



friendship force  
WISCONSIN - MADISON



[ffwis.org](http://ffwis.org)

JUNE 2021

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WAKE UP AND SMELL THE LILACS



### *Lilac Collection Celebrates 85 Years*

On April 19, 1935, the first lilacs were planted in Longenecker Horticultural Gardens—known at the time simply as the Arboretum’s horticultural area. It was named in 1967 in honor of G. William Longenecker, a professor of horticulture and landscape architecture at UW–Madison and the Gardens’ first curator. Longenecker developed the blueprint for the entire horticultural area—and the lilac collection was his masterpiece.

### Monthly Board Meeting:

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

June 6: Drinks on the Driveway. “Activities”

June 16: Let’s Walk/Let’s Hike. “Activities”

June 22: Glacial River Bike Ride. “Activities”

June 24: Second Harvest. “Activities”

June 28: Book Club. “Activities”

June 29: Live: Refugees of the Middle East. “Programs”

Sept. 13 – 20: Tour de Wisconsin! “Journeys”

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Please check our Wisconsin – Madison website ([ffwis.org](http://ffwis.org)) for any additions, updates or corrections to event schedules during the month, and keep an eye out for email updates as well. We don’t want you to miss anything!

Now that we seem to live on ZOOM, we remind you that ZOOM support is available from FFI and from our club.

View the FFI Zoom training video at

<https://vimeo.com/436845540>.

Or Contact Peter Kaufman [pkaufman@gmail.com](mailto:pkaufman@gmail.com)

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## JOURNEYS

### GET READY FOR THE TOUR DE WISCONSIN

September 13 – 20 we are hosting bicyclists from all over the US to enjoy our local bike trails.



**We need hosts.** You do not need to be a bicyclist to host. Several of them will be driving and bringing their bikes and some will be flying and will need to rent a bike. For them, we will need hosts who can transport a bike to the start of the day's ride and pick the biker up at the end. If you are a biker and can carry more than one bike, please volunteer to host.

We will need small dinner hosts as it will be difficult for hosts who are biking to do that as well as cook. We need people to be "on call" who can pick someone up if they fall or their bike breaks and they cannot finish the ride that day. We hope this doesn't happen, but we like to be prepared. We will need riders from our club to go with the group even if you cannot host.

Please contact me as soon as you are able and let me know what you are willing to do to help and make this Journey a success during this week in September (13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>). Thanks so much!

Stephanie Sorensen, Journey Manager  
ssorensen@gmail.com  
608 819-6646

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So far, this is the only definite journey information we have for 2021 and 2022. While we have journey assignments, we don't have confirmations of dates and firm plans. Please also refer to the May Newsletter. As per normal for COVID times, we wait and see.

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## JOURNEYS

### GET READY FOR THE TOUR DE WISCONSIN

#### Travel Safety Issues

With respect to COVID safety, we will always follow CDC and local guidelines in place at the time of travel. We also will require every Host and Ambassador from our club to be vaccinated and will ask anyone visiting us to also be vaccinated.

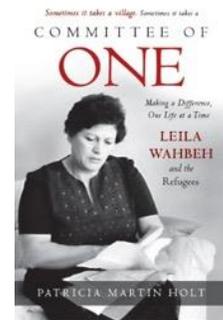
We have many members who can offer advice and guidance on how to manage this effort. Stephanie Sorensen has an excellent manual for your reference. Contact her at (608) 819-6646 or [ssorensen268@gmail.com](mailto:ssorensen268@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

### BOOK CLUB



Our next meeting will be **June 28th at 7:00 pm** on Zoom. We will discuss A Committee of One by Patricia Holt who will be speaking to the Friendship Force on June 29th about Refugees of the Middle East. (See Programs Committee article in this Newsletter).



Email Reta Haring at [retaharring@charter.net](mailto:retaharring@charter.net) if you want to attend. We are still meeting via ZOOM

On May 24 members discussed Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. This novel traces the lives of two sisters in Guyana in the early 1800's and follows 300 years of the histories of Ghana and America through the lives of the sisters and their descendants.

## ACTIVITIES

### BIKING

**Glacial River Ride - June 22 at 10:00 (no rain date at this time):**

Riders will meet at a trail parking lot 10 miles south of Fort Atkinson, where County Line Road intersects Hwy. 26. There is a sign for Glacial River Trail parking. The group will follow the paved trail/road into Fort Atkinson. After touring Fort Atkinson, we'll have lunch at the Jones' Farm Deli and Ice Cream shop and return to the parking lot. There are possibilities of riding this trail further north or south. The ride will be between 15 and 20 miles long.

Please bring helmet, mask, water, and \$ for lunch.

If you are interested in going on this ride, please let Jan Hornback or Cheryl Koerwitz know by Friday, June 18th.

Jan: [jhornback@wisc.edu](mailto:jhornback@wisc.edu) 608-216-4454 phone/text  
Cheryl: [ckoerwitz@frontier.com](mailto:ckoerwitz@frontier.com) 608-206-3776.

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On May 13 three riders rode from Olbrich Park through the East side of Madison and Maple Bluff, which was in full blossom, to Governor's Island on the north shore of Lake Mendota. The weather was superior and the bikers enjoyed beautiful views of Madison, many plants, and birds. On the return trip, the group stopped at Banzo for a delicious lunch



On May 25 five cyclists rode on in winds and threatening storms, on a fun ride from the west side of Madison to the EPIC Campus on May 25th. The ride around EPIC was really interesting and full of surprises. Riders spotted hedgehogs, dragons, Humpty Dumpty, trolls, and a flying pig among numerous other delights. Cyclists lunched at the trailhead park in Verona on nummy food from Tuvalu Coffee House. On the return trip we saw cranes and white pelicans.

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## ACTIVITIES

### BIKING

#### "Pop-up" Rides

Rides that come about, with short notice, for a beautifully forecasted day. Let Jan Hornback know if you want her to put you on her pop-up list. Jan at: 608-216-4454 or at [jhornback@wisc.edu](mailto:jhornback@wisc.edu)

### LET'S WALK LET'S HIKE

On **Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 1:00 p.m.**, after a long winter-break, we will resume our scheduled monthly walking and hiking events. Our June walk will take us to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. We will follow a roughly 3-Mile path which may or may not include climbing up to Frederick's Hill. We can adjust our plans to participants' speed and comfort level. The trails are not paved, so please wear sturdy shoes.

If you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, wearing a mask will not be necessary. However, if you are not vaccinated for any reason, please wear a mask to protect your friends. We thank you!

If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to [magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com), so that I can send you parking and meeting point information, and a map about our planned path. I will also contact you in case we have to cancel the walk due to inclement weather. See you there!

### SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK



Our service project at the **Second Harvest Foodbank** will be on **Thursday, June 24, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 2802 Dairy Drive.**

Did you know that Second Harvest Food Bank helps those facing hunger through a Mobile Pantry Program that serves participants in areas of high need to supplement other hunger-relief agencies in that area? Food recipients pick up boxes as they drive through the distribution site. Second Harvest is a real jewel in our community

Let leader Lois Schulz ([loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com)) know of your interest by June 22.

## ACTIVITIES

### DRINKS ON THE DRIVEWAY ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup>

We are back in person! Our next Drinks in the Driveway is on **Sunday, June 6, from 4:30** until about 6:00 pm. Each host will determine the number of guests who can comfortably and safely attend. We are hoping many, if not all of you, have been vaccinated. Please contact a host by Saturday June 5 to request attendance – first come, first served!!! The hosts who have offered their homes are:

Larry Neuman and Diane Mertens at 2935 Forest Down in Fitchburg. Phone 608 271-8657, email [WLNEUMAN@yahoo.com](mailto:WLNEUMAN@yahoo.com).

Sandi and George Wysock at 102 Acadia Drive in Madison. Phone 608 833-5326, email [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com).

Larry and Diane ask you to bring your own lawn chair and the Wysocks will probably have enough chairs. Please bring your own beverage in a container and provide your own glass or cup if needed. Light individual snacks will be served. Conversation can continue until the group decides to conclude.

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On **Thursday May 6** members gathered in the sun at the Daisy Café and Cupcakery to enjoy company and conversation in a welcoming outdoor setting.



## PROGRAMS

### GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

Our sister-organization's Global Conversations series program of Pennsylvania State University will take a break for the summer. The program will pick back up in the late summer and our Newsletter will announce their schedule

### CULTURAL PROGRAM : REFUGEES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

**Live presentation by speaker: Patricia Martin Holt**

Date and time: **Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. CDT (5:30 p.m. EDT)**

Duration: approximately 1 hour 30 minutes

In order to get the Zoom link to this event, please RSVP to Magdi Sebestyen, at [magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com)

Patricia Martin Holt is the author of two books, Committee of One” and Empower a Refugee - Peace of Thread & the Backyard Humanity Movement. Ms. Holt was the recipient of the 2013 Georgia Author of the Year prize. She has personal experiences with Palestinian refugees in camps in Amman, Jordan, and she has devoted her time and efforts to support refugees to overcome the trauma of their losses, and to help them establish a new life. You can read more about her, and follow her posts and commentaries on her online blog at: <https://patriciamartinholt.com/>

Her books are not available in our Public Library System, but we have a few copies that are now circulating among interested members. If you wish to take a look at her books prior to the presentation, please contact [magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com)

### TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIENDSHIP FORCE of WI - MADISON



Following the success of the first and second Trivia Nights in February and May, the Programs Committee will continue to create and offer more challenging evenings of trivia. Stay tuned.

On May 19 from 4:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. sixteen adventurous souls participated in our second trivia night. The competition was fierce with a lot of kibbitzing and laughter among the four teams. Thank you to Peter Kaufman for his technical support.

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## KNOW YOUR MEMBERS



Diana and Bernie Long

### Bernie Long: A True Ambassador for World Peace

Bernie's inspiration to become involved in Friendship Force and his enthusiasm for its mission can be traced to Wayne Smith, a Presbyterian Missionary, and to former President Jimmy Carter. After working as a missionary in Brazil, Rev. Smith had lunch with President Carter and the First Lady. He spoke to the President about the importance of person-to-person diplomacy based on friendship. On a napkin, Smith wrote notes and drew diagrams for an organization he called, The Friendship Force, a club with the motto, "A world of friends is a world of peace." Bernie's admiration for these two men led him to Friendship Force-Wisconsin.

Bernie and his wife Diana participated in their first Friendship Force journey in 1980, traveling to South Korea with 250 Ambassadors from Madison, Minneapolis, and Great Falls, Montana. Their homestays in Busan and in Seoul were learning experiences. Their Busan hosts and their school-age son spoke no English, and Bernie and his wife knew only a few Korean words. Hoping to treat Bernie and his wife to a typical American meal, the couple served hot dogs! With the help of a neighbor who spoke some English, Bernie communicated that he and Diana would enjoy eating Korean food. With the host couple's assistance, they learned about Korean bathing and sleeping practices. The Longs developed a lasting relationship with their host families and later hosted a South Korean family who visited Madison.

The Korea trip initiated a life-long involvement with Friendship Force. That trip was followed by dozens of international journeys and hosting that span several decades. Bernie and Diana visited Austria, Belize, Columbia, England, Germany, Israel, Russia, Scotland, Turkey, and Wales with the Friendship Force, and they hosted visitors from Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Palestine, and Russia. In addition to international trips, the Longs participated in many domestic journeys with the club. These included "mystery" trips to Midwest locations; club members did not know the destination until they arrived.

In his autobiography, Bernie writes: "The basic idea [of Friendship Force] was to stay with people in their homes.

## KNOW YOUR MEMBERS

It was a very different way to travel.... [We] embraced the slogans, 'Faces not Places' and 'Arms that embrace, not arms that kill' and a very important reminder, 'Always be flexible.' We learned... and helped others to understand that this kind of travel cannot be looked upon as a 'vacation.' It can be hard work. It is not easy to go to someone's home you do not know and whose language you do not understand...."

Bernie served as President of Friendship Force-Wisconsin in 1991 and in 2005. Bernie attended numerous regional and international Friendship Force conferences. He spoke fondly about the International Conference that was held in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2000. Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter attended. Chip Carter was the International President of Friendship Force at that time. Meeting the Carters was a highlight of Bernie's Friendship Force experiences.

In addition to Friendship Force journeys, Bernie traveled with peace and justice organizations to Latin American and the Middle East. He went to the Texas-Mexican border in the early 1980s to study Central American refugee issues and to march with Cesar Chavez. With the Center for Global Education, he traveled to El Salvador and Nicaragua to observe the American sponsored war. In addition, he worked with the Ecumenical Partnership for Peace and Justice to host Palestinian teachers and went to Washington, DC, to talk with legislators about Middle East issues.

Bernie and Diana moved to The Jefferson in Middleton three years ago. Sadly, Diana passed away last year. However, Bernie continues to serve as a "Global Ambassador." He is known as "The Professor" at The Jefferson and conducts seminars on various topics. Some seminars, such as the one entitled, "What Is Happiness?" have a philosophical focus. Recently, Bernie discussed current issues in Central America, and he is offering workshops on Russian History and its importance to contemporary politics.

Bernie's experiences with traveling and hosting forever changed his life. He reads newspapers and understands the news differently because of friends he made across the world. He recognizes that global crises affect real people, not unknown strangers. He concluded his autobiography with the following thoughts: "The Friendship Force idea of traveling and living with families for the purpose of friendship has... contributed to the dream of world peace." Bernie hopes that Friendship Force ambassadors will continue to build a more peaceful world.

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## UPDATES

### SCAMS AND SPAMS

Recently members of our Board (and some members?) received an email from “Kathy Speck” about gift cards that was **NOT** an email from Kathy. The subject matter appeared reasonable so that some members may have accepted it. However, the email was a scam. It seems that it is time for a refresher on the subject of internet scams.

To protect our members, our emails, and our computers from internet scams here are some guidelines. Once you understand how scam emails work, you will be able to recognize them ***before*** you open them and **DELETE THEM IMMEDIATELY**. **You can always contact the supposed sender through alternate channels like telephone to confirm if the message was legitimate.**

**PHISING** is a scam typically carried out through unsolicited emails and/or websites that pose as legitimate sites. But when they are opened, they can ask you for personal and financial information or transmit viruses to your computer.

If you receive an email on your computer or mobile phone claiming to be from FFI or FFWisconsin or a Board member that contains a request for personal information or a financial contribution:

1. Don't reply.
2. Don't open any attachments. They can contain malicious code that may infect your computer or mobile phone.
3. Don't click on any links.
4. Delete the original email.

While these guidelines cannot create total internet safety, they can help protect you from unwanted and sometimes harmful intrusions.

## **BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

**Membership:** Lise R. Skofronick 608-274-7732  
[liskofronick@gmail.com](mailto:liskofronick@gmail.com)

**Journey Manager:** Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-6646  
[ssorensen268@gmail.com](mailto:ssorensen268@gmail.com)

**Activities:** Gail Holmes 608-249-1846 [glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)

**Outreach:** Dorothy Baldwin 608-742-6493  
[janddbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:janddbaldwin@gmail.com)

**Communications:** Sandi Wysock 608-833-5326  
[sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)

### **Program :**

Mike Lambert (608)-577-1057  
[lambertmichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:lambertmichaelj@gmail.com)  
Magdi Sebestyen (608)-213-5768  
[magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com)

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS**

Leaders for specific activities are:

Let's Hike/Let's Walk–Magdi Sebestyen  
([magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com](mailto:magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com))

Winter Snow-Shoeing/Cross-Country Skiing--Tamas Gaal ([tgaal@wisc.edu](mailto:tgaal@wisc.edu))

Second Harvest Food Bank–Lois Schulz  
([loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com))

Travel/Day trips–Donna Hussin ([djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com))

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS**

### **Activities Committee Members:**

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

Leaders for specific activities are:

Adopt-A-Highway–Stephanie Vanden Bush  
([sljacobs2@gmail.com](mailto:sljacobs2@gmail.com))

Bike Rides – Jan Hornback ([jhornback@wisc.edu](mailto:jhornback@wisc.edu))

Book Club – Reta Haring ([retaharring@charter.net](mailto:retaharring@charter.net)) and  
Marian Ehrenberg ([marianeh2014@gmail.com](mailto:marianeh2014@gmail.com))

International Institutes–Helen Ann Rugowski  
([haharrin@hotmail.com](mailto:haharrin@hotmail.com))

Let's Eat Out (LEO)–Bobbie Vrooman  
([bobbiesque@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiesque@gmail.com))

Dining on the 6<sup>th</sup> – Gail Holmes ([glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu))

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
**Official Publication of**  
**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison**  
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