

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

August 2009



Hope you are all enjoying our cool summer!

The Summer Picnic on July 18th featured good food and good company. And we made a little money on our Silent Auction - thanks to all the purchasers! Our thanks go to Fannie Hicklin and members of her committee for organizing and implementing another very pleasant social event.

We will be welcoming a small contingent of ambassadors from Western Kentucky between August 10th and 15th Bernie Long and his committee has planned activities and we hope some of you will join in. Exact activities are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

The FFWisconsin ambassadors to Azerbaijan continue preparations for an exchange to Baku and Sheki. **Join the ambassadors at the bus stop at the Memorial Union between 8 AM and 8:30 AM on Aug. 31st as we wait for our ride to Chicago and the flight to Azerbaijan.** Donna Calvert has done a magnificent job of organizing and implementing the many facets of this exchange. Her patience during this process has been much admired!

As the days grow shorter, we anticipate a change of the seasons. And, likewise, we can anticipate a change in the leadership of our Club, as Mary Lindquist accepts the gavel as President and Chair of the Board of Directors, beginning with the September Board Meeting on Sept. 21st.

The Board members talked at the July Board Meeting about the possibility of surveying members, or some sampling of members, about how they view the state of our FFWisconsin Club. Bernie Long was asked to develop a committee who would consider ways

of asking members for their opinions. This could take a while before you see something concrete...but you are always welcome to pass on your views (preferably by email) about aspects of the Club to me, to Bernie, or to any other Board member.

By the next Newsletter we will have a set of Exchange Directors for the international and domestic exchanges. Then it will be your turn to decide how you want to participate...so...begin thinking about exchange committees for 2010.

MARY ANN FAHL, President 2007-09

WESTERN KENTUCKY WILL VISIT MADISON!!

Last call to get involved with Kentucky Exchange!!

This is a Domestic Exchange. It will be a 5 night stay -- August 10 -- 15, 2009.

We will be *Home Hosting*, having some group pot-luck dinners and doing some activities such as the Upper-Dells boat trip, cheese factory and store, back porch concert with ice cream and home made pies. But most important of all -- good conversation and friendship.

If you would like to get involved with any or all of this please contact us. We would be glad to have you join in with this Friendship Force activity.

VOLUNTEERS -- please call or e-mail Bernie & Diana at bdlong@tds.net or call (608) 849-5592.

BERNIE & DIANA LONG. Exchange Directors

WHA – TV COMMITTEE

The WHA Auction this spring was another huge success and your Friendship Force Club played a big part. A big sincere "Thank You" to the following Members: Richard Shropshire, Helen Rugowski, Lise Skofronick, Ken and Carol Kosciak, George and Sandra Wysock, Bea and Gene Dewey, Mary Ann Fahl, Nancy Germon Denton, Neil Denton, Kay Babcock, and Susan Becker.

Our Club volunteers hours of service to our local Public Television station. We typically help out twice a year. We help with a membership drive and help taking phone calls and pledge amounts once a year. Our second effort is helping with the auction fund drive. Our club typically donates seventy five person hours per year to these worthwhile events. Twenty five hours to the pledge drive and fifty hours to the auction fund drive.

The committee chair person makes a few phone calls and puts an invitation to help in the newsletter. I usually get up at one of our annual meetings and have a sign up sheet available. Our club members are very good about helping out. We usually have five or six people help with the pledge drive and ten or twelve help out with the auction. The previous chairperson Jerry Fuller gave me a folder with good information.

As chair person, I gather the names, telephone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses and pass them on to the TV station. They want a form filled out, but I just call in with the names and they have all the information on their computer files. When some one new wants to help out, I give the station all the new information.

This activity is a community service project, gives Friendship Force some notoriety (usually we wear our FF vests on air), and provides some comradeship within our club.

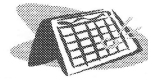
KEN KOSCIK, Chairperson
608-222-9513

Vests, anyone?

Some of the distinctive FFW vests must be hiding in members' closets. Will you please check to see if you might have one and then call Rad Becker to let him know. The Store is the depository for the vests.

When used they should be returned to the Store so they are ready for the next event.

RAD BECKER, Store Chairperson 231-1817



2009 - 2010 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting - Third Friday - 11:30 am
Everyone welcome - 615 E. Washington Ave., 2nd fl.

August 10 – 15, Western Kentucky to Wisconsin *

August 21 – Board Meeting & Newsletter Deadline

August 24 – Azerbaijan Workshop *

Aug 31 – Sept 15 – Wisconsin to Azerbaijan *

October – Mystery Trip October 15 – 19 **

2010 - FFW Exchange to Costa Rica

Exchange from Montreal Canada

Tucson to FFW – July

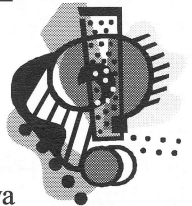
FFW to Oklahoma

October 13 – 15, 2010 FFI Conference

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or prev. announced

DID YOU KNOW ????



Our sympathy goes out to the disappointed Friendship Force of Okinawa members who were preparing to host the Friendship Force International Conference this fall. Having planned the Conference ourselves in the year 2000 we know a lot of hard work was done and then to have it called off!!!

It seems that only 20 people had signed up as compared to about 200 in other years. Do you think it could be?

- 1 FFI members are getting old and it is hard to travel?
- 2 Location being in the AIM of fire of North Korea?
- 3 Less money this year to spend on the trip to Okinawa?
- 4 What are your ideas?

MARGO LINDL, Historian

Friendship Force of Wisconsin to Azerbaijan

FFW ambassadors to Azerbaijan are scheduled to leave Monday, August 31, 2009 from the Memorial Union at 8:35 a.m.

If anyone would like to join the group wishing them farewell, we welcome everyone to join us. **Ann Dolderer is in charge of the committee to send them off and welcome them home September 14. Please contact her at 637-7154 if you would like to help.**

Eighteen fellow FFW members and two Montgomery, Alabama FF members plan to visit Azerbaijan the first two weeks of September.

My observation has been that many people seem unaware of this country. I confess that I had to learn how to pronounce the place first, then how to spell it. Let me share a bit of information about where we will be.

Azerbaijan is located between Georgia (northwest), Russia (north), Iran (south), Armenia (west) and the Caspian Sea (east). Our first week, we will be home hosted in the capital city, Baku, which is located on the Caspian Sea. Petroleum is a main industry; in fact, I am told we will be experiencing it by way of our sense of smell as well as visit one of the facilities.

Looking at the itinerary, it appears there will be much history and culture to learn. I confess that this is an area of our world that I know almost nothing about. Thanks to FFW member David Knuti, Azerbaijan natives Parvin Ahanchi and Nezaket Hassani and to our ambassadors, much information has been shared. The Baku FF president and the Exchange Director have been with us twice. In fact, she first became aware of Friendship Force at our annual meeting five years ago. It will be a reunion for some of us.

The second week we will be staying in the mountains in the town Sheki, one of the oldest settlements in the Caucasus. In fact some "finds" in the area are 2500 years old. Part of the time we will stay in a hotel which is more than 200 years old. Also we will stay with friends of the Baku FF members part of the time.

The plan is to share some of our experiences at the Fall Festival in October. FFW members who plan to be with this Exchange include David Blado, Marian

Ehrenberg, Mary Ann Fahl, Ariel Ford, Don and Ginger Gostomski, Reta Harring, Fannie Hicklin, Jane Kessenich, Margo McKnight, Jane Scharer, Nancy Shermo, Neil Denton, Lise Skofronick, Judy Taylor, Richard and Margy Walker and myself. Anyone who would like to send us off August 31 and/or welcome us home September 14, please contact Ann Dolderer (837-7154.) for details.

One more workshop is scheduled August 24.

DONNA CALVERT Azerbaijan Exchange Director
608-233-7536 dollycal@aol.com

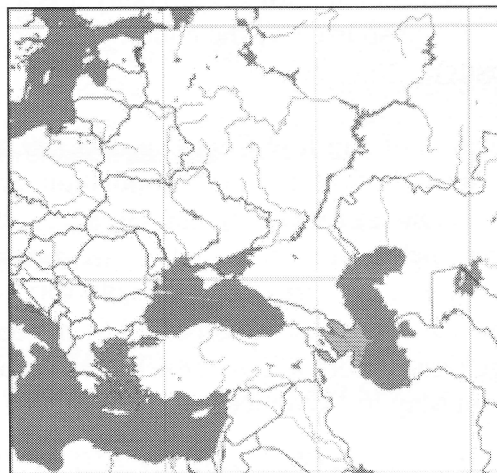
ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Annual Summer Picnic was attended by over 100 hungry members. Remembering past picnics when the weather was sweltering hot, this occasion was a cool almost 'fall like'.

The Activities Committee and Chairperson Fannie Hicklin thank everyone who attended and also all who contributed items for the silent auction. The proceeds of the auction help finance other activities.

The Fall Festival will feature the Azerbaijan Exchange and future activities will be announced soon

FANNIE HICKLIN, Chairperson Activities
608-233-5748



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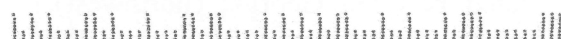
August 2009
Western Kentucky Hosts Needed
2009 – 2010 Calendar

David & Jane Dohler
4920 Winnequah Rd
Madison WI 53716-2508

2009

President: Mary Ann Fahl 249-4158
Vice Pres: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Secretary: Margaret Ann Miller 831-0652
Treasurer: Diana Long 849-5592
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

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Exchange Wisconsin to San Jose, Costa Rica

Approximately April 2010

San José is the capital and largest city of Costa Rica. Located in the Central Valley, San José is the seat of national government, the focal point of political and economic activity, and the major transportation hub of this Central American nation.

Founded in 1738, San José is one of the youngest capital cities in Latin America by year of conception, though it was not named capital until 1823. Today it is a modern city with bustling commerce, brisk expressions of art and architecture, and spurred by the country's improved tourism industry, it is a significant destination and stopover for foreign visitors.

The population of San José Canton is 346,799, though the metropolitan area stretches beyond the canton limits and comprises a third of the country's population. San José exerts a strong influence on a wider range because of its proximity to minor cities (Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago) and the country's demographic assemblage in the Central Valley.

The city lies at a mean elevation of 1,161 m above sea level, and enjoys a stable climate throughout the year, with an average temperature of 23C (73F) and annual precipitation of 1800 mm, more than 90% of it falling in the rainy season from May to November.

University of Santo Tomás, the first university of Costa Rica was established here in 1843. San José serves as the headquarters of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The city is served by Juan Santamaría International Airport, 23 km west of downtown, in the city of Alajuela.