



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

February 2014



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this edition, Groundhog Day will have passed and we'll know if spring is on its way. Just in case spring is not around the corner, I and 21 others from here will be going to Arizona for the Tucson and Phoenix Exchanges February 15-28. I don't know about you but I'm ready for a change from this cold January.

I am very touched that so many members went beyond their renewal dues to give more. Your loyalty and generosity to our Club and its mission is truly gratifying. Thank you.

We do have a busy year ahead and are looking for people who would like to be Exchange Directors or work on planning committees for upcoming exchanges. Donna Hussin is the ED for the Utah Inbound in July and Donna Calvert is the ED for the Global Inbound in August. Both Donnas would welcome a call from you to help out. We are awaiting a definite answer about an inbound exchange from the United Kingdom in late September. This is a replacement for our inbound Brazil Exchange which has been cancelled. The UK appears to be a done deal actually and getting an ED in place now would make planning go much smoother. Please contact George Wysock at 833-5326 if you have an interest or questions.

Overture Centers International Festival is Saturday, February 22. This is the first year we will have an information table at the festival to publicize our Club and mission. We would welcome help to staff the table from noon to 5 pm. If you can help an hour or two, please contact Nancy Brown at 283-9040 to let her know what time you could work. If you can't commit to work, try to visit the festival anyway. This event is FREE. International arts, crafts, demonstrations, ethnic foods and musical performances fill the center and it is a wonderful venue for people of all ages.

The Valentine Luncheon is coming up on Sunday, February 9 at Fitzgerald's. I hope to see many of you there.

In Friendship,

**Helen Ann Rugowski**

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*



## 2014 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**February Board Meeting is canceled. Next meeting is March 21, 2014.**

**February 9 - Valentine Luncheon, Fitzgerald's Restaurant\*\***

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

**February 22 - Overture Center International Festival\*\***

**March 24 - Crafter's Group Meeting\***

**April 27 - Annual Meeting, Coliseum Bar\*\***

**May 1-3 - Midwest Regional Conference Milwaukee\***

**May 15-June 1 - Berlin/Poland Outbound Exchange\*\***

**July 16-22 - Utah Inbound Exchange\***

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

**October 14-16 - World Conference, New Zealand\***

\* Information in this newsletter

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

## Friendship Force of Wisconsin Facebook Page



Our Facebook Page has been updated with information about club activities and new photos from Turkey and Russia. If you are on Facebook, please search for the Friendship Force of Wisconsin and LIKE our page. We plan on posting photos of both past and current exchanges and information on upcoming social and membership events. Please share your pages with your friends and children. We want to begin spreading the word about the Friendship Force of Wisconsin so that others will learn about our mission and consider joining us.

**Sandi Wysock**



## International Conference Report--*Thinking Outside the Box: Professional Exchanges*

Mature clubs such as the Friendship Force of Wisconsin tend to think in terms of traditional exchanges but the world is changing. Many of the Midwestern Clubs do not receive incoming international exchanges. This is true of Wisconsin this year. Our only incoming international exchange has been canceled. Fortunately, we are participating in a themed exchange on Art and Architecture so we will have international guests for several days. Professional programs are becoming increasingly important to many clubs as a method of attracting global visitors.

There are many examples of professional programs that are being conducted in our area. Milwaukee hosted an Eco change, teacher exchanges are providing teachers from around the world with training in English, Computer Science, classroom skills, and required continuing education hours. Medical professionals, legal professionals, government officials, and professionals seeking to learn other languages are also visiting Friendship Force Clubs to learn more in their professional areas skills that they can use at home. High School exchange programs have also been conducted. Some of these programs are conducted through the auspices of programs such as Open World and others are simply programs created by Friendship Force members. The Friendship Force of Wisconsin participated in an Open World program last year hosting young government officials from the Ukraine.

Because these programs are a departure from our usual exchanges they take some work to develop but they also offer exciting opportunities for us to share in new ways. If you have expertise in a particular area or if you are simply interested and passionate about a particular subject let the board members know!!! Perhaps you like to create a language program, a program for teachers, medical programs, sustainable energy, share our natural environment? The opportunities are virtually unlimited.

**Sandi Wysock**

## Friendship Force 2014 International Conference October 14-16 Auckland, New Zealand

Registration will begin in January. Details to follow.



## 2014 Midwest Regional Conference, Milwaukee, May 1-4



### PLAN to ATTEND!

Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee is the host for our spring Midwest Regional Conference May 1-4, 2014. Although you might think the regional conference is only for presidents and/or board members – not true – the conference is open to ALL members! It's a great opportunity to meet others in the region who are committed to changing the way we see the world, to share ideas and learn from others, and to renew and/or strengthen friendships. The latest information is that the meetings will be at Brookfield Suites, formerly Embassy Suites, in Brookfield, near New Burlington. Double rooms, including "made-to-order" breakfasts and manager's cocktail hours are \$109. The registration fee, tentatively \$125-127, will include breaks, lunches, and a banquet. Possible breakout sessions include leadership and flexibility; how to look at exchanges differently; media; training new leaders; diversity; and a question and answer session. (Think "weekend spring trip")

**Helen Ann Rugowski, President**

## Arts/architecture Global Exchange August 23-28, 2014



Put these dates on your "things to do" in August, either as a host, day host and/or participant in the activities.

**Hosting:** Kay Babcock has offered to be in charge of interviewing and selecting members to host. She is experienced as head of this committee. If you would like to assist her, please contact her at 222-2111.

If you would like to host, let Kay know. Some members have already offered to host. Interviews will be held in April. Dates, times, and places will be announced in a later newsletter.

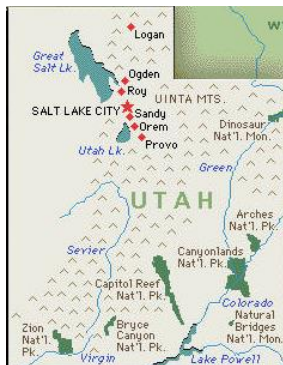
**Activities:** The committee has started to structure an appropriate list of activities. It is hoped that some activities will be new to our members.. Activities already planned include Epic, Taliesin, American Players' Theater back stage tour, dinner at The Feed Mill, Token Creek Chamber Music Festival, Monona Terrace, Capitol, Overture, and Madison Public Library. Other activities are still being considered but not reserved. One will be a hands-on activity.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, contact me at 233-7536 or [dollycal@aol.com](mailto:dollycal@aol.com). Committee members include Kay Babcock, Nancy Brown, Donna Hussin, Janet Lonergin, Helen Ann Rugowski, Margy Walker, and Sandi Wysock.

**Donna Calvert, Exchange Director**

## Utah Inbound Exchange July 16-22, 2014

The Salt Lake City Club is looking forward to their July visit and developing new friendships. To date at least 16 people from the club have expressed interest in visiting the Madison area.



July seems like a long ways off but spring will be here shortly after our club returns from the AZ exchange. We need to "dig in" with our planning in March. I will hold the initial planning meeting at my home in Verona in late March.

At the Valentine Luncheon on February 9 you will have the opportunity to sign up for the planning committee, be a host, day host or dinner host. If you would like to help and can't make the luncheon, please contact me at 608-845-3393 or [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com).

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**

## Your Help Is Needed!

The Board of Directors needs to develop a **Selection Committee for Exchange Directors**. George Wysock is the current Chair and needs 2 more members to help with this process. We do have an Ad Hoc Committee in the process of creating written guidelines which will prove to be helpful to the Selection Committee. Because Exchange Directors provide the leadership required for successful exchanges, the selection of that individual is most important. Please consider helping me and your club by giving me a call by March 15.

**George Wysock, 833-5326**



### Crafter's Group

Next meeting is March 24, 1:30PM at the home of Donna Hussin, 406 Lucille St, Verona, WI 608-3393 or [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com). All are welcome to enjoy crafting with us! Please let hostess know if you plan to attend.

## Valentine's Day Friendship Quotes

"A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else." --*Len Wein*

"We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend." --*Robert Louis Stevenson*

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." --*Thomas Aquinas*

"There is no friend like an old friend who has shared our morning days, no greeting like his welcome, no homage like his praise." --*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

"It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." --*J. K. Rowling*

"A loyal friend laughs at your jokes when they're not so good, and sympathizes with your problems when they're not so bad." --*Anonymous*

"Friendship is like money, easier made than kept." --*Samuel Butler*

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you. --*A. A. Milne*

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him." -- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*



**Hope you made plans to attend the Valentine Luncheon on February 9, 2014 at Fitzgerald's of Middleton! It's an opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships.**

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## **Address Service Requested**

**February 2014**  
**Midwest Regional Conference, May 2014**  
**FF World Conference, October 2014**

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Secretary: Jan Weber 223-1287  
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

## **LUGGAGE TAGS**

\$1.00 per tag

Available for the first time at the February 9 luncheon.



As announced in the January 2014 newsletter, the tags were approved by the Board at the December meeting. Each tag comes with an identification card insert.

We hope you will purchase some for yourself to put on your checked luggage, your carry-on bag, and even your purse. They also make nice gifts for ambassadors and guests visiting our club when you are hosting, as well as, gifts to take with you on an exchange. They are lightweight, unbreakable, and inexpensive!

What better promotion to support our club than this green “The Friendship Force” luggage tag!

**Gail Holmes**