requests for Norway in 2016. Europe has 88 weeks of hosting capacity and received 390 requests in 2016. The US has 119 weeks of hosting available but receives only 44 requests.

Taking into account all of this information, one person at FFI tries to satisfy all of our requests! Mutual requests (we request Guadeloupe and they request that we visit) are not guaranteed but do carry more weight. When your officers attend conferences we try to make contacts for future exchanges. As you can imagine it is very difficult for FFI to make everyone happy. We have submitted a request for outgoing exchanges in 2017 with our first choice as Guadeloupe, followed by Medicine Hat, Canada, Brazil and Chili. Now we wait... Who will be assigned to visit us in 2017? Where will we travel in 2017? The answer should come in January.

CONFERENCES 2016

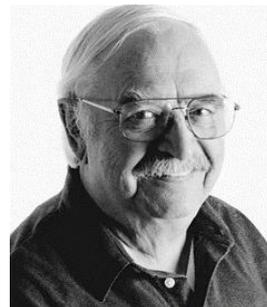


**Midwest – Great Lakes Regional Conference
Building Bridges with Friendship
April 28-May 1, 2016, Davenport, IA**

Look for registration details in January

Linda Shearer
FFQC Communications Committee Chairman
d23shearer@aol.com

**In Loving
Memory**



Ben Sowaska
Death: November 20, 2015
He and wife, Ann, joined FFWI-Madison in 1980. They participated in many exchanges. Their most recent was Costa Rica in 2010.

Full obituary: WSJ November 25, 2015 Celebrate his life with gifts to your favorite charity

Outreach



The board has approved new definitions for the Standing Committees. According to our By-Laws there are 5 standing committees with representation on the Board of Directors. The Outreach Committee is responsible for reaching out to individuals, organizations and the public in the Madison area to raise the profile of the club in the community and attract new members. The committee will also utilize various forms of social media as part of our effort to reach a wider audience.

If you are interested in being the chair person, please contact me. We are also looking for anyone willing to help us with presentations or to assist us with social media.

Sandi Wysock
sandrawysock@msn.co



Renewal Time—DUE NOW!

It's that time of year to renew your membership with Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. You not only have the opportunity to participate in our club exchanges, you are also able to participate in any exchange worldwide. If you no longer travel, there are many other events to participate in. There is helping with meetings, exchanges, workshops, bringing treats, or anything else to help with the exchange or club. We also have Book Club, Crafting Group, LEO's, Highway Clean Up, WHA and many other ways to participate and contribute to a successful Friendship Force Club.

Friendship Force International (FFI) raised their dues last year to be associated with FFI. Without FFI we would no longer be able to participate in the wonderful home stays. We did not follow FFI by raising our dues to our members for 2015. For 2016 we will raise our membership dues. We wanted to have more equity between an individual membership fee and a family membership fee. By raising our family membership, we come closer to the equity between groups.

The dues, effective 1/1/2016, will be \$30 for an individual (which remains the same) and \$50 for a family (which was \$38). We pass through to FFI, \$15 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family household membership.

You may have read in last month's newsletter that FFI has an "I'M IN" campaign. This is to upgrade their internal database along with the website. They are asking for additional funds to support the "I'M IN" campaign. Please consider making a contribution to the FFI's "I'M IN" campaign or additional contributions to support our club.

We are also asking that you check off the things you would like to help support our club. Please check at least one or as many boxes as you like. We look forward to 2016 in making new friendships with people in our own club and the clubs around the world.

Mary Lindquist, Membership
608-233-9351 or marylindquist@charter.net



In the spirit of giving as we prepare for the holidays, please bring a personal toiletry item to our gathering on Saturday, December 5. These items will be delivered to the Catholic Multicultural Center where I was last week and saw nearly empty shelves.

Here are some suggestions: toothbrushes for adult and children, toothpaste, deodorant for men and women, hand lotion, sanitary napkins, hair brush/combs.

On behalf of the less fortunate, thank you for caring.

Lies Skofronick – 274-7732



Christmas Lesson



Christmas is a special time
To give, to serve, to love
It isn't just about yourself,
But others that you think of

The presents, the trees, the glowing lights
Are fun but have no part
In what the real meaning of Christmas is...
That is in your heart

Even if other people don't,
You should try to do
The things that you would want
Them to do to you!

The holidays are a busy time
But they are sometimes good
Because they keep you thinking
About others like you should

So this year try to not think about yourself
But think of the things you can do
To help others have a wonderful Christmas
And you will find that you will be happy too

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December 5, 2014

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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www.ffwis.org

December 2015

I'M IN CAMPAIGN FFI
Membership Renewal
Volunteers Needed

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

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com
ffwis.meeting@gmail.com
ffwis.membership@gmail.com
ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

Christmas Party Pot Luck
December 5, 2015
Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Middleton Glen, 6720 Century Ave, Middleton

Join us for our Christmas social gathering in the Fireside Room at the Middleton Glen Retirement Community. Bring an entrée, salad, or dessert to serve 8. If your household is unable to make a dish to share, please consider joining us anyway and donating \$10.00 to help defray the cost of purchasing additional food and beverages. Paper plates and plastic ware will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Holmes at either 249-1846 or glholmes@wisc.edu or even better sign up on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-party-pot-luck-tickets-19244238034>.

In the spirit of giving as we prepare for the holidays, please bring a personal toiletry item to our gathering. They will be delivered to the Catholic multicultural Center. Suggestions: toothbrushes for adult and children, toothpaste, deodorant for men and women, hand lotion, sanitary napkins, hairbrush/combs.

