



® The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

August 2018



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit."

-- [Aristotle](#)

Friendship Force members LOVE to travel but we are not a travel club and frankly, our focus isn't intended to be travel. Our previous field representative would often say that she didn't even mention travel when talking about Friendship Force because our emphasis is on the personal relationships, friendships and finding common ground.

When you look at the FFI mission, it says that "we promote citizen diplomacy through homestay journeys and personal friendships. It goes on to say that "through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends and we know that by experiencing different views, you can discover common ground. Our programs bring diverse people together into each other's cultures and homes to share a one-of-a-kind experience not available to regular tourists."

There are many organizations that provide cultural travel experiences that allow you to delve into the history of another culture and they even provide an evening in a home or a meal with a local. What makes Friendship Force unique is our emphasis on citizen diplomacy, and our emphasis on establishing friendships. The travel experience is secondary.

All of us have left our host homes having had a truly transformative experience. We feel a genuine bond with our hosts but have we nurtured that relationship? Like any friendship it takes time, care and communication to keep the friendship alive. Let's be honest, we aren't always successful but when we are successful in maintaining the relationship over the years something truly magical happens. This month I encourage you to take time and drop a note to your friends around the world. Take the time to keep the friendships alive.

Sandi Wysock
President



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.

August 11, Saturday—Japan Art, Language and Culture Workshop *

August 13, Monday—Let's Bike *

August 18, Saturday—Let's Walk, Let's Hike *

September 9, Sunday—Welcome Party for Open World Delegates *

September 11, Tuesday—Sushi Cooking Class ☺ (July)

September 7-15, Friday-Saturday—Open World *

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

Thank you!

Our thanks goes to those that have sent donations in honor of Dick and Bea Hayden's 65th anniversary and who have sent memorials in honor of Maggie Dohm and Lois Hindhede.

Explore • Understand • Serve®

Goals for 2019

The board met to evaluate our progress toward our 2018 goals and to look forward to 2019. With your help, we had some great successes this year. The club is financially sound, 32 new members have joined, there is a new web site and we are exploring new technology for payments and RSVPs, our mentoring program is in place, new activities and music are increasing participation, many journey activities/workshops are open to all and with FFI support we have increased our PR expertise. As with anything, we can always identify areas where we can improve.

We identified the following as Goals for 2019

1. Recruit/add and retain new members
2. Increase our visibility in the community
3. Strengthen membership participation in journeys
4. Provide a strong program of social/club activities for a diverse membership
5. Effective management and organization in three primary areas. technology, leadership development & job descriptions for volunteer activities and various leadership roles.

Please consider how you might help us in ways big and small. Perhaps you have a friend that you would like to refer. If you are interested in Japanese art, join us for the upcoming program. Consider signing up for an activity using Eventbrite (training to be provided). Tell your stories. Help us connect to the local newspaper. Like our Facebook page. Attend activities and bring your friends. Thank you for your support and participation.

Sandi Wysock, President

Opportunities Exist on the Board for 2018-19

Donna Hussin has decided to step down as editor of the newsletter, so we are currently looking for a **new editor**. Donna's last newsletter will be the one for September. If you are a long time member or a new member and would like to work on the newsletter, this is a great time to get started. The newsletter is the club's information tool for journeys, activities, FFI information and other relevant news.

We also have an opening for someone to **chair or co-chair the Membership Committee**.

Our club has been a strong club for 40 years because many people have stepped up and volunteered their time and efforts. I urge you to seriously consider one of these positions.

Call a Board member you know or Peg Hutnik (Incoming President) at 608-334-4647 and let them know of your interest in these positions.

Activities



Let's Walk, Let's Hike!

On Saturday, August 18, we will visit one of Wisconsin's most beautiful parks: Devil's Lake State Park. This will be a bit more challenging hike, but it is well worth it. We will start from the

South Shore, heading to the North Shore via East Bluff Trail, which means climbing up to Balanced Rock, and then enjoying spectacular views from the bluffs overlooking the lake below. Be prepared for rocky terrain, and about 500 ft. elevation on a steep trail. Hiking boots are recommended! We can have lunch on the North Shore beach, and then head back to our cars by walking south along the lakeshore. Expect a total of about 4-5 Miles of hiking/walking.

We plan to leave Madison at 10:00 a.m., and return sometime in the afternoon, so please pack a lunch and drinking water. If needed, car-pooling can be coordinated. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com, and I will send you the details. See you there!

Magdi Sebestyen
(608)-213-5768



LET'S BIKE

Join us for our first bike outing on Monday, August 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Olin Park. We plan to bike on the new bike path to McFarland, eat an early lunch at The Green Lantern and bike back to Olin Park after lunch.

To participate and for more information please contact:
Mary Mastaglio, 608-241-0212 or mamastaglio@gmail.com



OPEN WORLD

September 7-15, 2018
Delegates from Georgia
Country in Eastern Europe

Topic: Urban Planning/Environmental Planning/Clean Air

Open World is a Congressional program administered by the Open World Leadership Center which is an independent government agency of the United States Congress. The program is targeted toward young professionals who are primarily from Eastern Europe. The program builds the groundwork for enduring cooperation by bringing emerging government and civic leaders to the United States to work with their American counterparts during 10-day professional visits and facilitates continued relations through an alumni network and social media. OWLC awards grants to U.S. non-profit and educational organizations, who partner with community-based civic and service organizations to provide local hosting and programming for the delegates. The home hosting provides the delegates with a glimpse of life in the United States and the professional programming provides them with peer connections that serve as a foundation for an ongoing partnerships. OWLC has hosted over 27,000 delegates in all 50 states since 1999.

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison is honored to be one of the clubs selected to receive a grant to host an OWLC program. Our delegates from Georgia will arrive in Washington D.C. on the September 6. After an orientation and a whirlwind tour, they will fly to Wisconsin. We are charged with developing 32 hours of programming and also providing home hosting and cultural experiences. Based on past experience, this will likely be the first time that any of these delegates have visited the United States. They are young, passionate, dedicated new leaders. I am sure you will be impressed when you meet them. **Please join us in welcoming our delegates from Georgia!** We will have a potluck welcome dinner on Sunday night September 9. See details later in the newsletter.

Sandi Wysock, President

Japan Art, Language & Culture Workshop

August 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fitchburg Public Library
5530 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, WI

All Friendship Force members and guests welcome!

Join us for our upcoming two part workshop on Japanese art history, language and culture.

Part 1: Japanese Art History presented by Holly Rubalcava, PhD candidate, Department of Art History and Graduate

Public Humanities Exchange Scholar, Center for the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. Rubalcava has vast knowledge of Japanese art history, spent considerable time in Japan, and taught Arts of Japan in fall 2017 at UW-Madison. The workshop will provide a brief introduction to the visual culture of Japan, including painting, sculpture, woodblock prints, architecture and gardens. It will also focus on the arts and practices related to Shinto and Buddhism.

Part 2: Japanese Language and Culture presented by Takako Nakakubo, Faculty Associate, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. Nakakubo earned her Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Iowa. She has been teaching Japanese for over twenty years at various universities and colleges in the United States and Japan.

The workshop will include basic Japanese greetings and other useful expressions as well as etiquette that Japan visitors will find useful when interacting with people in Japan.

If you plan to attend, please send RSVP to Kathy Speck Kemeny @ kspeckemeny@gmail.com.

In Loving Memory



Judy Triggs
Death: May 26, 2018

Members from 1987 thru 2014. Judy and her husband Steve supported and participated in many journey's throughout their membership.

Obit:
www.ryanfuneralservice.com



Shirley Lakes
Death: June 22, 2018

Shirley and her husband Jim were long time members from back in 1999 through 2015. They supported and participated in many journey's throughout their membership.

Obit:
www.cressfuneralservice.com

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Goals for 2019

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Welcome Party for Open World Delegates from Georgia
It's a Potluck!
Sunday, September 9, 2018

Warner Park Shelter,
2930 N Sherman, Madison

5:30 p.m. Social
6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner



Join us in welcoming our Open World delegates from Georgia. These young leaders are here to learn more about the United States and to connect with other professionals in Urban Planning/Environment/Clean Air. Because they will be involved in professional programming during much of the week, this may be your only opportunity to have a conversation with them. Please plan on joining us and giving our delegates a big Wisconsin Welcome!

Georgia is located on the black sea, in Caucasus, bordering with Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey. The territory of Georgia is about 70,000 square kilometers with 310-km long coastline. The country is largely mountainous with Greater Caucasus Mountains in the north and Lesser Caucasus Mountains in the south. The climate is quite diverse - from humid subtropical to continental. Diversity of landscape makes the land attractive for human settlements. Traditional drivers of economy are agriculture and tourism.

Georgia is a country of old history and culture. The first Georgian State was founded about 1000 years B. C. Tbilisi has been the capital of Georgia since the fifth Century. It is situated on the both sides of the Mtkvari River, in the intermountain depression between the Greater and Lesser Caucasus, and covers an area of 350 square kilometers. Tbilisi is a large administrative, educational and cultural centre. Previously it was a large industrial center as well. Other large cities in Georgia are: Kutaisi, Rustavi, Batumi, Sokhumi, Gori, Poti, Zugdidi, and Telavi.

See you there!

RSVP's appreciated, Send to Sandrawysock@msn.com or sign up on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-party-for-open-world-delegates-from-georgia-potluck-tickets-48410360692>