



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



ffwis.org

SEPTEMBER 2022

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

At the August Board meeting we said good-bye to Kathy Speck as Board President – though certainly not good-bye to Kathy, who remains an active and energetic member. We all thank her for her great dedication to Friendship Force and for her support as we move forward.

We welcomed Doug Johnson as our new President and wish him well as he guides Friendship Force Madison through our re-emergence from the worst of the Covid years. You will begin reading Doug's Notes from the President in the next Newsletter, keeping us up to date on national and regional activities of Friendship Force as well as guiding our club's direction forward.

We also say goodbye to Agnes Rona, who is leaving her position as editor of this Newsletter. The November Newsletter will be the last one under Agnes' hand. She thanks all of our members for the support and feedback she has received over the past years.

As of this date we do not have a new Editor, but you will continue to receive emails via Mail Chimp to make sure members don't miss any of the club activities as we look for a new Editor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting:

The FFI Madison Board meets VIRTUALLY on the second Wednesday of the month @ 3:00 pm

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

September 19: Book Club. "Activities"

September 29: 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 Mail Chimp email updates as well. We don't want you to miss anything!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR(S) NEEDED

We continue to remind members that 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 staying connected. A periodic "changing of the guard" is also necessary to keep us moving forward, offering new ideas and perspectives.

Changing of the guard is part of continuing forward momentum. 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 781-910-1094

JOURNEYS

WE ARE TRAVELLING IN 2023!

While there are no journey updates since the last Newsletter, here is the article from the July Newsletter to remind members of good things to come:

We have an embarrassment of riches in store for FF Journeys in 2023. Most of the canceled incoming and outgoing journeys for our club have been rescheduled for 2023. We will need a lot of participation from members to make these journeys a success.

Incoming journeys. While we have co-coordinators for the incoming journey from Oita, planning committee members are still needed. We also need planning committee members and co-coordinators for the incoming Tweed Valley, Australia group. Our Journey Manager Stephanie Sorensen welcomes any help, but especially from those of you who previously participated in these Journeys. Home hosts are also needed for both incoming journeys.

As of the date of this newsletter there are no schedules yet for these journeys. Both of the incoming clubs have two weeks in the US; Stephanie is working to coordinate with three clubs to organize dates.

Outgoing journeys. For outgoing journeys, we are assigned Christchurch, New Zealand and Toronto, Canada. Co-coordinators are needed for these journeys as well as help with planning. There is no schedule yet for the journey to Christchurch. However we expect to visit Toronto in May – our Journey Manager is working to confirm a particular week.

As soon as time frames for these journeys are narrowed down, Stephanie will send out a survey asking about members' interests in traveling or hosting at those times. If you already decided to lead any of these journeys, please get in touch with Stephanie now:

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

ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE 6th

Join your friends for Dining on the 7th on Tuesday, September 6 at 12 pm for lunch at Café Hollander at the Hilldale Shopping Center, 701 Hilldale Way. In anticipation of warm fall weather the group will gather for lunch on the patio; in case of inclement weather the group can dine indoors.

ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE 6th

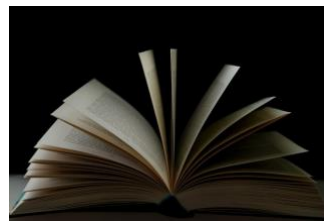
Café Hollander offers starters, soup, salads, Grand Café plates (\$13.95 to \$21.95), sandwiches, burgers and an all-day brunch menu. A specialty is fresh steamed mussels with frites.

The Café says:

“Bier is a huge part of Lowland European culture—as integral as frites, cafes, and bicycles. And here at Café Hollander we love bier—from sourcing the best biers to perfecting the way each is served in the proper glass. Our passion for bier runs so deep that we’ve collaborated with some of these brewers—who have become close friends—to create our own exclusive biers brewed by friendship and available exclusively at our cafes.”

Please register with host Gail Holmes by Sunday September 4 so she can reserve enough private space at the umbrella tables on the patio: glholmes2wisc.edu / 608 249-1846

BOOK CLUB



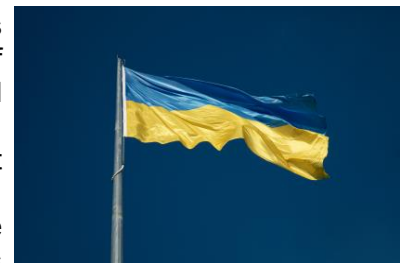
After a summer of wide-ranging reading, readers will come together by ZOOM on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 PM. The discussion will focus on the Ukraine.

Come with your thoughts from background reading of books, news reports, personal stories – all are welcome! Reference the July newsletter for some ideas, but do not feel constrained by the list.

To join the ZOOM meeting, please contact Marjie Marian by Sept 16, for the zoom link. Marjie Marion midsi@aol.com and Marian Ehrenberg marianeh2014@gmail.com

The summer reading suggestions were related to Ukraine.

The club will discuss their impressions of Ukraine as perceived through the books, including but not limited to geography, history and the cultural connections and disparities in the region. Suggested readings include:



ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB

History

Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine
– Anna Reid. 2015 (originally published in 2000; the update includes coverage of the Euromaidan Revolution of 2014)

The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine – Serhil Plokhly 2015

Fiction

I Will Die in a Foreign Land: a novel – Kalani Pickhart 2021

Grey Bees – Andrey Kurkov 2022

The Orphanage – Serhiy Zhadan 2021

Good Citizens Need Not Fear – Maria Reva 2020

Lucky Breaks – Yevgenia Belorusets 2022

Poetry

Apricots of Donbas – Lyuba Yakimchuk 2021

Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine – Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky, editors 2017

Anthology

Love in Defiance of War – scheduled for release on Sept 13, 2022, so not yet available from library.

SECOND HARVEST

Each time we have a different project depending on the food to be sorted and packaged for distribution to food pantries, meal sites and school outlets. More of our neighbors are struggling to keep a meal on the table than before the pandemic - 13% more - including nearly 47,000 children who need nutritious food to learn, grow and be healthy all summer long.

The next Food Bank volunteer day is Thursday September 29 from 12:30 to 3:30 at 2802 Dairy Drive in Madison. It is a safe working environment with precautions in place.

Please let leader Lois Schulz know if you will participate. loisschulz1942@gmail.com or 608-243-9761.

BIKING

After all the hot days, Sunday August 14 was a pleasantly cool morning for a ride from Fitchburg to Riley Tavern. Trip organizer Vivian Norton, Diane Mertens and Larry Neuman met at the theater on McKee Road and rode to the Verona depot and were joined by Mary Juckem and Mike Lambert.

ACTIVITIES

BIKING

The five took Military Ridge Trail at a leisurely pace to Riley Tavern.



Bike and walker traffic was light. However, when the group arrived at Riley there were lines of cars, lots of cyclists and runners. The annual Roll and Stroll fund raiser for pancreatic cancer was in full swing. It was great to see all the participation. The fund raiser is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center. Vivian later learned the event raised over \$100,000 for pancreatic cancer research.

Not long after our cyclists were seated, a smiling Gabor Kemeny joined them, at the table and all enjoyed pancakes and sausage, French toast, and breakfast sandwiches in generous amounts. The atmosphere was festive. Perfect walking and cycling temperatures in a rural, historic setting. This is an easy ride for cyclists. Riley is an ideal place for a breakfast or lunch stop before going back to the starting place. This ride can also accommodate for those interested in a longer ride. They can continue on after the meal stop when the others are doing a shorter ride.

Following breakfast our group returned to Fitchburg. Interesting, that of the 6 cyclists, four were on e-bikes. E-bikes are extending the years of cycling when, the hills seem higher and a mile seems longer.

OPEN WORLD

The Open World Committee is well on the way to creating a great program for our visitors from Kazakhstan on the topic of Emergency Management. State and local experts have been very cooperative and supportive and are excited to participate.

Before our visitors arrive, the Committee will offer members a ZOOM program on the history and culture of Kazakhstan to prepare to them to have the best possible experiences and communications with our guests and to support the success of this important Open World program.

Friendship Force Madison will host a club-wide welcome event dinner for our guests on Sunday October 30. Please set the date aside on your calendars. Details will follow via Mail Chimp.

To assure the success of the program the Committee is asking members to volunteer to be back-up hosts in case any of our scheduled hosts becomes unavailable for any reason. Please contact Sandi Wysock if you are willing to provide back-up. sandrawysock@msn.com / 608-833-5326.

ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Doug Johnson 608-238-7185 djohnson44@ameritech.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Diane Mertens 608-271-8657 mertensdk27@gmail.com

Larry Neuman 608-271-8657 wlneuman@yahoo.com

Secretary:

John Witte 608-445-5026 witte@lafollette.wisc.edu

Treasurer:

Mary Juckem 608-358-0608 maj2810@gmail.com

Past President:

Kathy Speck: 608-577-4885 kspeckemeny@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor:

Members at Large:

Peter Kaufman 608-848-3737 pkaufman@gmail.com

Donna Ulteig 608-335-0639 donna.ulteig@yahoo.com

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

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

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

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

Membership: Lise R. Skofronick 608-274-7748
liserskofronick@gmail.com

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

Program:
Mike Lambert 608-577-1057
lambertmichaelj@gmail.com
David Blado 715-341-8308
david-blado@sbcglobal.net

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)
Vivian Norton (vjoan@icloud.com)

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

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

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

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP FORCE
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The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison
5809 Julia St
Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com

ffwis.meeting@gmail.com

ffwis.membership@gmail.com

ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

President: Doug Johnson
(608) 238-1785

Vice President: Diane Mertens and Larry Neuman
(608) 271-8657

Secretary: John Witte
(608) 445-5026

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