



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

October 2017



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Installation of the 2017-2018 Board took place at the September meeting. Joining the Board are Mary Mastaglio, Tom and Donna Miller, Peg Hutnik, and Kathy Speck. Retiring members are Lise Skofronick, Jane Kessenich, and Mary Lindquist. I am so grateful to be working with such a talented, dedicated group of people and to have had an opportunity to work with Lise, Jane and Mary for the past two years. Friendship Force people are truly special!

We will be developing strategic plans for the coming year and 2018-2019. At the top of the list of priorities is expansion of our membership and diversifying our membership by age, gender, gender identification, and ethnicity. The new members will be supported by a stronger mentoring program. We also are seeking ways to raise our profile in the community. We are one of Madison's best kept secrets. Our members can experience the world through our incoming journeys, outgoing journeys, programs and activities, and you get to meet really interesting people. Our members have a zest for life and a passion for learning about other cultures that doesn't exist in every group. You are special!

As many of you know, we completed the process of becoming a 501 (c) (3) last year. That means that we are an approved IRS charitable organization so dues are deductible for most members under current IRS rules and your donations to us are deductible as well. Your renewals forms will be delivered personally at events or sent via mail during October. For next year we are planning a 40th anniversary celebration and membership drive. Our web site has also crashed which will involve unknown costs at this point. We would like to have more music and dance at events but frankly, the current dues level won't support these events and we want to keep events affordable. It is our plan to hold our dues at previous year's levels because we want you to continue your membership but for the first time, we are being more proactive in asking you to consider Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison, when you are making charitable giving decisions in 2017 and beyond.

I will continue to provide information about our strategic plans, our goals and our plans during the next few months. Now I am off to order my taxi and 3 weeks in Italy.

Ciao

**Sandi Wysock**  
**President**

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## 2017 CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Monthly Board Meeting - Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, third Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m.**

**October 2, Monday**—L.E.O. ☺ (September)

**October 12, Thursday**—Adopt a Highway\*

**October 18, Wednesday**—Book Club \*

**October 19, Thursday**—Bus Day Tour, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford, IL ☺ (September)

**October 29, Sunday**—FF Greater Des Moines 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash ☺ (August)

### 2018

**January or February**—Jakarta, Indonesia Inbound Journey

**April 20-22, Friday-Sunday**—Great Lakes, Midwest, and Southwest Regions FF Combined Super Conference, Cincinnati, OH

**June 9-15, Saturday-Friday**—Niagara, Canada Inbound Journey

**October 27-November 3, Saturday-Saturday**—Aichi Prefecture Japan Outbound Journey

**November 3-10, Saturday-Saturday**—Oita Prefecture, Japan Outbound Journey

\* Information in this newsletter

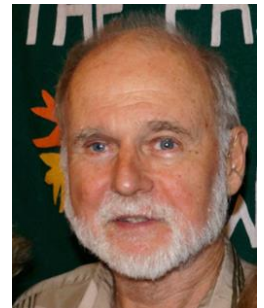
☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Karl Hillie**  
212 Glen Hollow Road  
Madison, WI 53705  
608-575-9685  
[bikerspirit@gmail.com](mailto:bikerspirit@gmail.com)

Karl was referred to us by Sarah Rankin. He was a former member in the Cedar Rapids, IA club. He is looking forward to being a host for an incoming journey.



# Activities

## BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Helen Ann Rugowski's Home  
7359 Tree Lane, Madison 53717



**Book:** Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia  
**Author:** Anne Garrels, former foreign correspondent for NPR

Come to the book club meeting even if you haven't read the book. It will be an enjoyable discussion, and a reminder of how important it is that those being governed have a voice.



*Can you spare 120 minutes to beautify America?*  
**Thursday, October 12, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

Fall has arrived and that means it is time for the club/s semi-annual highway clean-up day. Our assigned section of Highway 12 is from exit 249 to Highway K on both sides of the road. All needed supplies will be provided--clear bags, bright colored safety vest, etc. Meet at the parking lot at exit 249 on Hwy 12 at 9:30 am to collect supplies and instructions.

It can be a beautiful walk in the park with cars honking to thank you and even stopping to voice their appreciation.

To volunteer text, email, or call Sarah Rankin. Thanks for helping!

**Sarah Rankin**  
[Rankinsarahjane@gmail.com](mailto:Rankinsarahjane@gmail.com)  
608-575-9685



**Anderson Japanese Gardens and Lunch  
Motor Coach Day Tour  
Thursday, October 19, 2017**

**Have you sent in your reservation?** Deadline is **Wednesday, October 11.** Cost was either \$51 or \$52 depending on meal choice. Form and complete details were included in the September newsletter. Any questions, contact Donna Hussin, 608-845-3393 or [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com)



Have good computer skills? Willing to help us a few hours per month?

We would like to use a program called Eventbrite to allow members to register and pay for activities. Newer members often expect that they can sign up and pay for activities electronically. The board would like an Eventbrite coordinator that could set the events up on the program and track registrations. From our initial tests it seems easy to use but we will need to work out the details for registrations with electronic payments.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact me.

**Sandi Wysock, President**  
[sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)  
608 833 5326

## Opportunities for Journey Host Coordinators

Our club has accepted two inbound international journeys for 2018. A group of teachers from Jakarta, Indonesia would like to experience winter in the United States. We have accepted their wish and plan for them to be with our club in January (preferable due to their school breaks) or February 2018. This could be a fun journey to plan and participate in and could open creative ideas! We haven't hosted a winter event before so this would be a completely new and different journey. We need a host coordinator for Indonesia and an adventurous planning committee to begin working immediately.

From June 9-15, 2018, we have invited Friendship Force Niagara, Canada to visit us after they spend the week of June 3-9 with the Northern Illinois club. They are enthusiastically looking forward to coming here, and previous clubs from Canada whom we have hosted have been agreeable, appreciative and fun ambassadors. A host coordinator is needed for about 20 ambassadors from Niagara, Canada.

What great opportunities await you as you meet and work with our own Friendship Force club members and have enjoyable and interesting experiences in welcoming the wonderful ambassadors who wish to visit us. You will be provided with support from the Journey Coordinator, from prior journey leaders, and through helpful assistance in the printed journey manual. I'm expecting new leadership will step forward for these journeys.

**Gail L Holmes, Journey Coordinator**  
249-1846, [glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)



# OPEN WORLD

**September 8-16, 2017  
Delegates from Ukraine**

## **Topic: Media Literacy and Countering False Information**

Our delegates arrived on September 8 and departed September 16. They were amazing young professionals who are really passionate about their programs. We were able to take them to Mark Pocan's office, Tammy Baldwin's office, meet with multiple professors from the School of Journalism, the State Journal, meet with Jack Mitchell and Al Rieland & tour WPR, attend a Dane County hearing, attend a meeting with Kevin Kennedy, meet with Jeff Mayers of WISPolitics, tour Wisconsin Eye, visit the AmFam Dream Bank, tour WSUM, provide an opportunity to present at CREECA and provide home hosting experiences as well. All of the hosts and the coordinators were truly impressed with this group of young professionals.

Thanks to our hosts Sarah Rankin & Karl Hillie, Sandy Drew, Pete and Marjie Marion, Paul Baker & Denise Lamb, Kathy Speck and Gabor Kemeny, John and Mary Witte, Helen Ann Rugowski, and Tom and Donna Miller. Thank you to dinner hosts Pat Fleming and Kay, Jane Kessenich, Kay Kinney, Kathy Speck and Gabor Kemeny, Pete and Marjie Marion and Bob and Lucy Lassetter. Jane Kessenich and activities coordinated the ice cream social. A huge thank you to Judy Taylor who provided important connections to the School of Journalism and to Martha McGregor and Helen Ann Rugowski who were part of our committee. A special thank you to Pete Marion and Tom Miller for driving the group all week and always getting us to the meetings on time and waiting patiently for us at the end of the day.

Many of our hosts were so impressed with this program and our delegates that they have recommended that we make sure to take advantage of any opportunity to host Open World in the future.

**Sandi Wysock and Sandy Drew, Host Coordinators**



**Report by Peg Hutnik, Vice-president**

I would like to thank the club for believing in me and offering me the opportunity to attend this conference.

The conference opened on August 24 with registration and the First Reception that included a buffet dinner, table quizzes, dancing to 70's music and a 70's costume contest. There were also tours offered.

The opening ceremonies on August 25 for the plenary sessions began with drums distributed to each Ambassador and three to four African men teaching us rhythms. Imagine 300 people playing the same drum rhythms - it was a great kickoff to the meeting. The first speaker was Suzy Smith Bennett, daughter of the founder Wayne Smith. She recounted the early years along with video footage of the first journey to Newcastle on Tyne, England and Atlanta, GA. Jeremy Snook, FFI CEO and President, spoke on this day as well as at the end of the convention. He recounted his first journeys as a young man and why he believes in the mission of FFI. Introduced on this day was a fund raising campaign themed on the 40th Anniversary of FFI encouraging everyone to donate whatever they can, be it a small or large donation. Near the end of the plenary sessions, The Manchester FFI Group penned a great skit for the group entitled "The Committee Meeting" presented by a local theatre group. It was hilarious and the script is available for clubs to request.

On Saturday, August 26, again there were tours offered. Manchester was also celebrating Gay Pride Weekend with a large parade that many FFI people marched in carrying a large banner. In the evening the Gala Banquet was held at the Hanger of the SST Concorde at the Manchester Airport that included a lovely meal, tours of the inside of the Concorde and dancing

Sunday, August 27 was a day devoted to workshops. I attended the following: Media Relations for English-Speaking Countries, Navigating the New FFI Website and FFI Communication Strategy, How to Create and Maintain an Effective Board and Manchester Town Hall Historical Cultural Tour.

The Media Relations Workshop was chaired by a retired newspaper editor from Colorado. The main theme of his talk was developing and maintaining a relationship with local print, TV and radio media. He emphasized, visibility, interesting stories, acceptance and loyalty. He believes each club can develop a media relationship. Some of the vehicles could include club awards to local officials, publicity for inbound journeys - particularly individuals who are willing to tell a story. It is important to help the reporter observe deadlines for news stories. He suggested that an ongoing relationship with reporters is necessary to get items out there and believes when others get to know the FFI story they will appreciate it. How this might work in Madison where we have a fairly large number of people from other countries who are studying at the UW is an interesting question for those working in this area.

The FFI Website Workshop included an important change to the website. The Member Resources button has moved from the bottom right hand band to the top right hand band on the page. We were reminded that the website is not a static site and to look for more changes coming in the future as the site continues to evolve as needed. Journeys advertised are those that need ambassadors to fill it.

How to Create and Maintain an Effective Club Board was great in that it was populated by many experienced Board Members and they had lots of insight as to how a Board functions and works with the club. The Madison FFI Board is organized almost the same if not the same as most other Boards. Some Boards do not



have a “vice president” but a president-elect which they feel is a more accurate term. Some clubs have Board meetings every other month, interchanged with Membership Meeting on the opposite month. Many have mentors for new members, and all are looking to recruit as Madison is. The Canadian clubs banded together and purchased a group insurance policy for Officers and Directors. It took two years, but it has saved them a great deal of money. All the clubs present indicated they only have a term limit for the president’s position. Many said their club had regular monthly meetings and that those were run before or after the board meeting. The most active clubs indicated they tried to involve all the members of the club.

On August 28, the last day of the conference, opened with Stefanie Powers as the keynote speaker. She is a Hollywood actress who has lived in Africa for part of the year for several years continuing wildlife conservation work begun by her longtime partner William Holden. She has branched out into supporting and developing local schools for elementary aged children in Kenya. She provided a great deal of knowledge of the country (Kenya) and Aid Organizations that are effective or “not so effective”. Her talk was interesting and enjoyable.

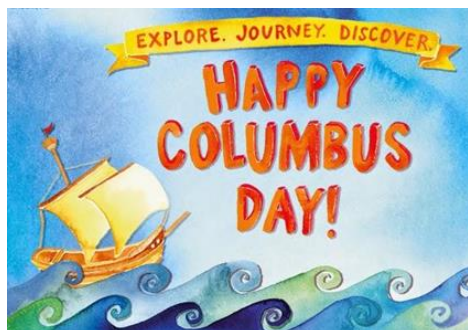
Introduced by FFI was a new program they are developing called “Family to Family Model: a New General of Ambassadors.” They see this as a new way to grow the organization and make it relevant to younger people.

It was an interesting conference, well organized, with approximately 300 Ambassadors in attendance from clubs around the world. Those in attendance had the opportunity before and after the conference to participate in tours or home stays.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Friendship Force 2018 Super Conference**  
Great Lakes, Midwest, Southwest  
April 20-22, 2018

*Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront*  
668 W 5<sup>th</sup> St, Covington, KY 41011



**INTRODUCING MORE CLUB  
MEMBERS WHO HOSTED NEW  
CALEDONIA AMBASSADORS  
JUNE 23-29, 2017**



Peg Hutnik and her ambassador Sylvie Dauliac



Kathy Speck & Gabor Kemeny and their ambassadors  
Gilles & Nicole Poilve



Maj Wiese and her ambassador Patricia Coulon

Others will appear in future newsletters as space allows.



# OPEN WORLD

September 8-16, 2017  
Delegates from Ukraine



Ukraine Ambassadors



Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US



Meeting with PhD candidate Larisa Doroshenko



Tour of Wisconsin Public Radio

**Back Cover Photo Identifier:** Front row Taras Vivkovky, Tamara Tsurkan, Ohla Salo. On the bench Viktoriia Romaniuk, Anton Bulgakov, Kyrylo Yesin, Helen Ann Rugowski and Sasha Afanasyeva who was the facilitator. The children are Kay Kinney's grandchildren. First row standing Martha McGregor, Denise Lamb, John Witte, George Wysock, Mary Witte, Sandi Wysock, Sandy Drew, Judy Taylor, Kevin Kennedy, Pat Fleming, Paul Baker, Alina Maiorova, Kathy Speck, Karl Hillie, Sarah Rankin, Gabor Kemeny.



**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
**Official Publication of**  
**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**5809 Julia St**  
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**October 2017**  
Book Club  
Adopt a Highway

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Secretary	Stephanie Sorensen	819-6646
Treasurer:	Judith Taylor	345-6827
Newsletter:	Donna Hussin	845-3393

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**Open World Farewell Party – Quivey's Grove, Fitchburg, WI**