



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

July 2018



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

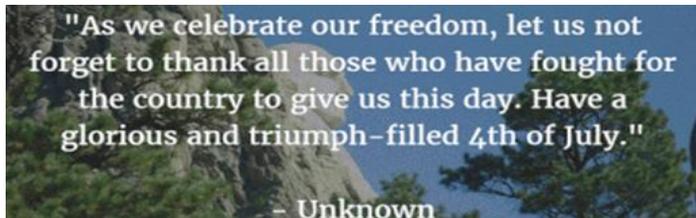
Another successful journey completed! Our friends from Niagara, Canada headed home on the 15th. As usual, all of the hosts, and committee members are taking a bit of a breather after a week on the go. It's always fun to share Madison and Wisconsin with our ambassadors. An added bonus is that we also learn more or have new experiences as we participate in the activities.

We need to send a big thank you to our hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, the journey committee members and the activities committee. It isn't unusual to have 30-40 people involved during the week that our ambassadors are with us. We need to send a special thank you to the host coordinators, Lise Skofronick and George Wysock and their committee members who have worked for months to put together all of the activities, locate hosts, plan travel, and communicate with our ambassador's coordinator.

We will soon be looking for leaders for our 2019 journeys. Please consider leading by being either a host coordinator or ambassador coordinator. It is essential that we have one or two coordinators for each of our upcoming journeys. Our earliest confirmed journey for 2019 is an incoming from Medicine Hat Canada in early July. This is followed by an incoming from Aichi Japan in September and an outbound to Australia in October. All of our coordinators have a portion of their expenses covered. I know from experience that you will have many in the club that are willing to serve on your committee and who will help you so please consider volunteering. Sharing responsibilities with a co-coordinator also helps so if you have a friend or a spouse that is willing to work with you let us know.

Thanks for all you do to support Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison!

**Sandi Wysock**  
President



Explore • Understand • Serve®



## 2018 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**Note: Meeting place and time change for July 11-- Landmark Club House, 5335 Caddis Bend, Fitchburg, 11:00 a.m.**

**July 3, Tuesday—Let's Walk, Let's Hike \***

**July 30, Monday—Second Harvest Food Bank Service Project \***

**September 7-15, Friday-Saturday—Open World ☺ (June)**

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

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

### **2019**

**July 23-27--FF World Conference 2019, Boulder, CO, USA**

\* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

# Activities

## WHA Auction

The WHA Auction was a big success again this year and the following Friendship Force members played a big part in helping: David Blado, David Dohler, Sandy Drew, Marion Ehrenberg, Patrick Fleming, Jerry Fuller and Betty Fuller, Reta Haring, Donna Hussin, Peg Hutnik, Mary Juckem, Mike Lambert, Kathleen Martinson, Donna & Tom Miller, Julia Pretell, Lise Skofronick and Judy Teofer. Thanks again for your help.

**Reta Haring, Chair**



## Let's Walk, Let's Hike!

15 members gathered on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to hike in Governor Dodge State Park. We walked through a beautiful, hilly area of the park, with lunch and ice cream at the end. We had such a great time!

The next event will be on Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Elver Park, Madison. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the park's Shelter Concession Building. Our plan is to walk along the Disc Golf Course Trails. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to [magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com), and I will send you a map. See you there!

**Magdi Sebestyen**  
(608)-213-5768



### Governor Dodge State Park Hike June 2, 2018

Back row: Martha McGregor, Peg Hutnik, Mary Juckem, Sandi Wysock, Allen Rieland, Kathy Speck, Agnes Rona, Gabor Kemeny, Tamas Gaal

Front row: Stephanie Vanden Bush (with her 2-year-old daughter), Mike Lambert, Mary Lou Martino, Julie Pretell, George Wysock, Magdi Sebestyen

**Second Harvest Foodbank  
Service Project  
Volunteer- Monday, July 30, 2018**

In May 2017, as part of the San Diego Journey activities, we participated in a half-day service project at the Second Harvest Foodbank. We had such a satisfying experience and a feeling of accomplishment in sorting packages of frozen meat. The Board had approved adding Second Harvest to our outreach opportunities, but it languished among other projects of the Activities Committee.

Now Gail Holmes has volunteered to arrange for our club to begin participation in the work of the Foodbank which aids local hunger-related charities. Our first opportunity will be on **Monday, July 30, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.** As volunteers, we will be getting food and other products ready for distribution to the partner agencies--food pantries, shelters, meal sites, etc. Our tasks may include sorting, labeling, packaging food into family-friendly portions, and cleaning the work area following the project.

Here is information I asked Second Harvest to provide: Did you know one in six children under the age of 18 and one in 10 people overall in our area struggle with hunger? You can make a difference in their lives by volunteering at Second Harvest Foodbank! Maybe you'll sort eggs into cartons. Maybe you'll add ingredient labels to packaged frozen pizzas. Maybe you'll scoop rice into family-friendly two pound bags. The foods at Second Harvest are too numerous to list, but these tasks remain the same - sorting, labeling, and packaging. Show our community you care by helping get food ready to share with those who need something on their dinner table.

Sign up with Gail Holmes to join this great work that takes place in a fun, team-building environment. Please sign up by Monday, July 23, so they can plan based on the number of volunteers. All volunteers will receive necessary information by email from Gail prior to our service. Looking forward to a large enthusiastic group!

**Gail L. Holmes**  
608 249-1846  
[gholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:gholmes@wisc.edu)

## LEARN TO MAKE SUSHI



Don't let the sushi chef have all the fun! Come and learn how to spread, layer, tuck and roll your way to sushi heaven. In this fun, hands-on class you'll learn all the skills needed to make sushi-rolls at home, including how to prepare sushi rice, select sushi-grade fish, and experiment with other conventional, and less conventional ingredients. This class is offered through Madison College, course #34251 on Tuesday, September 11 from 6-9 pm at their West location at 8017 Excelsior Drive, Madison. The cost is \$44.65 and the class is limited to 16 people. Registration is open and can be done online with [madisoncollege.com](http://madisoncollege.com) or by calling 258-2301, Ext 2.

**Helen Ann Rugowski**



## Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay & East Troy Electric Railroad Motor Coach Day Tour, May 23, 2018

The sun was out on May 23 when we boarded the coach to the Yerkes Observatory. We welcomed a few members of the UW Alumni Association on board too. After a ride south on I-90 and across country to Williams Bay, we arrived at the observatory. Our tour guide presented a short history of the observatory and a lesson on the physics of lenses before going in to see the telescope. Yerkes Observatory was built in 1897 under the direction of astronomer George Hale of the University of Chicago. He obtained funding from a financier named Yerkes. The observatory is home to a 40-inch refracting telescope which is the world's largest refracting telescope. Edwin Hubble and Carl Sagan both studied there. The University of Chicago will be closing the observatory in October of 2018. The volunteers at Yerkes are working to obtain funding to support the facility and continue their STEM programs with elementary and high school students. We all enjoyed the architecture, the figures of the architect (proving the size of his ego) and zodiac signs carved onto the limestone pillars and gargoyles.

Then it was on to East Troy where we visited the electric railroad depot and museum. We boarded the train and chose seats at dining tables elegantly set with table cloths and our first course salad. The main course was pork medallions with apricot sauce, twice baked potatoes and spring vegetables. During the trip our conductor provided an entertaining history of the electric railroad, lessons on train jargon, and train culture. The railroad is run by an all-volunteer staff who enjoy railroads. The train moved along the route at 5 miles per hour so that our meal would not be upset by the movement. When we reached Indian Head Park in Mukwonago, we could leave the train for a short break while the conductor moved the tail to the other end of the train and we could return to East Troy. Dessert of apple crumble was served on the return trip. The best part of the whole trip is that we celebrated Dick and Bea Hayden's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with candles and song. Many thanks to Gail Holmes and Donna Hussin for planning the trip and keeping us on schedule.

Martha McGregor

### 2018 CLUB JOURNEYS

#### Niagara Inbound Journey June 9-15, 2018

#### A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

What do you get when you mix 17 Canadians from Niagara, Ontario, an American from Iowa, with 16 gracious home hosts and a dozen day hosts plus 16 dinner hosts? You get a week of sharing life experiences, exchanging ideas, enjoying good foods, touring sites, while having a ton of fun.

The week started by meeting at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, IL. This was the agreed place to greet the ambassadors after their week in Northern Illinois. We continued to Milton to tour the Milton House which is part of the Underground Railroad

for slaves running to freedom. Later on we had our official Welcome Dinner at the Holy Wisdom Monastery. The food was exceptional in quality and quantity. Tenderloin au jus, anyone?

**Sunday** was a "free" day. Several ambassadors chose to explore Taliesin. **Monday** included a typical guided visit of the State Capitol, Monona Terrace and the Unitarian Society building. Home hosted dinners at various houses rounded the day. **Tuesday** saw us at Horicon Marsh. The rain clouds spared us long enough to see nesting bald eagles with an eaglet, numerous cormorants, small songs birds, and many other birds. After a quick lunch we drove to Ripon to meet the Larsons and their spectacular Clydesdale horses. One gave us a show with flair. That night the ambassadors invited their hosts to dinner as it is the tradition. **Wednesday** was full of surprises at the New Glarus Hotel starting with a demonstration on how to make an easy cheese fondue. The meal was substantial. We were treated to Swiss music with long horn, yodeling, accordion. Many took advantage of the sunny day to stroll around the village and purchase mementos. A short drive to Brodhead brought us to view the Kelch Aviation Museum- Golden Age of Aviation. Many were thrilled riding in an antique opened cockpit bi-plane. The day concluded with a typical summer picnic prepared by a couple of club members. **Thursday** was chosen to tour the UW-Madison campus. Some professors and assistants took time out of their day to show us marvels inside the Geology Museum, the secrets of Space Science, the wonders of biochemical research and what's growing inside the greenhouses.

The Farewell dinner had an excellent buffet plus a surprise. A DJ invited us to the dance floor to the tune of songs many of us remember back when we were younger.

A journey cannot be successful without many hands. To all who participated in small and large ways, we send heartfelt thanks. We hope your experience was positive and will encourage you to volunteer again.

**Lise Skofronick and George Wysock**  
Journey Host Co-coordinators

### Japan Outbound Journeys October 27-November 3, 2018 – Aichi Prefecture November 2-10, 2018 – Oita Prefecture

We have space for a few more ambassadors to participate. Application deadline is July 10, 2018. Contact journey ambassador coordinators for details.

#### **Japanese Art History Presentation**

We are very fortunate to have Holly Rubalcava, noted UW lecturer on Japanese art history, present a fascinating lecture on this subject in early August in preparation for our fall Japan journey. All club members are welcome to attend. Check the club website or August newsletter for details.

**Magdi Sebestyen**

608-213-5768

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

**Journey Ambassador Co-Coordinator**

**Kathy Speck Kemeny .**

608-836-0272

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

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes - April 29, 2018**  
**Radisson Hotel**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandi Wysock at 1:20 pm. A quorum was present. She thanked everyone who helped organize the meeting, the Board members for serving, and introduced new members and guests attending the meeting.

Ballots were at the tables, members were asked to vote, and the ballots were collected by nominating committee members. Some absentee ballots had also been received and were counted in the total. Ballots were counted while the meeting proceeded. The nominating committee consisted of Sandi Wysock, Lise Skofronick, Sandy Drew, and Mary Lou Martino.

Janet Lonergan moved the minutes from last year be approved as submitted (printed in the April newsletter). The motion was seconded and approved. Martha McGregor moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented (available on the tables). It was seconded and approved.

Sandi gave a detailed report on accomplishments of the past year. Our outbound journey this past year was to Medicine Hat, Canada (led by Peg Hutnik assisted by Donna Hussin). We received incoming groups from New Caledonia (led by Dan Eggerding assisted by Lise Skofronick), San Diego (led by Donna Hussin and Gail Holmes), Indonesia (led by Doug and Kathy Johnson). Several new activities were incorporated into these journeys which were enjoyed by guests and provided variety for the hosts as well. Our Indonesian group came to experience winter and had a wonderful time. We were also able to secure an Open World delegation of young professionals from Ukraine studying media processes in the US (led by Sandi Wysock and Sandy Drew). All of these incoming groups provided lots of opportunities for home hosting, the heart of Friendship Force.

We have another upcoming inbound journey scheduled for June from Niagara, Canada (led by Lise Skofronick and George Wysock). Plans are also progressing for our upcoming outbound journey to Japan (led by Kathy Speck and Magdi Sebestyen) which still has a few openings. Several workshops are planned to explore Japanese culture and everyone is invited to participate in these events - watch the newsletter. We hope to be awarded another Open World group.

As of January 1, we added 33 new members and now have a total of 131 club members, up from 124 last year. One of our major efforts this year was to recruit new members at our 40th Anniversary event. Twenty people signed up that day and others have joined throughout the year. Kathy Speck and the membership committee did an outstanding job on this event. We need this growth in order to have sufficient people to support all of our programs and activities. Many clubs in the US as well as Europe are suffering declining membership as people age and health issues arise which limit their participation. We are finally turning this trend around in our club having added 57 members in the past three years. Networking and friend recommendations continue to be our best source of new members, so keep up the good work.

As we gather new members, changes will inevitably come along - more tech savvy people who want to interact in different ways; people who are still working and will need to find ways to participate around working hours and who will require more help to host; and a wider variety of social activities will need to be planned to keep everyone involved. We have developed a mentoring program to make certain that we integrate our new members effectively into the club.

As you probably know, our website was hacked this past year. We took advantage of this opportunity to change to a new platform that will offer us more flexibility going forward. Al Rieland, Dan Eggerding and Dave Dohler led the effort to make this happen. We are using Facebook as well as Eventbrite and you will be able to sign up to participate and in the future pay for events on-line using credit cards.

We continue to work on developing connections with other groups in the community such as Sister Cities and Rotary and develop ongoing professional presentations. We've also purchased some new display materials. FFI is working to help local clubs increase their marketing and PR skills.

Last year, the Board developed some strategic plans and developed a vision for 2022 that includes growth, diversity, mentoring, having a variety educational, social and service experiences, managing our club's affairs efficiently and effectively, as well as continuing our global cultural journey experiences.

There were a couple of announcements about FFI: the next International Conference cannot be held in Puerto Rico as was originally planned and will be held in Boulder, CO in July of 2019 and the annual affiliation dues will be raised by \$5 per person in 2020 for the first time in 7 years. This necessitate our Board reviewing our own dues policy.

Sandi also thanked everyone for being a part of her "tribe" and for allowing her to be president of this group for the past two plus years - an honor and a privilege.

Lise Skofronick of the Nominating Committee reported the results of the vote. The officers for next year beginning in September will be: Peg Hutnik, President; Kathy Speck, Vice President; Martha Mc Gregor, Secretary; and May Juckem, Treasurer.

Sandi thanked those who served who are no longer on the Board: Lise Skofronick (outreach); Jane Kessenick (activities); Mary Lindquist (membership); Sandy Drew (vice-president). She thanked all of the journey coordinators (listed above and in the program) as well as day hosts, drivers, dinner hosts, bakers, highway pickup participants, and WHA auction participants. She also reminded members of those we lost in the past year: Eleanor Loree Davies, Barbara Infield, and Lois Hinhede. Long time members were all recognized on the program.

Sandi then shared with everyone journey assignments for 2019. We will have an incoming group from Medicine Hat, Canada; an incoming group from Aichi, Japan; and our outbound journey will be two weeks in Australia on the Central Coast and in Tweed Valley.

Signups are available following the meeting for participating in our next highway cleanup, the WHA auction, dinner hosting or day hosting for the incoming group from Niagara, and the bus trip to Yerkes Observatory and the East Troy Electric Railroad with gourmet lunch included.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Stephanie Sorensen, Secretary

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

**July 2018**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes April 2018**

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)



**Friendship Force Day Tour – Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay and East Troy Electric Railroad – May 23, 2018**