



friendship force  
WISCONSIN-MADISON



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

JUNE 2022

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Our journeys are back in full swing with assignments for 2023. We are blessed with three inbound and two outbound assignments. We are fortunate to be assigned to visit Christchurch, New Zealand and Toronto Canada. Both of those journeys were previously scheduled during the pandemic. As the next step in planning, Stephanie Sorensen, our Journey Manager will communicate with both clubs to determine feasible timeframes for the journeys. Journey coordinators will then be assigned to begin the process of developing (or dusting off) the journey itineraries.

Our inbound journeys had also been previously scheduled during the pandemic. Happily, we are again assigned to host the Oita, Japan club in 2023. We had a fantastic visit with them in 2018. They are already actively planning and are very excited to be traveling to see us! In 2023 we will also host the Tweed Valley, Australia club, which were delightful hosts in 2019. It will be great to see all of those friends again as well! Finally, we have been assigned to offer the inbound global bike journey again in 2023, which had been previously planned for 2020, then rescheduled and cancelled in 2021.

In addition to our club journeys, FFI will increasingly advertise other journey opportunities, so be sure to stay abreast of those notifications on the FFI website. Enjoy the return of summer and the sense of rejuvenation that our lush green landscapes bring! I'm looking forward to seeing you at our myriad club events in the coming month!

Kathy Speck

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Monthly Board Meeting:**

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

**June 6:** Dining on the 6th. "Activities"

**June 22:** FF Madison Summer Picnic. More to follow on Mail Chimp

**June 23:** Second Harvest. "Activities"

**July 20:** Trivia Night. "Programs"

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!

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR(S) NEEDED**

As previously announced, Agnes Rona will be stepping down this year as Newsletter editor. The health and vitality of our club depends on maintaining our communications to support the broad variety of Club activities and opportunities offered by our Board. The Newsletter is a key factor in maintaining our connections. A periodic "changing of the guard" is also necessary to keep us moving forward, offering new ideas and perspectives.

A new editor is part of emerging from the pandemic into our new normal; this is a good time to refresh and renew. To make the renewal easier, the Newsletter can return to its former bi-monthly format. Responsibility for the 6 issues could be shared between two editors. Each editor would produce 3 Newsletters per year.

Agnes will work with the new editor(s) to assure a smooth transition. Anyone thinking about being an editor is invited to contact Agnes for more information: [whereowhere5@gmail.com](mailto:whereowhere5@gmail.com) 781-910-1094

## JOURNEYS

### REPORT ON THE UNKNOWN



We now have 2023 assignments to Christchurch, New Zealand and Toronto Canada. Our Journey Coordinator Stephanie Sorensen is in contact with the host clubs to confirm

scheduling and identify journey coordinators to work on itineraries.

We are FINALLY expecting our friends from Oita Japan to visit us in 2023. We visited them in 2018. And we are expecting a visit in 2023 from friends from Tweed Valley, Australia, who hosted us in 2019.

The twice postponed incoming Bike Journey is back on the calendar for 2023 as well. We are working on the assumption that we will be able to carry out these journey and only time will tell if we can successfully enjoy all of them.

In order to share these special times with our incoming visitors we need home hosts here in Madison. Planning a journey takes some time - and a good committee. Any members who are willing to host should email Stephanie Sorensen ASAP at: ssorensen268@gmail.com

## 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.

The planning committee for this program has met and will continue to formulate programming for this special visit.

## OPEN WORLD

### KAZAKHSTAN OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

If you are interested in being part of this exciting program as a home host, day host, dinner host, or if you have contacts that would help the committee, please contact Sandi Wysock or Agnes Rona.

It is a fascinating and timely topic and a great opportunity to meet delegates actively involved in emergency management services.

Sandi Wysock: 608-833-5326/

[sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com) or

Agnes Rona: 781-910-1094

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

## ACTIVITIES

### BOOK CLUB

Due to technical difficulties the scheduled book club meeting before taking a break for the summer did not take place on May 23. The group was to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr. which is "...a stunningly ambitious and beautiful novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II...Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another."

Many have already read and loved this book, and you may want to read it as part of your summer reading.

The first book club meeting after the break will be on Monday, September 19. Watch future announcements for the next book title. Enjoy your summer reading! And please let us know of any titles you recommend that have potential for a group read. Contact us with your ideas.

Marjie Marion [midsi@aol.com](mailto:midsi@aol.com)

Marian Ehrenberg [marianeh2014@gmail.com](mailto:marianeh2014@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

### DINING ON THE 6TH

Members are invited to O'Malley's Jet Room at 3606 Corbin Court (Wisconsin Aviation Building) Highway 51 North to Amelia Earhart Way in Madison for breakfast at 9:30 am.



Generous breakfasts include eggs with many options including fish or tenderloin medallions, omelets, french toast, pancakes, oatmeal, hashbrows, sausage, bacon, fruit, chicken wraps, and Wisconsin cheese curds, from \$7 to \$12.

Please be on time so all members can be seated together at tables along windows to watch the plane traffic while they dine. Name tags are encouraged. Start your day joining FF friends for food and fellowship.

Register by Friday June 3 with host Gail Holmes by phone or email: 608-249-1846 or glholmes@wisc.edu.

Last month Donna Hussin hosted twenty members for Friday Fish Fry at the Dorf Haus in Roxbury on May 6.

### SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

To accommodate Second Harvest's scheduled inventory the June service opportunity is scheduled for June 23, from 12:30 to 3:30 at 2802 Dairy Drive in Madison. This is a safe working environment with precautions in place.

Child hunger can be hard to recognize because the 1 in 7 American children facing it can look like anyone.

It is the 13-year-old boy who gets into fights at school - not because he is a bully, but because he is hungry. It is the 2-year-old who cries all night, not because she is sick, but because she went to bed without enough to eat. It is the 9-year-old boy who hopes a friend invites him to a sleepover, not for fun, but just so he can have dinner. It is the 15-year-old girl who goes for walks over lunch, so her friends won't know she doesn't have anything to eat.

## ACTIVITIES

### SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK

Friendship Force is one of many community groups that help the 11 million kids struggling with hunger in this country. Please consider giving three hours of your time this month to help others. Let Lois Schulz know by Tuesday noon, June 21<sup>st</sup> if you want to participate. [loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com) / 608-243-9761

### BIKING

Due to scheduling difficulties and in an effort to not duplicate available activities, Co-Bike Leaders Vivian Norton and Jan Hornback make the following suggestion for bikers



Members who want to bike can join Sports for Active Seniors Club(SAS) for bike rides and other activities offered by SAS.

Many of these SAS rides are the same as those the Friendship Force Bike Group has done. Often times these rides are the same week or even day. Many of the Friendship Force riders are also members of SAS. For an annual dues of \$20 members can take part in numerous activities in addition to biking. The SAS website (<http://sportsforactiveseniors.org/>) includes schedules and a membership form. If you mark "biking," as an activity you are interested in, you will receive emails from the bike coordinator about scheduled rides. If you have questions about this, contact Jan Hornback.

Vivian and Jan also will try to have a few pop-up rides during the season. If you are not on the pop-up ride contact list but want to know about the rides, please email Jan with your contact information so she can put you on the list.

Vivian Norton  
Nvjoan@icloud.com  
608-497-0397

Jan Hornback  
jhornback@wisc.edu  
608-216-4454

## PROGRAMS

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night is back!

The next trivia night will be on Wednesday July 20th via ZOOM. The fun is scheduled to begin at 4:32 and end at 6 pm but the room will be open at 4 pm for socializing before the heavy competition begins.

If you want to come and play contact:

Mike Lambert (lambertmichael@gmail.com )

or David Blado (david-blado@sbcglobal.net) by July 18.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

### MARY LINDQUIST



Mary has been active in Friendship Force Madison since 1982, serving as secretary, president, and exchange director (journey coordinator) for exchanges to Montana, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and Russia. She enjoyed her work on the FF board and believes that all club members should

serve on the board to better understand the mission, goals, and operations of Friendship Force.

In addition to her leadership roles, Mary has traveled extensively with the club. Mary, her late husband, her parents, and her two high-school age brothers participated in the first Madison exchange to Switzerland. Her younger brothers loved the trip and had a wonderful time going somewhere unfamiliar and staying with unknown people. Mary commented that these early journeys were "true exchanges."

She fondly recalled a trip she and her husband took to Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Her husband previously had been stationed in Germany and was very interested in returning to the country. While they traveled as ambassadors to Germany, Mary's parents hosted two teenagers from Germany. The same plane that took the ambassadors to Germany returned to Madison with German visitors. During the turn-around time at the airport in Germany, Mary met the two teens who stayed with her parents!

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

### MARY LINDQUIST

Mary believes that FF exchanges and homestays are wonderful ways to become immersed in the culture and customs of another country and to discover that people in all parts of the world are very similar, focusing on work and family. Participation in exchanges has given Mary life-long friends. She recently returned from a sixteen-day trip to Gelsenkirchen and Berlin, Germany, where she visited her former host family and their two daughters who stayed with Mary as exchange students years ago. Mary considers them part of her family; she strongly believes in the encouraging children and teens to travel and has taken her thirteen-year-old niece to Japan on an FF exchange.

Mary also loves exploring grocery stores and local markets as excellent ways to learn about a country's foods and shopping habits. Because the grocery stores in small towns and rural areas only use the native language on products, Mary has made some surprising purchases, but also has found Costco stores overseas that reminded her of home .

Mary's favorite type of travel involves water. She enjoys visiting lakes and rivers, beach walking, and hiking to waterfalls and along the edges of lakes, rivers, and streams. Mary recalled the exchange trip to New Zealand. After a homestay in Wellington, Mary and her husband traveled via boat to the South Island to experience its waterways. Every five years, Mary's family and friends rent a houseboat and travel up the Mississippi River, docking overnight at various beaches. In July Mary enjoys camping in the Land o' Lakes region of Wisconsin, and in September she and friends camp at Devil's Lake State Park. In 2023 Mary plans to take a river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam, and someday she hopes to travel by cruise ship to the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica, and the Scandinavian countries.



## **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)

**Program:**  
Mike Lambert 608-577-1057  
[lambertmichaelj@gmail.com](mailto:lambertmichaelj@gmail.com)  
David Blado 715-341-8308  
[david-blado@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david-blado@sbcglobal.net)

## **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))  
Vivian Norton ([vjoan@icloud.com](mailto:vjoan@icloud.com))

Book Club – Marian Ehrenberg  
([marianeh2014@gmail.com](mailto:marianeh2014@gmail.com))  
Marjie Marion ([midsi@aol.com](mailto:midsi@aol.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–Katie Martinson  
([kmarto2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kmarto2002@yahoo.com))

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

Let's Walk/Let's Hike  
Maureen Kind ([dmkind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmkind@sbcglobal.net))

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