



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON



ffwis.org

NOVEMBER 2022

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My wife and I recently returned from a Journey to Dallas with Donna Hussin and Gail Holmes and members of FF Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. I had good conversations with the president of the Dallas club. One thing we agreed is to continue to emphasize that Friendship Force is not a travel club - we are *Ambassadors*, with a *mission* to establish connections in an effort to help secure peaceful international relationships and understanding through friendship. This is our theme: *Ambassadors*, not travelers.

The Dallas club has a service activity to provide rides for other members to and from the airport and in return the travelers make a fixed contribution to the club. When I think of parking at the airport or arranging for a ride from a friend, this option appeals to me. Perhaps it's worth talking about for us.

Plans for both incoming and outgoing journeys are advancing. You will see details elsewhere along with invitations to be hosts for our guests.

At the October meeting the Board voted to raise FF Wisconsin – Madison annual dues for 2023 to \$40 to respond to the increase in FFI annual fee per member to \$30. This increase allows our club to continue to have the benefit of the local portion of the total dues amount.

We are still looking for three members to fill open positions on the Board: Newsletter editor, Outreach (publicity), and a Member-at-Large. If you are approached to consider taking on one of these roles, I hope you will find a way to accept the invitation and help keep the club moving forward.

The fall membership meeting was attended by about 25 and was a success. The invited speaker, a UW student who is a citizen of Kazakhstan, did a wonderful job of telling us about his country as we prepare to host a group of six delegates through Open World (COIL). Thanks to Mike Lambert for finding him and arranging for his talk. Many thanks to John Witte for arranging for the use of the Tamarack Clubhouse and for securing the pizza and drinks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting:

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

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

November 21: Book Club. "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 NOTE

This is the last Newsletter I will be editing for FF Wisconsin-Madison. As of now we do not have a new editor. During my term as editor members have expressed appreciation for having the Newsletter as a significant means of keeping us connected. Thank you for your feedback and support.

We have reminded members for several months that our club needs a new editor to keep that connection available for all of us. While we can use MailChimp to keep members informed of activities and events, without a Newsletter we will lose a sense of common connection. So this last Newsletter is another **BIG ASK** for someone to step forward to keep our connection going.

It has been a very rewarding experience for me to produce this newsletter for our membership and I hope someone else will also be able to have that experience very soon. All the best to all of us.

JOURNEYS

WE ARE TRAVELLING IN 2023!

2023 WILL BE A GREAT YEAR

FFI awarded us several Journeys for 2023 and we have made great progress in beginning to get them up and running. Our Journey Coordinator is delighted with and thanks all of the volunteers and eager Ambassadors who have stepped forward.



Lise Skofronick and Pat Watson have agreed to be Co-Ambassador Coordinators for our Journey to Toronto May 31 - June 6 and we have a full set of applicants to go on this Journey.

Kathy Speck-Kemeny and Magdi Sebestyen will be the Co-Host Coordinators for our visitors from Oita, Japan when they arrive Aug. 24 - 31. We have been waiting for them for three years and are eager to renew the ties established when our club visited them.

Tom Miller has agreed to be the Host Coordinator for our visitors from Tweed Valley, Australia whom we also visited recently. We are still trying to coordinate dates for their arrival and we may need another Host Coordinator.

George Wysock and Hal Wissink have agreed to be Co-Ambassador Coordinators for our Journey to Christchurch, New Zealand. They are finalizing dates now which will be the end of Oct. to early Nov. We have a significant number of applicants for this Journey also, but it is always worth applying as we will have a wait list and the number that Christchurch can host is not fully determined yet.

We still need a variety of hosts for the two incoming groups. We have a good start on the number of home hosts, though we can always use more. We need day hosts (people who just take an Ambassador to the scheduled activities for a specific day to give the home host a break) as well as small group dinner hosts.

JOURNEYS

We need planning committee members for the incoming Journeys. For those of you who are new or who have not been actively involved in contributing to the club in some way, this is an excellent chance to learn how things work, do a specific, time-limited task, get to know other club members, and enjoy the fruits of your labor when you see how happy the Ambassadors are with our offerings and our organization.

Please contact Kathy Speck-Kemeny, Magdi Sebestyen, or Tom Miller to volunteer to help with hosting of any sort, driving, planning, etc. Incoming Journeys are entirely too much work for the Coordinators to do themselves, so please pitch in! Thank you.

2024 HOPES AND REQUESTS

Just as we feel that we have a handle on 2023, we will very soon receive have to submit to FFI staff our Outbound requests for 2024. At our member meeting in October our Journey Coordinator asked attendees to vote on the three places they would most like to visit in 2024. Based on their input our Journey coordinator will request Brazil, Ghana/Kenya and Europe (last year FFI asked for "Europe" to be specified as opposed to specific countries in Europe and we don't know how that will be worded this time). Assignments will not be available until Spring 2023 and FFI staff will still be trying to fit in Journeys that were canceled in the last couple of years.

These are only requests, not assignments for 2024. We got all of our requests this year. That may not happen again. There are more clubs in the US than anywhere else and often a club does not get any Outbound assignment. But we can always hope! (And - the more we cooperate with FFI and use their guidance, the better chance we have of getting assignments we like.) There is also always the option of traveling with another club. Members always can look at other club Journeys posted on the FFI website and ask if they have openings.

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

ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE 6th



The Dining on The 6th adventure for November will be Sunday, Nov 6 at 5:30 pm at Madison's authentic German restaurant, the Essen Haus, 514 East Wilson St, downtown Madison. Give yourselves time to navigate road construction and park. Friendship Force diners will gather for fellowship and dinner on Sunday afternoon and will be able to place individual orders from the menu which includes both American and German cuisine.

Sunday Special is broasted half-chicken served with haus made dumplings and gravy and vegetables for \$14. Also available are a great selection of starters, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Main entrees include pork tenderloin, chicken breast, combo platters, walleye, and bratwurst sausages. All are served with a wide choice of potato or spatzle noodles and choice of vegetable. Most entrees are between \$17 and \$21 to \$26 for rouladen with choice prime rib or a 12-ounce bier ribeye. A bowl of soup or side salad is an additional \$3.

Essen Haus features 16 rotating German tap beer selections. Their menu lists selections of Doppelbocks, Pilsners, Weissbiers, Lagers, Oktoberfests, Pale Ale, and many others.

For a fun evening out, **register by Friday, November 4**, with host Gail Holmes, phone 608 249-1846 or email glholmes@wisc.edu, so that our tables will be prepared. Please plan to wear your name tag.

Auf Wiedersehen.

ACTIVITIES

DINING ON THE 6th

On Sept 6 a large group enjoyed outdoor dining at Café Hollander at Hilldale in Madison.



BOOK CLUB



On Nov 21 at 7 pm the book club will Zoom to discuss "*Paradise*" by Tanzanian-born Abdulrazak Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature. The library has 16 copies.

The library summary reads, "The adventures of a 12-year-old African boy sold into slavery by his father to pay off a debt. The setting is East Africa, a place of trade caravans, tribal warfare and the beginnings of European colonization." The book appears on a list of recommendations from Friendship Force International.

Apples are from Kazakhstan is the book discussed on October 17, and all who read it – or even just part of it – came away with a more thorough understanding of the history and experience of that country. It is a fascinating part of the world, and the author – Christopher Robbins - had a seemingly endless supply of stories to tell from innumerable contacts (including then President Nursultan Nazarbayev) acquired during his years of visits to Kazakhstan. Highly recommended.

The book club will not meet in December due to the busy holiday season. The next meeting and discussion will be on January 16. Please let Marjie Marion know by January 13 if you want to be added to the book club mail list and receive the zoom link.

Marjie Marion midsi@aol.com
Marian Ehrenberg marianeh2014@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

On Oct 23 five members cleaned up 13 garbage bags. It was a beautiful though windy day.



OPEN WORLD

On October 10, John Witte hosted a member meeting at Tamarack's Clubhouse at which 25 members were treated to a presentation on Kazakhstan by a young Kazakh student now studying at UW Madison. It was a well-timed opportunity for members to prepare for our delegate visitors. We also thank Mike Lambert for bringing our young student friend, Alan Mashen, to the meeting.

The Open World program officially began on Friday Oct 28, welcoming our delegates from Kazakhstan at the airport.



OPEN WORLD

After a welcome lunch at Sandi and George Wysock's home gathering with their hosts the delegates went home to early bedtimes to catch up on their sleep deprivation from their travels. Saturday began with a great tour of the Capitol, a stroll on State Street, farmers market and other downtown adventures.



Our tour guide at the Capitol spoke fluent Russian and made our delegates feel very much at home and was able to share a great deal of information with them. He is a Wisconsin boy, a very successful product of our UW-Madison's language departments.



We hosted a successful Welcome Dinner for delegates and members on October 30 at Holy Wisdom Monastery and will host a Farewell Dinner on November 4 at the Nakoma Club.

OPEN WORLD

SPECIAL THANKS FROM OPEN WORLD COORDINATORS

A total of 33 people participated in making this program happen. It truly takes a village.

By the time you read this, we will be several days into our Open World Program with our delegates from Kazakhstan. We owe **MANY** thanks to our members, program presenters, committee members, without whose support and cooperation this program would not have been possible. We want to say our thank you out loud here:

Home Hosts: Hank and Jennifer Angelo, Michael Hoon and Diana Rodum, Tom and Donna Miller, Maureen Kind, George and Sandi Wysock, John and Mary Witte, Kathy Speck and Gabor Kemeny as well as Tamas Gaal who was willing to step in if needed.

Day Hosts: Lise Skofronick, Sandy Drew, Mike Lambert, Carla and Mike Di Lorio, Vivian Norton

Our amazing committee members: Tom Miller, Sandy Drew, Mary Juckem, John Witte, Agnes Rona, Sandi Wysock

Holy Wisdom Welcome Site Coordinator and Open World Treasurer: Mary Juckem

Name tags/lanyards: Mary Lindquist

Drivers: Barbara Vater, Tom Miller, George Wysock, Maureen Kind, Gail Holmes, Agnes Rona, Sandi Wysock, Mike Lambert

Welcome party table hosts: Pat Watson, Wynn Davies and guest, Vivian Norton, Janice Barbone, Ken and Vicki Warren, Peter Kaufman and Jan Viney, David Blado

We owe a huge thanks to the following presenters:
Kevin Wernet and Gannon Gann from Wisconsin Emergency Management who provided us with many connections and provided one and one-half days of programming, J McLellan of Dane County Emergency Management for one half day of programming and making critical connections, Dr. Mario Colella of the Medical College of Wisconsin for his half day of programming, Rep. Mark Pocan's office, Tammy Baldwin's office, Keith Hurlbert Emergency Manager Iowa County and Kurt Hoepker of Upland Health for giving us a rural perspective and Steve Hasell of UW Health, Nathan Bubenzer of Unity Point Health Meriter, Charlie Johnson, SSM Health-St. Mary's Emergency and Disaster planning directors for the Madison area hospitals for sharing their expertise on Friday morning.

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Standing Committee Chairs

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

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Outreach: TBD

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ACTIVITY LEADERS

Activities Committee Members:

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Leaders for specific activities are:

Adopt-A-Highway – Stephanie Vanden Bush
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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
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International Institutes – Sandi Wysock
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Let's Eat Out (LEO) – Bobbie Vrooman
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Let's Walk/Let's Hike
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