



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

August 2013



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The FFW picnic was held on July 18. It was a beautiful night. There was a mix-up regarding the shelter reservation but the event was relocated to an even nicer more private shelter on the lake shore. Everyone was flexible and adjustments were made quickly to accommodate the change. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the event successful.

We did not hold a board meeting on July 19 because many of the board members were traveling to Washington and Oregon. From what I understand the exchange was a great success--everyone had a good time, saw many beautiful sights, and returned home safe and sound. Gail will give a more complete exchange report in our September newsletter. Our next exchange will be the incoming exchange from Vyborg arriving in mid-September, and our next board meeting will be on Friday, August 16.

Sandi and I have been invited to participate in a planning committee gathering for the Midwest Regional Conference. The purpose is to determine the theme of the conference, identify specific breakout sessions and presenters. The meeting will be held July 27 at Dave Kalan's house. I hope we can develop an interesting program for the conference.

In Friendship,

**George Wysock, President**

## EXCHANGE DIRECTOR NEEDED

We have been offered and accepted for the month of October 2014 an incoming exchange with Campinas Brazil. It's a great opportunity to serve your club. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please let me know. My e-mail address is [georgewysock@msn.com](mailto:georgewysock@msn.com).

**George Wysock, President**



## 2013 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**August 24 - Fall MFIS Welcome to Wisconsin Picnic\*\***

**August 26 - Crafter's Group Meeting\***

**September 15-17 -Vyborg, Russia Inbound Exchange\***

**September 28 - Adopt A Highway\*\***

**October 27 - Fall Festival\*\***

**November 23-25 - World Conference, New Orleans\*\***

**December 7 - Holiday Party\*\***

**February 15-28, 2014 - Tucson/Phoenix Outbound Exchange\***

**August 23-28, 2014 - Global "Arts & Architecture" Exchange\*\***

**October 2014 - Campinas Brazil Inbound Exchange\*\***

**2014 - Berlin/Vilnius Outbound Exchange\*\***

\* Information in this newsletter

\*\* Information to be announced later or previously announced

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## Incoming Vyborg Russia Exchange, September 15 -17, 2013

We finally have confirmed dates for the incoming Vyborg Exchange. There will be eight ambassadors from this new club who will visit Madison. This is their first outgoing exchange and their first trip to the US.

Because we have just learned the dates, we are now hustling to put together an itinerary. Opportunities to participate will be communicated by email and in the next newsletter. **Sign up times will be short!!!! If you would like to participate in any part of this exchange, please let me know by either calling or emailing me so that I can keep you informed.** We hope that many of you can meet our Vyborg Ambassadors during their short stay.

We still have need for one hosting opportunity. If you are interested, please let me know. Also let me know, if you are interested in being a day host, dinner host, part of the welcoming group at the airport or have an interest in participating in our farewell dinner. Please contact me at 608-833-5326 or [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com).

**Sandi Wysock, Exchange Director**



## GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

**International Institute of  
Wisconsin (IIWI)**

We had one very successful dinner hosting exchange with this organization in June. We have another that will take place in August with guests from China by the time you receive this newsletter. This newsletter includes articles from more of those who were hosts in June. If you would like to be contacted by the Institute for this or future dinner hosting dates, an application is necessary. Please contact me with any questions or for an application.

**Helen Ann Rugowski, 608-238-9731**



Gloria Stange - Email  
[gloriastange43@gmail.com](mailto:gloriastange43@gmail.com)



## Arizona Outbound Exchange February 15-28, 2014

Applications for the Tucson and Phoenix exchange in February 2014 are now being accepted. **The ambassador selections will be made by October 1, 2013.**

The cost has not been determined. Discussions are ongoing for possible activities with the two Exchange Directors in Arizona. At present, in addition to the 89th Tucson Rodeo Days' Parade, we may visit the Desert Museum and Garden and Sabbino Canyon in the Tucson area. In Phoenix, we may tour the Heard Museum, Taliesin West, and the Musical Instrument Museum.

Ambassadors will set their own transportation to Arizona. Ambassadors must be able to climb stadium steps unassisted and to walk unassisted at least one mile on uneven or unpaved footpaths.

You can print the application form from the website [http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/forms/exchanges/Ambassador Application and Agreement.doc](http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/forms/exchanges/Ambassador%20Application%20and%20Agreement.doc). Complete the form along with a \$25 application fee payable to Friendship Force of Wisconsin and send to: Nancy Mueller, 3668 Rivercrest Road, McFarland WI 53558.

The clubs can host 15-20 ambassadors. Since this is a reciprocal exchange because Tucson visited Madison in 2010, to continue the relationships begun, preference will be given to those who home hosted. To encourage new FF members, preference will be given to those who have not yet gone on an exchange. If you have any questions, please contact me at 608-838-3575 or [RNMUELLER@yahoo.com](mailto:RNMUELLER@yahoo.com)

**Nancy Mueller, Exchange Director**

## CLUB PINS AVAILABLE FOR \$2

To purchase, contact our sales volunteer, Fannie Hicklin (608-233-5748). Pins can also be purchased at club activities.



## Hosting an International Institute of Wisconsin Dinner Experience on June 26, 2013

**FFW Hosts, Patrick J.  
Fleming and Kaye Beyer**



On Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Kaye and I hosted dinner for three international visitors from Cuba, Moldova, and Swaziland. It was a Wisconsin themed barbecue dinner with Johnsonville Brats, Oscar Mayer hot dogs and Black Angus prime beef hamburgers on the grill. Morrison Mkhonta, Director of the Information Resource Center (IRC) at the United States Embassy in Mbabane, Swaziland, was intrigued by our large grill and volunteered to do the cooking and he did an outstanding job! Morrison is a forty year old single man who explained the role of their king in relationship to their constitution and the democratic process. Since the king is above the law, it sometimes creates conflicts when his wishes run contrary to the will of the people.

Gladys Marquez, from Havana, Cuba, received a call from her son, who is in Miami, while she was with us. She also has a 13 year old daughter back home in Havana. Gladys shared with us examples of how the relationship between Cuba and the U.S. is warming up and from her perspective it is just a matter of time before it will be normal. Gladys is an Information Resource Center technician in the Public Affairs Office. She joined USINT in 2002 as a switchboard operator and quickly rose through the ranks. Although she liked the homemade apple pie, she chose a la mode with Schoeps New York Vanilla ice cream instead of a wedge of Wisconsin aged cheddar cheese on top.

Tamara Turcan, the youngest of the group, is the Director of the American Resource Center (ARC) at the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova, for the past two years and before that she worked for the American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS) administering exchange programs such as Open World and FLEX. She is a consultant for youth policies and development for the National Youth Council of Moldova. Her English was excellent since she earned her Masters degree in International Studies from the University of Queensland, Australia in 2009 and had many stories to compare and contrast that culture to our own. Tamara enjoyed the side dishes of cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, etc. because it reminded her of their own cuisine in Moldova. We learned a lot from Tamara on how Moldova has reassured their ethnic Russian minority that they will not join Romania and that the Russians will find equal status as citizens of Moldova.

They all spoke excellent English and had a wonderful sense of humor. Morris was the life of the party when he donned our granddaughter's curly wig that she wears for traditional Irish dancing. We urged him to grow his hair long because he looked so good in it. We hope our paths cross again in the future. A good time was had by all!



### **FFW Host Lise Skofronick**

The dinner at my place on June 26, 2013 was a most enjoyable evening! I hosted 3 international visitors and invited Jane and David Dohler, David Blado, and Helen Findley to join us.

It is easy to use superlative when talking about the international guests. Linda from Malawi entertained us by demonstrating how to wrap a scarf on a woman's head as it is her custom. She talked about her country traditions for a wedding, in particular hers a couple of years ago. Then she played the drum. Leena from Chennai, India, was so open in discussing several serious problems facing women. Ped from Laos was a little more quiet but participated in the conversations. He showed me how to use the timing feature in my camera so we could have a complete group photo. I would enjoy hosting a dinner again in the future for IIWI.

### **CRAFTER'S GROUP**



**Join us Monday, August 26,  
1:30 pm** at the home of Donna  
Hussin, 406 Lucille St, Verona,  
WI (608-845-3393). We plan

on working on projects for our Russian exchange. More specific information will be forthcoming via email. As always, those who enjoy knitting and crocheting are welcome to work on dish cloths.

Please share this information with other club members who may be interested. Also please let the hostess know if you are planning to come.

**Helen Ann Rugowski**

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**August 2013**  
**Incoming Russia Exchange**  
**Outbound Arizona Exchange**



<http://www.eventbee.com/v/ffiworldconference2013>

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**Pat Holt, a former member of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin, named Georgia author of the year in the Non-fiction/Inspiration category by the Georgia Writers Association**

Her book, “Committee of One, Making a Difference One Life at a Time,” published in 2013 is the true story of Leila Wahbeh’s determination to change the lives of her family and others as they fled from Jerusalem to Egypt in 1947 to escape war.

Pat lived in Jordan with her husband Lee who was working in Jordan as a hydrologist. Pat was searching for examples of beautiful needle work and textiles when she met Leila Wahbeh, who introduced her to the women in the Palestinian refugee camps. As Pat traveled with Leila, she saw conditions in the camps and observed Leila’s tireless efforts to make them more self-sufficient and improve their lives. The book describes conditions in the camps, Pat’s visits with Leila and the friendship that evolved.

Patricia winters in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia and summers near Durango, Colorado. More information is available on her website <http://patriciamartinholt.com/about-patricia/>