



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

November 2010



## Fall Festival 2010

### Message From the President

Here comes November. Where did October go? I just returned from four wonderful days in Washington DC attending the Friendship Force International Conference. There were 500 attendees from so many places. I sat next to a couple from Indonesia at the opening remarks session. Before the meeting started, we began our friendship. I have always wanted to visit Indonesia since a friend of ours went there for work. Our friend was there for only a short period of time, not long enough for us to visit them. What is the next best thing? The next best thing is to watch the **FFI's Catalog of Exchanges** for the next Exchange that fits into our schedules. Just check out the upcoming Exchanges at [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org).

One of the bigger items that I took away from this conference is that we don't involve our new members very well. Many ideas were shared at the conference and I will work to apply some of the new ideas in our club in order to involve everyone in our club. We can all do our part in making our club strong.

One of our members, **Lise Skofronick**, donated a week at her Dacha on Lake Alexander. This brought in \$550 at the Live Auction during the conference. Of this \$550 we, FFW, will receive a portion of the money to be used for promotion and growth of our club. **A big THANK YOU LISE for generously donating your Dacha on the Lake.**

Have you checked out **YouTube** lately? There are videos on YouTube made by FF members from other clubs. Check them out by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search on Friendship Force. Our club does not have any videos out there yet. When we put one out there we will let you know. For now, enjoy the other FF members who have taken the time to publish their videos. Words and pictures really make a difference.

We have made our request for 2012 Exchanges with FFI. We are asking for **Prospective Exchange Directors (ED)** to come forward NOW. We can't do the exchanges without an ED. I would love to be a mentor for anyone interested in being an ED. Give me a call if you are interested in being an ED. Thanks for helping to support our club.

In Friendship,

**Mary Lindquist, President**

Sunday, October 3, the Knight's of Columbus Hall was the scene of FFW's Festive Fall party. We started with a costume parade to show off and judge the creative costumes worn by many of our members. **Melinda and Paul Certain won the International category with an English Beef Eater's and his lady's outfit. Shirley Lake was a charming 'hippy', winning for the Halloween category.**

Exchange Directors Jerry Fuller and Donna Calvert answered questions about their up coming **exchanges** for 2011. Hua Mulan dancers Dalian and JongMay entertained us with Asian ethnic dances. Thank you to Fannie Hicklin and the Activities Committee.

**A very sad note:** As Mary Ann Fahl was leading the costume parade she slipped and fell. Later at the hospital it was determined that she had broken her hip and she underwent surgery at St. Mary's Hospital on Monday. Mary Ann has been on the FFW Board for several years as president and past president. We all wish her well.



Front - Mary Ann Fahl, Richard Shropshire & Joan,  
Back - Shirley Lake, Lorie Olsen, Susan & Rad Becker, Virginia  
Zwickey, Janet Harvey, Melinda & Paul Certain

## Friendship Force International Conference

I would like to thank you for sending me to the International Conference in Washington DC. It was a fantastic conference. I met many people from around the world. I made sure to sit with someone new at every event.

In George Brown's opening session, he stated, "**We are all bound by our kitchen tables**". That is so true. Whenever someone visits your home, where do you usually stand or sit? When you visit someone where do the conversations take place? Of course – in the kitchen. When you move your group from the kitchen into the living room or family room the tone of the conversations seem to change. It becomes more formal. You don't get to see what is happening and made to feel a part of it. The Kitchen is the nerve center of a home. That is where you feel most comfortable and find out about your new friends.

Our club is part of the Midwest Region where there are 13 clubs. The clubs in our region are in the following states: Illinois (2), Iowa (5), Nebraska (2), Minnesota (1), Missouri (1), & Wisconsin (2). Our Regional Rep, Lee Rockwell – Lincoln NE, along with Pat & Dave (FFI Board) Meyer from the Northern IL club, worked on publicity for our club at the conference. They did two things. One – they made a pamphlet titled: The Treat Midwest – USA Breadbasket for the World. Two – They asked if we wanted to purchase a T-shirt ahead of time and wear it during the conference.

I purchased a t-shirt and wore it for 3 days. The shirt was dark green in color. The front had a picture of the 6 states as a group with stars where each of the Midwest FF Clubs are located. The words on the front of the t-shirt were:

**"Ask Me About the MIDWEST A Constellation in the Heart of America"** The back had the words: "Friendship Force of the Midwest" and listed all of our cities. It was great to easily identify the people from the Midwest.

There were several other groups of people that were identified by dress. The people from Azerbaijan all had white t-shirts with Azerbaijan on the back. The people from Indonesia all had green jackets. The people from Africa were all very well dressed with the women wearing their bright colors as usual.

There were sixteen different workshops available to view, however there was only time set up to attend four of them. That was very hard because I wanted to attend most of them. The workshops that I attended were: Strategies for Club Growth, Getting the World's Attention, Recruiting Next Generation Hosts and You've Got the Right Idea. I have brought home some ideas that I will work with the board to implement.

The one workshop that was specifically for the Midwest was called "Discover USA". You may remember I mentioned in my previous writings the upcoming

Exchange called "Life on the Mississippi". This is an inbound exchange that will be hosted by four of our regional clubs along the Mississippi. The exchange was developed at the Presidents' Conference back in April. The exchange will happen in 2011. We need to make our region better known and have Ambassadors wanting to come here. This is one way of presenting ourselves as a region to the rest of the world.

Finally, I just pulled this off the FFI website – "2010 has been a great year for the Friendship Force with over 5,000 individuals traveling on 299 total exchanges – a significant increase from 2009. The 33rd World Conference in Washington, DC, was also a huge success with 500 Friendship Force members in attendance." That is a great accomplishment for Friendship Force. We are growing again. Be sure to check out the FFI Catalog of Exchanges at [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

### Mary Lindquist – President In Friendship



## 2010- 2011 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

November 6 – Anniversary of FFGM \*\*

December 4 – All Club Holiday Party \*

### **2011**

February 13, Valentine Party \*\*

May 1 – Annual Meeting & Election of Officers \*\*

July 16 - 23, 2011 - Azerbaijan to Wisconsin \*\*

August – 2011 International Conference Germany \*

September 19-26, 2011 – Germany to Wisconsin \*

October 2011 – Wisconsin to Urla, Turkey \*

• Information in this newsletter

\*\* Information to be announced or previously announced

## **Turkey in 2011**

### **Wisconsin to Urla of Greater Izmir, Turkey Early October 2011**

Reports from Exchange Directors of other Friendship Force Clubs that were hosted by clubs in the Izmir, Turkey area, elicit glowing comments. Diana, of the Northern Illinois Club writes, "The Turkish people as a whole were the absolute friendliest people of any country we have ever visited". If you missed indicating your probable interest in joining with this exchange at the Fall Festival, please let me know now. Watch for the Interview dates schedule in a future Newsletter

**JERRY FULLER, Exchange Director**  
608 846 5533 [bjfuller@centurytel.net](mailto:bjfuller@centurytel.net)

## **Norderstedt, Germany to Wisconsin**

**The tentative dates for Norderstedt  
To visit Madison are September 19-26, 2011.**

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on it. Norderstedt is in the north of Germany, just north of Hamburg. Planning is underway. The first meeting for the Exchange from Norderstedt Germany was held at Nancy and Richard Mueller's with Pizza and beer. Anybody wishing to be part of the planning committee should contact

**RICHARD MUELLER, Germany Exchange Director**  
[Rnmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:Rnmueller@yahoo.com)

## **Adopt-A-Highway**

On October 2, Chairperson Don Gostomski with Karl & Mary Ann Kleermann, and Paul Buckalew cleaned the entire Friendship Force's assigned section of Highway 12.

It was cool with a north wind but it was a beautiful clear Fall morning. Don was disappointed in the small number of volunteers but was grateful for the hard workers that did show up. Karl & Mary Ann have not been on the volunteer list but volunteered when seeing Don in church.

They picked up enough to fill 6 trash bags. Don found a life jacket and a tennis ball, Paul found a nickel! The crew was so ambitious that they even cleaned up the 'park and ride' lot and were finished before 10:30 am.

Hopefully the next time the crew will be larger.

**Don Gostomski, Chairperson**

## **Outreach Efforts**

Thank you to all of these members for spreading the word about the Friendship Force. If you would like to attend any of the presentations, call Margie for more information.

Nancy Mueller, Lil Genskow and Joanne Johnson presented information at Lake Edge Lutheran Church about Costa Rica and Nancy, Helen Rugowski, John Olson and Gary Lindquist also made a presentation about Costa Rica. This was for a gathering at the REI store. These presentations promoted some interest for several possible members.

If you are a part of a group and would like to have a travel program or share the good news of the Friendship Force contact,

**MARGIE GROOM, Chairperson**  
608-516-2289 or [mgroom053@gmail.com](mailto:mgroom053@gmail.com)

## **Friendship Force pledge**

As a member of the Friendship Force,  
I recognize that I can make a difference.

I have a mission to be a friend to the  
people of the world.

As I embark upon this adventure, I know  
that others will be watching.

I know that through my example to my  
fellow citizens and the people of other  
nations, the cause of friendship, love and  
peace can be advanced.

**I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Look who came to our party!



Virginia Zwickey, John Olson, Lise Skrofronick,

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November 2010  
All Club Holiday Party Reservation

President: Mary Lindquist 233-9351  
Vice Pres: George Wysock 833-5326  
Secretary: Helen Rugowski 238-9731  
Treasurer: Diana Long 849-5592  
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

ALL CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY  
Saturday, December 4 Noon - 2 PM  
Cost \$16.00  
Edgewater Hotel  
666 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison



White Elephant Sale, Silent Auction

Have in mind a 2-3 minute story to share with your tablemates.

Payment to Fannie Hicklin by November 29.

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force 608-233-5748

Mail to Fannie Hicklin: 3814 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705

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

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_