



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Changing the Way You See the World

November 2015



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When our president, Mary Babula, and I first started discussing our goals for 2015-2016, we agreed that we should have general meetings of the membership at least one or two times each year in conjunction with a social event. Our goal is to keep you better informed and also to obtain input that the board can use for planning and setting goals in the coming year. Our first general meeting will be held on November 17 at 2:00 PM at the Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road. Please arrive a little early as we need to start promptly at 2:00 PM. We are very fortunate to have our regional representative, Adrienne Moen, as our guest. Pizza, dessert, salads, and beverages provided following the meeting.

This meeting will focus on sharing information from the international conference and a discussion of the issues facing Friendship Force both internationally and locally. If you have specific issues that you would like to see as topics of future meetings, please contact me.

My thanks go out to Helen Ann Rugowski, Kay Kinney, Mary Lou Martino, Ernie Thieding, Margo McKinght and Jane Kessnich for dinner hosting a group visiting the US to study "Advocacy for At Risk Youth." We had a large group and only two hosts. Jane volunteered to host four and Kay and friends hosted four. Friendship in Action!

Finally a quick update on Mary Babula's health. Mary is still hospitalized and struggling with several issues. I was able to visit her briefly last week. In spite of all of the medical issues that she is facing, she is in good spirits and trying to convince her nurses to join the Friendship Force. Cards may be sent to her at 1818 Jenifer St., Madison 53704.

In Friendship

Sandi Wysock Vice President



Helen Ann Rugowski Phone Number
608-841-1087

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2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

NOTE: November's Board Meeting moved to 1:00 PM, prior to the General Membership Meeting on November 17, Fitchburg Library.

November 7—Exchange Director Workshop© (CANCELED)

November 17—General Membership Meeting*

December 5—Christmas Party Pot Luck*

2016

April 28-May 1—FF Midwest Regional Conference ☺

May 10-17—Cleveland County, UK Outbound Exchange*

July 2016—Nashik Riverside Club India Inbound Exchange

September 2016—San Jose, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange

September 16-19—FFI World Conference*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

When: November 17

Time: 2pm-4:20pm

Location: Fitchburg Public Library 5530 Lacy Road.

Regional Representative, Adrienne Moen, will visit our club on November 17. Discussion will include information from the international conference, as well as, a discussion of the strategic plans that are being put in place to ensure that Friendship Force continues into the next generation while staying true to its mission, peace through friendship.

Pizza, dessert, salads, and beverages provided following the meeting.

RSVP to Helen Rugowski, baharrin@hotmail.com,

608-841-1087 or sign up on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/important-ffw-m-membership-general-meeting-tickets-18779571203>



Seeking Volunteers

The old saying is that many hands make light work. It is also more fun! There are so many small things that you can do that make a big difference.

Set up and take down for upcoming events: We could use some help setting up tables for the general meeting on November 17. Arrive at the Fitchburg library by 1:30 PM, if you are willing to help. We will also need help setting up for the Christmas Party on December 5. Arrive at Middleton Glen by 12:00 PM, if you are willing to help.

Facebook: Mary Babula and I try to maintain Facebook. We have nearly 80 followers from around the world who watch our site. If you are willing to help us by posting photos, announcements, etc., let me know.

Activities: We are looking forward to an exciting year with a variety of activities. If you have always wanted to lead a LEO event, or help with a pot luck, set up a wine tasting, plan a luncheon, or if you have other ideas for activities, this is the group for you.

Outreach: In January, we plan to staff a table at the International Festival. If you have a passion for networking with other community groups, are willing to speak to groups about the Friendship Force, or are interested in the book club, or hosting American Institute dinners, Outreach could use your help.

Please contact me to volunteer for any of these opportunities.

Sandi Wysock, sandrawysock@msn.com, 608 833 5326



On Saturday, October 20, 2015, a beautiful bright sunny little bit windy day, two Friendship Force members plus one 17 year old grandson walked both sides of Highway 12 between Parmenter Park & Ride and County K clearing up and bagging litter. We found a tire, a muffler, a moped license plate, empty plastic bottles a few beer bottles, and much plastic. Eight full bags were left to be picked up by the highway department. We checked and found that the Friendship Force road sign is in good shape. Many thanks to those who worked. I would like all of you to consider helping out in the spring roadside pick up.

Lady Bird Johnson would be pleased with our efforts to beautify America.

Sarah Rankin



Durham Cathedral and the River Ware, UK

2016 Outbound Exchange Cleveland County, UK, May 10-17 Post Exchange Tour: May 18-21

Ambassadors for this exchange met on October 15 to discuss our travel plans. Many of the ambassadors are planning additional travel before and/or after the exchange and post-exchange tour, so we wanted to give everyone a chance to coordinate their airline tickets and additional sightseeing activities. We will be getting together again in March/April for the pre-exchange meeting.

Some of us will be flying into London before the exchange begins while others are planning additional time in Scotland or Norway after May 21. It will be fun to get together this summer, after we are all home, to find out where everyone went and what they did.

It's not too late to apply! We have had some cancellations and now discover that we have two spots available for this exchange. An invitation has been sent to other clubs in our region, inviting their members to apply, but we would love to fill the exchange with our own membership. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Brown.

Nancy Brown & Stephanie Sorensen, Co-exchange directors



Global Exchange to Sochi, Russia and Ismir, Turkey (Includes two nights stopover in Istanbul) April 27-May7, 2015 FF of Northern Illinois

Price: \$1450. Includes FFI & host fees, two nights in Istanbul hotel (incl. breakfast), plus all admissions, etc. in Sochi & Ismir, and an overnight excursion to Ephesus while in Izmir.

Not included: All airport transfers and plane fares including during the exchange between the two cities. Estimated plane fare from Chicago \$1500 plus.

For more information contact Dave and Pat Meyer, 708-369-5685 or email them at davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net.

**International Institutes of Wisconsin (IIWI)
Dinner guests from Botswana, Tunisia, Pakistan,
and Trinidad, October 5, 2015**



The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) operates out of the International Institutes of Wisconsin and our Club has been fortunate to partner with them since 2013. A component of the program includes home hospitality visits to give both visitors and locals the chance to gain mutual understanding and appreciation.

On October 5, we dinner hosted delegates who were here for a program on "Advocacy and Education for At Risk Youth". The delegates were Mpilo MBO, Botswana, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture; Mihyar Hamadi, Tunisia, Child Protection; Muhammad Hussain, Pakistan, Department of Youth, and Dionne Guishard, Port of Spain, Trinidad, Families in Action. Kay Kinney hosted this group. Pitching in were Mary Lou Martino, Margo McKnight, Helen Ann Rugowski, and Ernie Thieding.

The concept of this program is not much different than the kitchen table diplomacy developed by Wayne Smith in 1977 with the Friendship Force. The delegates for this program are selected by embassies overseas to participate in the IVLP because they are considered emerging leaders in their fields. Program themes range from state government, agriculture, water resources, technology and so on. Indeed this program has been around for a long time. Muhammad's father was a delegate as a young man.

Visitors begin their program in Washington, D.C. all set up by IIWI, and over the course of approximately three weeks visit three to four different host sites in the U.S. to gain a better understanding of the U.S. and their professional field in this country. One of their visits while here included spending a day at Verona High School meeting with teachers and administrators.

Their Madison visit lasted exactly 72 hours! Is it possible to make a connection in just 4 hours of conversation and sharing a meal? Absolutely. Over dinner Dionne told us how she considered not coming to dinner because in seeing our brief bios she noted we were all retired and she didn't really care to spend time with a bunch of old people! Before leaving town, she and the others said the evening at Kay's home was the best part of their time here.

In the 2 years since we began partnering with IIWI, we have dinner hosted delegates from Israel, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia,

Liberia, Russia, Palestinian Territories, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, Lebanon, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Japan, Syria and others. Photos of some of these visits are available in our online photo gallery at www.ffwis.org. If you wish to get involved with this program contact Stephanie Sorensen at stevils@charter.net or call 608-819-6646.

Helen Ann Rugowski

In Loving Memory



Don Kind

Death: October 18, 2015

Member since 2011.

Participated in several exchanges with his wife, Maureen. Don supported Maureen, exchange director for the 2015 Inbound Guadeloupe exchange.

Full Obituary: WSJ October 21, 2015 or
www.cressfuneralservice.com



2016 FFI World Conference: Marrakesh, Morocco

September 16 to 19, 2016
(Arrival and registration on September 15)

Further details and registration in December. For questions, contact Debbie Powell, World Conference Director,
dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org

FFWI Email Accounts



Membership is encouraged to use the following email accounts to communicate with members and the various committees. They will be listed on the last page of each newsletter going forward.

ffwis.general@gmail.com
ffwis.meeting@gmail.com
ffwis.membership@gmail.com
ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

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Official Publication of
The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
5809 Julia St
Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

November 2015

General Membership Meeting
Cleveland County, England Exchange 2016
Volunteers Needed

President:	Mary Babula	241-0212
Vice Pres:	Sandi Wycosk	833-5326
Secretary:	Lois Schulz	223-1287
Treasurer:	Judith Taylor	345-6827
Newsletter:	Donna Hussin	845-3393

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com

ffwis.meeting@gmail.com

ffwis.membership@gmail.com

ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

Christmas Party Pot Luck
December 5, 2015
Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Middleton Glen, 6720 Century Ave, Middleton

Join us for our Christmas social gathering in the Fireside Room at the Middleton Glen Retirement Community. Bring an entrée, dessert or salad to serve 8. If your household is unable to make a dish to share, please consider joining us anyway and donating \$10.00 to help defray the cost of purchasing additional food and beverages. Paper plates and plastic ware will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Holmes at either 249-1846 or glholmes@wisc.edu or even better sign up on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-party-pot-luck-tickets-19244238034>.

