



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

January 2012



A note from the President:

The Christmas tree is up and looks great. We have received a number of E-mails with Seasonal greetings from all over the world (one of the benefits of Friendship Force membership). The presents have been purchased and we are in the process of wrapping them. Each year I find out I have poor wrapping skills. Oh well, at least presents are covered so recipients can't see the gift. Sandi has her annual jigsaw puzzle spread out on the family room table and has completed much of it. We have completed all our trips to visit relatives. In the next few days we will have a number of holiday parties and gatherings.

Then all of a sudden after January 1 the whirl wind of activities will stop and things will get back to a more normal pace. The next two months many of us will be traveling to warm destinations for at least a few weeks with hopes of warming our bones and recovering from the holidays. Those staying here will be joining Weight Watchers and athletic clubs to shed a few pounds.

On the Friendship force front we have selected Gail Holmes as the exchange director for the June Willamette Oregon exchange to Madison. Gail was an excellent Ambassador on our Turkish exchange in 2011 and sure will make a great ED. The Moscow exchange is progressing according to the timetable and they should be interviewing for ambassadors in January. Sandi Wysock (the ED for the Moscow exchange) has made contact and received video, books and, information about Vyborg and Moscow from the Dubuque Friendship Force club (They made the trip last year). The incoming Peruvian and Food exchanges are also going well. These exchanges will make for a busy summer.

In the past month we enjoyed the annual Friendship Force Christmas party at the Edgewater Hotel. I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Fannie and her Committee for organizing an excellent event.

I hope everyone has a happy and prosperous new year.

George Wysock
President Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Willamette, Oregon Exchange Director

I'm Gail Holmes, a new ED who joined the Friendship Force of Wisconsin in spring 2010 at the invitation of Jane Kessenich. In June 2010, I served as an ambassador to the Friendship Force of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City (with Jane as the ED). I've enjoyed attending the FF gatherings over the last two years and have met so many friendly members.

From September 27 to October 15, 2011, a group of 28 of us visited folks in Urla from the Friendship Force of Izmir, Turkey.

My husband Don and I have three sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. We love world travel and have been fortunate to visit all seven continents and dozens of countries.

Unfortunately, Don's health is an impediment to his continued travel. I'm a member of the Travel Committee of the UW-Madison Retirement Association and have led several successful days trips with over 60 participants. My career was in Dean's Office administration at the University of Wisconsin Law School, and I'm happily retired with emerita status.

The incoming exchange from Willamette, Oregon will take place June 14 – 20. Look for interview dates for hosting in future newsletters.

Gail Holmes, Oregon Exchange Director
608-249-1846 glholmes@wisc.edu

Outreach Efforts

Members are busy presenting programs in the upcoming months. On December 14, Jane Kessenich and Gary Lindquist presented an Azerbaijan program to the Madison East/Monona Optimist club. Mary Ann Fahl will present a Friendship Force program on Saturday, January 21, for the Prime Timers at Bethany United Methodist Church. Coming up on June 5, 2012, Richard and Nancy Mueller, and Gary Lindquist will present a program on New Zealand at the REI. Thank you to all of these members for spreading the word about the Friendship Force.

If you are a part of a group and would like to have a travel program or share the good news of the Friendship Force, contact

Margie Groom, Chairperson at
516-2289 mgroom053@gmail.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Turkey Part III The Tour

Our 10-day tour begins with appreciative hugs and farewells with our Urla hosts. Then it's a relatively long 4-hour ride on a nice coach. Our Neon tour guide gives us much information on the way; traditions, calls to prayer, population, industries, agriculture, taxes, medical care, etc. Side trip to Camlik Village where we observe local women weaving carpets. Very tedious and beautiful. After check in at our hotel in Bodrum, we go for a swim in the Mediterranean, now further south and even warmer than the Aegean. Some do the Turkish Bath at the hotel.

A dairy cooperative was visited and we observed the packaging of a yogurt drink. This was a very large coop with trucks collecting milk in 80 villages from very small producers, but resulting in a total collection of 25 tons of milk per day.

At Pamukkale we are amazed by the beautiful white terraces and pools that have been formed when water from the hot springs loses carbon dioxide as it flows down the slopes, leaving deposits of white calcium carbonate. Quite a spectacle! Most of us waded in the pools. Later at the hotel we were able to enjoy the thermal spa.

This was the harvest time for cotton, sugar beets, onions and tomatoes and we see many laborers in the fields and trucks on the road transporting those crops. We even stopped at a cotton field and were able to feel and pick off some cotton balls.

Another school visit allowed us to observe kindergarten classes and very eager 5-year-olds in striking red uniforms offered us gifts of their artwork. Then an English (Turkey's second language) class of eighth graders allowed for some speaking interaction. A delightful experience for both students and Ambassadors. The Antalya Archeological Museum provided glimpses into Turkey's early history – many thousands of years, earning it the title, Cradle of Civilization. At Perge we view the well-preserved and renovated ruins of a civilization from around 1500 BC and are amazed at the archaeological achievements that were possible at that time. Since we are still at the seacoast in Antalya, we have our last chance for a swim in the Mediterranean.

Now to the northeast through the Taurun Mountains, but also view many fields of onions, sugar beets, anis and sesame. We also come through the area of the first organized city in the world, Catalhoyuk. In the Konya area we attended a performance of the "Whirling Dervishes" in an underground cave. This is a mystic religious group actually banned in 1925. But performers continue the spinning, ballet like ceremony in long white robes to the delight of their audiences.

In the Cappadocia area we visited the Goreme Open-Air Museum, a very large area of volcanic rock with properties conducive to carving. There is a great concentration of caves including churches, monasteries and dwellings. Early Christians actually lived in the caves for long periods, hiding from the Roman conquerors. In several areas we see massive smooth rock pointed formations (fairy chimneys) some of which also had caves, some natural and some chiseled out. We visit studios for pottery and onyx manufacturing and are amazed to see demonstrations of how beautiful pieces evolve under the hands of skilled craftsmen.

A tour of the self sustaining underground city of Kaymakli was exciting as well as claustrophobic for some, since we could barely get through some of the tunnels with narrow and steep passageways; hard to imagine thousands of people living here from the 6th to 9th centuries, often staying underground in the eight level complex for months at a time.

On the way to Ankara the capitol, we learned how Mustafa Kemal led the revolution against occupying forces from WWI, eventually becoming the first president of the new Turkish Republic in 1923. He became known as the Father of Modern Turkey and was called Ataturk. His reforms provided the basis for the modern, secular society enjoyed by the Turkish today. We see his picture everywhere. The ride to Ankara was long, but we did have some time at the Anatolian Civilizations Museum housing a very impressive collection of artifacts going back to 1200 BC. The previous name of the city was Angora – you may recall the name associated with the exceptional quality wool.

We flew from Ankara to Istanbul (name officially changed from Constantinople in 1930) avoiding the 6-hour bus ride and giving us more time to see the many sights in this great city. Highlights included: the Topkapi Palace - including the harem, the Hippodrome - an arena seating 60,000 for chariot races and all types of entertainment, the Blue Mosque - so called due to 20,000 tiles that give it the blue appearance, the Yildiz Palace - used by a series of Sultans, the Underground Cistern - in ancient times the water reservoir for the city, the Grand Bazaar – buy anything there, the Spice Bazaar – 30 different varieties, and a cruise on the Bosphorus. Our last night we enjoyed a fine (lamb featured) dinner and a traditional Turkish show of folkloric dances and belly dancers – unforgettable moves. Return flight to Chicago the next day was comfortable and without incident. One more bus ride back to Madison and then it was "Welcome Home" from members.

Jerry Fuller, Turkey Exchange Director
608-846-5533 bjfuller@centurytel.net

Edith M Tipple, 94, died December 15, 2011

To those who were members in the early years of The Friendship Force of WI Club, you will remember Edwin (Ed) and Edith Tipple. A first trip with Ed and Edith was the Madison to the U.S.S.R Interchange of 1983. Later that same year we attended the Friendship Force International Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada where Ed represented the club as our designated Exchange Director and received his assignment for China. Edith was with him every step of the way...quit an undertaking. After Ed's death Edith continued to travel with our Club. Edith was very proud of her family and she always shared a picture of a newborn grandchild and/or a great grandchild.

Her sister, Helen Dyer of Monona, is also involved with the FFofWI having been an Exchange Director to Costa Rica in 1994.

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 1 p.m., Jan. 7, 2012, at Lake Edge United Church of Christ, 4200 Buckeye Road. Madison. Visitation will be held Saturday from noon until the time of the service at the church.

We send our sympathy to her family.

FLAVORS OF THE MIDWEST

The Global Exchange, Flavors of the Midwest, is set for Friday-Tuesday August 10-August 14, 2012 with our FFW group. Later this winter we will be looking for members to host so please watch the newsletter for interview dates. We anticipate members from around the world and the U.S.

A committee has been organizing activities but will wait until the dates are closer so can confirm what we will do.

We are working with the FF groups from Northern Illinois and Greater Milwaukee, whom ambassadors will visit first. This is the first time we have sponsored a Global Exchange and the first to coordinate with other groups.

If any members have suggestions, please contact me.

Donna Calvert, Wisconsin Global Exchange Director
233-7536 DOLLYCAL@aol.com



2012 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

January 19 – Board Meeting and Newsletter Deadline

January 28 & 30 – Moscow Interviews *

February 12 – Valentine Party *

March 10 – St. Patrick Luncheon **

April 22 – Annual Business Meeting **

May 26 – Russia Workshop **

June 23 – Russia Workshop **

July 2012 – Trujillo Peru to Wisconsin *

July – Annual FFW Picnic **

August 10 – 14, 2012, Global Food Exchange *

August 25 – Russia Workshop **

September 2012 – Wisconsin to Moscow *

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced

Visitors from Peru in July

Our club will be hosting a group of Ambassadors from Trujillo, Peru in July. Dates TBA. Do you speak Spanish and want to offer your services as a translator? If you would like to join our committee to plan the week, or want to host one or two ambassadors, please call me. They have inquired about the maximum number of ambassadors that they may bring, so this could promise to be a large and exciting group. It will be a lot of fun for all of us. Interview dates will be published soon.

Patrick Fleming, Peru Exchange Director
608-249-5992 pfleming@edgewood.edu

Moscow, St. Petersburg and Vyburg- Early September

Walk the streets of Moscow, visit the Kremlin and the Red Square, and see the unique architecture as well as the new office blocks. St. Petersburg is the former capital of Imperial Russia with amazingly beautiful buildings. Vyborg was founded as a fortress and has been part of Russia, Finland and Sweden during different parts of its history. In Vyburg we will be hosted by a new Friendship Force Club.

Interviews Dates.

Note: This will be your only notice about the interviews.

Interview dates and Locations:

Sat Jan 28 9 – 12 am Hawthorn Public Library
2707 E Washington Ave - located in the Madison East Shopping Center. Community Room There is a Walgreen's Pharmacy at one end of the mall and the library is at the other end. This is where Milwaukee St. and East Johnson St. intersect with E. Washington Ave.

Tue Jan 31 5 – 8 pm Sequoia Public Library
4340 Tokay Blvd (corner Midvale and Tokay) in the large meeting Room. Parking available on the streets. (Tokay and Caromar Dr. and S. Owen Dr.) or behind the library.

Bring a copy of your passport with you. Application
Deposit required \$225.

IMPORTANT: *Significant portions of our travel will be in an urban area where our touring will be by metro and walking. Recent visitors to the area have told me to expect significant amounts of walking and plenty of stairs. You should be comfortable with being active 4-5 hours a day at a moderate pace, able to participate in city walking tours, able to climb several flights of stairs, and comfortably able to embark, disembark from trains, metros and various forms of public transportations.*

Applications will be available at the interview locations. You may also print and complete a copy in advance. Copies can be found at Friendshipforce.org, click on the tab Club Resources, on the next screen select Documents, and then select the tab titled Exchange Documents. You will see the word document titled Exchange application and Agreement.

If you cannot attend the interviews, please contact Jerry Fuller **608 846 5533** bjfuller@centurytel.net to arrange an interview time.

Sandi Wysock, Exchange Director Russia 2012
608-833-5326 sandrawysock@msn.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2012
Interview dates for Russia
Reservation for Valentine Party

President:	George Wysock	833-5326
Vice Pres:	Helen Rugowski	238-9731
Secretary:	Mary Lou Martino	467-2966
Treasurer:	Margo McKnight	345-6827
Newsletter:	Janet Lonergan	592-3336

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

Sunday, 12 February 2012

12:00 Noon

West Side Club

437 County Road M

Madison, WI 53719

Cost: \$16.00 per person

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 6 February 2010

Name (s) _____



Send check (payable to The Friendship Force of Wisconsin) and reservation form
***to reach* Fannie Hicklin *no later* than 6 February 2010. PLEASE!**

Fannie Hicklin, 3814 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705