



friendship force  
WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The time that my journey takes is long and the way of it long.*

*I came out on the chariot of the first gleam of light and pursued my voyage through the wildernesses of worlds leaving my track on many a star and planet.*

*It is the most distant course that comes nearest to thyself, and that training is the most intricate which leads to the utter simplicity of a tune.*

*The traveler has to knock at every alien door to come to his own, and one has to wander through all the outer worlds to reach the innermost shrine at the end.*

*My eyes strayed far and wide before I shut them and said, 'Here art thou!'*

*The question and the cry 'Oh, where?' melt into tears of a thousand streams and deluge the world with the flood of the assurance 'I am!'*

*"Journey Home" by Rabindranath Tagore*

Gabor and I feel blessed to be in Mexico this month, enjoying the warmth, sunshine, Mexican culture and hospitality -- in fresh air and socially distanced. Traveling during this time has boosted our confidence that we can stay safe with extra planning and precautions. We double masked on the airplane, and we dine in outdoor restaurants, where staff are masked and patrons are seated with some separation.

In spite of the disappointing Toronto journey cancellation, we are forging ahead with journey planning for this year and next. I've continued to stay in touch with my friend Kikumi Shiga from Oita, Japan, and their club continues to look forward to their visit with us in 2023. We continue to proceed with hope and caution in planning inbound and outbound journeys for this year and the next. And we're grateful for all of the cultural programs and activities that continue to expand our horizons and serve our community while we're here at home. Thanks to all of the organizers and participants of those programs and activities! It's a wonderful team effort!

Kathy Speck



**FEBRUARY 2022**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Monthly Board Meeting:

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

February 6: Art and Music on the 6<sup>th</sup>. "Activities"

February 24: Second Harvest "Activities"

February 28: Book Club. "Activities"

---

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)

---



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO THE  
WORLD**

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

## JOURNEYS

### TORONTO JOURNEY WITHDRAWN

Our friends in Toronto love us but they don't love COVID. Sadly they have decided that they are not ready to host visitors yet, so our potential journey is no longer on our agenda.

So far this year we do not have firm journey commitments coming or going, but we don't give up easily!!! We will of course keep you informed about journey opportunities.

## OPEN WORLD

Our club has submitted three requests to FFI for hosting Open World programs for October or November 2022. While we don't know if we will be assigned a program or when we may be hosting if we receive a program, we remain optimistic that we will have some opportunities this year for in-person contacts with friends from overseas.

## ACTIVITIES

### AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

Open Doors for Refugees (ODFR) is staffed by volunteers and continues to work tirelessly to respond to on-going needs of refugees. Here is summary of their activities and volunteer needs. Each underlined topic is an internet link to more information about that topic.

#### Open Doors for Refugees Volunteer Needs

Donations Team: Individuals with pickup trucks and large vans.

Employment Team: In need of volunteers AND searching for team leader.

ESL Team: Open to new volunteers.

Events Team: Open to new volunteers and searching for a team co-leader.

Home Supply Team: Open to new volunteers.

Housing Team: In need of volunteers, especially individuals with backgrounds in law, social work, and housing. Individuals who own rental housing are welcome to reach out with offers of affordable housing.

Move-in Team: In need of volunteers with weekday morning availability, especially individuals able to carry heavy items (beds, sofas, dressers).

Special Requests Team: Open to new volunteers.

Transportation Team: Open to new volunteers with weekday morning and afternoon availability.

Warehouse Team: Open to new volunteers and searching for team co-leaders.

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

## ACTIVITIES

### AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

FF Wisconsin-Madison has contributed \$650 to ODFR from your generous contributions. If you want to make regular continuing contributions, please send your checks 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

Please direct any questions to:

Dorothy Baldwin

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

Sandy Drew

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

Lise Skofronick

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

Agnes Rona

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

### ART AND MUSIC ON THE 6TH

For February we offer less food and more art and music on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

You are invited to a feast for your eyes and food for your mind and heart when you join us at the **Chazen Museum of Art** at 2:15 PM on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, inside the main entrance lobby at 800 University Ave. Masks are required for entry – but no cloth masks.

Maureen Kind will be our very own guide. She has 20-plus years of experience as a trained docent at the Chazen. She will explain some particulars about the current exhibit - the Audubon prints. We also will walk a short distance to other rooms to admire and learn about the works of the great masters.



If you want to add to your experience, you can arrive shortly after 12:00 noon to listen to a free concert in the Chazen's Sunday Afternoon Live series. The February 6<sup>th</sup> concert will feature a rare combination of classical guitarist Dr. Christopher Allen and bassoonist Dr. Juliana Mesa. The program will include Variations on Mozart's The Magic Flute, pieces by Villa Lobos and Maurice Ravel, and more.

## ACTIVITIES

### ART AND MUSIC ON THE 6TH



It's highly recommended that you reserve a free chair for the concert ahead of time by going to the museum's website: <https://chazen.wisc.edu>

The concert will start at 12:30 pm and end at 2:00 pm, just in time for our tour of the museum. We will end our visit around 4:00pm.

If you don't attend the concert, you may enjoy a snack at the Chazen Café before our tour begins. Operated by the Wisconsin Union, the Chazen Café is open for snacks and lunch items and includes section for the gift shop.

FYI - The museum has undergone major renovations that include better/cleaner air circulation. There is an elevator, a coat room and free lockers with keys. Parking is a block away at the Lake Street city parking ramp or under the Helen C. White library next to the Memorial Union.

For more information and to reserve your place, please contact:

Maureen Kind – [dmkind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmkind@sbcglobal.net) or 608-274-6754  
Lise Skofronick – [liserskofronick@gmail.com](mailto:liserskofronick@gmail.com) or 608-274-7732

### BOOK CLUB



On February 28 at 7:00 pm they will meet on Zoom to discuss "Everything Inside" by Edwidge Danticat. Published in 2019, it is a collection of eight family stories of people from Haiti and the Caribbean. A Google books review says the book is "a collection of vividly imagined stories about community, family, and love."

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

## ACTIVITIES

### BOOK CLUB

On January 24 eleven readers met and had an excellent discussion of "My Forbidden Face. After the gathering" Marjie Marian and Maureen Kind have thoughtfully offered us these follow-up articles with reference to Afghanistan:

From the New Yorker magazine:

"The Fall of the Islamic Republic" (Dec 20, 2021 issue)  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/12/20/the-secret-history-of-the-us-diplomatic-failure-in-afghanistan>  
Lays out diplomatic efforts prior to our withdrawal. More interesting than it sounds!

"A Dangerous Friend" (Dec 27, 2021 issue)  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/12/27/the-afghans-america-left-behind>  
The story of a woman who flourished as a working artist after the Taliban's departure (2001) and ultimately needed to get out of the country as Taliban returned.

"The Other Afghan Women" (Sept 13, 2021 issue)  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/09/13/the-other-afghan-women>  
Travels to a small village to learn something of the women's lives there in a culture apart from the cities.

From the NY Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/22/world/asia/afghanis-tan-girls-school-taliban.html?searchResultPosition=1>  
"Poem of Protest by an Afghan Girl Inspires U.S. Students (Jan 23, 2022 issue) School exchange between US and Afghanistan students.

### LET'S WALK / LET'S HIKE



Our March hike will be the **Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Freeze For Food** event on March 5th. This event coordinates with our FF initiative to help Refugees as a fundraiser for Open Doors for Refugees. The event is a 5K or 10K run/walk starting and finishing at the Vilas Park Shelter. (5K at 12pm and 10K at 1pm). The 5K walk goes out and back along Lake Wingra. See: [www.rpcvmadison.org/cpages/freeze-for-food](http://www.rpcvmadison.org/cpages/freeze-for-food).



## ACTIVITIES

### LET'S WALK / LET'S HIKE

The donation/cost to sign up is \$20 (or more of course). Members can "walk" virtually also, but it would be wonderful to have a group do it together. Members and friends can sign up to participate by going to the website: [runsignup.com/Race/WI/Madison/RPCVFreezeForFood](https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Madison/RPCVFreezeForFood).

Contact Maureen Kind to let her know you want to participate with your FFWisconsin-Madison friends:  
Maureen Kind – [dmkind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmkind@sbcglobal.net) or 608-274-6754

### 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 February 28. From 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. This is a safe working environment with precautions in place.

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 want to participate.

### TRIVIA NIGHT



Although our in-person winter potluck gathering was cancelled for January 15, hosts Mike Lambert and Peter Kaufman created another fun evening of fun brain teasers for nineteen happy members on Trivia Night.

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is staying strong at 100 members including 6 brand new members.

The Membership Committee (Mary Lindquist and Lise Skofronick) and our Board recognize the generosity of our members and extend gratitude to all the members of the Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison club for believing that a world of friends is a world of peace. Members have shown their commitment to this ideal by their generous donations to FFI, FF Wisconsin-Madison and to the Afghan refugees being resettled in the Madison area.

We were able to contribute donations of \$1,350.00 to strengthen FFI's nationwide efforts. We were also able to contribute donations of \$600.00 to be used by Open Doors for Refugees for on-going resettlement support of Afghan refugees in the Madison/Dane County area. All of this is in addition to your contributions of \$1,284.00 to our own club. We are a very generous bunch!!

As we start a new year, we are encouraged to remember that participating in the Club's activities is also a way for us to stay strong individually and as a group in these difficult times, to get to know each other better, and to share our talents for the benefit of all of us.

We look forward to a day soon when we are able to connect in person with a world in need of understanding, exploring and friendship.

## BOARD UPDATES

Board elections are coming up in April and your Board has designated a Nominating committee to solicit candidates for Board positions. Elections will be for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Members interested in running for any office or in nominating other members for election are invited to contact the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is:

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

Kathy Johnson:  
(608)238-1785 [Kjohnson44@ameritech.net](mailto:Kjohnson44@ameritech.net)

Donna Ulteig:  
608-249-0022 [donna.ulteig@yahoo.com](mailto:donna.ulteig@yahoo.com)

Sandy Drew:  
608-833-5811 [sdrew24@tds.net](mailto:sdrew24@tds.net)

The slate of candidates for Board positions will be included in this Newsletter prior to the elections in April.

## **FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST**



**MARY ANN FAHL**

Mary Ann Fahl, a long-time member and past President of FF Wisconsin-Madison, passed away on January 14, 2022, at the age of 87. Her love of travel and interest in the greater world community took her on FF visits to Japan, Russia, China, Australia and almost every country in Europe. She was a very active member of FF our club, including supporting Open World programs and serving as President from 2007-2009.

With a love of children and a degree in Occupational Therapy from UW Madison, Mary Ann had a career working with children at Milwaukee County Institute for Mental Health, Mendota Mental Health Institute and the Children's Treatment Center. She was a past President of the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association, a member of the Board of the Madison Children's Museum for twelve years. Her varied interests and talents led her to become a member of the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison for over twenty years as well as being a member of the National Women's Political Caucus. Many family and friends will miss her.

A Prayer service will be held on Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m. at the Roselawn Cemetery Chapel in Monona.

## **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  
[liserskofronick@gmail.com](mailto:liserskofronick@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**  
**Official Publication of**  
**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**5809 Julia St**  
**Madison, WI 53705**  
**[www.ffwis.org](http://www.ffwis.org)**

Email Accounts:

[ffwis.general@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.general@gmail.com)

[ffwis.meeting@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.meeting@gmail.com)

[ffwis.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.membership@gmail.com)

[ffwis.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ffwis.outreach@gmail.com)

President: Kathy Speck  
608-577-4885

Vice President: Doug Johnson  
608-238-1785

Secretary: Sandy Drew  
608-286-8895

Treasurer: Mary Juckem  
608-358-0608

Newsletter: Agnes Rona  
781-910-1094

Members at Large: Peter Kaufman 608-848-3737  
Donna Ulteig 608-249-0022