



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



www.ffwis.org

July 2020

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we continue to live in a COVID world, our methods of communication have adapted to allow us to continue to stay in contact and share experiences and activities.

We continue to gather virtually, with planned hiking, biking, picnic, book club, adopt-a-highway, cocktails and conversations – a pretty busy agenda!

I participated in a Midwest President's Meeting on June 24. We covered planning issues including:

- Fund raising update
- Electronic voting and conduct of business
- Face to face meetings
- FFI plans for virtual events

There is more information on these items in this Newsletter.

FFI continues to be a strong organization with dedicated leadership at the national and local levels. More than ever, our commitment to continuing contact and dialog with other countries and cultures – and our own - sets an example of how we can all look to the future with hope.

Please take care and stay safe.

In Friendship, with warmest wishes to all,

Sandi Wysock
President
sandrawysock@msn.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting

The FFI Madison Board meets VIRTUALLY the second Wednesday of the month @ 12:30 pm

Other Activities

July 7: Picnic in the Park. See "Activities"

July 9: Picnic Rain Date

July 21: Bike Ride. See "Activities"

July 23: Bike Ride Rain Date

July 28: Let's Walk, Let's Hike. See "Activities"

July 30: Second Harvest Food Bank. See "Activities"

Aug 17: Book Club. See "Activities"

Aug 27: Second Harvest Food Bank. See "Activities"

Aug 28: Let's Walk, Let's Hike. See "Activities"

The beauty of Madison is available to all of us anytime.



Agnes Rona's walk from the Union to Picnic Point

EDITOR'S NOTE

I discovered that I can “see” and “hear” readings of plays by members of Forward Theater on line at: www.forwardtheater.com.

So now I am wondering what else I can discover to do online. There is always: www.meetup.com which has a lot of on-line connections in the Madison area, with something for everybody.

Please send me your discoveries and ideas for life on-line. Call me a pessimist, or a realist, or something else, but I think we will continue to live with limited personal contact with each other for some time to come. In that case we can either retreat from the world or make the effort to keep connected, even if we are not always enthralled with the technology we need to do so.

Let us live long and prosper!

In Friendship,

Agnes Rona
Newsletter Editor

PS – We can improve on our “distancing” signage, don’t you think?



JOURNEYS

WHAT NEXT?

Believe it or not in the midst of our lockdown, it is time to begin to think about Journey planning for the years ahead.

2021

We have already been assigned Journeys for 2021 with tentative months:

- Dallas outgoing in May
- Oita, Japan incoming in August
- Niagara and Toronto outgoing in October.
- We are also hoping to reschedule our incoming Global Bike Journey which must be held in September to coincide with Bike The Barns.

That would give us quite a full year in 2021 assuming that people wish to travel to and from these assignments. We are fortunate that our first outgoing Journeys will be in the US and Canada as they are easier to get to and the potential travel bans will likely not apply to these assignments.

In order to contact the Dallas and Canada clubs to try agree on journey times, we ask each of you who are potentially interested in visiting either Dallas or Canada or both in 2021 to contact our Journey Coordinator, Stephanie Sorensen *by the end of July* so she can make timely contact with those clubs. We also need to know if we have no one in our Club who is willing to either travel or be a home host in 2021.

We also will contact the Oita Club to find out if they think they would feel comfortable coming to the US in 2021.

2022

Within the next few months we have to submit our requests for **incoming 2022** Journeys. We will be asking the clubs we visited in Australia last year if they would like to come here in 2022. We can also invite another Club if there is a strong expressed preference for that Club.

Requests for **2022 outgoing** Journeys are submitted to FFI in the Fall. We will be chatting about preferences at our picnic on July 7. Anyone who will not be attending the picnic and who has a specific request and is likely to participate in a Journey to that place, let Stephanie know by the end of July so that she can incorporate our priority preferences.

Those of you who had signed up to go to New Caledonia and New Zealand or who had considered it - do you still want to go to one or both places? 2022 seems far away now, but there must be something on your list of places you really want to see. COVID 19 can't keep us down forever!

Stephanie Sorensen
Journey Manager
ssorensen268@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

PICNIC IN THE PARK



With great joy, the Activities Committee has planned an in-person Summer Picnic in the Park (Dining on the 6th event) for Tuesday, July 7 at 5:00 pm.

We will meet at Garner Park (333 S. Rosa Rd., Madison) for our picnic dinner. To ensure your safety during the pandemic, this will be a **"bring your own everything"** event. We should bring our own picnic meal, plates, utensils, napkins, cups, and beverages (by City Ordinance: no glass cups or containers are allowed, please!).

Also, bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. We can space ourselves at the appropriate six-foot distance on the lawn. Park in the Garner Park parking lot, and one of our members will direct you to the area where we are gathering. In case the parking lot is full, more parking is available on Rosa Road, and in University Research Park across Mineral Point Road.

If needed, we have a rain date of Thursday, July 9. Co-hosts are Gail Holmes and Magdi Sebestyen. Register by noon on Monday, July 6, with Gail Holmes, phone 249-1846 or email at glholmes@wisc.edu. Hoping to see you!

BIKE RIDE

On July 21st, Tuesday (rain date July 23rd, Thursday) at 10AM let's bike some of the routes that were planned for our World Journey Bike Group.

We will meet at Olin Park parking lot nearest the Sheridan Hotel at 10:00 AM, on July 21st. We'll bike the Lower Yahara River Trail to and about McFarland. Take out lunch will be from the McFarland House or the Green Lantern (TBD). Following lunch, we'll return to Olin Park.

The total trip we'll be approximately 18 miles with the lunch break part way through the ride. Helmets required. Face masks suggested.

Let Jan Hornback know by Sunday, July 19 if you are coming.
jhornback@wisc.edu
608-216-4454

ACTIVITIES

LET'S WALK, LET'S HIKE

On June 26, eight of our members enjoyed a pleasant hike in Donald County Park. The view of the surrounding landscape was beautiful from the top of Donald Rock.

Our next walking and socializing event will be on **Tuesday, July 28**. This time we will take a stroll on the gently rolling trails of Pope Farm Conservancy, located at 7440 W Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI 53593. Meeting time is 11:00 a.m.
<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/>

Based on resurgence in COVID infections in Dane County, we have to be very vigilant when we are together. In order to prevent spreading COVID-19 infections, please keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others and **wear a face-mask**. None of these safety measures takes the fun away: we can still have wonderful conversations!

If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com, so that I can send you parking and meeting point information, and a map about the area. I will also contact you in case we have to cancel or postpone a walk due to inclement weather, or for any other unforeseen reason.

Magdi Sebestyen
Cell phone: (608) 213-5768



Magdi and Maureen on Donald Rock on June 26

The August Newsletter will contain details of our August 28 walk.

Explore • Understand • Serve®

ACTIVITIES

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

We are again able to volunteer at Second Harvest!

Second Harvest volunteers meet at the Food Bank the last Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30. Upcoming date is Thursday July 30.

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

BOOK CLUB



We had eight people for the June meeting where we had a lively discussion about "The Bone People".

The next meeting will be August 17 at 2:00 pm. It will be on Zoom or outdoors. We will read and discuss So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Several members already have ordered the book. The book is very well reviewed as an honest and non-confrontational opportunity for white people and people of color to understand and talk to each other about the deep and complex issues of racism in America.

In October we will read and discuss The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. The book is based on the extraordinary life of Erdrich's grandfather, who worked as a night watchman and who carried the fight against Native Chippewa dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington D.C.

Please Email Reta Haring at retaharring@charter.net if you plan to attend the August 17 meeting.

COCKTAILS ON THE 6TH

Seventeen of us gathered on ZOOM on June 6 for mocktails or cocktails and to share stories of gifts we had received and adventures we enjoyed over the years.

Mary Lindquist shared a Korean doll that brought back very fond memories of her Korean journey.

Explore • Understand • Serve®

ACTIVITIES

COCKTAILS ON THE 6TH

Dan Eggerding must have really impressed people on his journey to China, because he was seriously encouraged to apply as a recruit for the local police department!

Helen Ann Rugowski went out for lunch with a group of Korean ladies with no English and had a lovely time. After lunch she found herself going downstairs at the restaurant to a room full of ladies who were playing poker for serious money! Did she or didn't she play?

On a domestic journey one couple started with an unexpected adventure. Their host pulled over from the road and sent them to look at some special sights unaccompanied. When they came back to the car, it was gone, along with their host and all of their belongings. Two hours later, with no explanation, the host and car reappeared to pick them up. The rest of the visit went well and this event was never discussed. Go figure.

Of course there were the awkward host gifts that our ambassadors sometimes gave to their hosts. Such as a gift of the wrong sake – one that was considered like a rot-gut that was drunk only by winos. Or a gift of flowers that turned out to be used only for funerals.

And then there was George Wysock's birthday in Vyborg, Russia. This lovely lady made a birthday shirt for George, which is truly a thing of beauty.



ACTIVITIES

And then the folks from Vyborg came to Madison on George's next birthday, wearing their party hats!



And that's why we travel.

Finally, there was a drinking horn from Georgia. The horns are quite large, and may hold up to a liter of wine, which has to be drunk in one long drink because it can't be put down. A few hornfuls of wine makes for a pretty good party. And here in Wisconsin we also appreciate a good party!

BOARD NEWS/ACTIVITIES

FFIWIS-Madison UPDATE

Following our second donation to FFI, we received this lovely letter from the Chair of the FFI Board of Directors:

June 29, 2020.

Dear Members of the Friendship Force, Madison, Wisconsin,

I am reaching out to you, each and every member, on behalf of the FFI Board of Directors, to warmly thank you for your kind response to our 'Continuing the Journey' appeal. Your generous (second) donation is most appreciated and will certainly contribute to keeping our doors open and our staff working for your benefit.

It gives us an extra degree of pleasure to note that this is your second substantial donation to our campaign, something deserving of our special recognition of the club's generosity. Thank you, thank you.

Without wonderful members like you our future would be much less hopeful – you are truly appreciated.

Explore • Understand • Serve®

BOARD NEWS/ACTIVITIES

Letter continued:

Please stay safe in these turbulent times – we want to be able to meet you on a journey, somewhere in the world, very soon.

*Sincere thanks, in friendship
Bobbie Mulholland
Chair of FFI Board of Directors
Adelaide, Australia*



FFI FUNDRAISING UPDATE AND MIDWEST PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Meeting summary from Dale Moore (FFI Regional Rep) from Midwest Presidents' Meeting.

Fundraising

The FFI website lists donations at \$316K. However, many of the donations from Europe are being held in an account and are yet to be transferred. There is also a lag in recording mail in donations. The unofficial estimate is that the actual total is over \$400K.

FFI also received an award of more than \$100K from the Paycheck Protection Plan. This is a nice bonus since it was not included in FFI's cash flow plan.

FFI will "soft close" the funding initiative at the end of June. Of course, donations will still be accepted after June.

FFI's cash flow plan also included member renewals for 2021 - - Approximately 9000 renewals were included in the plan. Therefore, a continuing challenge for club leadership is to keep their members interested and engaged. Sandi Wysock shared that FFI Madison plans to waive club dues for members in 2021 and the club will pay the FFI dues using reserve funds.

2021 Journeys

FFI recommends that clubs continue to plan 2021 journeys, but not to involve money until it is certain that the journey can be safely conducted.

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Helen Ann Rugowski 608-841-1087
haharrin@hotmail.com

Journey Manager: Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-1846
stevils@charter.net

Activities: Gail Holmes 608-249-1846 glholmes@wisc.edu

Outreach: Dorothy Baldwin 608-742-6493

janddbaldwin@gmail.com

Communications: Sandi Wysock 608-833-5326
sandrawysock@msn.com

Activities Committee Members:

Gail Holmes (chair) (glholmes@wisc.edu),
Audrey Liimatainen (AMCL822@yahoo.com),
Lois Schulz (loisschulz1942@gmail.com)

Leaders for specific activities are:

Adopt-A-Highway–Stephanie Vanden Bush
(sljacobs2@gmail.com)

Bike rides–Mary Mastaglio (mamastaglio@gmail.com)

Book Club–Reta Harring (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/Day trips–Donna Hussin (djhussin@yahoo.com)

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

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com

ffwis.meeting@gmail.com

ffwis.membership@gmail.com

ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

President:	Sandi Wysock	608 838-5326
Vice-Pres:	Kathy Speck Kemeny	608-577-4885
Secretary	Martha McGregor	608 835-8591
Treasurer:	Mary Juckem	608-661-2810
Newsletter:	Agnes Rona	781-910-1094