



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

January 2014



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back on the 2013 highlights there are some big accomplishments. Four memorable and successful exchanges were completed. Thank you to Sandra Drew, ED for Open World Legislators Exchange from the Ukraine; Mary Babula and Mary Mastaglio, ED's for Inbound Exchange from Urla, Turkey; Gail Holmes, ED for the Outbound Exchange to Oregon and Washington; and Sandi Wysock, ED for our Inbound Exchange from Vyborg, Russia. In addition, we have established a connection with the International Institutes of Wisconsin and dinner hosted visitors on 4 separate occasions; these visitors came from 17 different countries. To undertake this amount of activity requires a lot from our members to host, day host, serve on committees and put in countless planning hours. Your board has also worked very hard this past year to create these opportunities for us to carry forward with our mission of breaking down barriers that separate people.

Take a look at the 2014 calendar and see the activities listed on our schedule. The international inbound we had expected from Brazil has been cancelled but we are working toward picking up another inbound in September. All of these activities need member support to be successful.

We have recently lost two long term and valued members of our Club. Rad Becker was our stalwart Store Keeper for years; I had the good fortune to be with he and Susan on exchanges to South Korea and Costa Rica. The first time I met Fay Schoenemann was in 2000 in her home where I had gone to interview to join the exchange to Scotland for which she and Millie were the EDs. They both gave so much to our organization and we are all the richer for having them in our midst.

In November, 10 of us traveled to New Orleans to the 36th World Conference to participate in workshops on topics including club growth, professional programs, language exchanges, themed exchanges, hosting, and social media. The synopsis of the social media workshop is featured elsewhere in this newsletter. Future newsletters will feature other workshop topics. Conferences also include some fun. Sunday night's gala banquet was a true Mardi Gras style celebration complete with gumbo and other dishes, dancing and a parade down Bourbon Street led by a live jazz band and stilt walkers. Photos and presentations are all available on the FFI website.

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.**

**January 13** - Crafter's Group Meeting\*

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

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

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

**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



## Overture Center International Festival

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**



We still need 2 more volunteers between the hours of noon and 5 pm for our information table at the Festival on Saturday, February 22. Please help if you can and contact Nancy Brown, the chair for this event. This is the 33rd year for the Festival which promotes the many cultures that make up our community. The Festival features more than 30 different local performing artists, a craft bazaar and ethnic foods in one of the largest FREE events held in the area. Volunteers will each spend just one hour staffing the table as friendly Ambassadors to answer questions and promote our Club.

**Nancy Brown**

608-283-9040 Email: [ncbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:ncbrown48@gmail.com)



## Renewal Time – Are you Past Due?

I must say with this mailing, the label on your newsletter is correct. Last month, with Thanksgiving, I printed the labels ahead of time and mailed the newsletters when we returned. Then I reconciled the renewals. A couple of you were on your toes and let me know you were current. I am sorry for the confusion I made.

The mailing label is correct. Are you a member in good standing and paid your renewal? The upper right hand corner of the mailing label tells you if you are current. If the number is 2013, you have not renewed yet. If it says 2014, you have renewed and don't need to do anything special, just enjoy meeting new people and experiencing new cultures.

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are: \$38 for a family membership and \$30 for an individual membership. Please make your check payable to Friendship Force of Wisconsin and mail it to: PO Box 56223, Madison WI 53705-9523.

If you have any questions you can contact me by phone or email.

**Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair**

608-233-9351

marylindquist@charter.net

## The Friendship Force Holiday Party



Many of you attended the Friendship Force of Wisconsin Holiday Party. It was held at Vintage Brewery on Whitney Way. If you have not been to Vintage Brewery, it is like stepping back in time. They have the old formica top tables with round metal leg tables and the chairs to match. I remember them being at my Grandmother's home. The room was decorated with old radios and other 1950-60's artifacts. As usual we had assigned seating. This is great because you are able to get to know people you don't usually sit with. The dinner was a traditional holiday dinner with ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, turkey and other wonderful fixings. It was delightful.

Before dinner, "Blue Accordion and Friends" played for us. Patricia Stone played the accordion and was accompanied by Bill Scott. Patricia brought her Granddaughter, Tricia Castaneda and her granddaughter's friends, India Adams and Cera Thorns who also performed. The "and Friends" changes often because Patricia plays with so many different people. You never know who will join her performance. After dinner Patricia distributed booklets with the words to many Christmas Carols. We happily sang many songs and then adjourned to finish our afternoon on our own.

**Mary Lindquist**

## World Conference Reports— Social Media



### *New Friendship Force of Wisconsin Facebook Page*

Social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has become central to communications with people of all ages with more than 60% of people under the age of 60 using social media to communicate. The usage is growing exponentially among all age groups. It provides a way to share photos, stories, and receive information. The person to person contact facilitates the building of friendships which is what we are all about.

The new Friendship Force of Wisconsin Facebook page is up and operating although not perfected. If you are on Facebook, search for the Friendship Force of Wisconsin and when our page comes up be sure and LIKE us. We plan to post photos of exchanges and share club news. Please feel free to share information about your Friendship Force experiences on this page and add posts updating us on your connections with your Friendship Force friends around the world. You can also share posts on your Facebook page with your friends. It is a great way to advertise the Friendship Force and get others interested and involved.

**Sandi Wysock**

### *Sign On: First Steps With Social Media*

What is social media? Answer: Facebook and Twitter are the most common forms of social media. Facebook leads the world in social media and is probably the means of communication used by your children and grandchildren. This workshop was for beginners (describes me to a T!) in social media and went through all the steps in creating a Club Facebook page. Your board voted to create a Club page and thanks to Sandy Wysock we have one.

Most of us already use email as a way to communicate and be in touch with our friends and family. Facebook is a means of casting a wider net to communicate to the community and world about our Club, our mission and goals, and our activities. Facebook is the modern way to market and promote our club, to draw in new members and to reconnect with friends around the world.

Very little technical experience is needed to use Facebook. Yes, really! By following the tips below, we can begin to use Facebook and stay safe on social media.

- Don't post your home address, phone number, year of birth or other person data.
- Use different passwords for social media.
- Don't click strange looking links or links included in strange messages, even if the message came from someone you know.
- Choose your Facebook friends intentionally and don't hesitate to turn down requests from people you do not know.

**Helen Ann Rugowski**

## Midwest Regional Conference – Milwaukee May 11-4, 2014

Mark your calendar now for the Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year's conference will focus on keeping our clubs vital and strong. It's our opportunity to come together for fellowship, exploring new ideas, celebrating our organization, and renewing our dedication to changing the way we see the world. Joy DiBenedetto, FFI's new President/CEO, will join us on Saturday, May 3.

ALL members of Midwest Friendship Force Clubs are welcome at this year's regional conference. Whether you've just joined an FF club, are considering joining, or are a charter member, this conference is for you.

If you have questions about the conference, please call or email me.

Pat Meyer, Midwest Regional Representative  
708-524-0842  
[davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net)

## FF World Conference October 14-16, 2014, Auckland, New Zealand Registration will begin in January. Details to follow.

## Arts/architecture Global Exchange—August 2014

*Hosted by FF of Northern Illinois,  
Greater Milwaukee and Wisconsin*

Twenty FF members from around the world are invited to visit us August 23-38, the third week of the exchange. If you have FF friends from wherever in our world, tell them of this adventure. The deadline to sign up is **February 1, 2014**. Interested people can sign up with Dave Kalan of the FF Milwaukee group. His email address is [davekalan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davekalan@sbcglobal.net). If you would like to email them a brochure about the exchange, contact me.



Plans are still being made for the activities. There are so many possibilities that narrowing down the actual destinations is a challenge. Undoubtedly we will visit Epic, Taliesen, and the backstage areas of American Players Theater. We hope to have at least one hands-on activity. By the time you read this newsletter, the committee will have narrowed the venues.

Some members have indicated their interest in hosting. Check the dates to see if you will be available, if interested. **We do need a member to volunteer to help direct the hosting experience.** If you want more details about our plans, interested in helping, have comments and/or questions, please contact me at 608-233-7536 or [dollycal@aol.com](mailto:dollycal@aol.com).

**Donna Calvert, Exchange Director**



## Utah Inbound Exchange July 16-22, 2014

Help is needed for planning, hosting and interviewing. Initial meeting to be scheduled for March. Please contact me at 608-845-3393 or [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com).

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**



## Crafter's Group

Next meeting is January 13, 1:30PM at the home of Margo McKnight, 321 N Midvale Blvd., Madison, 608-345-6827, or [memcknight1@yahoo.com](mailto:memcknight1@yahoo.com). All are welcome to enjoy crafting with us! Please let hostess know if you plan to attend.



## Luggage Tags

At the December meeting, the Board voted to purchase 250 translucent green luggage tags with "The Friendship Force" in white letters with an identification card insert. **We will begin selling them for \$1.00 at the February 9 luncheon.** We hope you will purchase some for yourself and they also make nice gifts for an exchange.

**Gail Holmes**



## Radleigh V. Becker

Death Date: December 4, 2013

Served as FF longtime "Store Keeper."

Memorials may be sent to Christ Presbyterian Church, The Madison Breakfast Optimist Club or Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society. Online Condolences at [www.cressfuneralservice.com](http://www.cressfuneralservice.com). Full obituary, WSJ, December 7, 2013



## Fay Schoenemann

Death Date: December 14, 2013

Most recent FF trip occurred in 2011 at age 84 to Tuirkey.

The family suggests donations to Agrace HospiceCare in Fitchburg. Online condolences at [www.cressfuneralservice.com](http://www.cressfuneralservice.com). Full obituary, WSJ, December 21, 2013

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January 2014  
Valentine Luncheon Reservations  
Midwest Regional Conference, May 2014  
FF World Conference, October 2014

President: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Vice Pres: Mary Babula 241-0212  
Secretary: Jan Weber 223-1287  
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
*Valentine Luncheon*  
**Sunday, February 9, 2014**


**Fitzgerald's of Middleton**  
**3112 Parmenter St**  
**Middleton, WI**

**12:00 PM**  
**Cost: \$18.00**



***Bring a Friend!***

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than Saturday, February 1, 2014.**

-----cut and return with payment   
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending x \$18 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a ride                      \_\_\_\_\_ I can provide a ride

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: The Friendship Force**  
**Mail to: Fannie Hicklin, 3814 University Avenue, Madison WI 53705    Questions? 608-233-5748**