



friendship force  
WISCONSIN-MADISON

[ffwis.org](http://ffwis.org)

## A NOTE TO MEMBERS

We had had a somewhat tumultuous several years, to say the least. But Friendship Force International and Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison are still here and active. The new year 2022 will continue to bring challenges but we can rely on our strengths and learn from our experiences and continue to reach out to support each other at home and around the world.

All best wishes for a Happy and Safe New Year !!



**JANUARY 2022**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Monthly Board Meeting:

The FFI Madison Board meets VIRTUALLY on the second Thursday of the month @ 12:30 pm

January 6: Second Harvest. "Activities"

January 15: Trivia Night. "Programs Committee"

January 24: Book Club "Activities"

January 27: Second Harvest. "Activities"

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Please check our website ([ffwis.org](http://ffwis.org)) for any additions, updates, or corrections to event schedules during the month, and keep an eye out for email updates as well. We don't want you to miss anything!

We remind you that ZOOM support is available from FFI and from our club. View the FFI Zoom training video at <https://vimeo.com/436845540>.

Or Contact Peter Kaufman [pkaufman@gmail.com](mailto:pkaufman@gmail.com)

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## JOURNEYS

### DO YOU WANT TO VISIT TORONTO IN SEPTEMBER 2022?

The Toronto FF Club is still anticipating our visit September 6 - 13. They are eager to hear from us to begin the planning process.

To make this journey a reality, we need two Ambassador Coordinators to handle our end of this Journey. We also need to know how many people want to participate in this Journey.

Planning should begin in January, so please email Journey Manager Stephanie Sorensen **ASAP** if you want to participate in the Journey and also if you are willing to serve as an Ambassador Coordinator.

You don't have to have experience as a journey coordinator - there are many members who can guide you along the way. Stephanie Sorensen: [ssorensen268@gmail.com](mailto:ssorensen268@gmail.com) / 608 819-6646.



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## ACTIVITIES

### AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

Open Doors for Refugees is collecting furniture and household items for furnishing apartments for refugees. Their website will direct you to collection centers or let you know how to have someone pickup donations from your home. To see what items are needed, see their website: <https://opendoorsforrefugees.org/contribute-furniture-household-items/>

FF Wisconsin-Madison is continuing to collect financial donations to support Afghan refugee resettlement. We will forward the funds to local agency. Checks should be made out to FF Wisconsin-Madison with a note on the check that it is for Afghan refugees and mailed to:

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison  
5809 Julia St  
Madison, WI 53705

Member questions may be addressed to the Refugee Support Committee:

Dorothy Baldwin

[janddbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:janddbaldwin@gmail.com)

Lise Skofronick

[liskofronick@gmail.com](mailto:liskofronick@gmail.com)

Sandy Drew

[sdrew24@tds.net](mailto:sdrew24@tds.net)

Agnes Rona

[whereowhere5@gmail.com](mailto:whereowhere5@gmail.com)

### DINING ON THE SIXTH / HOLIDAY COOKIE SHARING

Five intrepid members gathered in person on Dec. 6 to share their homemade holiday treats.



## ACTIVITIES

### BOOK CLUB



There will be no Book Club meeting until January 24th at 7:00 pm on ZOOM. That gives you lots of time to read "My Forbidden Face – Growing Up Under the Taliban" by Latifa. It is available at the local library or on Amazon if you wish to buy it.

Google says that the book

“..... provides a poignant and highly personal account of life under the Taliban regime. With painful honesty and clarity Latifa describes the way she watched her world falling apart, in the name of a fanatical interpretation of a faith that she could not comprehend.”

Email Marian Ehrenberg at: [marianeh2014@gmail.com](mailto:marianeh2014@gmail.com) by November 24 for the Zoom key.

### SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK

Welcome in the New Year and join the fun by volunteering with Second Harvest Food Bank, 2802 Dairy Drive in Madison on Thursday January 6. From 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. This is a safe working environment with precautions in place.

Another Food Bank afternoon is scheduled for January 27 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

There is a real need for food pantries to provide for folks in our community who are food insecure. Second Harvest really needs volunteers! Please consider giving three hours of your time this month to help others,

Let Lois Schulz know by Tuesday noon, January 4th at 608-243-9761 or [loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com) if you plan to come!

## ACTIVITIES

### TRIVIA NIGHT



Following the success of previous Trivia Nights our Programs Committee has created another fun and challenging evening of trivia on January 15 from 4:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. We will be on ZOOM and offer from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm as a social gathering time for participants.

There will be a lot of laughter and silliness and occasional correct answers, as always. Please register for this event no later than January 13 by contacting Mike Lambert at: [lambertmichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:lambertmichaelj@gmail.com)

### LET'S WALK / LETS HIKE

Maureen Kind is the new leader of this activity. Using the list of walkers/hikers interested in pop-up events, Maureen will offer a few events on level terrain and of shorter duration due to unpredictable winter weather. Welcome Maureen and many thanks to Magdi Sebestyen for creating and having led this great activity. If you are not already on the list, ask Maureen to include you:

[dmkind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmkind@sbcglobal.net)

### SKIING AND SNOW-SHOEING

Tamas Gaal will continue to offer pop-up winter activities.

If you are not already on Tamas' pop-up list, let him know of your interest at: [tgaal@wisc.edu](mailto:tgaal@wisc.edu).

### WINTER POTLUCK PARTY

Sad to say our Jan 15 Winter Potluck Party is cancelled due to the continuing increase in Covid cases in Madison and Dane County. With school openings delayed from the holiday vacations, uptick in illness among children and infections that show up in fully vaccinated and boosted adults, we feel that the most prudent and responsible action is to cancel the event.

**BUT** we will still have fun on January 15 at the Trivia Night led by Mike Lambert. Thank you Mike!

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## **FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST**



MADISON – Shirley (Wolff) Swenson passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. She was born on Oct. 17, 1929, to Alfred and Edna (Brockman) Wolff. She was married to Lowell Harvey, who preceded her in death. She later married Donald Swenson, who also preceded her in death.

Shirley worked for General Telephone Co, Greyhound, and Dane County Hospital and Home. She was a longtime, active member of Eastside Lutheran Church in Madison, Wis. She was also a member of the Friendship Force and took many international trips with them over the years. She enjoyed traveling the world and always had fun stories to share. Her favorite trip was to Australia. Over the years, she also generously gave to many charitable causes and was always thinking of others.

Shirley was a vibrant woman with an infectious laugh. She enjoyed Concerts on the Square, concerts at Warner Park, Dane Dances at Monona Terrace and the symphony at the Overture Center. She swam a few times a week at MATC for many years, enjoyed practicing tai chi, birdwatching, and walking in her neighborhood. She loved spending time with family and had a particularly close bond with her nieces, Kristi and Angie. She almost never missed a special event with them.

Shirley will be lovingly remembered by her brother, her nieces and their children and her extended family, friends, and long-time neighbors. ***FFWis-Madison also has received a memorial donation in her honor. We thank you Shirley and your family and friends for thinking of us at this sad time.***

## **BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

**Activities:** Gail Holmes 608-249-1846  
[glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)

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

**Journey Manager:** Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-6646  
[ssorensen268@gmail.com](mailto:ssorensen268@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Lise R. Skofronick 608-274-7732  
[liskofronick@gmail.com](mailto:liskofronick@gmail.com)

**Outreach:** Dorothy Baldwin 608-742-6493  
[janddbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:janddbaldwin@gmail.com)

**Programs:**  
Mike Lambert (608)-577-1057  
[lambertmichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:lambertmichaelj@gmail.com)

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS**

### **Activities Committee Members:**

Gail Holmes (chair) ([glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)),  
Audrey Liimatainen ([AMCL822@yahoo.com](mailto:AMCL822@yahoo.com)),  
Lois Schulz ([loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com))

## **Leaders for specific activities are:**

Adopt-A-Highway – Stephanie Vanden Bush  
([sljacobs2@gmail.com](mailto:sljacobs2@gmail.com))

Bike Rides – Jan Hornback  
([jhornback@wisc.edu](mailto:jhornback@wisc.edu))

Book Club – Reta Haring  
([retaharring@charter.net](mailto:retaharring@charter.net)) and Marian  
Ehrenberg ([marianeh2014@gmail.com](mailto:marianeh2014@gmail.com))

Day trips–Donna Hussin ([djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com))

Dining on the 6<sup>th</sup> – Gail Holmes  
([glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu))

International Institutes – Sandi Wysock  
[sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com)

Let's Eat Out (LEO) – Bobbie Vrooman  
([bobbiesque@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiesque@gmail.com))

Second Harvest Food Bank–Lois Schulz  
([loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com))

Winter Snowshoeing/Cross-Country Skiing--  
Tamas Gaal ([tgaal@wisc.edu](mailto:tgaal@wisc.edu))

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
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