



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



ffwis.org

APRIL 2022

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please join us for our annual meeting on April 27 to connect with friends and learn about our future plans. We look forward to resuming home hosting and journeys in the coming year!

Like many of you, I have become increasingly distressed by the images of war-ravaged Ukraine and the plight of the millions of its displaced citizens. The misinformation wars are extremely frustrating. We have continued to communicate with the Ukrainian and Russian friends we made through our journeys and the Open World program, sharing messages of friendship and support for peace. Our work in Friendship Force continues with renewed determination as we build a world of friends and promote a world of peace

Kathy Speck



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting:

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

April 6: Dining on the 6th. "Activities"

April 22: Presentation on Sierra Leone Culture. "Program Committee"

April 24: Adopt a Highway. "Activities"

April 25: Book Club. "Activities"

April 27: Annual Meeting. "Board of Directors"

April 28: Second Harvest. "Activities"

Please check our website (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

JOURNEYS

REPORT ON THE UNKNOWN

With no answers yet, our Journey Manager, Stephanie Sorensen has submitted our requests for incoming Journeys for 2023. Our highest priority is Oita, Japan which has been postponed significantly. Our other priority would be the Australian Clubs we visited a few years ago.

OPEN WORLD

KAZAKHSTAN OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

We are scheduled to host a group of five delegates and their facilitator from Kazakhstan from October 28 - November 5. Our obligation is to home host and prepare 30 hours of professional programming around the topic of Emergency Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. We envision arranging opportunities for delegates to meet with Federal, State and local organizations around this topic.

If you are interested in being part of the committee for this exciting program, hosting or leading our efforts or if you have contacts that would help the committee, please contact Sandi Wysock. It should be a fascinating topic and a great opportunity to meet delegates actively involved in emergency management. Sandi Wysock: 608-833-5326 / sandrawysock@msn.com

AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

Your Refugee Support Committee continues to work with Open Doors for Refugees (ODFR) to identify current volunteer needs and coordinate with FF volunteers. The Committee had a very informative ZOOM meeting with Open Doors in March, which was followed by a referral to Jewish Social Services to discuss participating with JSS to coordinate an event for World Refugee day on or around June 20.

Committee members continue to identify and follow up opportunities for FF Wisconsin-Madison to support vital programs involved in refugee resettlement and support.

Dorothy Baldwin: janddbalwin@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB



The next meeting is Monday, April 25 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM. The book will be "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri. It is a compassionate story of a refugee couple's journey from their

home in war torn Syria to find their cousin who had become a beekeeper in England. Several books are available in the Dane County library system.

Email Marian Ehrenberg at: marianeh2014@gmail.com by April 23 for the Zoom key.

DINING ON THE 6TH

This month, on **April 6 at noon**, members are invited to experience the many wonderful Asian international foods served at the **Global Market and Food Hall** at 2161 Zeier Road, Madison. It is in the strip mall east of East Towne Mall. The building entrance faces south and is up near Party City.



Diners may want to come early to study the menu boards for the various options offered at each food store. The Market offers fresh ingredients at the Asian Grocery Store as well as dining on site. The website is: www.globalmarketfoodhall.com

Don't miss out on this spectacular dining experience! To participate in this gastronomical adventure, register by **Monday, April 4**, with Gail Holmes at glholmes@wisc.edu or phone 608 249-1846. Look forward to seeing each other at this fun event!

ACTIVITIES

LET'S WALK / LET'S HIKE

The FF Hiking group participated in the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers annual run/walk "Freeze For Food" on March 5th. While there were intermittent rain showers during the day, the 5 km walk was rain free! The proceeds from this fundraising walk were given to Open Door For Refugees.



Thank you to the kind walker who took this photo.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Looking for a reason to get outside and be active while socializing? Would you like to help us maintain a clean and beautiful environment for our community? Please join fellow members on Sunday April 24 at 3 pm for our next highway clean up event. We will meet at the Middleton Park and Ride off Hwy 12 exit 249.

Direct questions and sign up with Stephanie Vanden Bush: sljacobs2@gmail.com or 920-676-1441.

SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK

Thursday April 28 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm is our Club's March volunteer day with Second Harvest Food Bank, 2802 Dairy Drive in Madison. This is a safe working environment with precautions in place.

Please consider giving three hours of your time this month to help others, Let Lois Schulz know by Tuesday noon, March 22d if you want to participate. loisschulz1942@gmail.com / 608-243-9761

PROGRAMS

SIERRA LEONE CULTURAL PRESENTATION

The Program Committee invites members to join them on April 22nd for a Sierra Leone cultural ZOOM presentation by UW grad student Aruna Kallon. Aruna was born and raised in Sierra Leone. He is currently a PhD student in the area of Educational Policy and a teaching assistant at UW-Madison. He will share information about Sierra Leone culture, and his experience as a Sierra Leone citizen in the United States and at UW.

The presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m., and last approximately an hour. There will be a question-and-answer period after the presentation. The ZOOM room will open the meeting at 5:00 p.m., to give all participating club members a chance to sign in by the time the presentation begins.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS PRESENTATION, PLEASE CONTACT MIKE LAMBERT AT lambertmichaelj@gmail.com.

FOCUS ON UKRAINE FOLLOWUP

For members who were unable to view our previously offered program on Ukraine, the recorded version can be found at echovalleyhope.org. Scroll down to March 13, 2:00 PM, "Focus on Ukraine with Nataalka Akulenko." Members who saw the program found it "very informative and powerful."

Please contact David Blado at: david-blado@sbcglobal.net with any questions.



BOARD NEWS

CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of FF Wisconsin-Madison invites you to join fellow members at our Annual Meeting on April 27 via ZOOM. Social time will be open at 7 pm and the meeting is scheduled from 7:30-8:30 pm. We will:

- elect officers
- vote on a proposed bylaw change, and
- learn about our upcoming journeys and latest plans for FFI and our club.

Please email your RSVP to Doug Johnson by April 24th. and include "FF RSVP" in the email subject line. Doug is at: Djohnson44@ameritech.net **If you need help with Zoom let us know in your RSVP!**

Our bylaws require a quorum of 25% of the membership in attendance in order to hold the meeting. A detailed meeting agenda will be sent along with the ZOOM link in advance of the meeting. Additional meeting information follows.

Election of Officers:

Board officers serve a one-year term from July 1-June 30. Since the meeting will be held virtually, ballots will be sent via email to all current members approximately two weeks prior to the meeting.

The officer candidates are:

President: Doug Johnson

Co-Vice Presidents: Diane Mertens and Larry Neuman

Secretary: John Witte

Treasurer: Mary Juckem

Detailed bios were included in the March newsletter for President, Vice President and Treasurer candidates.

Here is John Witte's bio.

John Witte is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was previously Director of the Robert La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW. Following three years as a naval officer, he received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1978. His research has focused primarily on tax and education policy, including school choice, vouchers and charter schools.

BOARD NEWS

CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Following his 2012 retirement, John has served as founding dean (2010) of the School of Sciences and Humanities (SSH) of Nazarbayev University in Astana Kazakhstan. The SSH programs are designed to train leaders in all aspects of social development to have versatile knowledge in the field of social, liberal and natural sciences. SSH teaches its students to solve intellectual challenges they may encounter in their life and career regardless of their career choice.

John and his wife Mary have been members of the Friendship Force for ten years and have home hosted journey ambassadors and Open World delegates. They have also participated in outgoing journeys, most recently to Guadeloupe.

Proposed Bylaws Change:

The board recommends a change to our club's bylaws, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on April 27. The proposed by-law adds another standing committee, Electronic Communications, to our board.

The current standing committees are Membership, Activities, Outreach and Programs. The Electronic Communications Committee has been an ad hoc committee for the past two years. Since the committee's role is expected to continue long into the future, the board is proposing that it be changed to a *standing committee*. Making such a change requires the approval of 2/3 of the members in attendance at the meeting. The proposed addition to Article VII Committees and Appointees, Section 1 of the bylaws is as follows:

"E. Electronic Communications: Manage and maintain electronic communications media such as the club website, social media sites, Zoom and MailChimp. Train users and identify evolving technology to enhance communications."

MEETING MEMBERS

MIKE AND CARLA DI IORio

FF Wisconsin member Stephanie Sorensen invited



Mike and Carla to join FF-Wisconsin based on their love of travel and their interest in learning about other countries and to experience diverse cultures. They have hosted dinners for ambassadors and for Open World guests from Russia and India. Mike and Carla look forward to participating in future events with the FF-Wisconsin Club.

While they have not yet traveled with FF Wisconsin, Mike and Carla have traveled extensively with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) to places such as India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Costa Rica.

Mike and Carla's OAT group was one of the first allowed into Egypt after its 2011 pro-democracy revolution. Their tour guide had been a pro-democracy activist and protester, who shared personal experiences and insights into the revolution, along with information on Egyptian history and politics.

At times Mike and Carla's travel experiences were more unusual and frightening than educational. Snakes seem to be a theme of these adventures. When visiting a small village in southern India, the mayor hired a cobra catcher to entertain visitors. Mike and Carla are convinced the cobra looked them straight in their eyes and was moving toward them before it was caught! When in Thailand, they visited Phuket and toured Monkey Island. The ride to the island was extremely rough because they were seated in the speedboat's bow. Not only was the ride rough, but while swimming off Monkey Island, they had to jump into the boat to avoid poisonous snakes in the water.

MEETING MEMBERS

MIKE AND CARLA DI IORIO

Their first self-planned trip was to Germany with their three sons. The boys were in their early teens and curious to learn about Germany and their heritage. They loved meeting German people and had many opportunities to practice their German language skills. This family car trip proved a life-changing experience for their sons, and it inspired "the boys" to continue traveling into their adult lives. One of Mike and Carla's sons accompanied them on a trip to Turkey. He provided historical background and became an extra (and expert) guide when they were in Ephesus. As Mike commented, "It was wonderful to learn from our son about this city's history."

Not surprisingly, Mike and Carla have upcoming trips planned with OAT; they hope Covid does not prevent them from going to Northern Italy and Southern France and participating in another African safari in 2022. In addition, they would like to visit Prague, Berlin, and Vienna.

Before retiring, Carla was a reference librarian at the Madison Central Library for forty years. Mike worked in computer design for many years and then radically shifted his career to study nursing. Since their retirement, both have been active in PLATO. They co-chair PLATO's special events committee and are responsible for planning lectures, social events, and field trips to concerts, plays, gardens, historical sites and nature conservatories. In addition, both are volunteer gardeners at Olbrich Gardens and audit classes at UW-Madison. They especially enjoy auditing history courses about countries that they hope to visit.

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

Activities: Gail Holmes 608-249-1846
glholmes@wisc.edu

Communications: Sandi Wysock 608-833-5326
sandrawysock@msn.com

Journey Manager: Stephanie Sorensen 608-819-6646
ssorensen268@gmail.com

Membership: Lise R. Skofronick 608-274-7732
liserskofronick@gmail.com

Outreach: Dorothy Baldwin 608-742-6493
janddbaldwin@gmail.com

Programs:
Mike Lambert (608)-577-1057
lambertmichaelj@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS

Activities Committee Members:

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

Leaders for specific activities are:

Adopt-A-Highway – Stephanie Vanden Bush
(sljacobs2@gmail.com)

Bike Rides – Jan Hornback
(jhornback@wisc.edu)

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

Day trips–Donna Hussin (djhussin@yahoo.com)

Dining on the 6th – Gail Holmes
(glholmes@wisc.edu)

International Institutes – Sandi Wysock
sandrawysock@msn.com

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

Second Harvest Food Bank–Lois Schulz
(loisschulz1942@gmail.com)

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

Let's Walk/Let's Hike
Maureen Kind (dmkind@sbcglobal.net)

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