



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World

November 2013



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have sent our requests for 2015 to Atlanta. Belgium is our first choice, followed by the Netherlands, Chile and Morocco. Our club has never received an exchange to Belgium and we last traveled to the Netherlands in 1998 and 1990. Let's hope we get one of our first 2 choices.

Our Fall Festival is November 3 at the Coliseum Bar. I hope to meet many of you there as we celebrate the season and what has been a busy year for our club. Also in November, I and 10 others from Madison will be going to New Orleans for the World Conference. I believe our Club will be well represented and I expect we will have some new ideas to share with you upon our return. Prior to New Orleans, I and two others from Madison will be part of the Milwaukee's Club Exchange in Birmingham, AL.

I want to continue to nurture our connection with the International Institute of Wisconsin. I especially think this can be an ideal type of involvement for our members who are no longer up to exchange hosting of 5-7 days but still want to enjoy a cross-cultural experience. Most recently, two of our members hosted five visitors from Japan who are involved in agriculture. Look for their stories in this newsletter to see if you might consider hosting for future visitors. I will be day hosting a visitor from Japan this Sunday; she works for their Environmental Government Cabinet and came to the USA for an internship in DC which was cancelled due to our government shutdown.

Looking ahead to next year, the 2014 Midwest Regional Conference is May 1-4 in Milwaukee, WI at the Brookfield Suites hosted by the Friendship Force of Milwaukee. It will be both fun and educational. Pat Meyer, the Midwest Regional Director, has indicated the four-day event will feature several workshops, a food tour, cooking lessons, and meeting with a Polish diversity group. All members are invited and I hope many of you will plan to come for some or all of the programs.

November is a time of Thanksgiving for the blessings we have received. Give us we pray, one more thing....the gift of a grateful heart.

In Friendship,

Helen Ann Rugowski



2013 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

Note: November 15th Board Meeting is canceled. Next meeting is December 20.

November 3 - Fall Festival, Coliseum Bar**

November 4 - Crafter's Group Meeting*

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

December 7 - Holiday Party, Vintage Brewery*

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

May 1-3, 2014 - Midwest Regional Conference Milwaukee**

May 15-June 1, 2014 - Berlin/Poland Outbound Exchange*

July 2014 - Utah Inbound Exchange**

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

October 2014 - Campinas Brazil Inbound Exchange**

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or previously announced

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Arizona Outbound Exchange February 15-28, 2014

Our Wisconsin ambassadors met on October 3. We decided we'll get the "Wisconsin red and white" out with a sprinkling of the Packer green and gold when we travel

to Tucson and Phoenix next year. There are 22 ambassadors gathering there from February 15-28. During the week in Phoenix we will have the opportunity, if weather permits, to take a two day trip to the Grand Canyon

Nancy Mueller, Exchange Director



Berlin/Poland Outbound Exchange May 15-June 1, 2014

There are no spaces available for our trip to Berlin and Poland May

15-June 1. Opening this exchange globally resulted in many more applicants than we had actual spaces. Our initial round of interviews has passed in an attempt to allow participants to obtain the best airfare possible.

Berlin is one of the world's great cities. Poland is doing well and is attractive to tourists. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the changes in that area of the world over the last 20+ years. We are excited to take this journey!

Stephanie Sorensen and Lise Skofroncik, Exchange Directors

Bogota, Colombia Outbound Exchange Opportunity

The Friendship Force of Greater Lansing Club is attempting to fill an exchange with the Friendship Force of Bogota, Colombia, followed by a 3 night visit to Cartagena. Dates are February 21-March 3, 2014. The cost is \$2,200 per person including international airfare from Detroit with a November 15 deadline for applications. Details are on the FFI website. For more information, please contact Exchange Director, Susan J. Hill at 517-281-7292 or sjh2725@gmail.com

HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTENDED FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCES

We put a lot of thought into staying true to our financial commitment. Still we know there's always more that needs to be accomplished. The conferences have so much good information to help support our club that we should always have as many people attend as possible.

Friendship Force International has requested that we support our Club's attendance at conferences. Our Club's Bylaws contain the following article:

"The Club President or another designated member of the Board should plan to attend the International, District, Regional and Local Conferences to represent The Club. Whenever possible, The Club Treasury will assume the cost of both the travel and conference expenses of the President or another designated member of the Board, at the time of the conference. If The Club is unable to bear the full cost of the conference, the Board may decide the appropriate amount, with the anticipation that in succeeding year the full amount will be provided"

We depend entirely on membership dues and voluntary contributions. These efforts are successful only because of the dedicated involvement of our members. On the renewal form, if you would like to provide support of our Club's delegate, please indicate an amount you are contributing. It can be \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, or more.

The real power of Our Club lies with people like YOU. Thank you for your support.

The Board of Directors
Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Help Wanted: Director of Host Committee for 2014 Global Exchange

20 people from FF groups from around the world are expected for the Art/Architecture themed exchange August 23-28, 2014. The committee is off to a great start planning interesting, appropriate activities to support the theme.

We do need someone who will direct the hosting process. If you have questions regarding this position, please contact me at 233-7536 or dollycal@aol.com
Donna Calvert, Exchange Director



IT IS RENEWAL TIME AGAIN

Thank you for your support of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin. If you have not received your renewal notice, you will receive it in the mail shortly.

Please verify all the information on the form to help us confirm your address, emails, phone numbers, etc. The board also uses the list of volunteers for helping with exchanges and other activities.

There is a special line for donation to support a representative attending a Friendship Force conference, with board approval. The attendee brings back a wealth of information to help our club. Please consider strengthening our club by supporting a delegate at Friendship Force Conferences.

To make changes to your volunteering activities, for any category you volunteered for, simply check the box or cross off the category on the Renewal Notice.

Thank you for your prompt return.

Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair

608.233.9351

marylindquist@charter.net

Hosting an International Institute of Wisconsin Dinner, October 15, 2013

FFW Host, Jane Kessenich



Dinner with Horticulturists from Chiba University, Japan

The Ode to Joy! Sharing my home and my friends with International visitors. The dinner hour of October 15 brought Dr. Ted Tibbits, UW Prof. Emeritus of Horticulture and his wife Mary, delivering Prof. Toyoki Kozai, President, Japan Plant Factory Association, Prof. Emeritus and former Chancellor, Chiba University; and Prof. Toru Maruo, Specialist of Vegetable Science, Protected Cultivation, Hydroponics and Plant Factories, Chiba University.

I had prepared a chicken casserole. Wynn & Loree Davies brought a green salad, and my friends, Bob & Jeanne Tabachnick brought a pear tart and frozen Kefir for dessert. Ted and Mary brought wine and Prof. Ed Wellin brought his quiet self. I had omitted asking him to bring something.

The conversation and sharing about our work and families never stopped and the 9:00 p.m. witching hour came much too soon.

Thank you, Helen Rugowski, for putting me in touch with the International Institute of Wisconsin. This was the second group of people that I have hosted and I highly recommend participating in this program.



ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS!

Are you heading south for the winter? If you would like me to send you the hardcopy newsletter to your Snow Bird location, let me know where you will be and when you are leaving. I will temporarily change your address so you don't miss anything while you are gone.

We also send a notice to your email when the newsletter is ready to read on line. You can find the newsletter on line from our webpage: www.ffwis.org

Mary Lindquist, Membership Chair

marylindquist@charter.net

608-233-9351



A big **Thank You** to Neal & Nancy Denton, Dick Walker, Ed. Reed, and Paul Buckalew for spending a few

hours picking up trash when they could have enjoyed the great outdoors doing other things. For the first time on my watch we had a gorgeous day--sunshine and pleasant temperatures.

The six of us gathered nine or 10 garbage bags in about two hours. There was probably more, but it is hard to see things in the tall grass. There were a few unusual items--a 10-inch frying pan, a cardboard box when picked up by Dick W that had 8-10 mice who abandoned their home, and a package of cigarettes with a lighter--someone must have tried to quit smoking.

Don Gostomski Adopt a Hwy Chair



Crafter's Group

Next meeting is November 4, 1:30 PM at the home of Margy Walker. All are welcome to enjoy crafting with us! Please let hostess know if you plan to attend. 608-242-4411 or email MKZWalker@gmail.com

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November 2013
December Holiday Luncheon Reservations
Membership Renewal
Snowbirds



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

President: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Vice Pres: Mary Babula 241-0212
Secretary: Jan Weber 223-1287
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 7, 2013

Vintage Brewing Company
674 S Whitney Way
Madison, WI

Noon - 2 PM
Cost: \$17.00



*Please bring non-perishable items (canned goods, paper products, soup, etc.)
for contribution to the Catholic Multicultural Center.*

Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than November 26.



-----cut and return with payment
_____ # attending x \$17 = \$ _____

_____ 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