



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

May 2010



A Message from the President

We had a very nice Annual Meeting. For those of you that were unable to attend, here is a summary of the meeting. There was a quick review of our accomplishments during 2009.

The **executive board** for September 2010 to September 2011 was presented and unanimously elected for a one year term. The elected board members are:

President – Mary Lindquist

Vice President – George Wysock

Secretary – Helen Rugowski

Secretary – Diana Long

The new board members will take office at the September 2010 board meeting. All members are welcome to attend any of the board meetings. We welcome visitors.

EXCHANGE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2011

2011 will be very exciting for us. We will have **two inbound Exchanges**. The first one will be a reciprocal Exchange with Norderstedt Germany. Richard Mueller will be the Exchange Director for this exchange. We will have the opportunity to show off our great city to the people who hosted us in Norderstedt Germany. During Norderstedt's stay in the USA, they will also be hosted by the Long Island, New York FF Club. This exchange will take place in July or August 2011.

Our second inbound will also be a reciprocal Exchange with Baku Azerbaijan and will take place in June of 2011. Baku will have two other home stays, one with Des Moines Iowa and the other one with Eastern Nebraska. What a great way to see the Midwest, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. Donna Calvert will be the Exchange Director (ED) for this Exchange. She led the Exchange in 2009 to Baku and is looking forward to introducing the Ambassadors from Baku to more of our members...

Now what you have been waiting for, **our outbound Exchange is to Urla of Greater Izmir (EEZ-meer), Turkey**. Izmir's club is only 35 members. They were chartered in 1993. They were chosen to be the Club of the Year in 1999 at the conference held in Istanbul. They really enjoy showing the Turkish hospitality and their way of life. Look in future newsletters for information about the culture of the area as we plan the Exchange.

We finished the Annual Meeting with a special visit from **Kurt Westbrook**. Kurt traveled to Zurich Switzerland in 1978 on the very first Friendship Force Exchange... He brought a six minute video which included the announcement at the old MATC Theater, arriving in Zurich and clips of many of the activities.

There were several individuals at the Annual Meeting who participated on that exchange and were taken back to 1978 experiencing great memories of their fantastic trip. Kurt gave us a copy of the video, so we can show it again.

Have you visited **our website** lately? Check it out www.ffwis.org. Another website to check out is Friendship Force International's (FFI's) World of Friends Catalog. If you cannot travel when our club travels, you may join any other club's exchange. There are also several global exchanges in which you could participate.

I am promoting our **members' activities with service groups**. What I mean by this is, when one of our members is highly active in participating with an organization to better our world, I would like to help promote their activity. Hence the first promotion is for a service group in which Helen Ann Rugowski, our secretary, participates. She will be heading abroad to teach Spoken English for 3 weeks at Meadows High School in Sivakasi, India this summer. The group she is going with is Lighthouse Rotary of Evanston, Illinois. She became involved with this activity through the Middleton Rotary which is active in supporting the orphanage.

If club members would like to support her work with contributions of supplies it would be helpful. Contact her for suggestions. (Some possibilities could be: books, money, writing instruments – pencils, pens, crayons, etc.) If you are interested in helping Helen Ann, please send her an email asking how you can help her out. Her email is haharrin@hotmail.com

Let me know if you are highly active in a service group. Our members could possibly help you with your needs and supplies. I love to advertise these activities because they are people helping people and that is what we are about: "Changing the way we see the world".

In Friendship
Mary Lindquist – President



Wisconsin to Costa Rica

On April 6th Jan Weber Elizabeth Reinartz, Katherine Masden, Rad & Susan Becker, Gerald & Betty Fuller, Richard & Nancy Mueller, George & Sandra Wysock, Paul Buckalew, John Olson, Marjorie Groom, Mary Martino, Helen Rugowski, Ben & Ann Sowaske, Donald & Ginger Gostomski, Lise Skofronick, Lillian Genskow and I, Judi Blodgett, left for San Jose, Costa Rica.

We were met at the San Jose airport by our hosts with lots of hugs and kisses. While in San Jose we toured an Inbioparque Facility, a Hydroelectric Dam, museums, Irazu Volcano and several other places. Each day, but one, we met and traveled as a group and were treated to a huge lunch which almost always included rice and beans. We had a great farewell dinner with lots of food and dancing. Everyone thought they had the greatest hosts.

Our second week started out with a tour of the butterfly gardens and a very interesting tour of a banana plantation. We then stayed overnight at a beach front Inn on Tuesday & Wednesday nights. On Wednesday we learned how to make chocolate and had 95 % pure chocolate. On Thursday we traveled to Tortuguero National Park and took a two hour boat ride to reach the fantastic and lovely Mawamba Lodge. Many members adopted a Sea Turtle at the Turtle Museum. They are an endangered species. After staying for two nights we caught the boat back to our bus and traveled on to La Fortuna where we stayed at a lovely hotel. We had a great view of the Arenal Volcano and many of us also enjoyed the hot springs. We stayed there for three days during which we toured the Cano Negro Wild Life Refuge, took a canopy sky tram and walked 1.9 miles through the Arenal Hanging Bridges Park. We also saw the Arenal Volcano at night on an extremely active day. We could see the red molten rock falling down the side. It was amazing. A record number of birds were spotted on all of our travel. On our last night we stayed at the most beautiful hotel in San Jose and our guide Lloyd brought his wife over to join us for dinner.

Wednesday morning we left for the airport at 4:00 AM and arrived back in Madison at 10:00 PM tired but happy to be back safely.

JUDI BLODGETT, Costa Rica Exchange Director
608-244-8897 jablodgett@charter.net

Memorial Service for Lee Holt

You are invited to attend a memorial service for Lee Holt, who passed away on March 6. The service will be held on Thursday, June 10, at 4:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison. Lee and Pat have been members since 1994.

If you have any questions, please call Pat Holt at 678-763-4305 or email her at patleeholt@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS

Otty & Larry Schaefer 608-238-6033
5810 Cable Ave, Madison WI 53705

Gail Holmes glholmes@wis.edu 608-249-1846
3457 Hargrove St, Madison WI 53714-2224

Reminder

Adopt a Highway

On May 8 volunteers are needed to help clean up our section of Hwy. 12 from the "Park and Ride Lot", (exit 249, Parmenter St.) to CTY K. Meet and start at 8:30 am. from the P&R Lot Middleton...

With ten of us we should be done by around 11 am depending on the amount of trash and goodies we find. Money was found the last two outings. Who knows what lies ahead?

Please call DON GOSTOMSKI at 249-8250 to volunteer or if you have any questions. Thanks.
(Save Don time and call him).



2010 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

May 8 – Adopt A Highway *

May 18 – Exchange Director Workshop *

June 9 – Baraboo Special Event **

June 16 – 24, Wisconsin to Oklahoma *

June 23 – 26, Incoming Mystery Trip *

July 20 - 27, Tucson to Wisconsin *

July 22 – Annual Picnic **

October 16-19, 2010 FFI Conference **

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced or previously

FFW at FARMERS MARKET ON THE SQUARE

Here is your chance to greet and meet new people at the Farmers' Market each Saturday on the Capitol Square. We are signed up to staff a card table (no larger than 3'x3') each Saturday at a space yet to be determined on the Capitol Square between the hours of 7 am to 2 pm. We need volunteers from the middle of May through October 23 rd (except July 10th).

If you can help to promote our presence, please volunteer. For more info, **PLEASE phone Bea at 255-0858 or email Bea at gldewey@wisc.edu ASAP.** The sooner you call, the better chance that you will get the date you are available. WE NEED YOU.

THANK YOU!!!

BEA DEWEY, Chairperson

Give Hosting a Try!

Are you a member who has never had the opportunity to host an incoming ambassador or two? You have missed one of the best experiences of membership in the Friendship Force!

We have the perfect answer for you! We will be hosting an incoming mystery trip **from Wed., June 23 (before lunch) to Sat., June 26 (after lunch).** Outgoing mystery trips have been great fun from all reports. It must be almost as much fun to host some yet-to-be friends.

If you want to give it a try, please call or email Gene Dewey (255-0858 or gldewey@wisc.edu and he will get an application form to you on the double!

Let's show our guests some great Madison area hospitality.

GENE DEWEY, Exchange Director
608.255.858 gldewey@wisc.edu

Wisconsin to Oklahoma

We still have openings for our trip to Oklahoma City, **June 16 to 24.** We will be traveling by car and plan to stop in Independence, MO on our way to OKC and at Branson, MO and Springfield, IL on our way home.

Won't you please join us!

JANE KESSENICH, Oklahoma City Exchange Director
836-8429 or jpkessenich@charter.net

Tucson Friendship Force to Madison July 20-27

Last January, I promised the Tucson Friendship Force club that we'd have no snow but lots of smiling faces for them when they visit us July 20-27. I'm looking for lots of smiling faces from our group. Here are more details for the week. 21 ambassadors will arrive on July 20 with 8 couples and 3 singles. Most of them are traveling to Madison independently. Our plans include: July 21 - Taliesin in Spring Green - House and Hillside tours and lunch. Concert on Square. July 22 - FF of Greater Milwaukee and ambassadors from Birmingham AL will tour Monona Terrace and the State Capitol with Tucson/Madison. After lunch together, Milwaukee heads home. FF picnic. July 23 - Frank Lloyd Wright tour in Madison. July 24 and 25 - free days with optional group tours, July 26 - Local community visit and farewell.

Here are ways you can be involved:

Complete a host application form.

Consider being a day host.

July 21 - Go early to the Capitol and set up a reserved area at the Concert on the Square.

July 22 - Help with the set up, serving, or clean up for lunch at the Madison Senior Center. Contact Lise Skofronick (274-7732) or Margie Groom (516-2289). We anticipate about 80 FF members from the 4 clubs.

Be a photographer for various activities.

Host a noon or evening meal on July 23, 24 or 25.

If interested, contact

NANCY MUELLER, Tucson Exchange Director at
608-838-3575 or RNMUELLER@yahoo.com

Please Note: July 23 is our Annual Friendship Force Picnic

We will be hosting the Ambassadors from Tucson, Arizona. Watch for the details and a reservation form in the next newsletter.

Filobobos Mexico Oct 22. thru Nov. 3, 2010

Travel with FF of Lincoln, Nebraska. There are four places left and they are hoping to fill them. They will have five days of home hosting and will have a 3-4 day pre-tour out of Mexico City. Post tour to Oaxaca will include many ruins sites and the Day of the Dead celebration.

Contact exchange director Pat King at 402-489-3695 or pkking4@neb.rr.com. Cost \$1,556 plus airfare – less if exchange fills to 20.

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May 2010
Oklahoma Exchange
Exchange Director Workshop
Adopt A Highway
FF on the Square

President:	Mary Lindquist	233-9351
Vice Pres:	Margo McKnight	345-6827
Secretary:	Helen Rugowski	238-9731
Treasurer:	Diana Long	849-5592
Newsletter:	Janet Lonergan	592-3336

Exchange Director Workshop
Rescheduled for
Tuesday – May 18, 2010 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location – 5809 Julia St, Madison WI 53705

It's time to host a workshop on "What an Exchange Director (ED) is all about".
Come check out all the resources we have available to us to make the task a breeze.
We will review the ED manual and the discussions will be informal.

Prior ED's are welcome. They are the best resource.

Please RSVP by May 15, 2010.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

MARY LINDQUIST – President
marylindquist@charter.net 608-233-9351