



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

February 2017



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the time of year that we begin to look to 2017-2018. Yes, it is time to find our leaders for the coming year. Hard to believe! Our nominating committee is responsible for identifying members who are willing to serve as officers. Officers are elected at the annual meeting and then the President and Board of Directors begin to fill the other positions on the board. The goal is to have all of our leaders in place and ready to assume their responsibilities by September.

I am proud of the fact that we have seen an increase in the number of members serving on various committees, participating in activities and involved in exchanges. You are making our club more interesting and allowing us to offer more opportunities for all members. Thank You!! But you know how it goes. Someone has to steer the ship.

There are some critical leadership positions each year that seem to frighten everyone. Honest, they shouldn't be that scary.

Exchange directors are essential. The exchange coordinator works with other clubs to set our exchange calendar and also recruits exchange directors. If we cannot find exchange directors, we can be required to cancel an exchange. This can lead to fewer exchange assignments in the future. Please consider being an exchange director in 2018 and if you have experience as an ED, please help us mentor our new EDs. Exchange directors do have **up to 100%** of their exchange related costs covered.

Board Members are needed for leadership, a common component of all organizations. We must have officers, standing committee chairs, a newsletter editor, exchange coordinator and members-at-large. Open positions will be announced in the newsletter. If you are asked to fill any of these positions, please be flattered. We are asking because we feel you would be a great addition to the leadership team. The board meets the third Wednesday of each month from 1:15-3:15 p.m. Standing committees may hold additional meetings throughout the year. Yes, it is a commitment. No, it is not overwhelming. Yes, we all miss board meetings from time to time, so if you have travel or family commitments, everyone understands. Most important, we are REALLY friendly.

Sandi Wysock
President



2017 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting - Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, third Wednesday of the month, 1:15 p.m.

February 22-March 1, Wednesday-Wednesday--
Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange *

February 22, Wednesday—Newsletter Deadline

February 25, Saturday—International Festival *

March 25, Saturday—Book Club *

March 31, Friday—L.E.O., Dorf Haus, Roxbury (Fish & Turtle) *

April 23, Sunday—Annual Meeting ✍

May 10, Wednesday—Book Club ✍

May 19-26, Friday-Friday—San Diego Inbound Exchange ☺ (January)

June 23-30, Friday-Friday—Noumea, New Caledonia Inbound Exchange ☺ (January)

June 28, Wednesday, Annual Picnic ✍

August 8-14, Tuesday-Monday—Medicine Hat, Canada Outbound Exchange ✍

August 15-22, Tuesday-Tuesday—Vancouver, Canada Outbound Exchange ✍

August 25-28, Saturday-Tuesday—FFI 40th Anniversary World Conference, Manchester, UK*

September 8-13, Saturday-Thursday--Open World ☺ (January)

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

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Happy Anniversary

March 1, 2017
Friendship Force celebrates
40th Anniversary!

Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison has chosen to celebrate this anniversary during the entire month of March.

Where: Our member's homes
Time/Date of your choosing

Friendship Force International has suggested that we celebrate World Friendship Day and the 40th Anniversary of the Friendship Force by sharing a meal with friends and including at least 40% non-members. What better way to celebrate! We have always said that the act of sharing a meal and sitting across a table from one another can change the way you see the world. It is also a great opportunity to share information about the Friendship Force and reinforce your friendships.

What do we need from you? All we need to know is whether you are willing to host a meal during the month of March. After we would like your stories. That's it! Easy!

Will you be part of our celebration? Let me know by February 15 so I can tell international how many of our members are participating.

Sandi Wysock, President
608-833-5326
sandrawysock@msn.com

2017 Goals

The board is finalizing our budget and goals for 2017.

Donations, small returns from the exchanges, growth in membership and the fact that our president/vice-president did not attend the international conference last year supplemented our dues income in 2016. As a result we will come in under budget. We have received nearly \$1200 in donations since November and \$1820 in dues income that we retain in our club. Assuming that we support the equivalent of one officer's attendance at the Manchester England International conference, we will need to draw a small amount from our reserves in 2017.

Our goals for the year are as follows:

- Increase our membership by 15% and increase membership participation
- Implement a new member mentoring program
- Develop and implement a marketing plan
- Implement a leadership development plan
- Enhance our programming to benefit our membership and attract new members
- Hold leadership retreat with a focus on strategic planning
- Complete all assigned exchanges: Incoming San Diego and New Caledonia, Outgoing Guadeloupe and Medicine Hat/Vancouver Canada and one Open World Program

Questions welcomed!

Sandi Wysock, President
sandrawysock@msn.com
608-833-5326

Nominations Now Being Accepted

This is the time of the year when our nominating committee is recruiting persons to fill the officer positions of our club. If you are interested in serving as an officer, we would like to hear from you. Please contact me as chair of the Nominating Committee, if you are interested.

Donna Hussin, Chair 608-845-3393 or
djhussin@yahoo.com

Activities

BOOK CLUB

Saturday, March 25, 2017
2:00 p.m.
Stephanie Sorensen's Home
1624 C North Golf Glen, Madison



Book: One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment, Mei Fong, author

Our next read promises to provide a very thought provoking discussion. To quote Xinran Xue, "In human history, China's one-child policy is unique. If you want to understand how it affected the lives of ordinary people and Chinese society as a whole, you need to read this."

We hope you will be able to join us as we learn about China's failed attempt at social engineering and its effects on the Chinese people. Please RSVP to Stephanie Sorensen, stevils@charter.net or 608-819-6646.

Let's Go Out For...

March L.E.O.

Friday Fish Fry and
Turtle

Dorf Haus – Roxbury, WI
8931 Highway Y
Friday, March 31, 2017
5:00 p.m.

It's turtle time along with its usual family-style fish fry on Fridays during Lent at the Dorf Haus. The German influenced supper club located about a half hour northwest of Madison has been offering this Lenten tradition for more than 30 years.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and limited to **20** people for our group. The roast turkey meal is served with mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, coleslaw and Dorf Haus's signature fritters. Estimated cost including gratuity and tax is \$20-\$22. The family style fish fry is breaded haddock and served with fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw and the fritters. Estimated cost with gratuity and tax is \$16-\$17.

Please RSVP to Donna Hussin, djhussin@yahoo.com or 608-845-3393. Indicate turkey or family-style fish fry for your meal choice. Also indicate if you wish to car pool, can be a driver and number of passengers.

Join us to learn the story behind this tradition. Debate between your friends whether it tastes like chicken, turkey, pork or veal.

Donna Hussin

Overture Center 2017
Saturday, February 25
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Take a trip around the world in a day! Experience the cultures that Madison has to offer through food, crafts, and free performances.



EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Guadeloupe Outbound Exchange
February 22-March 1, 2017

Guadeloupe Ambassadors Immerse
Themselves in Tropical Culture

With less than a month to go before the exchange, the ambassadors to Guadeloupe have been in touch with their hosts via email. Several ambassadors attended the January 20, 2017 book discussion of Leonora, a memoir which revealed much about this overseas department of France, its culture and its history. On Sunday, January 22, many ambassadors attended the club outreach program at the Fitchburg Library. Dr. Jérôme Camal, a UW Anthropology Department professor, gave a fascinating presentation on the history and the music of Guadeloupe, with sample videos of famous groups performing the various types of music. Although only the "beguine" was familiar to most, everyone was foot tapping or swaying to the different rhythms heard. Since we will be in Guadeloupe during the period of "Carnaval" we were especially interested in the views of carnival parades and costumes. After the presentation a couple demonstrated the salsa dance and taught us how to do it. A map of the island was on view with the towns of the hosts highlighted so the ambassadors could get an idea of where they will be staying during the exchange. Refreshments of punch, coconut delights and dried banana, plantain, and mango slices introduced all to some of the tastes of this tropical island. A workshop for the ambassadors on January 29 will have us speaking a little French and sharing itineraries with a chance to ask any questions about the exchange and Guadeloupe.

Carnaval - Guadeloupe



Maureen Kind and Lise Skofronick
Co-Exchange Directors

Do you have a local/area/regional 1-day tour/festival you'd like our club to offer in 2017? If so, send to djhussin@yahoo.com

Sign-up for FFWI-Madison Club Inbound/Outbound Exchanges

A reminder that each of the following inbound exchanges need volunteers for their planning committee as well as serving as a home host, day host or dinner host. The Canadian outbound exchange is looking for people interested in being ambassadors. More information on these exchanges will appear in future newsletters. Email or give the exchange directors a call.

San Diego Inbound, May 19-26, 2017

Co-Exchange Directors

Gail Holmes

608-249-1846

glholmes@wisc.edu

Donna Hussin

608-845-3393

djhussin@yahoo.com

Noumea, New Caledonia Inbound, June 23-29, 2017

Exchange Director

Dan Eggerding

408-583-7021

Assistant Exchange Director

Lise Skofronik

608-274-7732

de_news@hotmail.com

lrparadis@yahoo.com

Medicine Hat Canada, August 8-15, 2017 and /Vancouver Canada, August 8-22, 2017 Outbound

Exchange Director

Peg Hutnik

608-334-4647

benhut@att.net

Assistant or Co (Vacant)

Open World (Media Literary), September 8-16, 2017

Co-Exchange Directors

Sandi Wysock

608-833-5326

sandrawysock@msn.com

Sandy Drew

sdrew24@tds.net

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Jane and West Licht

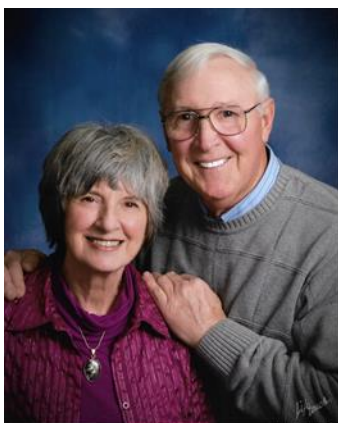
2964 County Road AB

McFarland, WI 53558

608-838-8178

licht.jane@gmail.com

Jane and West live on a small horse farm in the Town of Dunn. Both graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and earned master's degrees at UW-Madison. They are the parents of two daughters and have two grandsons.



Jane was for a time an elementary teacher and has worked part-time as a naturalist, reporter and pre-school teacher. She helped write the history of the Village of McFarland, served on the

County Board and held the office of Register of Deeds at one time. She is currently active in the McFarland Historical Society along with her husband, West.

West taught 4th and 5th grades in Madison for over 30 years. Since retirement he enjoys his horses, offering carriage and sleigh rides and teaching horsemanship to young riders. He serves on the Board of the McFarland Historical Society where he also prepares new displays and gives tours to 3rd graders. He volunteers to teach children about native wetlands and prairies.

Their first experience with Friendship Force was in 2007 when they helped a friend and were hosts for our New Zealand inbound exchange. They are committed to hosting ambassadors from New Caledonia this June. They enjoy traveling, having visited New Zealand, Australia, Costa Rica, and plan to visit Norway this summer.

As we participate in our club's activities and Jane and West have also joined us, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our organization.

Introducing our Ambassadors to Guadeloupe

Getting to know our members, those who have just recently joined and those who have been members for quite some time is one of our Board's objectives in 2017. What better way than to start with the 21 ambassadors participating in the outbound Guadeloupe exchange this month. We will use both the February and March newsletter to introduce them to you.

Maureen Kind (Co-Ed)

Madison, WI



Maureen was co-exchange director for the July 2106 inbound Guadeloupe exchange and is serving in that same capacity for the outbound exchange.

She joined the club in 2011 and is a recent widow and retired secondary and college French teacher, earning her degree from UW-Madison. She volunteers as a docent at the University's Chazen Art Museum and for the Red Cross. She enjoys the sports of curling, and bocce, bikes and cross-country skis. Much of her free time is taking up singing in several choruses with her favorite being opera... Maureen lived for a year in the French Pyrenees and returns often to see friends and hike the mountains. She hosted many international students over the years and has been an ambassador on exchanges to Russia, Berlin and Poland.

HAPPY 
Valentine's
DAY

Lise Skofronick (Co-Ed)
Fitchburg, WI

Lise was co-exchange director with Maureen Kind for the July 2016 inbound Guadeloupe and is serving in that same capacity for the outbound exchange.



She's been a member since 1998 and currently is on the Board serving as Outreach Standing Committee Chair. Her first language is French having been born in Québec, Canada. On a student exchange to the Netherlands studying for an MBA she met her husband, now deceased, in Belgium. After a few stops in the Midwest and Washington D.C. they settled in Madison. She has two sons and three grandchildren. As a retiree, she loves to travel, read, attend concerts, and visit museums. Lise has been an ambassador to Norderstedt and Berlin, Germany, Poland, Costa Rica, Russia and Azerbaijan and has hosted for several of our inbound exchanges.

David Blado
Stevens Point, WI

David's been a member since 2001 and is a retired social studies and history teacher. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Fiji Islands and taught English in Australia and Japan. He has been an ambassador to Russia, Romania, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Estonia, Canada and France. He is active in the Stevens Point retired teachers' association and in Sister City. David enjoys photography, reading, gardening, and playing cards.



Patrick Fleming
Madison, WI

Patrick, a Wisconsin native, has been a member since 2009 and is a retired Edgewood College professor where he trained future teachers and administrators. He currently works as an insurance agent for Wisconsin Physicians Services in Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. He loves to garden, raise bees, and ride his bike. He has taught English in Hungary, Mexico, Thailand and China. Patrick has previously been an ambassador to Azerbaijan, Colombia and Georgia. He has led a tour of his ancestral homeland, Ireland, and in May 2017 will be visiting to attend a family wedding.



Sueli Goulart
McFarland, WI

Sueli joined FFWI-Madison in 2016 and this will be her first experience as an ambassador with the club. Her first language is Portuguese having been born in Santos, Sao Paula, Brazil where she was a special education teacher before moving to America. She has two children. At UW-Madison she received her English as a Second Language license and a masters in Curriculum & Instruction and worked for the Madison school district for 20 years. Sueli has traveled extensively in the U.S., visited 18 countries in Southeast Asia and several more in South America.



Jan & Ivan Gruetzmacher
New London, WI

Jan and Ivan have been involved with FFWI-Madison since 1995 and have hosted and been ambassadors many times. Both are retired educators. Jan taught middle school family and consumer education. She enjoys cooking, sewing, shopping and entertaining. Ivan taught agriculture for a technical college and sold hybrid seeds for Pioneer Seeds. He continues to farm the family homestead established in 1892. When not working on the farm he enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, the Green Bay Packers, UW sports, and great conversation. Jan and Ivan have been married 49 years.



Peg Hutnik
Madison, WI

Peg joined the club in 2016 and is a first-time ambassador. She is single and has lived in Wisconsin most of her life. Prior to retirement she was a real estate broker, a teacher, and also worked for the State of Wisconsin. She enjoys hiking, traveling, water aerobics, reading, knitting, DIY crafts, the theater, good conversation and meeting new people. Also keeping her busy are her Sottish Terriers,



Kathy & Doug Johnson
Madison, WI

Kathy and Doug become members in 2006. Doug is a retired high school physics teacher and Kathy taught in middle school. Doug continues to be involved in science education, supervising student teachers and speaking at science conventions. Both volunteer at the Overture Art Center and are active in their church. Kathy also volunteers at a local senior housing complex. They have two children and three grandchildren. In June, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.



Kathy Speck & Gabor Kemeny
Verona, WI

Kathy and Gabor are both professionals and joined the club in 2016. They are another of our first-time ambassadors going to Guadeloupe. Kathy has worked in quality management in hospitals and medical device companies. Gabor runs a small company, Middleton Spectral Vision, specializing in research, spectroscopy and imaging. They are active outdoorsmen enjoying hiking, biking, kayaking, sailing, swimming, and snorkeling. Their quieter side enjoys music, art, theater and architecture. Gabor is also an avid reader, and has a particular interest in history while Kathy also enjoys reading, textile arts, and gardening. They have two children and two grandchildren.



Biographies on ambassadors, Lucy & Bob Lasseter, Audrey Liimatainen, Mary Mastaglio, Donna Ulteig, Mary & John Witte, and Sandi & George Wysock will be in the March issue.

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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February 2017

40th Anniversary Announcement
2017 Goals
March Book Club & L.E.O.

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Vice Pres:	Sandy Drew	833-5811
Secretary	Stephanie Sorensen	819-6646
Treasurer:	Judith Taylor	345-6827
Newsletter:	Donna Hussin	845-3393

Email Accounts:

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ffwis.outreach@gmail.com



Are you going? Registration is open.

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&>