



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

January 2011



A Message from the President

Happy New Year. The New Year brings new adventures with Friendship Force. Remember the old motto of "Faces not Places"? Well, George Brown, our International President, recently said, **"Faces, Places and More"**. Through Friendship Force, on every Exchange, we make new friends – FACES. We also visit and learn about the great heritage of the host community or the heritage of your Ambassador – PLACES. We don't just see the sights; we create a personal connection with the hosts and their culture - MORE. The faces will bring new meaning to the places. That is what you will experience when you participate in an Exchange.

The **Valentines Day** Luncheon is right around the corner. One way to have our club grow is to get new people interested in what we are all about. I would like to ask each of you to **bring a guest** to the luncheon, whether it is your neighbor, co-worker, friend, and or your family. You can share with them what Friendship Force is all about, all without making them feel like they need to become a member.

Remember – if you are receiving the Newsletter electronically through email, please forward this to your friends each month. Someday they may become a member.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Valentines Day Luncheon.

In Friendship,
Mary Lindquist, President

International Conference Awards

The following awards were presented at the International Conference. The Wayne Smith Medal of Honor was awarded to two individuals that have worked diligently and have volunteered for many years in the FFI organization. The awardees were The Honorable Kazue Aichi, Tokyo, Japan and the Honorable Andrew Young, Atlanta Georgia.

The other awards were given to clubs that have demonstrated outstanding performance throughout the year. The winners were The Friendship Force of Sacramento CA and The Friendship Force of Edmonton, Australia. Also Vicki Vance from Baton Rouge Louisiana and Arfin Mochtar from Indonesia were the winners for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards. A congratulation to all the members of FF as it takes us as members to make a great organization.

Help is needed to Expand our Club

In order to be successful and have our membership grow, our club must **"Be Proactive"**. Existing Members must be willing to give back to the club. We must also continue to bring in new people that believe in the FF Mission. We also must be **"Open to Change"**. As one famous person, Albert Einstein, once said "Insanity: Doing the same things over and over again and expect different results." If we are to succeed, we must try new things to bring in new members and retain the old members. We can learn from other clubs that are successful. We must also **"Cultivate"** our members by being in constant contact. Cultivation is about constant contact. Attracting new members is a process. We can do this with prospective members by adding them to our email list. They can receive our newsletter free of charge. Someday something might peak their interest and they will become members. Lastly we must **"Cast a wide net"** to expand the number of prospective members. For younger members it's all about YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. I look forward to working with all of you on any ideas you have for growing our club.

Outreach Efforts

In 2010, our club's outreach efforts ranged from Senior and Community Centers, Rotary Clubs and groups such as REI and Church Women United. Our membership grew by 12 new members in 2010. Whether those members joined because of a presentation or an invitation is unknown, however it is important for our club to continue to grow.

One way to accomplish this growth is to continue to spread the word about the Friendship Force of Wisconsin.

Are you a member of an organization that invites speakers? We have individuals with programs about trips taken to Peru, South Korea, Australia, Azerbaijan and Costa Rica. If your club or organization would like to have one of these programs in 2011, please have your leader call or e-mail

MARGIE GROOM, Chairperson
608-516-2289 mgoom053@gmail.com

FFGM 20th Anniversary Party

Several of us traveled to the Italian Workers Community Center to attend the 20th Anniversary celebration of The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee. Our group was Betty & Jerry Fuller, Fannie Hicklin, Ariel Ford, Donna Calvert, Felicia Johnson, Margo McKnight and Mary & Gary Lindquist. We had the pleasure of meeting one of the founding members. Do you remember Art & Catherine Garst? Their daughter, Beth and her husband Peter Kealy were in attendance. Catherine along with her daughter were very instrumental in getting the Milwaukee club going. It was a pleasure to meet them both.

George Brown, President of FFI, was the Guest Speaker. He talked about the tagline of Friendship Force, Explore – Understand – Serve. **Explore** – When participating in an exchange you are exploring different cultures. Even if you have participated on several exchanges in the past, you will always explore during your future exchanges. **Understand** – Our way is not the only way. We must understand our host or ambassadors' country and respect their way of life. **Serve** – Exploration leads to understanding. Understanding leads to an acceptance of our common humanity and the desire to serve our "global" village—with words and actions. It is more of the sharing of ideas with each other. In the long hall we are **"Changing the Way You See the World"**. We don't want to change others, we want to change ourselves in how we see the world through exploring, understanding other cultures and the environment around them.

The celebration brought you back to the Roaring 20's. The setting was a Speakeasy. Most of the people were in the Roaring 20's costumes. There were many boas, feathers, strings of pearls and men wearing a variety of hats with shiny shoes. You could have someone arrested for \$2 or get them out of jail for \$1 or \$2. There were several offenses that you could arrest someone for. I had Margo McKnight arrested for "Riding on the hood of a taxi going down Wisconsin Avenue". There were also two young women selling the cigarettes and cigars for a dollar each. There were many "candy" smokers in the room. Good thing it was smoke free candy cigarettes and cigars. After a wonderful dinner with chocolate cake, you could spend time at a gaming table. We were each given 10 tickets, each worth \$10 of chips. Too bad you could not turn it into hard cold cash. The party was a great success. We wish FFGM at least another 20 years of wonderful exchanges. Who knows, maybe you will travel with them someday.

NEW MEMBER

Anne Marie Rugowski 3204 37th Ave S
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amrugow@gmail.com

Turkey in 2011

Wisconsin to Urla of Greater Izmir, Turkey
Early October 2011

Take me back to Constantinople, oh wait, it's too late! We can only visit the 16th name of this metropolis, currently known as Istanbul. We will be home hosted for 7 days and nights, then a tour of Anatolia for 10 days and nights. Lonely Planet reports that the best weather in Turkey is late September and early October. And that's when we will go. Dates are not yet solid, but we will leave one of the last days of September or one of the first days of October. Plans for the home hosting week as well as the tour are coming together.

Now this quote from the Exchange Director of the Memphis FF Club that visited the Urla FF Club in October of last year: "You are so lucky. According to our Ambassadors, many of whom were long-time members, it was the best exchange our club has ever had."

JERRY FULLER, Turkey Exchange Director
608 846 5533 bjfuller@centurytel.net

2011 CLUB ACTIVITIES



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

January 21, Board Meeting & Newsletter Deadline

February 13, Valentine Party *

February 26 – Interviews Azerbaijan *

April 3 – World Festival Celebration **

April 14 – 16, Midwest Regional Conference **

May 1 – Annual Meeting & Election of Officers **

July – All Club Picnic **

July 16 - 23, 2011 - Azerbaijan to Wisconsin *

August – 2011 International Conference Germany **
Register on line now.

September 19 - 26, 2011 – Germany to Wisconsin **

October 2011 – Wisconsin to Urla, Turkey *

• Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced or previously announced

A Bit about Azerbaijan

At a recent FFW Board meeting, our inbound exchange from Azerbaijan in July was a topic. It was suggested that I share some details about the country for those members who might not be well informed.

First, I confess when I met the Azerbaijanis which member Fannie Hicklin brought to our annual meeting a few years ago, I had no idea where in our world these guests lived. Then I had to learn to pronounce and later spell Azerbaijan.

As time passed, I learned this country is formerly of the USSR. It is located between the Caspian Sea (east), Iran (south), Armenia (west), Georgia and Russia (north.) Its capital city is Baku, a bustling city of well over a million residents. With its wells and associated building, the oil industry is very apparent in this desert area along the Caspian Sea. It is an old city with sites dating hundreds of years ago as well as sites of modern day buildings. Much construction of streets and buildings was evident when our FF group visited there in September, 2009. One of their members told me the hope was to woo the Olympic Games with all the improvements. That did not materialize.

Their main languages are Azeri, Russian, and English. In fact, many of their FF members are English teachers. I am guessing those who visit us will undoubtedly speak English, certainly better than our Azeri. Their main religion is Muslim. One common question I have been asked is if the women wear burkas. I saw none. A few women wore headscarves, but no more than seen here in Madison. While they are visiting us, we must remember they do not eat pork. They will be here for our annual pig roast but chicken is also served, thank goodness.

While we were there, at least three small groups stopped to ask if we are Americans (observable by our dress and English). Each time they observed how much they like Americans. At one of our gatherings, the American Ambassador spoke to us. It appears the relationship between the two countries is positive. I do believe our guests will not only be friendly but also loving. One very minor detail but one you will notice, several people have gold teeth. One member told me gold is cheaper than enamel.

INTERVIEWS:

If you would like to host, please attend the interviews at

**Pinney Library on Cottage Grove Road from
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 26.**

**If you are unable to attend,
contact Kay Babcock at 222-2111.**

If you would like to help, contact me. Members will be welcome to join us at our activities. Details will be announced closer to the July dates.

**DONNA CALVERT, Exchange Director
233-7536 DOLLYCAL@aol.com.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee of George Wysock, Margo McKnight and Sandi Wysock are seeking persons to be candidates for the officer positions of president, vice president and treasurer.

If you are interested or know of a possible candidate for these positions, please contact them.

GEORGE WY SOCK, Chairperson 608-833-5326

Valentine Party

Sunday, February 13

12 Noon \$15.00

West Side Club

437 S. Junction Rd.

Reservation Deadline February 5, 2010

Entertainment by the following:

YOUNG AT HEART"

By David Baltes & Margaret Lambert

David Baltes began his career at age 8, singing "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" on Radio Station WIBA when Al Gilbert was the voice of that station. Since then he has appeared with the Madison Theatre Guild, Oregon Strawhat Players, Children's Theater of Madison, and the Madison Opera plus a host of other groups in this area. It is his main joy in life to bring memories to many folks who love this "Golden Age" of popular music, and he hopes you will enjoy his performance.

Margaret Lambert began her singing career later in life when she landed the lead role of Nellie Forbush in "South Pacific" for the Oregon Strawhat Players". Since then she has performed numerous lead and chorus roles for Children's Theater of Madison, Savoyards, Madison Opera and Madison Area Technical College. Margaret enjoys performing the songs of popular musicals as well as those of the jazz and swing era.

Margaret and David have performed together in various venues since 1991 and hope to keep music as a part of their life for a long time.

See Photos with reservation

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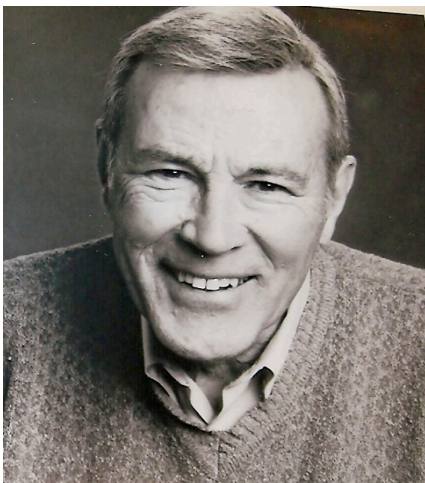
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January 2011
Valentine Party February 13 Reservation
Interviews for Azerbaijan to Wisconsin

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Secretary: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Treasurer: Diana Long 849-5592
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

Valentine Entertainment at its Best

The February Friendship Force Luncheon at the Westside Club February 13 at 12 Noon will put you in the "loving mood". Songs by David Baltes and Margaret Lambert will have you humming along to the golden oldies . Check out their brief biographies inside. Then send in your reservation to not only have an excellent luncheon with friends, but also the added enjoyment of putting a little love in your heart as David and Margaret serenade you with love songs on this pre-Valentine Day
Cost: \$15.00 Deadline PLEASE February 5, 2011



Send Reservation to: Fannie Hicklin, 3814 University Avenue. Madison, WI 53705 by Feb. 5. 2011

Names: _____ No. _____ @ \$15.00 _____