



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

July 2013



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Turkish exchange has just ended. It was a great experience and we were very happy to see the people who hosted us two years ago. Mary Mastaglio and Mary Babula led an excellent exchange which kept everyone busy for the whole eight days. The next exchange will be the outgoing to Oregon and Washington. This will also be a very interesting exchange including tours of Crater Lake National Park and the Mt St Helen's area. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Indonesian exchange. We had only two people willing to go on the exchange.

Friendship Force International has informed me that there will be a change in fee structure for the clubs. Beginning 2014 FFI ambassador fees will be increased by \$15.00 per week. The current fee of \$125.00 for exchanges originating outside the USA will be increased to \$140.00, and for exchanges originating from the USA from \$150.00 to \$165.00. FFI club affiliation fee effective 2015 will be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00 for individuals and from \$17.00 to \$25.00 for families. The hosting fees will remain the same.

In Friendship,

**George Wysock, President**

## EXCHANGE DIRECTOR NEEDED

We have been offered and accepted for the month of October 2014 an incoming exchange with Campinas Brazil. It's a great opportunity to serve your club. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please let me know. My e-mail address is [georgewysock@msn.com](mailto:georgewysock@msn.com).

**George Wysock, President**

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## 2013 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**Note: July 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting is canceled; next meeting is August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 5-19 - Oregon/Washington Outbound Exchange\***

**July 18 - Annual Summer Club Picnic\***

**August - Crafter's Group Meeting; date to be determined\*\***

**August 24 - Fall MFIS Welcome to Wisconsin Picnic\***

**September 15-18 (19) -Vyborg, Russia Inbound Exchange\***

**September 28 - Adopt A Highway\*\***

**October 27 - Fall Festival\*\***

**November 23-25 - World Conference, New Orleans\*\***

**December 7 - Holiday Party\*\***

**February 15-28, 2014 - Tucson/Phoenix Outbound Exchange\***

**August 23-28, 2014 - Global "Arts & Architecture" Exchange\*\***

**October 2014 - Campinas Brazil Inbound Exchange\*\***

**2014 - Berlin/Vilnius Outbound Exchange\*\***

\* Information in this newsletter

\*\* Information to be announced later or previously announced

Maggie Dohm - Phone and Email  
608-833-1312  
[mardo926@gmail.com](mailto:mardo926@gmail.com)

Judith & Stephen Triggs - Email  
[justev2@charter.net](mailto:justev2@charter.net)





## A Summary of the Urla, Turkey Friendship Force of Wisconsin Exchange

We just completed an eight-day exchange with 16 ambassadors from Urla, Turkey, that ran from June 13 to June 21, 2013. From the beginning until the end, our Turkish friends were patient, fun-loving and flexible. Based on the feedback we received, all days of the exchange were a success.

The ambassadors were initially greeted upon arrival at Chicago O'Hare Airport by my exchange assistant, Mary Babula and me. Our chartered bus brought us to Olin Park where all hosts awaited them late that evening. Activities that began on Friday afternoon with tours of Verona Public Library, EPIC, fish buffet and polka fest in New Glarus concluded the following Thursday with a Farewell Potluck Dinner, concert by Monona Senior Chorus and singing and dancing by the Turkish Ambassadors. During their week's stay they also visited Farmer's Market, took tours in and around Madison of the Madison Children's Museum, State Capitol, Overture Center, ABS, SANIMAX, Robotic System Dairy Farm, UW Campus, Cedar Grove Cheese Factory (Plain), International Crane Foundation (Baraboo), and in Milwaukee, Buddy Squirrels Candy/Nuts Factory, Palermo's Pizza, Harley Davidson Museum and Miller-Coors Brewery.

In addition to all the tours, our guests enjoyed a sunset pontoon boat ride/picnic, Wisconsin Dells boat trip, horse demonstration courtesy of Kay Kinney and while in Milwaukee a Lake Michigan kite demonstration.

It was a full week of activities. We had beautiful weather and no unexpected problems other than running late sometimes.

Thank you to the following hosts: Mary Babula, Kay Kinney, Helen Ann Rugowski, Margo McKnight, Lucy and Bob Lasseter, George and Sandi Wysock, Nancy and Richard Mueller, Patty Kexel and Tom Herman, along with back up hosts Marian Ehrenberg and Maggie Dohm. They too were amazingly flexible, understanding and generous in so many ways.

We had great support from many day hosts and drivers including Betty and Jerry Fuller, Don Gostomski, Mary Lou Martino, Donna Hussin, Marian Ehrenberg and Otty and Larry Schaefer. On Monday for all the tours in DeForest and at the UW, Betty and Jerry Fuller donated the use of the First Student bus and their son Randy Fuller, a professional bus driver, did the driving for free. We thank them for helping us stay under budget for the week!

Dinner hosts who welcomed us into their homes on Saturday and Tuesday evenings were Maggie Dohm, Reta Harring, Donna Hussin, Jane Kessenich, Jim & Ruth Knutson, Deb Boushea, Carl Cinlar, Shirley & Jim Lake, Mary & Gary Lindquist, Tom & Donna Miller, Nancy & Richard Mueller, Pam Polenz, Sandi & George Wysock. Coordination of all the dinner hosts was done by Jane Kessenich, Helen Ann Rugowski and Margo McKnight.

Many people helped to make this a successful exchange. Some wore two or more hats. They were: **Turkish consultants:** Deniz Balamis and Cigdem Unal; **Activities:** Gail Holmes, Jerry Fuller, Donna Hussin and Dave Dohler; **Treasurer:** Margo McKnight; **Biographies:** Patty Kexel; **Craft Group:** Margo McKnight, Helen Ann Rugowski, Patty Kexel and its many helpers; **Workshop Planning:** Sandi Wysock and Mary Babula; **Interviewing Committee:** Betty Fuller, Kathy Johnson, Joan Calkins, Donna Calvert, Kay Babcock and Ed Reid; **Translators and Equipment Arrangements:** Mary Babula and Patti Kexel; **Translators:** Isil Isler, Mustafa Ozturk, Sinem Hacıoglu and Elnur Emrah along with Ezgi Varol & Ulviye Fischer from Urla; **Tour leaders:** Paul Buckalew, Donna Calvert and Doug Johnson; **Pontoon boat ride:** MSCR volunteer staff and Ken Kosciak who volunteered his pontoon boat; **Website support and e-mails:** Dave Dohler and Mary Babula; **Potluck staffing:** Mary Babula, Jane Dohler, Betty Fuller, Otty Schaefer, Nancy Mueller; and **Entertainment:** Monona Senior Chorus.

While we were learning about the Farmer's Market, we were interviewed and photographed by their newsletter editor. Check out the on-line Farmer's Market newsletter at:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs102/1100974214484/archive/1113862306520.html>.

More than 70 Friendship Force of Wisconsin members and approximately 50 non-members participated in either day time activities, dinner hosting, the pontoon boat ride, or the farewell dinner.

I thank everyone who participated in our Urla/Wisconsin Exchange, especially my mentor Jerry Fuller, my counselor Betty Fuller, and my partner Mary Babula who helped with all the work. Everyone helped make this a rewarding, positive experience for all. Thank you!!

**Mary Mastaglio, Exchange Director**



## Oregon and Washington Outbound Exchange July 5 to 19, 2013

The group traveling to Oregon and Washington in July held a very productive workshop on May 23 at Sequoya Library. We are organized and so excited for this exchange to begin!

It is with great anticipation that fourteen ambassadors from the Friendship Force of Wisconsin will depart from Madison on Friday, July 5, 2013. After all our flights arrive in Portland, Oregon, we will take a shuttle bus ride of several hours to the towns where our Oregon hosts from the Mid-Willamette Valley Friendship Force live. They have a wonderful week of activities planned for us to experience life in the valley between the Pacific Ocean and the Cascade Mountain range. A highlight will be a two-day trip to Crater Lake in southern Oregon with visits to lava fields and walking through a lava cave. The return trip will be over the beautiful Cascade Mountains.

On Friday, July 12, we'll board the shuttle again and return to the Portland airport where we'll be met by our hosts from the Friendship Force of Lower Columbia in Washington. Their cities are located in the southern part of the State of Washington along north/south Interstate Highway 5. Activities planned for us include a trip to the Pacific coast, to Mt. St Helens, and to the Columbia River Gorge with a dinner cruise on a sternwheeler. After one week, it will be time to return on Friday, July 19. A group of us are taking the "red eye" flight from Portland at 11:00 p.m. that arrives in Madison at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning!

All of us are looking forward to meeting our hosts and the members of their two clubs, to renew friendships with the Oregon ambassadors who came to Madison in June 2012, and to experience the beauty of the Pacific Northwest countryside. Plus this group of thirteen women and one "token" husband really are excited to travel together for two weeks.

**Gail L. Holmes, Exchange Director**

## CLUB PINS AVAILABLE FOR \$2

To purchase, contact our sales volunteer, Fannie Hicklin (608-233-5748). Pins can also be purchased at club activities.



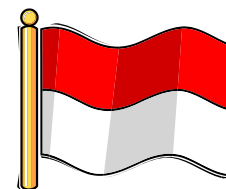
## Incoming Vyborg Russia Exchange, September 15 -18 (19) 2013

Our friends from Vyborg are still developing their travel plans but they have provided us with a tentative itinerary and ambassador names. Based on their current plans, they will arrive in Madison on September 15th 2013 and depart on the 18th or 19th. I am hoping that they will stay a day or two longer if their travel plans allow. There will be a total of eight ambassadors from four families so the group will be very small.

As many of you will recall from my articles last year, Vyborg is a new Friendship Force Club. The city of Vyborg is located north of St. Petersburg near the Finnish border in a landscape that would remind you of Northern Wisconsin and the Lake Superior area. The Vyborg club's trip to the United States and Madison would be their first exchange, as well as their first time in America, and they want to see it all .....in eleven days. They are currently in the visa application process.

As the program develops and opportunities to participate become clearer, I will place announcements in the newsletters. If you are interested in helping with the exchange or if you have questions, please contact me at 608-833-5326 or [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com).

**Sandi Wysock, Exchange Director**



## Outbound Exchange to Malang, Samarinda and Bali, Indonesia August 31-September 18, 2013

The exchange to Indonesia has been canceled because of a lack of ambassadors. The two clubs in Indonesia, FFI, FFW President, and potential ambassadors were notified on June 1, 2013.

Thanks to board members that had volunteered to assist with this exchange.

**Fannie Hicklin and Ariel Ford, Exchange Directors**



## Arizona Outbound Exchange February 15-28, 2014

The five C's for Arizona include climate, cattle, citrus, copper, and cotton. Regarding climate, do you know that Tucson has a high of 67 and a low of 40 in February? Can you remember what the weather was like in Wisconsin this past February? It will definitely be warmer in AZ for the Exchange!!



Our dates are set for February 15-21 in Tucson and a second home stay from February 21-28 with the Phoenix Friendship Force Club. We will attend the 89<sup>th</sup> Tucson Rodeo Days' parade on February 20. Activities will also include visits to Desert Museum and Garden, historical sites and the Steward Observatory Mirror Lab.

Ambassadors will determine their own transportation to Arizona. Written applications will be accepted beginning August 15 and the ambassador selections will be made by October 1.

**Nancy Mueller, Exchange Director**



### GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

#### International Institute of Wisconsin (IIWI)

Our Club was recently contacted by IIWI to participate in the Home Hospitality program through their International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP). This is an initiative of the Department of State to promote understanding between rising world leaders and US citizens. Home hospitality consists of providing an evening meal, transportation between their hotel and your home and a welcoming environment to these international visitors. Opportunities to participate will likely occur 1-2 times every other month, sometimes with short notice. I am eager to develop this relationship with IIWI as its mission corresponds with ours in learning more about life in another country and citizen diplomacy. We had four members, Lise Skofronick, Stephanie Sorenson, Patrick Fleming and Jane Kessenich, who volunteered to host on our first opportunity on June 26. They each hosted three visitors, all from different countries, who are here in Madison for training and education in their role of information personnel/librarians with US Embassies. The next possibility for hosting may be on either **August 1 or 2**

for a group from China. If you would like to be contacted by the Institute for this or future dinner hosting dates, an application is necessary. Please contact me with any questions or for an application.

**Helen Ann Rugowski, 608-238-9731**

### Hosting an International Institute of Wisconsin Dinner - June 26, 2013 Experience



The International Institute of Wisconsin frequently hosts visitors from all over the world while they explore Wisconsin as a part of the programs they attend in the US to learn and develop in their careers. What a wonderful opportunity to get to know people in mid-career who are excelling in their fields. This group all worked at US Embassies in various countries, had advanced degrees, and all spoke excellent English. Caitlin from the Institute provided a list of those visiting with short bios as well as any food allergies, preferences, etc., and it was up to me to collect those she assigned me from the hotel, feed and entertain the, and return them to the hotel on Wednesday, June 26.

Since they had studied Library Science, I also invited my librarian friend for dinner, and she picked them up while I cooked. One woman was originally from Sudan, but is currently working in Saudi Arabia. She was very outgoing and explained things about her family background as well as some of the issues for women in Arabian countries. Another woman came from Sri Lanka. She shared how much improved things are there since the conclusion of the very long war with the Tamil Tigers. During that time, couples always traveled on separate busses or trains in case there was a bombing so that at least one of them would be left to care for the children. There is much building going on at the present time in Sri Lanka. Things are peaceful but the caste system still operates freely among Hindus; she was a Buddhist. The last guest, a man from South Korea afforded us the opportunity to have a discussion about the tensions and issues between the two Koreas.

Every one of them was friendly, polite, well-spoken, curious and easy to talk with. We tried to explain cheese curds, pickled herring, and the issues of states' rights in the US using the two Supreme Court decisions that were handed down this week. They asked about how easy it was to become a citizen in the US and specifically asked about racial issues and the changing demographics of the US. They had spent time in Washington DC, Madison and were also going to spend a couple of days in Chicago.

They were delighted to have been able to meet "regular people" in a casual, unsupervised setting and appeared to enjoy their evening as much as we did. I look forward to having another opportunity to host.

**Stephanie Sorensen, FF Member**

**WHA - TV  
WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION**

# AUCTION

Many thanks to the 15 people who helped in various ways on the June 2nd Auction: Marian Ehrenberg, Donna Hussin, Neil and Nancy Denton, Betty and Jerry Fuller, Don Gostomski, Mary Lindquist, Kay Babcock, Mary Ann Fahl, Mary Lou Martino, Fred Paasch, Nancy and Richard Mueller. It was a fun afternoon and was followed by a free meal at the station.

A nice thank you letter was received from Erika Belgard of WHA thanking the club for our participation.

**Reta Harring, Chairperson**



## CRAFTER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be in August. We have yet to determine a date and host. We plan on working on projects for our Russian exchange. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the group, and as soon as we have the date and host I will contact everyone via email or phone.

Please share this information with other club members.

**Helen Ann Rugowski**



The Fall MFIS Welcome to Wisconsin Picnic is on August 24, about midday, at the Rennebohm Shelter, 115 N Eau Claire Avenue West of the Hilldale Mall.

This year help with games, sport explorations, and table hosts are top of the list. Please give the office a call if you are ready to join in. Later in the summer the website will tell you how to sign up. Last year we had 80 volunteers and more than 200 international students! A great ratio!! Many on-going friendships begin with the picnic.

Madison Friends of International Students  
Room 223, 716 Langdon St.  
Madison, WI 53706-1400  
Phone: (608) 263-4010  
Email: [info@mfismadison.org](mailto:info@mfismadison.org)  
Web: <http://iss.wisc.edu/mfis/>

**Nancy Mueller, FF Member**

## The Unofficial Store Sale

There are a very few items that remain in the store. Here is a list of those items that are still available.

- 4 Large T Shirts – they are white with green lettering and the string of people on them. \$5
- 3 Medium, 1 Large and 2 XXL Sweatshirts – white with all the flags on them. \$10
- FFW Pens – Great when traveling. You can pass them on to people. 10 for \$7
- Variety of WI Lapel Pins: WI Violet – 15, WI Robin – 15, US Flag – 37, WI Flag – 1 and WI/USA Cross Flag – 2. \$1 each.
- 8 – Lanyards for name badges – cloth with USA Flags. \$1

## FFW Tri-Fold Brochures

I have plenty of FFW Brochure's that you can distribute to people that you meet. They are great to have when you are traveling. Just pop a few in your carryon bag.

Contact Mary Lindquist at 608-233-9351 or [marylindquist@charter.net](mailto:marylindquist@charter.net) for any of the items from store or if you would like copies of the brochures.

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP  
Official Publication of  
The Friendship Force of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI  
P. O. Box 56223  
Madison, WI 53705  
www.ffwis.org

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Madison, WI  
Permit Number 1309

July 2013  
Annual Summer Club Picnic Form  
Incoming Russia Exchange  
Outbound Arizona Exchange



<http://www.eventbee.com/v/ffiworldconference2013>

President: George Wysock 833-5326  
Vice Pres: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Secretary: Mary Lou Martino 467-2966  
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
*Annual Summer Club Picnic*  
*Pig Roast*

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Lakeview Park Shelter, Middleton  
Allen Boulevard and Mendota Avenue

Park reserved at 4:00 PM  
Dinner at 6:00 PM



Cost: \$12.00 -- (Includes meal of pork, barbecued chicken, baked beans, fruit salad, cole slaw, potato salad, dessert, lemonade and tableware)

*Members are asked to bring items for Silent Auction*

**Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than Tuesday, July 9.**

-----cut and return with payment 

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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