



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



www.ffwis.org

January 2020

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO US ALL!

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. My family's Thanksgiving usually involves 25-30 with all of the chaos that goes with a big family gathering. Christmas is a smaller event where we spend time with our immediate family. As much as I love the holidays, it is good to enter into calmer winter months.

As we go into the new year, FFWIS-Madison is looking forward to 2020 and 2021. There will be three inbound groups in 2020 with opportunities to host, dinner-host, day-host and/or assist with planning. In February, we should receive word about our assignments for 2021. Our annual meeting on April 4th gives you an opportunity to select our new officers. We do expect to have at least two open officer positions. The nominating committee will be looking for candidates for the offices in early 2020. If you are approached by our nominating committee, please give serious consideration to their request to serve. Of course volunteers are always welcome!! Please let me know if you are interested in being part of a very talented board. Serving on the board is an opportunity to influence the course of the club and truly make a difference. It really is a great experience.

We had 38 people in attendance at our member meeting on December 4. There were some new faces in the room, and Mary Lindquist tells us we have a total of 122 members in the Club. So we feel that we are holding our own pretty well, though we continue to encourage and invite greater member participation in the wide range of activities we offer. Onward we go!

In Friendship

Sandi Wysock
President

sandrawysock@msn.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting

The FFI Madison Board meets the second Wednesday of the month @ 12:30 pm at Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, Monona.

Other Activities

2020

January 6: Dining on the 6th. See: "Activities"

February 6: Dining on the 6th. See "Activities"

February 9: PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo. See "Activities"

February 17: Book Club at the home of Reta Harring. See "Activities"

February 29: International Festival at Overture Center. See "Activities"

March 6 – 14: Incoming Open World STEM Journey See: "Journeys"

April 4: Annual Meeting of FFI Madison. "See Board Activities"

April 12 – 30: Outgoing Journey to New Caledonia and New Zealand. See "Journeys"

September 14-21: Incoming Global Bike Journey. See: "Journeys"

September 18 – 20: FFI Super Regional Conference in Minneapolis. See "Activities"

October 16 - 20: Hosting delegates after Milwaukee Leadership Conference. See "Journey"

JOURNEYS



OPEN WORLD WELCOMES WOMEN IN STEM - RUSSIA

FFI Madison has been accepted as a host for the Open World program "Women in STEM" (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and will host eight delegates from Russia **March 6 – 14, 2020**. This curriculum will look at U.S. programs designed to create opportunities and encourage girls/women to participate in STEM education and careers and will include government officials and civic leaders and educators charged with development of school curriculums and outside activities, as well as youth leaders, and advocates of increased opportunities for girls and women.

Sandi Wysock is the coordinator for this program. We have a number of volunteers for hosting and dinner hosting, with particulars to be finalized when we have more information about the delegates. If you want to host or help with planning, contact Sandi Wysock (sandrawysock@msn.com)

NEW ZEALAND AND NEW CALEDONIA OUTBOUND 2020

Our international outgoing Journey for 2020 will be to New Caledonia **April 12 – 22** and New Zealand **April 23 – 30**. The New Caledonia segment of the journey is full but we have a few spots for people for just the week in New Zealand **April 23 – 30**. If you want to see Christchurch and other wonderful sights, please contact Dan Eggerding right away (de_news@hotmail.com)



JOURNEYS

GLOBAL BIKE JOURNEY 2020 UPDATE

Our active bikers are working on a Global Biking Journey from **September 14 - 21, 2020**, headed by Hank Weiss. This trip is full, with riders coming from around the world. We also have a wait list. This is an exciting and logistically challenging journey. We can use many hands on deck.



We need hosts who can transport a bike or even two. The Ambassadors will be out biking most of the day so hosts will not have to participate in all of the activities. It will be helpful to have hosts who are not biking, as well as volunteers who would agree to be on call for half a day to pick someone up if there is any kind of accident or broken bike. Dinner hosts are still needed. Please contact Stephanie Sorensen to help with this journey (ssorensen268@gmail.com).

MILWAUKEE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE VISITORS



Another opportunity will come from **October 16 to 20, 2020**. The Milwaukee club will be running a leadership workshop mostly for those from new clubs in developing countries. Following that workshop, the Ambassadors will come to Madison from Friday until Tuesday for a brief visit. This is a rare opportunity to meet new leaders from newer clubs and share our experiences and just have some fun with new friends.

We will need helpers to host and work on a committee to plan at least a few group activities to show them what it is like to participate in a Journey. Please contact Stephanie Sorensen (ssorensen268@gmail.com) (608 819-6646).

JOURNEYS

JOURNEYS WITH OTHER CLUBS AND GLOBAL JOURNEYS

We want to remind you that our members are members of a global family and can participate in journeys sponsored by other clubs and in global journeys that include members of many clubs.

There are always opportunities to travel with Friendship Force. If our club's schedule doesn't fit with your plans, consider traveling with other clubs or global journeys.

There are several ways to get information about other journeys:

- Join the FFI mailing list by going to this link: [Join the FFI Mailing List](#)
- Go to FFI website: (thefriendshipforce.org) then select the tab "Journeys". This tab will take you to upcoming journeys, organized by geographic regions.
- Go to FFI website and select tab "Member Resources" and then select "Complete List of Journeys and Regional eFlyers."

COMPLETED JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA

Oct 26 - Nov 10, 2019

Eleven members of our club were hosted by the Central Coast and Tweed Valley Clubs on the Eastern Coast of Australia. Both clubs were very small with 20-25 members.

Central Coast is about 90 minutes North of Sydney and in a beautiful coastal area. Each beach was more beautiful than the last. We visited a pearl farm, a wildlife park, a gallery with aboriginal art, a fruit beverage factory and of course beaches. At the pearl farm we learned how the seed pearl is inserted into the shell and watched as our guide "birthed" a pearl.

We toured the Mortels Sheepskin Factory which claims to have made the first UGG boots which were so named because Frank Mortels' wife thought they were so ugly. proclaimed them to be ugly.

Tweed Valley is just south of Brisbane. The valley is in the caldera of an old volcano. There were sugar cane fields throughout the valley as well as small farms with horses and cattle. We toured a sugar cane factory, visited a wildlife park and of course enjoyed the beautiful seascapes. One of the highlights of our time in Tweed Valley was our day at Lorene and Doug Brown's farm during Melbourne cup days and watched the actual Melbourne cup race on television. It was great fun!

JOURNEYS

Many have asked about the bush fires. The bulk of the fires were between our two home stays. At the end of our second week you could smell and see the smoke in the air. The coastal highway between our two locations was closed because of the fires. Both areas are still threatened by fires and air quality is a concern.

ACTIVITIES

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE

Second Harvest Foodbank



Our Second Harvest volunteers meet at the Food Bank the last Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30. Upcoming dates include: January 30, February 27, March 26.

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 Lois Schulz, FFWM Second Harvest Food Bank Leader, at loisschulz1942@gmail.com

Cold weather increases health risks, making nutrition even more vital for the more than 44,000 children within our 16 county service area who 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



Ten readers met Monday, Nov. 25 at the home of Helen Ann Rugowski to discuss "The Girl Who Smiled Beads" by Clementine Wamariya, detailing her experience as a refugee and survivor of the Rwanda Genocide.

The next Book Club meeting is on Monday, February 17 at 2 pm at the home of Reta Harring. The group will read and discuss "Radium Girls" by Kate Moore, which looks at the effects of the radium infused paint used to create watch dials during World War I. Please contact Reta at retaharring@charter.net to confirm your attendance.

ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE 6TH

Here in Wisconsin, we like to eat! In order to offer more opportunities to our members to share good food, good company and good conversation, we offer a new event, "Dining on the 6th".



On the 6th of each month (a different day each month) host volunteers coordinate a breakfast, lunch or dinner at a local restaurant. We already have host/coordinators for January through June 2020. A host who really likes to cook may also invite members to his or her home or have a potluck also.

For more information please contact Gail Holmes: glholmes@wisc.edu.

- Our first *Dining on the 6th* is hosted by Gail Holmes and will be on Monday, January 6, 2020, at noon at the Bonfyre American Grill on the Beltline. Please let Gail Holmes know if you are coming to make sure we have the right size table: glholmes@wisc.edu.
- Helen Ann Rugowski will host a breakfast on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 9:30 am at Pat O'Malley's Jet Room at 3606 Corben Court, off Hwy 51. Please let Helen Ann Rugowski know if you are coming to make sure we have the right size table: haharrin@hotmail.com
- The March event will be a dinner, with details to follow.

PBS WISCONSIN GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE EXPO

FFI Madison has committed to help out at the PBS Wisconsin's Garden & Landscape Expo on Sunday February 9, 2020 from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. Each volunteer will receive a free Expo ticket and a free parking ticket. We don't know our exact assignments but assume they will be primarily standing activities. Please contact Reta Harring if you want to volunteer: retaharring@charter.net or 608-241-2248.

The Expo is a 3-day event that attracts more than 20,000 people from across the Midwest to find out about the latest trends in gardening and landscaping. Attendees have the opportunity connect with landscape professionals, attend workshops, seminars and demos, shop at a farmer's market and other activities for children and families.

All proceeds support PBS Wisconsin.

ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AT OVERTURE CENTER

FFI Wisconsin-Madison is again hosting a booth at the International Festival in the Overture Center on **February 29, 2020**. To staff our booth we need volunteers take 2.5 hour shifts of two or more members, from 10 am to 5 pm.



Volunteers are asked to promote Friendship Force by sharing their experiences hosting and/or travelling to other cultures as an ambassador. Our booth will be stocked with handout materials and sign-up sheets for those interested in the club.

The International Festival is a colorful, joyful celebration of the diverse cultural groups within the Dane County community. There will be more than 30 free performances throughout Overture Center. We can also enjoy food from around the world, beautiful arts and crafts available for purchase and will learn about the many local businesses with global connections.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dorothy Baldwin at 608-742-6493 or janddbaldwin@gmail.com

BOARD NEWS/ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL MEETING

Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison Annual Meeting is April 4, 2020 at the Middleton Glen Retirement Center. There will be a potluck lunch, with details to follow.

JANET LONERGAN



JANET LONERGAN..... THANK YOU!

Madison Friendship Force would like to express our deepest appreciation for thirty three years of loyal service rendered by Friendship Force member, Janet Lonergan. Janet, who most recently had been serving on the board as Historian, retired at age 89 in September.

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JANET LONERGAN

Janet and her husband Ralph joined Friendship Force in 1986. Both served as long term members of the board; exchange directors; hosts and ambassadors. Because they lived in Lodi, they focused on day hosting and hosting exchange reunion get togethers at their home on the lake. The entire membership was invited to those events. Club membership numbered nearly 600 in those days. "Back then, she said, there was lots of interest because FFI was unique and out of the ordinary. There were more exchanges and people were interested in coming to the US."

After Ralph died in 2004, Janet continued on as Newsletter Editor - a position she held for 20 years. She recalls that at first, she wrote the articles on a typewriter, then cut and pasted before delivering prototypes to the printer. With the help of Mary and Gary Lindquist, they hand-addressed 300 newsletters a month! The newsletter became easier to write and produce when computers became the norm. Janet continued on the board as Historian after retiring as newsletter editor.

Let's raise a New Year's toast to Janet! Thank You dear friend for your outstanding loyalty and faithful service to our club! We are grateful for your gift.

2020 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

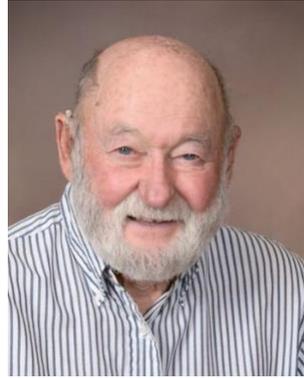
We will continue to remind you about the FFI 2020 Super-Regional Conference will be in Minneapolis September 18-20, 2020, hosted by FFI Minnesota-Twin Cities. It seems a long way off, but we all like to plan our calendars!

Our connections with other FFI groups are vital to developing and expanding our journey relationships and opportunities. We will keep you informed with updates. You can also directly contact Conference Chair Rita Mays: ritamnffi@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

FFI Wisconsin-Madison welcomes new members: Joe and Janet Passaniti from Madison.

FRIENDS WE LOST



November 23, 2019
Richard Dean Walker

Dick was an avid traveler throughout his adult life, always accompanied by his wife, Margy. Their world travels included many popular tourist spots on six continents, but also included less common destinations such as China, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Siberia.

Many such trips were arranged through Friendship Force of Madison, for which he and Margy hosted many international visitors coming to Madison. Hawaii was also a popular winter destination, where he and Margy visited with family and the many friends they made there over the years.

Dick came to UW Madison in 1965 with a PhD in Information Science, retiring in 1995 after an illustrious career as a professor of science literature, studying how scientists communicated, especially geologists and water resource scientists and technicians. He served as major advisor for a number of doctoral students using bibliometrics, including citation analysis techniques. His two most recent books were "Scientific and Technical Literature: An Introduction to Communication Forms" with C.D. Hurt, and "Patents as Scientific and Technical Literature."

Dick's full obituary can be found at <https://informedchoicefunerals.com/obituary/339276/Richard-Walker/>

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Helen Ann Rugowski 608-841-1087 haharrin@hotmail.com
Journey Coordinator: Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-1846 stevils@charter.net
Activities: Gail Holmes 608-249-1846 glholmes@wisc.edu
Outreach: Donna & Tom Miller 608-273-1501 miller1950@sbcglobal.net
Communications: Sandi Wysock 608-833-5326 sandrawysock@msn.com

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE INVITES YOU JOIN US IN PLANNING EVENT AND ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS

Because the Activities Committee has such a broad reach, we welcome you to join us in planning interesting, educational, active, service, and fun events for members and friends of the Friendship Force so we have an opportunity to get to know each other and develop our connections to FFI. Feel free to contact a leader and offer your assistance for any activity.

Members of the Activities Committee are:
Marian Ehrenberg (marianeh2014@gmail.com),
Gail Holmes (chair) (glholmes@wisc.edu),
Audrey Liimatainen (AMCL822@yahoo.com),
Lois Schulz (loisschulz1942@gmail.com) a

Leaders for specific activities listed below.

Adopt-A-Highway–Stephanie Vanden Bush (sljacobs2@gmail.com)
Bike rides–Mary Mastaglio (mamastaglio@gmail.com)
Book Club–Reta Haring (retaharring@charter.net) and Marian Ehrenberg (marianeh2014@gmail.com)
International Institutes–Helen Ann Rugowski (haharrin@hotmail.com)
Let's Eat Out (LEO)–Bobbie Vrooman (bobbiesque@gmail.com)
Dining on the 6th – Gail Holmes (glholmes@wisc.edu)
Let's Hike/Let's Walk–Magdi Sebestyen (magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com)
Second Harvest Food Bank–Lois Schulz (loisschulz1942@gmail.com)
Travel trips–Donna Hussin (djhussin@yahoo.com)

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