



friendship force
W I S C O N S I N - M A D I S O N



www.ffwis.org

March 2019

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This freezing, snowy Wisconsin winter has been a force to reckon with, but we offer a warm welcome to new members, warm greeting to old members, and remind ourselves that it is summer somewhere for our friends around the world, and we will soon enjoy the lilacs in the Arboretum!

It's going to be a busy year for us, beginning with arrival of an Open World Delegation of Russian Journalists March 22-30.

Journeys begin with incoming Ambassadors from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ambassadors July 2 – 9, followed by incoming Ambassadors from Aichi, Japan, Ambassadors September 11-18. Our outbound journey this year will be to Australia, October 25 - November 10. For more information, please contact the journey leaders. Details are in this and following newsletters.

This year, the FFI-International Conference will be held in Boulder, Colorado, from July 23-27. The Board would like to send ambassadors to represent our club and expects to be able to reimburse a portion of your costs. The International Conference is open to all Ambassadors and is a wonderful opportunity to get to make friends from around the world. The Conference highlights the breadth and depth of the positive and constructive impact Friendship Force has in our sometimes fractured world, one Ambassador at a time. For more information about the International Conference please email me or a Board member. Details about the Conference also are available on the FFI International Website.

We also continue to offer members a variety of diverse local activities as well as the opportunity to participate in service projects to help our community.

Every successful event in our club is the result of the commitment and effort of our volunteer members. We know from experience that many hands not only make light work, but also have fun in the process, so let's join hands and keep moving.

Peg Hutnik, President

Email: mhutnik13@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 7, 2019

11:30 a.m. @ ZOR SHRINE HANKWITZ HALL

575 Zor Shrine Place, Madison, WI

Reservation deadline Friday, March 22

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES listed in this Newsletter

See details in this newsletter

Monthly Board Meeting

Second Wednesday of the month

12:30 pm at Bridge Point Waunona Community Center,

1917 Lake Point Dr, Monona.

Other Activities

March 13: Let's Eat Out at 1-3 pm at Erin's Snug Irish Pub
4601 American Parkway, Madison. See "Activities"

March 22 - 30: Open World delegation of journalists
from Russia. See "Open World" and "Activities"

March 24: Potluck for Open World delegates @
5:30pm, Tamarack Club House, 110 S Westfield Rd,
Madison, WI 53717. See "Activities"

April 15: Book Club. See "Activities"

April: TBA -Adopt-A-Highway. Trash pickup for 1
mile on Highway 12 -

May: TBA -Let's Walk / Let's Hike

July 2-9 : Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada Inbound
Journey. See "Journeys"

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

September 11 – 18: Aichi, Japan Inbound Journey.
"Journeys"

October 27 - November 3: Australia Outbound Journey
See "Journeys"



OPEN WORLD

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM VISIT

Five young Russian political journalists and their facilitator will arrive in Madison March 22nd. Maxim Ivanov is the Deputy Head of Policy for Kommersant Publishing House (a major Russian newspaper), Alexey Tsybin is a Special Correspondent for TASS (Russian official newswire), Marina Rybakova is a Special Correspondent for RIA Novosti (news wire covering the State Duma), Olga Churakova is a Special Correspondent for Dozhd TV, Filipp Shchipkov is a Parliamentary Correspondent for Interfax and Olga Kazakova is our facilitator.

We are responsible for home hosting, cultural programming and 32 hours of professional programming introducing the delegates to American government, politics and political journalism. Jerry Huffman has connected us to Channel 15 and 27. John Witte has connected us to the UW Political Science Department and Judy Taylor has helped us connect to the UW School of Journalism. Al Rieland is assisting us with a visit to Wisconsin Public Radio. In addition, we have visits planned with Wisconsin Eye, the Center for Media and Democracy, Jeff Mayers of WisPolitics, Bill Lueders, President of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council and of course stops at the Capitol. Because we are often meeting in small conference rooms, we unfortunately cannot open sessions to our membership. Hosts may be invited to some sessions where space is available.

You are all invited to meet our delegates for a potluck dinner March 24th at 5:30 at the Tamarack Club House. See details in the Calendar and in this Newsletter. Please join us for dinner and help us give our delegates a warm Wisconsin welcome! Also, if you are interested in providing a home hosted dinner on Thursday, March 28, please let me know ASAP.

Sandi Wysock
sandrawysock@msn.com
608 833 5326

JOURNEYS

MEDICINE HAT JOURNEY HELP NEEDED JULY 2 - 9

Plans are underway for the Journey from Medicine Hat in Canada July 2-9. We are most in need of dinner hosts later in the week. If you are available to host a small group at your home, send that information to Kathy Johnson at kjohnson44@ameritedh.net with the total number you could host, including yourself. We will also need 3 more homes to be host families and someday hosts as well. We will have a chance to show what the 4th of July is like in the United States. Watch for more details in future newsletters.

JOURNEYS

AICHI JAPAN INBOUND VISITS SEPTEMBER 11- -18

In six months, the Aichi club will be here to visit our club and our city. They will visit the Cedar Rapids, Iowa club the week before. Some of us met the Aichi club when we visited them last fall. They were very gracious in their accommodations and their presentation of their city and culture to us. We all had a very memorable experience and I am excited and hopeful that we can provide them with a visit that is just as memorable. We discovered that most of the Aichi club do speak some English and communication was not a problem and often fun.

Program planning for the Aichi club's visit to Madison has begun. We will meet them in Dubuque on Sept 11 where we will spend the afternoon with them and the Cedar Rapids club in Dubuque after a picnic lunch at Eagle Point Park. The remainder of our club will meet them on Sept 12 during their day-time activities or at the evening welcome party on Sept 12.

We are compiling a list of activities for them to choose or prioritize. As usual we are looking for home hosts, day hosts and some folks to host a dinner in their home. Volunteers will be needed to transport them by car-pool to Madison on Sept 11 where they will meet their home hosts. If you would like to help us, please contact Martha McGregor 608 835-8591 mgregor.martha@gmail.com or Pat Fleming 608 249-5992 pfleming@edgewood.edu.

Gabor Kemeny, Agnes Rona and friend at Shrine in Aichi



JOURNEYS

AUSTRALIA OUTBOUND OCT 27 – NOV 3

We are off to Australia Oct. 27 to Nov. 3 to visit the Central Coast and Tweed Valley Clubs there. Both are near the eastern coastal area. If you have indicated an interest in this Journey, you should have received an email from Audrey Liimatainen by now to schedule an introductory meeting. It is a long flight, and some of you may wish to stay more than these two weeks and coordinate with others who want to go. At this point, we have little information about what those clubs will be preparing for us because the Host Coordinators are currently traveling. They small clubs and have limited hosting space. If you are interested, please contact Audrey ASAP. You can reach her at 608 558-2295 (dial the 1- 608) or email her at: AMCL822@yahoo.com so you can be included in the meeting. Applications will be due on March 15, 2019. Applications are in PDF form on our website: <https://ffwis.org/> on the right hand side under "applications and forms". You can download the form to your computer, complete it, save it, and then submit it. Hope to see you at the meeting.

ACTIVITIES

OPEN WORLD POTLUCK MARCH 24



WHAT CAN BE MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR FFI MISSION THAN COMMUNICATION?

Join us in welcoming our Open World delegates from Russia. These young political journalists are here to learn more about the United States and to connect with other politically focused journalists and communications professionals. 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!

Briefly –

Kommersant is a privately owned nationally distributed newspaper first published in 1909. It is published from Moscow in both paper and digital forms. It covers a wide range of domestic and international political, business, cultural and entertainment news.

TASS is a major government-owned news agency in Russia, founded in 1904. Headquartered in Moscow, TASS is the largest Russian news agency and one of the largest news agencies worldwide, along with Reuters, the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse.

RIA Novosti is a state-operated domestic news agency which has a multimedia platform including radio and internet.

Dozhd TV, founded in 2010 in Moscow and privately owned, is available in cable, satellite and mobile formats, focusing on news, discussions, culture, politics, business reports, and documentaries.

Interfax, formed in 1989, is a privately owned international business news agency based in Moscow.

PLEASE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW FRIENDS at:

5:30 pm. at Tamarack Club House, 110 S. Westfield Rd., Madison.

RSVP Form is attached to this newsletter.

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE



Second Harvest Foodbank:

Our club volunteers at Second Harvest on the last Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Dates for 2019 are:

March 28 / April 25 / May 30 / June 27

More dates TBA

There is unlimited space for volunteers. New members are encouraged to participate, not only to help serve some of the

most basic needs of our community but also to meet and get to know other members of our club. Please confirm your participation date(s) with Gail Holmes, FFWM Second Harvest Food Bank Coordinator, at glholmes@wisc.edu / 608-249-1846.

Within our 16 county service area, at least 44,000 children are food insecure from day to day - DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT - and don't always know where their next meal is coming from. Second Harvest needs the strong support of all of us in order to improve access to nutritious food for these children and their families. (see:www.ourcommunityfoodbank.org)

BOOK CLUB



Our book club reads non-fiction books that open doors to other cultures, here at home and around the world. We read and meet 4 - 5 times per year. It is an informal gathering offering great conversation and insights. Our next meeting is on April 15 at Maureen Kind's house, to discuss Forgiveness by Mark Sakamoto. For more information contact Helen Ann Rugowski via email at haharrin@hotmail.com or 608-841-1087

Explore • Understand • Serve®

OUTDOORS



Based on seasonal interest, we organize half-day or all-day activities, such as biking or hiking to enjoy the many beautiful parks and outdoor spaces available to us in the local Madison area. Activity dates appear in our newsletter calendar or via email. Magdi Sebestyen is our coordinator. magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com or 608-213-5768

LET'S EAT OUT

**Let's
Go Out
For...**

LET'S EAT at Erin's Snug Irish Pub on Wed March 13th from 1-3 for our March LEO! They are located at 4601 American Parkway, east of East Towne Mall on 151.

Our luncheon includes choice of entrée, coffee or soft drink, tax and tip for \$23.50. If you are not able to prepay, please bring cash.

Our choices are: Colleen's Cobb Salad, Shepherd's Pie, Guinness Beef Stew, and Fish & Chips

I'm looking forward to seeing you there! Please respond online or if you have any questions, please Email me at bobbiesque@gmail.com or call me at (864)905-2268. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

The Nomination Committee is pleased to present the following slate of four officers for 2020:

President: Peg Hutnik

I am a Wisconsin native and was a VISTA volunteer after college, which profoundly changed my life for the better. In the late 90's, I sponsored an AFS student from Thailand, and we have maintained our friendship over the years. I became a member of Friendship Force in 2016 and had my first exchange experience hosting a couple from India the same year. In 2017, I went on my first ambassador experience to Guadeloupe with the club.



I have lived and worked in Wisconsin all of my life at a variety of jobs with the State of Wisconsin, including teaching at the Ethan Allen School for Boys, and also have volunteered at several local organizations. In addition to my commitment to Friendship Force, I am a semi-tired consultant, and continue to pursue interests in traveling, hiking, water aerobics, reading, knitting, theatre and being the proud mother of a Scottish terrier.

Vice President: Kathy Speck Kemeny

I have been a member of Friendship Force for the past 4 years and have served on the board since 2017. Currently, I am club Vice President, and am assisting with Open World program planning for the March delegation from Russia, as well as the Fall inbound journey from Japan.



My husband and I have enjoyed home hosting numerous clubs including India, New Caledonia, Canada, Indonesia and San Diego, as well as Open World delegates from Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. We participated in outbound journeys to Guadeloupe in 2017, and Japan in 2018, for which I served as ambassador co-coordinator. In 2018, I chaired the Membership and the 40th

Anniversary Celebration committees and served on the Open World planning team for the Republic of Georgia program last Fall. Currently, I am assisting with Open World program planning for the March delegation from Russia, as well as the Fall inbound journey from Japan.

Professionally, I have an MBA and a Masters Degree in Social Work, and spent my career in managerial roles in healthcare organizations as well as consulting.

In addition to traveling, I enjoy music, art, reading, hiking and other activities in nature. Participation in Friendship Force has provided many opportunities to learn about other cultures and make new friends here and around the world.



Treasurer: Mary Juckem

I became a member in Nov 2017 and had my first exchange experiences in 2018 as day host for the Indonesia and Niagara journeys and as an ambassador to Japan. I was elected treasurer in April 2018. Prior to retirement, I worked as a social worker in health care settings. I am a volunteer usher for performing arts venues, the library, and the children's museum. I am looking forward to more involvement with Madison's Friendship Force chapter.

Secretary: Martha McGregor

I have been a member of FFWI-Madison for almost 3 years and



have been your member-at-large representative for the past two years.

I have been a home host, day host, and travelled to Charlotte with the Quad Cities club. I have enjoyed my activities with the club.

I am retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison after 33 years working in a biology research lab. I am a widow and take care of my home including shoveling snow. I'm

looking forward to many trips with the club and serving in whatever capacity I can.

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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www.ffwis.org

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Secretary Martha McGregor	608 835-8591
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Newsletter: Agnes Rona	781-910-1094

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FRIENDSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONFERENCE
<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org>

**FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL
WORLD CONFERENCE
2019**

**MAKE A BOLDER
IMPRESSION!**

BOULDER, COLORADO, USA

**WILLIAMS VILLAGE CAMPUS,
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER**

JULY 23 - 27, 2019

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: JULY 23 - 25
SOCIAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES*: JULY 26 - 27
*OPTIONAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Location: Zor Shrine Hankwitz Hall
575 Zor Shrine Place
Madison, WI, 53719

Agenda: 11:30 AM Social Hour
12:00 PM Catered buffet luncheon of internationally inspired dishes
12:45 PM Meeting and program

Cost: \$20

Reservation and payment are due no later than Friday, March 22, 2019.
Non-registered Friendship Force members welcome for business meeting only at
12:45 PM

----- **cut and return with payment**-----

Special dietary needs _____

_____ # attending x \$20.00 = \$ _____

_____ I need a ride _____ I can provide a ride

Names: _____

Email Address _____

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Mail to: Kathy Speck Kemeny, 7749 Summerfield Drive, Verona, WI 53593

Questions?

Email: kspeckemeny@gmail.com or mhutnik13@gmail.com

Call: Kathy 608-577-4885 or Peg 608-334-4647



**Welcome Party Potluck Dinner
Tamarack Trails Club House
110 S Westfield Rd, Madison,**

5:30-7:30 March 24, 2019

Join us in welcoming our Open World delegation from Russia. Our delegates are all involved in reporting political news in Russia. They are in the U.S.A. to learn more about American government and the relationship between media, journalism and government here. Please help us give them a warm Wisconsin welcome and an opportunity to sample a variety of Wisconsin foods.

If you are planning to come, please RSVP. We need an approximate count of the number of people that plan to attend so we can set up the room. The event is free.

Please RSVP to Sandi Wysock by March 18, 2019

sandrawysock@msn.com

telephone number 608 833 5326

102 Acadia Drive

Madison, WI 53717

-----CUT AND MAIL FORM BELOW IF YOU ARE MAILING YOUR RESPONSE-----

Number Attending_____

Name _____

I am bringing a Main Dish_____ **Salad or Vegetable**_____

Bread or Starter_____ **Dessert**_____