



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



www.ffwis.org

October 2020

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your new President, I am glad to report that as we move into the Fall of 2020, our Board will review the past year and begin to prepare for 2021. Even this year's pandemic our ongoing activities have provided a variety of ways for us to continue to engage with one another, and those connections have felt more precious these days, as we've hunkered down in the midst of the pandemic.

The cancellation of our 2020 travel plans gave a whole new meaning to "staycation." Our friends and families participate in many activities that harken back to an earlier era. We see so many more families walking together around the neighborhood, kids in wagons and on bikes, dogs in tow. The mood is light, with families and friends talking, laughing, and enjoying the pleasures of one another's company. We have also been blessed by the glories of nature that we've experienced in the myriad wild areas that grace our state.

You may also consider exploring a Friendship Force activity you haven't enjoyed yet. While the weather is still nice, take advantage of an organized outdoor activity such as drinks in the driveway, bike riding, highway clean up, or a hike. We also continue to offer our book club or volunteer opportunity at Second Harvest food bank.

I'm happy to introduce our new Program Committee, led by Committee Co-Chairs Mike Lambert and Magdi Sebestyen, who will connect us with programs that broaden our exposure to other cultures within and outside our country. And remember that FFI has numerous virtual journeys and other ways to connect!

We look forward to strengthening our community as we continue our mission to build bridges with one another around the world, and we encourage you to share your suggestions for other ways that we can engage with one another and our global community.

In the spirit of friendship,
Kathy Speck Kemeny

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting

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

October 6: Drinks in the Driveway. "Activities"

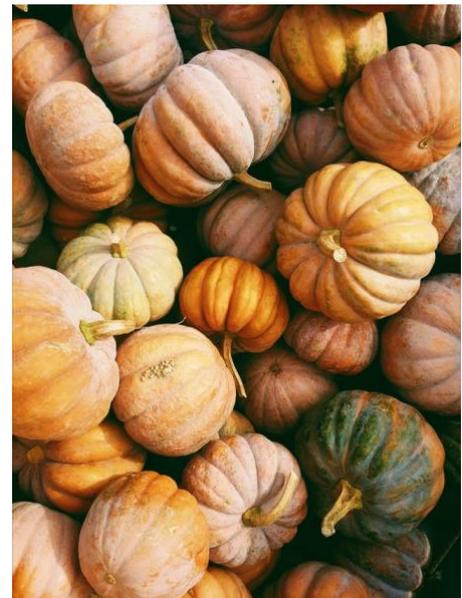
October 8: Bike Ride. "Activities"

October 11: Let's Walk, Let's Hike. "Activities"

October 12: Book Club. "Activities"

October 21: Adopt-a-Highway. "Activities"

October 29: Second Harvest Food Bank. "Activities"



Happy October!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm knitting, reading, cooking, volunteering virtually, watching movies, walking my dog, zooming with friends, going to buy groceries, meditating, hiking with friends, spending too much on Amazon. Mostly, I am trying to continue to safely remain part of our community, so that our community stays strong.



JOURNEYS

We continue to remind members about on-going activities that allow us to reach out to new places and new people from the comfort of our own homes.

FFI VIRTUAL JOURNEYS ON FFI BLOG LINK

All members can take virtual FFI journeys by using this link:

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>

This link is **NOT** on the regular International website. It is a wonderful way to travel and meet people. Once you connect on this link you should definitely slowly scroll all the way down to the end. It is full of many unique and interesting opportunities to learn about other countries, foods, and on-line activities. At the bottom are also links for tutorials for using WhatsApp and ZOOM.

FFI PEN PALS

Another great experience available to FFI members is the Pen Pal program. Yes - real old-fashioned pen pals, the kind you write to and who write back to you.

JOURNEYS

FFI PEN PALS

FFI Pen Pals is a new way to experience different views and discover common ground. Get matched up with another FFI member based on your interests – shared hobbies, common interests, a specific region or city, or a foreign language you'd like to practice. Or simply be surprised and get matched randomly! Then sit down and start writing – all you need is a pen, a piece of paper, an envelope and a stamp.

Here is how to find the link to Pen Pal.

1. On the FFI website homepage click "Virtual Experiences" link at the top of the page.
2. Click on the purple "here" link just below the 3 virtual experiences icons.
3. Scroll down the page and find [Friendship Force Pen Pals](#). Do a single click and a google document link will appear.
4. Information on the Pen Pal program and a registration link are in that document.

ACTIVITIES

DRINKS IN THE DRIVEWAY

Due to its popular success in September, our October 6th Drinks in the Driveway at 4:00 pm will be hosted by three hosts in three locations:

Kathy Speck Kemeny will host at 7749 Summerfield Drive in the Town of Middleton, located between Old Sauk Rd and Mineral Point Rd, a few minutes from Pope Conservancy. Call Kathy at 608-577-4885 or email her at kspeckemeny@gmail.com.

Diana Rodum will host at 406 Bryce Canyon Circle located off Old Sauk Road near Gammon Road. Call Diana at 608 203-54711 or email at dianarodum@aol.com.

Stephanie Sorensen will host at 1624C North Golf Glen at the end of North Sherman Avenue across from the statue at St. Peter's Church. Call Stephanie at 608-819-6646 or email at ssorensen268@gmail.com.

Each host will determine how many can safely attend and maintain six feet distancing. You can stand or sit in chairs provided by the host or bring your own chairs. Please bring your own beverages and containers and provide your own glass or cup if needed. No food will be served.

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ACTIVITIES

BIKE RIDE

In this beautiful season there will be a ride at the Glacial River Trail at 10 A.M., Thursday, Oct. 8th (rain date of Oct. 9th) from Fort Atkinson to Jefferson and back. Persons interested can contact:

Jan Hornback
608-216-4454 (phone or text)
jhornback@wisc.edu

September 16 was a great day for five riders who enjoyed the sunny day and the meandering trail along the Yahara River between DeForest and Windsor:



LET'S WALK / LET'S HIKE



Please join us for the last scheduled walk of the season on Sunday, October 11, at 3:00 p.m., in the UW–Madison Arboretum. This site maintains over 17 miles of trails winding through various ecosystems and habitats. Parking site and meeting point will be determined later, depending on which part of the Arboretum looks most colorful at the time. If you are interested in joining this event, please RSVP to magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com.

More information about the Arboretum:
<https://arboretum.wisc.edu>

ACTIVITIES

LET'S WALK / LET'S HIKE

After mid-October, no more walks or hikes will be pre-scheduled due to the growing unpredictability of weather and road/trail conditions. Walks will still be organized on an ad hoc basis, when the short-term weather forecast looks favorable.

Events will be announced by email to interested members only. If you would like to join these walks, please sign up to the “Ad hoc walkers” email list by sending a message to magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com. Being on the list does not require any commitment; it just means you might get an occasional email that is not sent out to the entire membership. You can either respond and participate, or you can simply ignore them.

We will resume our regular, pre-scheduled Let's Walk/Let's Hike events in the spring of 2021.

On our latest two walks in Elver Park (09/02), and in Owen Park (09/15), a new “member” joined our group of walkers:



Rory, the black labrador. Rory is a service-dog-in-training to assist blind people as their guide. Kathy Speck Kemeny is participating in a program that raises and trains these young puppies to become future service dogs. It was a pleasure to have Rory walking with us. We had wonderful weather, and beautiful scenery for both events. In Owen Conservation Park, we could already see the first signs of leaves changing their colors. Summer has come to an end, and we are heading into cooler and shorter days. Fall is coming soon. Come, and enjoy its beauty with us!

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ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB



The next meeting is October 12 at 7:00 pm, on Zoom or outdoors. 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 Harring at retaharring@charter.net if you plan to attend the October 12 meeting.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Please join us Wednesday October 21 at 10 am for our next highway clean up event. It's a great way to get outside, enjoy the cool fall weather, and make our roadsides look clean and beautiful, while enjoying each other's company safely. Please meet at the Middleton park and ride off Hwy 12 exit 249. Direct questions to Stephanie Vanden Bush sljacobs2@gmail.com or 920-676-1441.

Please bring your own mask. Gloves and other supplies will be provided.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Upcoming date is Thursday October 29 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Your volunteer time is needed as great numbers of people in southern Wisconsin counties are facing daily food insecurity. Many Friendship Force volunteers are needed to prepare the Care Boxes. Not only does this give you an uplifting sense of fulfillment but it's really a fun activity! Let Lois Schulz know (608 243-9761 or loisschulz1942@gmail.com) by Tuesday October 27 that you just can't wait to serve!

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.

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

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

Journey Manager: Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-1846
ssorensen268@gmail.com

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

Program : Mike Lambert (608)577-1057
lambertmichaeli@gmail.com
Magdi Sebestyen (608)577-1057
magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS

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 – Jan Hornback (jhornback@wisc.edu)

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)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS

Leaders for specific activities are:

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)

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