



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



ffwis.org

OCTOBER 2021

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our Fall meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 24 at Maple Bluff Beach Park. We'll have a short business meeting, followed by some fun activities and connecting with friends. In the meeting, we'll talk about our club's plans going forward, as well as updates from Friendship Force International. Since our club has no journeys planned for the next several months, the main focus of the meeting will be getting your input on ways that our club can continue to fulfill FFI's mission **to promote global understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through individual friendships.**

One idea that the board has been discussing is the possibility of our club participating in projects that would support refugees in Wisconsin. We could partner with any of the numerous local organizations who are working with refugees in the area. We will share some of the information that we have gathered, and invite you to share your thoughts and any information you have gathered about the refugee support efforts, and any other ideas that you'd like the club to consider.

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to the 2021 Biking Journey Committee: Stephanie Sorensen, chair, and the entire village of Maureen Kind, Sandi Wysock, George Wysock, Diane Mertens, Larry Neuman, Mary Juckem, Mike Lambert, Vivian Norton, Lise Skofronick

Building on the foundation laid by Hank Weiss and the 2020 Biking Journey Committee, they created a fun and interesting program of bike rides and activities showcasing the beauty that surrounds us in Wisconsin. In spite of the journey cancellation due to some participants testing positive for Covid-19, a number of our members were still able to enjoy the planned ride itineraries together during the journey week.

Thank you all!

See you on the 24th!
Kathy Speck

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting:

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

October 6: Dining on the Sixth. "Activities"

October 20: Adopt-a-Highway. "Activities".

October 24: Club Fall Meeting and Social.

October 25: Book Club. "Activities"

Oct. 28: Second Harvest Food Bank. "Activities"

Please check our Wisconsin – Madison website (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

FFI President Jeremi Snook just posted a wonderful video on the FFI website, offering perspective on the ever-changing circumstances of the post-Covid world:

It is not change we have to worry about, but whether individually and together we can make a difference.



JOURNEYS

THE TOUR DE WISCONSIN

We very sadly made the decision to cancel the incoming Bike Journey scheduled for September because a few of the hosts and bikers tested positive for Covid. All of them had been vaccinated and had proved it with documentation. But the breakthrough cases seem to be coming up more frequently than anyone anticipated. The Journey Planning Committee met and recommended to the Board to cancel. The Board then took it up and voted unanimously to cancel with only a week to go before their arrival. It was a sad day, but it did make everyone involved more comfortable.

DALLAS TX IN 2022

We have been invited to visit Dallas in March or April of 2022. Please let Journey Manager Stephanie Sorensen know **before the October 14** Board meeting if you are **seriously interested** in going to Dallas, TX in March or April 2022.

The information will help the Board determine if we should agree to a date. If a journey is agreed we will need an Ambassador Coordinator. Anyone who is interested in the Dallas journey and would be willing to do that job should volunteer now. For planning purposes, March and April 2022 are not as far away as we might imagine.

Please contact Journey Manager Stephanie Sorensen if you are interested in being an Ambassador Coordinator and/or participating in the journey. Email Stephanie at: ssorensen268@gmail.com or call 608 819-6646.



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ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE SIXTH



We're hoping for continued pleasant weather for our outdoor dining on Wednesday October 6th at Village Green at 7508 Hubbard Ave. in Middleton as we gather at the umbrella tables on the patio at 11:30 a.m.

The Village Green is known for its "best burgers." Their inexpensive menu choices include items including veggies, spicy chili and seafood gumbo, salads, four kinds of reubens, a variety of other sandwiches, and, of course, burgers. On Wednesdays, their special is sloppy joes with french fries or chips for \$8.50. Mixed drinks and beer are available at the full bar as well as non-alcoholic beverages.

Please register by Monday, October 4, with host Gail Holmes: giholmes@wisc.edu or 608 249-184. This may be the last hurrah outdoors for summer/fall so don't miss out on joining your Friendship Force friends for food and fellowship!

BOOK CLUB



The Friendship Force Book Club selection for October is the national bestseller "Transcendent Kingdom" by Yaa Gyasi. It is a deeply moving portrait of a Ghanaian family living in Alabama. Despite the traumas experienced by this complex family, it is ultimately a novel about the intersection of faith, science, religion and love. The book is available at the Madison library system. Please get a copy and join us on ZOOM October 25 at 7:00 pm. Email Marian Ehrenberg at: marianeh2014@gmail.com by October 21 for the Zoom key.

ACTIVITIES

BIKING - TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

When our Board of Directors canceled the inbound bike journey, Lise Skofronick challenged the planning committee to repurpose their months of preparation for the journey by “turning lemons into lemonade”.

Taking advantage of beautiful September days and carefully mapped out bike routes, several Madison Friendship Force members and their friends biked four of the six planned trips. As you read you will notice the common thread of ice cream running through each day, exploring different locations and tastes.

The bikers started with The Madison City Loop Tour which provided an overview of central Madison Tamas Gaal, an ardent rower, gave a guided tour of the Camp Randall Rowing Club's Brittingham Boat House on Monona Bay. Diane Mertens guided the riders through Olbrich Gardens and explained the history and significance of the Thai Pavilion. The group enjoyed lunch at Ian's Pizza in the historic Garver Feed Mill and ice cream at the Chocolate Shoppe.

During the McFarland Tour, the group biked on the Lower Yahara River Trail, which has the longest boardwalk bridge in North America constructed solely for non-motorized transportation. The mile-long bridge spans Lake Waubesa and connects Lake Farms County Park with McDaniel Park in McFarland. The trip included a guided tour of the McFarland Historical Society Museum and an ice cream stop at the historic McFarland House.

On the third day, the bikers rode the Glacial River Trail, passing through downtown Fort Atkinson, a beautiful sculpture park. and enjoyed a self-guided tour of the famous Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson. The tour introduced bikers to internationally acclaimed poet, Lorine Niedecker, who lived on Blackhawk Island in the Rock River; and the mysteries of the First Peoples' burial mounds in the Fort Atkinson area. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch and ice cream at the Jones Dairy Farm.

For a final fun-filled day, thirteen bikers rode the Military Ridge Trail and toured the Epic Campus. Following a route designed by FF-W member, Jan Hornback, the group saw the exteriors of several Epic themed buildings (the Chocolate Factory, Deep Space, Harry Potter, House of Cards, the Dairy Farm and more) and whimsical artworks that popped up at every turn.

ACTIVITIES

BIKING - TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

After climbing into the Epic tree house, the group continued riding to Riley, Klevenville, and Mount Horeb. They enjoyed an outdoor lunch and music at the Oktoberfest in Mount Horeb. After returning to Verona, some bikers made a final stop for Culvers' famous frozen custard.

The four days offered intrepid bikers over 100 miles of wonderful bicycling adventures to prepare them for their days' end ice cream fantasies – maybe even better than turning lemons into lemonade!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Please join us Wednesday October 20 at 1 pm 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. Members and friends will meet at the Middleton Park and Ride off Hwy 12 exit 249 at 1 pm.

Direct questions to Stephanie Vanden Bush sljacobs2@gmail.com or 920-676-1441.

SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK

Our service project at the **Second Harvest Foodbank** will be on **Thursday, October 28, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 2802 Dairy Drive.**

Second Harvest has a continuing need for more volunteers in order to continue to carry out its urgent mission to provide food and meals to food-insecure residents of Madison and Dane County.

Notify leader Lois Schulz (loisschulz1942@gmail.com) know of your interest by September 29.

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FF WISCONSIN-MADISON FALL MEETING AND SOCIAL

We will enjoy our Fall Meeting and Social at 2 pm on Sunday October 24 at the Maple Bluff Beach Park Shelter.



The event will begin with a short business meeting to update members about Board activities and plans, and continue with a seasonal bonfire and s'mores, with fun pumpkin decoration and sunset over Lake Mendota.

We have requested Mother Nature to provide her best October weather.

Please use the RSVP sign-up sheet at the end of this Newsletter and return it to Doug Johnson by October 20th.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS UPDATES

PAT HOLT



Pat Holt was a member of Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison prior to moving to Atlanta to be closer to family. Pat has written two books: "A Committee of One: Making a Difference One Life At a Time" and "Empower a Refugee".

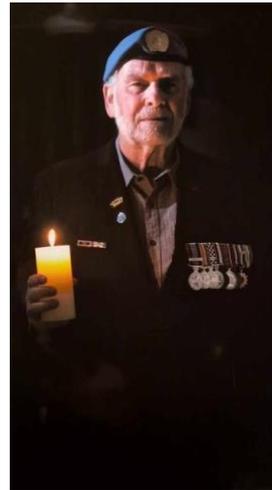
Our book club read her first book and Pat joined us via ZOOM in our discussion. Many of you joined in on this great discussion.

This week Pat announced that she won the Nellie Bly Award for investigative journalism in Chanticleer's International Competition for her nonfiction book EMPOWER A REFUGEE, Peace of Thread and the Backyard Humanity Movement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU PAT!

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS UPDATES

CHRIS STONE



Cathie and Chris Stone were one of our host families during our visit to the Central Coast of New South Wales, Australia. Chris also drove the van for our group on most days so all of our ambassadors will remember him. He was a veteran of the Vietnam war and also served with the United Nations peacekeeping missions. We thought you may be interested in the following update.

In April, the ANZAC day march is celebrated in Australia to remember all those who have served in combat. Due to COVID the march has not happened for the past two years. Several years ago, Chris was chosen to work with a group of artists for a series of photographs, sculptures, stories and paintings that were done with 60 returned service men from around Australia.

During our visit in Australia we were able to see the sculpture of Chris proudly displayed on his desk. Because the service people could not March during the past two years, Australians have honored the veterans by standing in their driveways at 5:00 am with candles. The same group of artists that created the sculpture and other art decided to photograph 20 veterans in the dark holding a candle. Chris was one of the 20 veterans selected. This is the photo of Chris wearing his United Nations beret. Chris's family and friends are all quite proud of him and all that he has accomplished.

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BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Lise R. Skofronick 608-274-7732

liskofronick@gmail.com

Journey Manager: Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-6646

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

Programs:

Mike Lambert (608)-577-1057

lambertmichaelj@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 Harring (retaharring@charter.net) and Marian Ehrenberg (marianeh2014@gmail.com)

International Institutes – Sandi Wysock sandrawysock@msn.com

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

Dining on the 6th – Gail Holmes (glholmes@wisc.edu)

Winter Snowshoeing/Cross-Country Skiing--Tamas Gaal (tgaal@wisc.edu)

Second Harvest Food Bank--Lois Schulz (loisschulz1942@gmail.com)

Day trips--Donna Hussin (djhussin@yahoo.com)

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FRIENDSHIP FORCE WISCONSIN-MADISON

FALL MEETING and SOCIAL



When: Sunday October 24, 2021

Business Meeting at 2 pm
Social/Activities at 2:45
Bonfire, s'mores, pumpkin decorating, friendship

Where: Maple Bluff Beach Park Shelter
365 Lakewood Blvd.
Village of Maple Bluff

We have reserved the shelter until 6 pm, so you can stay and watch the sunset over Lake Mendota if you wish!

This event is **BYOP: Bring your own pumpkin**

This event is also **BYOS: Bring your own sticks for roasting marshmallows**

The Club will supply paperware, apple cider, s'mores ingredients – marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate, as well as supplies for pumpkin decorating (feel free to bring your own also). Please **bring a lawn chair** and any other beverages you may want to drink such as soda or water.

RSVP your attendance by October 20, 2021 via email to: Doug Johnson at djohnson44@ameritech.net

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Hope to see you there!

