



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

February 2016



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What does an intergenerational Friendship Force look like? I have been asking myself this question ever since I heard a presentation at the International Conference in Vancouver. A very enthusiastic presenter from Brazil described their Exchange Farewell and Welcome parties as intergenerational events where you invited your family, friends and neighbors to join in the festivities. As families joined, parents, grandparents and children are now hosting and traveling on exchanges together. What fun!

We often find that new retirees join us but there is also interest among young professionals who are working in a corporate culture that requires them to interact with people around the world. Today's global corporation's value employees who can relate to other cultures and who are willing to develop cultural literacy so if you think of us as a retirees club, think again. The Friendship Force is working hard to offer opportunities and programs for everyone. I believe the whole prospect of an intergenerational program is exciting but it does have its challenges. Co-hosting where two members split hosting responsibilities over a week are becoming more common. Exchanges will offer more alternative activities so that those seeking more active or flexible activities have a choice and that can make planning a little more complicated. Themed exchanges are also very popular. So my question to you is, Have you talked to your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends about the Friendship Force?

Would they be interested in attending a meeting to learn more? Have you referred them to our membership chair, Mary Lindquist, or to our web site?

We hosted a booth at the International Festival January 9, 2016 and 37 people signed up to attend meetings for prospective members. I personally know of an additional six people that have been added since then. Let's be ready to welcome our new members! We are changing and we are growing.

We received a very nice thank you letter from Jeremi Snook, President of the Friendship Force International, for our contribution to the "I'm In" Campaign, see page 5. We have contributed \$2130 so far and we expect that there will be a few additional contributions when all of the membership renewals are received.

Explore • Understand • Serve®



2016 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

February 1—Informational Meeting *

February 2—Book Club☺ (January)

February 6—Informational Meeting*

February 20—An Afternoon with Mary Bergin☺ (January)

February 24—March Newsletter Deadline

March 11-18—Greater Orlando, Florida Outbound Exchange*

March 15—L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out) Erin's Snug Irish Pub

April 10—Annual Meeting and Luncheon*

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference *

May 10-17—Cleveland County, UK Outbound Exchange☺

July 8-15--Nashik Riverside Club India Inbound Exchange*

July 14—Annual Picnic

September 3-10--San Jose, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange*
CANCELED

September 16-19—FFI World Conference*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

We are also beginning to work on this summer's incoming exchanges from India and Costa Rica. Please mark your calendars. We will need hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts and people willing to help in any way. Note that the Costa Rica exchange is over Labor Day so if you host, you may want to include your ambassador in your families traditional activities.

Hope you are all staying warm!

In Friendship

Sandi Wysock, President

Informational Meetings Scheduled Join Us!

New and prospective members are invited to either of two informational meetings scheduled for:

Monday Feb. 1st at 7:00 PM
Saturday Feb 6th at 10:00 AM

Both meetings will be held at the **Landmark Club House, 5335 Caddis Bend, Fitchburg**, located one block north of the front entrance of the Great Dane Pub on the corner of Coachman and Caddis Bend off of Fish Hatchery Rd. There will be bright ribbons attached to the swimming pool fence. Abundant parking is accessible from either street.

Current FF members are invited to come and share their experiences and help to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

I am requesting help with set up, clean up and cookie donations. We'd love to see you there!

Mary Lou Martino
 608-467-2966 or email: marylou10@charter.net

Domestic & International Exchanges 2016

Outbound Exchange to Orlando, Florida March 11-18, 2016



Manatees on the St Johns River

With an average March temperature of 77° we are looking forward to spending a week in Florida – enough of this Wisconsin winter! The Orlando Friendship Force club has a great itinerary planned, which includes activities in the city, as well as time on the less urban and even remote waterways of Florida.

The day in downtown Orlando includes a tour of the new Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, viewing the sculptures in the park around Lake Eola, and a visit to the fire department, while another day will have the group chugging up the St. Johns River on a two hour boat ride exploring the river, observing wildlife and experiencing a section of the St. Johns that is little changed from the days when early explorers visited these enchanting waters.

We will also be visiting Blue Spring Park, which is one of the highlights of any visit to central Florida in March. The St. Johns River is a winter refuge for the West Indian Manatees. During manatee season, which runs from around mid-November through March, several hundred manatees can be viewed from the spring's overlooks. The manatee population reached as high as 371 during the 2010 hard freeze, giving park visitors a spectacular viewing experience.

This exchange is filled, but if you have any questions regarding the exchange, contact Nancy Brown.

Nashik Riverside Inbound Exchange from India July 8-15, 2016



We have received the list of names of 20 potential Ambassadors from this Club in India. They arrive in Madison on July 8 and depart July 15. The Cedar Rapids Club is hosting them the week before they come to Madison. The adults range in age from 41 to 65, along with two teenage daughters, ages 15 and 19, who are traveling with their parents. There is one single man; the others are couples. In total we will need to provide 9 home hosts. We also know they all are fluent in English, use the internet and have email access. We hope to put together a planning committee soon; please say yes, if you are called!

We have never had an exchange with India before now. Exchanges are what we do. We hope you will choose to participate in this one. Please call. We need hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts.

Jerry Fuller, Co-Ed, bfuller@centurytel.net, 608-846-5533
 Helen Ann Rugowski, Co-Ed, haharrin@hotmail.com, 608-841-1087

**San Jose, Costa Rica
Inbound Exchange
September 3-10, 2016**

Canceled

We received word this week from FFI in Atlanta that the San Jose, Costa Rica club regrettably has to cancel their inbound exchange with us due to the cost of travel to Madison. If another club is seeking an exchange, Atlanta will work with us to replace San Jose. We will keep everyone posted.



George Wysock, georgewysock@msn.com 608-833-5326

Midwest Regional Exchanges

**Farm to Table: Culture and Cuisine
Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines**



August 15 – 22, 2016

Join us to explore Iowa's role in agriculture and Des Moines' place as an innovative and fun 'foodie' city

- Participate in a Farm Crawl, visiting several small, organic, family operated farms
- Experience a tomato tasting party
- Browse through the nationally ranked Downtown Des Moines Farmer's Market
- Enjoy lunch at the Henry Wallace Country Life Center,
- Spend a day at the iconic Iowa State Fair,

\$630 USD. Price includes FFI and host fees, meals, admission fees, and rental van transportation to venues.

Deadline for applications is March 15, 2016. Notice of acceptance will be provided within 2 weeks of receipt of application

See more at:

<http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/northamerica-more/iowa-farm-to-table/> Contact Carol Grant, Exchange Director, at carol.grant@mchsi.com or 515-226-9844 or 515-664-0096

**Crazy for Quilting
Friendship Force of
Cedar Rapids and Central Iowa,**



September 30 to October 9, 2016

Join us for an adventure of quilting inspiration and tradition in America's heartland.

- Take in the rich quilting tradition at the Old Order Amish and Mennonite community of Kalona.
- Explore Grant Wood's Turner Alley studio and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.
- Experience the authentic Mid-America charm of Madison County's covered bridges.
- Expand your skills with demonstrations, optional classes and more than 100 vendors at the American Quilt Society Show.

\$775 USD Price Includes FFI and host fees, 4 days bus transportation, ambassador host dinner in Cedar Rapids, admission to all planned activities & exhibits, Mennonite Farm lunch, Amana family style lunch. (Lunch not included at American Quilt Society Show, but can be purchased on site).

See more at:

<http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all-more/crazy-for-quilting/> Contact Exchange Directors Connie Williams & Lynn Avant at ldma@aatt.net or cmw1226@yahoo.com or call 319.396.4747 (C)



Please welcome Stephanie Vanden Bush to our club. She was referred by Sharon Folbrecht.

Stephanie Vanden Bush
2897 Glacier Valley Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711
920-676-1441
sljacobs2@gmail.com

CONFERENCES 2016



Midwest – Great Lakes Regional Conference Building Bridges with Friendship April 28-May 1, 2016, Davenport, IA

Registration Now Open!

Early registration fee: \$140 per person if postmarked by March 21, 2016, 150 per person after March 21. Fee includes Hospitality meet and greet reception, two days of conference, snacks during break-out sessions and lunches on Friday and Saturday. Dinner Friday evening/entertainment and banquet on Saturday evening

Book your hotel room directly with the Holiday Inn & Suites conference hotel. Conference rate is \$109 plus tax.

Conference details with application form were sent by FFI to everyone with an e-mail address on Tuesday, January 26, 2015.

Quad Cities contact for questions: Harry Frick 563-355-1050, harry276@msn.com or Eldon Greiman 563-289-3132, ejgreiman@gmail.com

FFI World Conference: Marrakesh, Morocco September 16 - 19, 2016



MARRAKESH - THE OCHRE CITY

Costs: The \$375 USD conference fee includes our World Bazaar, three plenary sessions with speakers, entertainment and coffee breaks; a belly-dancing class; two lunches at the hotel; our popular gala banquet; and workshops on Friendship Force related topics and topics of local cultural significance such as cooking and argan oil production.

The conference hotel is the Kenzi Farah in the fashionable L'Hivernage district. Book room directly with hotel from conference website by August 15 to receive special rate.

Additional options for a fee include seven different half-day tours, an opportunity to see the sunrise by hot air balloon, pre-and post-conference tours around the country and pre-and post-conference homestays in Morocco, Egypt and South Africa.

Registration now open!

Go to <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/150979>

Activities

L.E.O.

May the Irish Luck Be with You!



Join us for our next LEO (Let's Eat Out) at **Erin's Sung Irish Pub, on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.** for a hearty Irish meal and to celebrate the Irish.

Chose an entree from among their in-house made Irish specialties of Shepard's Pie, Guinness Stew, Cottage Pie or Bangers and Mash. These are all meat oriented fare, but vegetarians are most welcome. We can find an appropriate menu item for you. Please contact me directly.

Erin's Snug Irish Pub is located east of Interstate I 39/90/94 off Hwy 151 in the American Family Business Park at 4601 American Parkway. It is a lovely traditional restaurant. 24 reservations are needed to keep the prettiest private room that I currently have booked.

The cost is \$21.50 which includes the entrée, beverage of your choice and tip. Pay me directly in cash upon your arrival. (Desserts and their 16 or 20 oz. beers or other alcoholic drinks are an "on your own" additional charge.)

Please respond by Saturday, February 20 by phone (608 819-6646); email (stevils@charter.net) or by using the Eventbrite link below. Thanks. Looking forward to celebrating the Irish!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leo-lets-eat-out-erins-snug-irish-pub-tickets-21041935997>

Stephanie Sorensen
Activities Co-chair

In Loving Memory



Margaret "Margo" Lindl
Death: January 15, 2016

Margo was a founding member of Friendship Force of Wisconsin. She was an ambassador or director for more than 20 exchanges. Served as secretary, newsletter editor, historian, president of FFWI-Madison and was a member of the Board of Directors of FFI. In 1989 she was presented with the Friendship Force Rosalynn Carter Lifetime Achievement Award.

Memorials are suggested to St. Maria Goretti Parish, Michael J. Fox Foundation or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Full obituary: WSJ January 17, 2016 or www.ryanfuneralservice.com



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

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Founder

Jeremi Snook
President and CEO

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Fred Opondo
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Therese Vilovar
Petit-Bourg, Guadeloupe

December 31, 2015

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison
sandrawysock@msn.com

Dear Sandi,

I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$2,130 USD to Friendship Force's "I'm In" Campaign on behalf of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. Because of your support, and other thoughtful people like you, we are able to continue working to break down the barriers that separate people.

Your donation will be specifically used for the development of a new data management system and a new website, both of which are vital to the operation of Friendship Force, terribly out of date, and running on technology platforms that are no longer sufficiently supported. With these funds, you and I will achieve a more efficient and productive technology system that will better support exchange coordination as well as improve the overall member experience online. Along with the new database, will be an intuitive re-design of the website that will ensure that every mobile and desktop platform used around the world has access to all of Friendship Force's online materials. The re-design will also present a more contemporary "face" of our organization to the public to better promote our mission and entice members and non-members alike to get involved and take part in an exchange that might just change the way they see the world.

Your gift is truly appreciated and your support team here in Atlanta is excited to work with you to make our vision of a more peaceful world possible. Thank you again for your commitment.

In friendship,

Jeremi Snook President/CEO

Friendship Force International is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code: EIN 58-1287754. No goods or services were provided by Friendship Force International in exchange for your contribution.

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

February 2016
Midwest Great Lakes Regional Conference Registration
FFI World Conference Registration

President: Sandi Wysock 833-5326
Vice Pres: (Vacant)
Secretary: Lois Schulz 223-1287
Treasurer: Judith Taylor 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

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ffwis.meeting@gmail.com
ffwis.membership@gmail.com
ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison Annual Meeting & Luncheon

You're Invited

Sunday, April 10, 2016
Great Dane East Side
876 Jupiter Dr, Madison 53718
Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Registration Information in the March Newsletter