



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

November 2009



It's November already!

Where did the year go?

My first month as President was very exciting. I received an email from George Brown. FFI was looking for an emergency host club for a split up exchange. I began to recruit and coordinate people to help with a group of 9 individuals from Moscow Russia. We have three and a half weeks to put an exchange together. As we have a lot of talent in our club and we will pull this off, hopefully with out a hitch. It is because we have such a great club with people willing to step in. **Thank you for doing so with such short notice.**

Soon you will receive your renewal forms in the mail. They will be delivered as first class mail. Along with the renewal notice will be a **Survey about the club**. We have a committee working on the Survey as the board would like your input on how our club is functioning. The purpose of the survey is to give our members a chance to voice their opinion, whether good or bad. The GOOD is confirmation that our club is strong and the BAD is an opportunity for us to make improvements.. **Please take the time to complete the survey as soon as you receive it.**

The **Mystery** was solved. A group of ambitious travelers set out on an adventure with Amtrak, all without knowing where they were going. They were bound for St. Louis. Soon you will hear about their adventures while meeting new friends and learning about the St. Louis area.

Our next event is the **Fall Festival**. Please wear clothing that you may have purchased on one of your exchanges or picked up along the way. We will have the group from Moscow Russia at the Festival. Let's impress them with costumes from around the world. Look for more information about the Exchange from Moscow in this newsletter and please join us for any or all of the activities planned with the ambassadors from Moscow.

I am always available for any comments or concerns you have about our club. I look forward to hearing from you.

In friendship,

MARY LINDQUIST - President

marylindquist@charter.net 608-233-9351

NEW MEMBERS

John Olson
Madison WI 53711-1248

540 Caldy Place
608-271-3895

Volunteers Needed for Public Television

Our Friendship Force Club has agreed to provide eight people to help with the December Public Television fund drive. Our time slot is **December 8th from 6:30 to 10:30**. We will be working the computers and taking phone calls during the evening television program.

Please e-mail KEN KOSCIK at kencanoe@sbcglobal.net or call him at 222-9513. Thanks for your support for this worthwhile event.

Mystery Trips/Exchanges and Cultural Experiences

Many have asked how one can become a Director for a Cultural Experience or Mystery Trip that may or may not have a Domestic Exchange as part of it. Are you interested? This is how they work.

Do you have a cultural idea that you would like to share with your fellow Friendship Force Members? Does the venture involve some sort of cultural experience by visiting a special exhibit related to a specific culture or will the venture let you experience a culture first hand? That is the criteria. It should be a learning process. For example, it could be American History, German Cuisine or anything else.

If you have an idea, present your idea to the President or to a board member. The idea (can be a mystery and the board would not know the destination) will be presented at the next board meeting (3rd Friday of the month). The board will discuss and determine (probably approve) the adventure. The next step is for you to plan the details and to write an article for the newsletter to promote the new adventure. The newsletter article should be specific about the date and the cost along with how you sign up to participate.

What ideas do you have in your head?

MARY LINDQUIST - President
608-233-9351

HELP EXTEND OUR HANDS IN FRIENDSHIP

If you are part or know of an organization in need of speakers, help the Friendship Force extend our hands in friendship! Several of our recent "Outbound" exchanges have developed DVD's and programs that are educational, entertaining and help spread the word of the Friendship Force. If you have an idea, please contact me and I'll do the rest.

MARGIE GROOM, Outreach Chairperson
608-516-2289 margiepg@charter.net

"The Case of the Missing Car" or "Senior Moments"

Another successful Highway clean up thanks to the volunteers Michelle Polidora, Margo McKnight, Gerald Fuller, Neil Denton and Nancy Shermo, Lise Skofronick, Richard Shropshire, and Dick Walker.

The first two volunteers M. and M. (they called me I did not call them to help) were late for the 8:30 am. start time; therefore I asked Jerry Fuller if he would drive his car to Hwy K and start working south on the west side of the road with Dick, Neil and Nancy worked that side from the Park and Ride going north. The west side was completed before 10 am. The east side had more trash and took a little more than half an hour longer.

I picked up the west side crew and drove them to the Park and Ride parking lot and Jerry asked; "Where is my car?" We looked around and called 911. You would think that one of us Seniors would have remembered that it was on the north end, at the Mobil Station on Hwy. K. It took the officers questions to refresh Mr. Fuller's memory and embarrassment.

The only interesting find that I know of was, Shrop and Lise found seven one dollar bills, after which they were looking for the mother lode. Another reason that side took longer. Thanks again to all.

DON GOSTOMSKI, Adopt a Highway, Chairperson

Wisconsin to Costa Rica

The dates are firm for the Costa Rica Exchange leaving April 6, returning April 21. We will have a seven day homestay and a 9 day/8 night tour. At this time the exchange is filled but I am taking names for a waiting list. Workshops are pending for early next year.

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

The 2009 Mystery Trip

Our Club received a \$1900 credit from Amtrak. Apparently not everything went as expected on our trip to Montana. The money was a credit and needed to be spent by the end of September 2009. Mary Lindquist contacted Gene Dewey and that set the wheels in motion. They were actually train wheels in motion. Gene made all the contacts and arrangements and the trip was set for Saint Louis, Missouri.

Twenty-five Friendship Force Ambassadors drove to Columbus and got on Amtrak for another Mystery Trip. Our departure was scheduled for 1:00 pm and we got to Saint Louis via Chicago around midnight.

On our first day, we visited "The Hill". It is a small area of Saint Louis that retains its Italian heritage and roots to the max. We visited a small local ravioli factory, Mama Toscano's, that produces 6000 ravioli per day and ships them all over the country. We played Bocce Ball in a large indoor rink, visited the local Saint Ambrose Catholic church for a concert, and ate lunch at a great Italian restaurant, Favazza's. We also visited the Missouri Bakery. The Italians are doing a great job in maintaining their culture and community spirit. They really help each other in many different ways. The rest of the afternoon was free time with our hosts.

On Saturday, we visited the restored Fox Theater. It seats over 4000 people and was built in the late 1920's. The word grandeur could be used here as well as magnificent. We then went to tour the Catholic Basilica of Saint Louis. It was awe inspiring and beautiful. There is over 83000 square feet of mosaics covering the walls and ceiling of the church. The afternoon was again free time with out hosts.

On Sunday we had a farewell brunch and then the group toured Grants Farm. It belongs to the Anheiser Busch and is a fun place for families to visit. There are lots of animal exhibits and demonstrations, and over 1000 free ranging animals on the acreage. There were lots of deer, buffalo, turkeys etc.

The free time with the hosts was spent in a variety of ways. Some Ambassadors visited the "Arch", a must stop. Others went to the Art museum, Cahokia Mounds, and other museums, etc. Some of the Ambassadors had the opportunity to see the Phantom of the Opera at the Fox Theater.

The hosts were gracious. They provided us with a great variety of venues which painted a great picture of Saint Louis. We made many new friends and shared different life experiences. It was a very enjoyable trip and we are all enriched by the experience.

Gene Dewey has done it again and has pulled off another memorable mystery trip. It takes time, knowledge, patience and a little luck to pull these trips off. Gene has been the planner, organizer, and exchange director for five great mystery trips. If he was a football team, he would be 5 and. 0. Thanks again to Gene Dewey for all his time and effort in putting this trip together.

Reported by KEN KOSCIK

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!

Yes they are. A small group of 9 Ambassadors from Moscow will be here from November 6, 2009 to November 13, 2009. An email was sent to our membership and many of you responded with a positive outlook. We accepted the challenge and we moved forward. With only three and a half weeks to receive the information and make the plans, WE DID IT.

Here is the proposed itinerary for the impromptu:

THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Friday - November 6, 2009

Arrive from O'Hare at the Dutch Mill Park & Ride -
Approximately 3:50 or 5:20 PM

Saturday - November 7, 2009

Visit the last Farmers Market around the Capital Square
Tour of the Capital - time to be determined (9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00 or 3:00)

Sunday - November 8, 2009

Fall Festival - Noon at Knights of Columbus Hall

Monday - November 9, 2009

Free Day - Visit something the Ambassador is interested in.
Olbrich Gardens, Chazen Museum, WI Historical Museum, Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts, Madison Zoo, etc.
Small Group Potluck Dinners - Contact Fannie Hicklin, 233-5748, right away if you are interested in participating.

Tuesday - November 10, 2009

Visit Monona Terrace, Overture Center, State Street

Wednesday - November 11, 2009

Free Day - see above for ideas.

Thursday - November 12, 2009

Free Day - Last minute shopping, visiting museums, etc.

Friday - November 13, 2009

Possible Trip to Chicago, leaving Madison - Leave Madison between 7:00 and 8:00 AM from Dutch Mill Park & Ride. Funding to be determined. After the tour of Chicago, they would be dropped at the airport. Their will be extra seats on the bus if you would like to join them there might be a nominal cost. Contact Mary Lindquist, 233-9351. if you are interested.

Flight departs from Chicago at 7:30 PM - If they leave from Madison they will take the Van Galder at 2:45 PM from the Dutch Mill Park & Ride

If you would like to volunteer or participate in any of these activities, you are WELCOME. Let's show them a GREAT WISCONSIN WELCOME.

If you have any questions in my absence, contact Margo McKnight. 608-345-6827 memcknightl@yahoo.com

**MARY LINDQUIST, Exchange Director
608-233-9351**

Chicago Bus Trip November 13, 2009

Since the Russians were supposed to stay in Chicago, we would like to hire a bus and take them there before they leave on November 13, 2009. How would you like to spend the day in Chicago with them? There will be plenty of room for extras. **Are YOU interested?** We would leave Madison at the Dutch Mill Park & Ride around 7:30 AM and arrive back in Madison around 7:30 PM.

If you are interested - give me a call NOW. I will send you an email about the possible itinerary.

**MARY LINDQUIST, Exchange Director
608-233-9351 marylindquist@charter.net**

Silent Auction

Do you have any white elephant items around that you could bring for the auction?



2009 - 2010 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

November 8 - Fall Festival *

November 6 -13, Russians to Wisconsin *

December 5 - Holiday Lunch **

2010 - April 6 - 21, FFW Costa Rica *

February 14 - Brunch **

March 12, 13, 14 - St. Patrick's Pot Lucks **

April 25 -Annual Business Meeting & Lunch **

May - Mystery Event **

Exchange from Montreal Canada **

July - Tucson to FFW **

July 22 -Annual Picnic **

FFW to Oklahoma **

October 13 -15, 2010 FFI Conference **

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or prev. announced

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November 2009
WHA - TV Sign-up
Fall Festival Reservation
The Russians are Coming

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

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
FALL FESTIVAL
Sunday, November 8, 2009



Knights of Columbus Hall
5256 Verona Road, Madison
Cost: \$15.00

12:00 Noon
12:45 PM
1:15 PM

Social hour
Meal Service
Program

Edith's Catering: Baked chicken, Au gratin potatoes, green beans almandine, cauliflower, broccoli & carrots, pea salad, cranberry fluff, mixed vegetable salad, mock crab macaroni salad and rolls, coffee, or milk
Dessert provided by your donations --

PROGRAM: Exciting Azerbaijan Exchange Presentation

----- Silent Auction +++ What can you contribute?

International dress or fall costumes are appropriate. How creative can you be?

Be sure to introduce yourselves to any new members attending the Festival. Please
remember to wear your NEW name badges.

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force.

Your reservation and payment are due by November 2

Mail to: Fannie Hicklin 3814 University Avenue Madison WI 53705

Questions? 608-233-5748

Names: _____

Number: _____ @ \$15.00 _____