



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

July 2014



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have three busy months ahead with three incoming exchanges. The planning committees and the Exchange Directors for the Utah and Art/Architecture Exchanges have their programs in place. The committees have worked really hard to make their plans interesting and engaging and included some new activities we have not previously held. The September exchange from the UK and Costa Rica is a work in progress. The only other ingredient needed is you! I hope everyone will be as generous with their time as in past years and will participate in one or more of the groups' activities.

The news out of Atlanta is the introduction of the Next Generation Initiative which is to make it feasible to include younger, working people. The first generation of members gave FF its global network of clubs, the baby boomers introduced themed exchanges and the NextGen will expand that influence further. "Research shows that meeting people of other cultures is the most important motivation for young travelers who seek authenticity and travel experiences that money alone cannot buy," explained CEO Joy DiBenedetto, when announcing the Council members who are charged with developing the travel, home hosting and hospitality opportunities in this initiative.

Your Board has just accepted an invitation to visit San Diego on a domestic exchange in 2015, likely to be in April. Every exchange needs a director and if you are interested, please contact George Wysock. Co-Directing is possible and encouraged, especially for a first time go at it.

We do hope to see many members at the Annual Picnic on July 17. This is an opportunity to meet our ambassadors from Utah, as well as, to see your friends. The deadline for reserving is July 10 and the price is right. Roast pig is the feature with all the sides, plus chicken. Does the summer get any better than that?

In friendship,

**Helen Ann Rugowski, President**

## Email Address Change:

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## 2014 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

**July 8-15**—Global Leadership Exchange, Milwaukee☺

**July 16-22**--Utah Inbound Exchange\*

**July 17**--Annual Summer Club Picnic ☺

**July 20**—E Reid Gilbert's Book Reading\*

**August 18**—Grafter's Group Meeting\*

**August 23-28**--Arts & Architecture Global Inbound Exchange\*

**September 18-25**--Wessex Club, United Kingdom/Costa Rica Inbound Exchange \*

**October 4**—Adopt a Highway ✍

**October 14-16**--World Conference, New Zealand ☺

\* Information in this newsletter  
☺ Information previously announced  
✍ Information to be announced later

## Newsletter Mailings Reminder

Come December 31, 2014 we will no longer send out a hardcopy newsletter. All newsletters are online for easy access. They can be viewed at [www.ffwis.org](http://www.ffwis.org). Click on the "Newsletter Tab" and select the newsletter you would like to read. The latest newsletter is usually added around the first of the month.

If you would like to receive an email notice that the latest newsletter is now online, send an email to [ffwis@charter.net](mailto:ffwis@charter.net) and request to be on the list. You may cancel receiving the notice at any time. If you already receive the email notification from Dave Dohler you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive notifications by email.

**Mary Lindquist, Membership**



## **Berlin Exchange with Extension to Poland**

**May 15-June 1, 2014**

“All is well that ends well” describes our trip.

The exchange to Berlin, Germany, started on Friday, May 16, 2014, when most of the ambassadors met their hosts. The three travelers from Huntsville, Alabama, were not so lucky. The first leg of their flight was cancelled, and rebooking was complicated. One went through Paris and arrived a day late, halfway through the welcome dinner. The other two were sent via Istanbul, Turkey, and arrived two days later. All three were exhausted but showed a cheerful spirit.

We were home-hosted for six nights until the morning of May 22. As usual there were a variety of lodging situations and distances to the start of events. Berlin is a large and spread-out city. For example, we had a 20 minute walk to the nearest subway or bus station. The dense traffic caused some late arrivals at meeting points.

Our week started with an interesting lecture about Germany’s road to democracy at the German Cathedral, then a four-hour sightseeing tour by bus, and finally the Welcome Party. We were treated to an abundance of German foods and libations in a lovely community room well decorated by their committee. A good number of the Berlin Club members attended. We presented our gifts, the pictorial books on Madison and Wisconsin along with our club pin and the cross-flag pin, to Hans-Holger Schroeter-Oestrich, ED, and Gloria Stark, club president. Lively conversations lasted into the evening.

The rest of the week followed the program prepared by the Berlin ED. It included a combination of guided and self-guided tours with a heavy dose of history. Some of the major sites were Checkpoint Charlie and nearby museum featuring ways people escaped from East Berlin, the Wall Memorial, all five museums on the Museum Island, a walk in the park of Charlottenburg Castle, a boat ride, Old Berlin to see the exterior of the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, etc. There was no Farewell dinner, which was fine with everyone as we had to rise early to catch our train to Poland.

Two events will be etched in our minds forever. The first happened on our way to Checkpoint Charlie. Gail Holmes tripped as she was crossing the street and fell. Her hosts and Lise took her in a taxi to the hospital

where she received expedient and attentive care. She broke her humerus near her shoulder and the X-ray showed other damage. She was advised to stay there to receive further treatment or to return home ASAP. She opted to go home. Travel Guard Insurance was contacted and plans were made for her to fly back – a long and complex process.

Our next medical issue was Lise who woke up the next day with excruciating pain to her lower back. She was unable to get out of bed. Her host quickly called for a doctor to come to the house. Three hours later an amiable young physician arrived, administered several injections in the painful area and prescribed some strong pain killers. By the next morning, Lise was able to rejoin the group. From that point on everyone was very kind, carrying her bags, helping her up and down the stairs, etc.

On Thursday morning, May 22nd, we boarded the train for Poznan, Poland. After three hours, we were greeted by our tour guide Anna and our bus driver. IntoPoland proved to be excellent - caring, knowledgeable, and professional. We can only give them high praise. They provided an excellent tour at a reasonable price. The food was the best - rich and delicious - and they carefully chose menus that provided a variety of Polish dishes. No complaints about that. Many of us enjoyed local beer and some had wine.

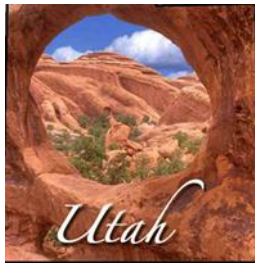
For 11 days we visited many of the most historical cities and sites of Poland. They included Poznan, Wroclaw (pronounced Vrosuaf), Auschwitz & Birkenau, Krakow, Zakopane and the Tantra mountains, the salt mines in Wielicka, the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochawa, and Warsaw. Our schedule was full, the pace intense even with an occasional half day off. One evening we were treated to a piano concert of Chopin’s music.

The chosen hotels were rated 3 to 4 stars, over-all centrally located, clean, comfortable, with helpful staff. There was always at least one TV station with English news and WIFI was somewhat variable.

The photographers had endless choices of wonderful sites, scenes and buildings. In time we hope they will share their bounty.

Prior to this exchange there were some concerns about blending unknown ambassadors from other clubs. Every one circulated and sat with different people during meals in Poland where we had more time to get to know each other. By the end we had formed a cohesive group, made new friendships, and possibly developed some new exchange options (Medicine Hat?). We definitively see the world with new eyes.

Lise R Skofronic & Stephanie Soresen, Co-EDs



## Utah Exchange July 16-22, 2014 Activities Time Schedule

For anyone that sent in a reservation to join us for the scheduled activities, these are the times and places for meeting:

**Wednesday, July 16—Concert on the Square**—Group hopes to secure spots in the Pinckney/King/Main Street area. Look for **GREEN** balloons marking the location and look for Helen Ann Rugowski, Margo McKnight or myself. Bring your own seating. Arrive between 5:30-6:00PM. If the concert is canceled, we will gather to welcome the ambassadors at the home of Lois Schulz, 5555 Tancho Dr #407, Madison, 53704, 608-243-9761, fourth floor Common's area.

**Thursday, July 17—City Tour**—Arrive by 8:45AM at South Towne Mall and park in LOT F south of McDonalds. Depart 9:00 AM and return 3:00 PM.

**Friday, July 18—Avenue Bar Fish Fry**—Arrive by 4:00PM.

**Saturday, July 19—Group Photo**—8:45AM State St entrance to Capitol, 9:00 AM **Farmer's Market**, 10:45 AM meet in **Capitol Rotunda** for 11:00 AM tour, 1:45PM meet at Greeter Desk, Level 4 of **Monona Terrace** for 2:00 PM tour.

**Sunday, July 20—Olbrich Gardens**—on your own between 10:00-4:00PM, **Cruise on Madison Lakes**—meet at Tenney Park Boat Dock by 4:30 PM, Cruise 5:00-8:00 PM, parking available on south side of Sherman Avenue across from dock.

**Monday, July 21—Upper Dells Boat Tour**—Arrive by 12:45 PM at boat dock for 1:00 PM tour. Parking available in their lot on River Rd. **Bavarian Smorgasbord, Dorf Haus, Roxbury**—arrive by 5:00 PM.

If you have questions, call me at 608-845-3393 or [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com).

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**

## Arts & Architecture Global Exchange, August 23-28, 2014



Just a reminder to members who would like to attend any of the activities August 23-27. Sign up with Janet Lonergan. The forms and checks must reach her no later than July 31. The form is in the June Newsletter with all the information and online at [www.ffwis.org](http://www.ffwis.org).

A recent addition is the cookout at Kay Kinney's the evening of Saturday, August 23. This will be the first chance to meet all the ambassadors and their hosts. Participants are to bring their own meats (buns also) to grill. People are also being asked to bring a dish to pass. Contact Susan Becker, cook-out chairperson, at 231-1817 or [sbecker4@tds.net](mailto:sbecker4@tds.net) to sign-up for foods to bring and to help with setting up Friday night or Saturday morning. All other activities are the same as listed in the June newsletter.

If you have questions, call me at 233-7536 or e-mail me at [dollycal@aol.com](mailto:dollycal@aol.com).

**Donna Calvert, Exchange Director**



**England &  
Costa Rica  
Exchange**



**September 18-25, 2014**

The number of ambassadors expected is 18. Friendship Force of Wessex, England has four people (one couple and two single women.) Friendship Force City of Flores in Heredia, Costa, Rica is anticipating 12 people. This number depends on securing travel visas, which Allison from FFI reports should not be a problem. In addition, there are two single women, one from California and one from Washington, D.C.

Prior to visiting our club the group is being hosted by the Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids, Iowa Cub September 11-18. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa ED has graciously agreed to arrange most of the logistics of their paperwork, travel and payments on behalf of both of our clubs. My major confusion is discerning emails which reference CR. Is it Cedar Rapids or Costa Rica?

Ambassadors were sent a suggested list of activities with descriptions in May that we could provide for them to see in Madison and Wisconsin. I didn't receive a response but when the ED in Cedar Rapids sent me their schedule, it includes several of the activities that were on our list. The planning committee, which is meeting on July 2, will have the opportunity to be creative in its selections.

If you would like to participate in this exchange, please let me know at [glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu) or 608-249-1846.

**Gail L. Holmes, Exchange Director**

## Exchange Opportunity to Jamaica November 3-9, 2014



As FFI continues to expand around the world, looking into new destinations for our programs, the trip to Jamaica is a great opportunity very close to home. The most fascinating part of the program is the humanitarian component included. This Discovery Exchange is November 3-9, 2014 at a cost of \$1,645 for land only. The destination is Hammerstein Highland House in Montego Bay, Jamaica and the humanitarian piece is the construction of an organic seedling nursery, working alongside young Jamaican youth. If this sounds appealing to you and you would like more information, contact Mary Wambay, at FFI, 404-965-4349 or [mmwambay@thefriendshipforce.org](mailto:mmwambay@thefriendshipforce.org).

## Crafter's Group



Margo McKnight is hosting the next gathering of this group, 321 N Midvale Ave, #1, Madison, WI on Monday, August 18, at 1:30 PM. Please email [memcknight1@yahoo.com](mailto:memcknight1@yahoo.com) or call 608-345-6827, if you will be joining us.





Sponsoring events to reach new and potential members who can learn more about our organization, while also providing an opportunity for current members to get together and learn more about the diverse people and cultures we have in Madison.

### Recent events

#### ***Ride the Drive***

Four members of the FF Board participated in this event on Sunday, June 1, giving some visibility to Friendship Force of Wisconsin and getting some exercise in the process. We had many questions as people biked beside us, inquiring about the FF t-shirts we were wearing. If you would like to be on our biking groups email list, let us know. We will also announce future bike outings either in the newsletter or by email so that you can join us.

#### ***L.E.O. ( Let's Eat Out)***

Friendship Force members and friends gathered on Thursday, June 19, at SWAD Indian Restaurant--our first attempt at sponsoring a program called L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out). 21 people attended. Madan Shrestha, SWAD owner, spoke to us briefly about the food and we were treated to a great array of Indian delicacies. We were delighted to meet 5 new friends who plan to join the Friendship Force of Wisconsin! More L.E.O.'s are planned.

### Future Plans

***L.E.O. 's--***We are planning to have three or four L.E.O.'s with an international flair each year. If you have recommendations for good ethnic restaurants, let us know!!

***Book club/discussions--***We would like to start a discussion group this fall beginning with the book, *Mai Ya's Long Journey*, the story of a Hmong girl who came to Madison in the 1980's. If you are interested in participating or willing to help us get it started, we'd like to hear from you. Those interested in participating will select the time and meeting dates that work for the group. If you know of books to read that provide insights into different people and culture, we would like your recommendations, as well.

Anyone willing to help lead a book discussion, or plan a L.E.O. event or plan a biking event, we'd also like to hear from you. Help is always welcome!

Be sure to check the newsletter and our Facebook page for news on Outreach events and remember to LIKE us on Facebook: Friendship Force of Wisconsin.

Mary Babula, [mcbabula@hotmail.com](mailto:mcbabula@hotmail.com)  
Sandi Wysock, [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)



## **A Letter from Friendship Force International**

### **Friendship Force Builds a Bridge for the Future**

(Atlanta, Georgia - 6.23.14) Today, FFI's President and CEO, Joy DiBenedetto announced the launch of the organization's NextGen Initiative, an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of Friendship Force International. For some time members have been pressing to include younger, working people. This new initiative will retain the pillars of home hosting and hospitality that are the hallmark of Friendship Force, yet make it possible for working people to discover the Friendship Force experience.

"The best way to widen our 'friendship circle' is to continue bringing down walls and building more bridges, bridges that cross language barriers, cultures, and generations. The first generation of members gave Friendship Force its global network of clubs and the baby boomers introduced the popular thematic exchanges. The Next Generation will expand that influence further. Research shows that meeting people of other cultures is the most important motivation for young travelers who seek authenticity and travel experiences that money alone cannot buy," explained CEO DiBenedetto.

The NextGen Initiative will introduce several new travel/home hosting opportunities especially designed to appeal to the interests and energy of the Next Generation.

"We cannot build this bridge alone, nor can we build it without modern tools," said DiBenedetto. New web-based tools will be introduced to make communication easier and faster. The organization is also exploring new, shorter models for home hosting. "I have gathered some of the most dynamic people I know to help with their vision, talent, and creativity," DiBenedetto noted. "I am proud to announce these two groups today."

**The NextGen Council** - Young leaders from 17 countries will constitute an advisory body reporting directly to the CEO. These leaders from various cultural backgrounds are ideally suited to adapt current exchange models to the interests of Next Generation travelers. They may also help connect Friendship Force to their own social networks, create and lead exchanges, as well as generate interest in Next Generation travel, home hosting, and hospitality.

**The NextGen Mentors** - A team of experienced leaders, from clubs in every major region of the world, who will work with Field Representatives and club executives to attract clusters of young participants from local communities, and shape travel and home hosting around their interests. Mentors are already at work preparing the launch of an information campaign. Their role is to anticipate needs, provide training and promote best practices, all hands on guidance for clubs and leaders as this new initiative is introduced.

Members of both the NextGen Council and the NextGen Mentors are outlined below. While the list of Mentors is complete, Council members will continue to be added in regions that are under-represented.

Jack Mullen, Chair of the Friendship Force International Board of Directors, agrees: "Connecting people for the purpose of growing international friendships and peace is essential in today's world. It is worth every ounce of energy we have. Every age is suited for that purpose and every station in life is made richer by changing the way we see and experience the world."

#### FFI's NEXTGEN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2016:

NextGen Council members will report directly to the CEO, Joy DiBenedetto.

Europe - Birgit Wagner, FF Varel, Germany, Club President; Serafina Haefeli, FF Solothurn, Switzerland; Dilek Sinlak, FF Karsiyaka Bay, Izmir, Turkey, Club VP; Arthur Smeers, FF Limburg, Belgium, Club President; Hendrik Schraa, Netherlands ESN. United States - Pilar Stella Ingargiola, Founder, Alchemy P4 Fund, OneGiving, Los Angeles, California; Guilaine Jean-Pierre, Director, engagesimply, New York, NY; Navneet Singh Narula, Entrepreneur, Atlanta, GA; Nicole Dow, Journalist, Atlanta, Georgia; Maria Ebrahimji, Founder, 'I Speak for Myself', Atlanta, Georgia; Camille Feanny, Anthropologist, Journalist, Atlanta, GA; Pallie Savoie, FF staff, Louisville, KY; Pamela McNall, Founder, Let's Chat Productions, Atlanta, GA; Shawn Decareaux, FF Club Member-Missoula, Montana; Kelli Koogler, Content Strategy at SapientNitro, Atlanta, GA. Latin America - Carolina Ardila, FF Bogota, Colombia, Member; Joel Aizprua, FF Discover Panama, Panama City, Panama; Simone Lanzoni, FF Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, Club President. Africa - Fredrick Bombo, FF Kampala, Uganda, Club Member; Joanna O. Mensah, FF Accra, Ghana, Club President. Asia - Ben Kantawang, FF Lamphun, Thailand, Club Manager; Atik Wijayanti, FF Solo-Surakarta, Indonesia, Club Manager; Bayar Lkhamjav, FF Mongolia, Club President; Ayu Trisna Bahar, FF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Club Secretary. Canada - Max Jones, Founder, FeliceNews, Toronto, Canada. Middle East - Samarth Puri, President and Founder, TEAM HOPE, Kuwait City, Kuwait.

#### FFI's NEXTGEN Mentors 2014-2016:

Cécile Latour, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, FFI International Board of Directors will coordinate the work of NextGen Mentors.

Europe - Boya Marshall, FF Hamburg, Germany, Club Member. United States - Patricia Meyer, FF Northern Illinois, FFI Field Representative. Latin America - Beatriz 'Cuqui' Ardila, FF Bogota, Colombia, FFI Board of Directors; Celia Accorsi, FF Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Brazil, Club President. Africa- Maatjie Hoffmann, FF Cape Town, South Africa, Club President. Asia - Tsuguyo Ishii, FF Western Tokyo, Japan, Club Member; Ivan Ng, FF Nanyang, Singapore, FFI Board of Directors. Canada - Murray Pink, FF Stratford St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada, Vice President. South Pacific - Debbie Lattey, FF Kapiti Coast, New Zealand, Club President; Bobbie Mulholland, FF Adelaide, Australia, Club President.

**ABOUT FFI:** Using simple tools of friendship, FFI promotes global understanding across the barriers that separate people around the world by conducting 400 programs every year, in 377 communities in 70 countries. When you travel or host with the Friendship Force, you get to know real people by sharing real life. Since 1977 when founder Wayne Smith and US President

Jimmy Carter introduced FFI at a White House gathering, one million people have participated in Friendship Force International's unique cultural exchange programs. Our work creates global cooperation and collaboration at the personal, human level - beyond governments and borders - where people live, work, play and explore in everyday life. FFI's efforts have been honored with a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 1992.

Find out more about us by visiting our website:

[www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org)

Follow us on twitter: @FriendshipForce / Facebook: Friendship Force

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**In Loving  
Memory**

Georgiann Ganser  
Death: June 16, 2014

Charter member of Friendship Force. She and her husband traveled throughout the United States and many foreign countries.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH on Friday, June 20, 2014. Entombment followed at Resurrection Cemetery.

Full Obituary: WSJ June 18, 2014 or Cress Funeral Service,  
[www.cressfuneralservice.com](http://www.cressfuneralservice.com)

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**July 2014**  
**Newsletter Mailing Reminder**  
**Utah Exchange July 16-23**  
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**England & Costa Rica Exchange September 18-25**  
**Outreach**  
**Letter from FFI Pres Joy DeBenedetto**  
**FF World Conference, New Zealand, October 2014**

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Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827  
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393



## **E. Reid Gilbert**

### **Reading**

### *The Twelve Houses of My Childhood*

July 20, 2014

7:30 PM

White Church Theatre

6348 State Road 23

Spring Green, WI 53588

This book is a piquant look at the down home roots of a mountain boy, who began his search for learning and a yearning to follow the gypsies. The language lends itself to an enjoyable sharing by reading aloud with a friend—have a watermelon summer....Barbara Banks, Tucson FF Club and former FFWI member

Book is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)