

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

October 2009



A Note from our President

I am honored to be elected as President of The Friendship Force of Wisconsin. I have been a member since the early 80's when Gary and I participated in the reciprocal exchange to Gelsenkirchen Germany. That was back when 250 Ambassadors from the Madison area traveled to Germany and another 250 Ambassadors from Gelsenkirchen were hosted here in Madison. Being a member has been a wonderful experience for my family. We have met many wonderful people and there are so many more in our club that I don't know. This is a great opportunity to meet them.

My first order of business is to thank last year's hardworking members of the board. They did a wonderful job. It takes a group of people working together to keep this club running smoothly. I hope to make sure that we continue to do so. In September we had a turnover of Board Members. Don't worry, the people leaving won't go too far because they will participate in the upcoming activities.

The members completing their terms on the board are:

Mary Ann Fahl as President, Margaret Ann Miller as Secretary, Nancy Mueller, Richard Mueller, Judy Endle, and Judi Blodgett as past exchange Directors. However we welcome Judi back as the ED for the 2010 Costa Rica Exchange. We also welcome Mary Ann Fahl as Past President and Helen Rugowski as Secretary.

Thanks to all of our committee chair persons who have agreed to continue. We also welcome Margie Groom who will chair the newly created Outreach Committee.

The Club is beginning to plan our exchanges for 2010. While we only have one inbound (Montreal, Canada) and one outbound International Exchange (Costa Rica) scheduled for 2010, we will have several Domestic exchange opportunities. The world is full of friends and culture and so is the United States.

The board will be asking your input on how our club is functioning. We have a committee working on a Survey which we hope to have finalized and mailed with your 2010 membership renewal notice. 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 to show us where to improve. **This will be your opportunity to tell us where you would like future destinations to be for international exchanges.**

I am always available for any comments or concerns you have about our club. I look forward to the upcoming year as President.

In friendship,

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

EXCHANGE REQUESTS FOR 2011!!

ALERT ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND ANY OTHERS CONCERNED ABOUT 2011 EXCHANGES!

All Board members should come to the October Board Meeting with ideas about destinations we should request for 2011. Also which International Clubs should we request for Hosting by our Club in 2011. Remember that our goal is to think of places where we should make friends in order to help create world Peace. These suggestions can be quite wishful or hopeful because FFI in Atlanta will make the final assignments. Our Club needs to submit our requests to FFI by Nov. 1, 2009.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Saturday October 10th is the Fall date for cleaning our portion of USH 12. The group will meet at 8:30 am at the Park and Ride lot at the north end of Parmenter Street in Middleton.

The project is completed best with 10 volunteers. With that number of helpers the job can be finished around 11 am depending on the amount of trash to be collected.

Please call Don to volunteer to be part of this Friendship Force service project - so he doesn't have to call you.

DON GOSTOMSKI, Adopt-A-Highway Chair
608-249-8250

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for The Friendship Force of Wisconsin is made up of many wonderful individuals. Here are the new officers for 2009-2010 and the committee chairpersons, who serve as Board members for one year. A description of the responsibility for each committee follows. Exchange Directors are Board members and serve on the Board for three years.

President - Mary Lindquist
Vice President - Margo McKnight
Secretary - Helen Rugowski
Treasurer - Diana Long
Past President - Mary Ann Fahl

Standing Committees

Chairperson is a member of the FFW Board, attends the monthly meetings and has voting rights.

Activities - Chairperson - Fannie Hicklin - Responsible for planning, arranging and conducting the general activities of FFW, scheduling the three major activities which are: Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon in spring, Summer Picnic and Fall Festival. The committee coordinates additional activities planning an activity at least every other month. Work with the Exchange Directors in planning activities for current and future exchanges or help celebrate the closing of a successful exchange.

Communications - Chairperson - Dave Dohler - Responsible for communications with the general public. Work with Exchange Directors to help publicize upcoming exchanges and proactively advertise the general activities of our club. Create articles to be published in newspapers, local magazines and the website for activities and exchange meetings, such as interview sessions and workshops. Maintain a directory of publications with deadlines to share with Exchange Directors and Activity Chairs.

Historian - Chairperson - Margo Lindl - Responsible for maintaining the FFW historical records from inception. This includes records from membership, minutes from board meetings, exchanges records, Treasurer's records, newsletters and other documents related to the management of our club.

Membership - Chairperson - Maggie Dohm - Responsible for maintaining a database of members. From this database print labels for newsletters, renewal notices, reports for committee volunteers and other reports as requested. Send information to prospective members and send new members a welcome packet consisting of current newsletter & membership roster.

Newsletter - Chairperson - Janet Lonergan - Responsible for creating and editing the newsletter from the articles received from the president, committee chairs, members and other newsworthy sources, responsible for obtaining other articles to print in our newsletter. Coordinate the printing, labeling and mailing of the newsletter on a timely basis.

Outreach - Chairperson - Margie Groom - Responsible for reaching out to other individuals, organizations and the general public in the Madison area. The committee will be the central location for information about presentations. It will also seek out

new places to present information about Friendship Force of Wisconsin. It will coordinate requests for presentations, also keep a record of places for presentations and include contact information. It will work with other committees to share upcoming club information.

Store/Name Badges - Chairpersons - Rad & Susan Becker

Responsible for obtaining Wisconsin items and other items suitable for exchange gifts for members participating in an exchange, or for gifts for members who are hosting. The committee will provide the store for workshops and other activities as necessary. The committee is also responsible for maintaining financial records, ordering and delivering name badges.

Special Committees

Chairpersons should attend board meetings; report on the plans for an activity and on its completion. Chair does not have voting rights but is welcome at all board meetings.

Adopt-A-Highway - Donald Gostomski - Responsible for organizing volunteers for clean up of FFW's assigned stretch of highway. Coordinate with the DOT for the bi-annual highway clean up in spring and fall. Our stretch of highway clean up is Hwy 12 between Parmenter Street in Middleton to Hwy K in Ashton Corners. Report to the board after each activity.

WHA- TV - Ken Kosciak - Responsible for organizing a group of volunteers bi-annually to help with the WHA Auction and Pledge Drive. Coordinate with WHA Public Television for the dates and number of volunteer hours needed. Report to the board after each activity.

FFW on the Capital Square - Bea Dewey - Responsible for organizing a group of volunteers to staff the table at the Capital Square Farmers' Market on Saturdays from the middle of May through October. Coordinate with the Capital Police in the spring to secure a spot for the season. Report to the board after each activity.

Exchange Directors -

Judi Blodgett for Costa Rica
Donna Calvert for Azerbaijan
Donald Gostomski for England
Lise Skofronick for Quebec, Canada
Jane Kessenich for Oklahoma

NEW MEMBERS

Please add these new members to your membership list.

Janine Edwards 6767 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave #101
Middleton WI 53562-1859 608-831-3715
janine.c.edwards@gmail.com

Kathleen Sweeney 2217 University Ave #3
Madison WI 53726 608-233-6738

WISCONSIN RETURNS FROM AZERBAIJAN

All twenty ambassadors to Azerbaijan are safely home, on schedule! Jane Kessenich and Lise Skofronick extended their travel to Russia and Hungary but are now home. Two of our group are from Alabama.

It is difficult to access an Exchange as we each bring home an assortment of experiences, even though we shared some sights and events. I can only speak for myself. As always, the Exchanges boil down to the people involved, some very indirectly.

Our FFW ambassadors were wonderful representatives of FFW. Three were on their first Exchange with us. What troopers! Probably we all agree that we practiced flexibility, with a flair. It's amazing how we create our own little family, brushing teeth together, sharing rooms, crushing bodies together in the small back seat of a taxi etc. The host families and the members in charge of arranging our stay could not have treated us better. They were sensitive to our needs, often rearranging plans so that we would be more comfortable. As an aside, two of our group were "debating" who had the better host.

The Azaris were eager to share their history, culture, foods, and industry. Specifically, we visited Baku, the capital city, Sheki, and Gakh (the last two located in the Caucasus Mountains.) Total strangers would inquire about our impressions of Azerbaijan, then observe how much they "like Americans." How nice to know that we are liked. Not everyone was a stranger.

At our February workshop Parvin Ahanchi, a native of Azerbaijan, shared information about her homeland. We all met her again in Baku at the Welcome Party and at the Conference. At the Conference a representative from the US Embassy asked us "to tell people about little Azerbaijan." We will. How could we not when we were treated so well, countless hugs and kisses as bonuses?

Then there was young Rashad, who heard me on a bus and followed us to my host's apartment building. He wanted to speak American English. He spent the next day at a Conference, fulfilling his desire to practice American English with us. He took me home to meet his Mother, a former English teacher, to show me his English books (Stephen King, Steinbeck etc.) and, yes, to serve food and tea while speaking American English. I hope you can come to the Fall Festival November 8 to share with the other 17 FFW ambassadors. I know others will eagerly share their experiences. We plan to have you view, listen, and taste our experiences with us. Azerbaijan is a country of which many seem unaware. Let us acquaint you a bit with this small country with many big hearted people.

Finally, I wish to thank all the FFW members who helped set up the plans for this Exchange. Between them, very helpful and cooperative Ambassadors, and the energetic, hard working Azerbaijan members, I hope we have successfully made new, significant friendships. Ambassadors included David Blado, Donna Calvert, Neil Denton and Nancy Shermo. Marian Ehrenberg, Mary Ann Fahl, Ariel Ford, Don and Ginger Gostomski, Reta Harring, Fannie Hicklin, Jane Kessenich, Margo McKnight, Jane Scharer, Lise Skofronick, Judy Taylor,

Margy and Dick Walker. Caroline Barnettler and Shirlee Jensen of the FF of Alabama completed the group. Heads of committees were Treasurer, Judi Blodgett; Interviewing, Kay Babcock, chair, Paul Buckalew, Judy Endle, Fay Schoenemann, and Laurine Carstens; Farewell/Welcome, Ann Dolderer, chair, Lisa Sveum and Lois Statz. Also, Janet Lonerger was a big help as I started the process.

DONNA CALVERT, Azerbaijan Exchange Director
608-233-7536 dollycal@aol.com

WISCONSIN TO COSTA RICA

Interviews have been completed and the exchange is now filled. If you are interested, call Judi to be placed on a waiting list. Often a place may become available as one's plans may change before time to leave.

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

FALL FESTIVAL -- Silent Auction

**International dress or fall costumes are appropriate for the party.
How creative can you be?**



2009 - 2010-CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

October 10 - Adopt-A- Highway *

October - Mystery Trip October 15 -19 **

November 8 - Fall Festival *

December 5 -Holiday Lunch **

2010 - April - FFW Exchange to Costa Rica *

Exchange from Montreal Canada

July - Tucson to FFW

FFW to Oklahoma

October 13 -15, 2010 FFI Conference *

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced later or prev. announced

NOTE: If you intend to order a new FF NAME BADGE, please do so now. It saves on shipping if we order as many as possible in one order. Call Diana Long at 608-849-5592.

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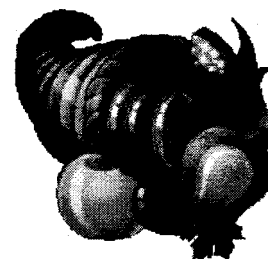
October-2009
Adopt-A-Highway
Fall Festival Reservation

President: Mary Lindquist 233-9351
Vice Pres: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Secretary: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Treasurer: Diana Long 849-5592
Newsletter: Janet Loneragan 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 = \$ _____