

Friendship Force

Wisconsin — Madison

ffwis.org

August 2023

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are about a month away from welcoming ambassadors from Japan and Australia. You don't have to be a host in order to enjoy spending some time with them! Everyone received an email with an invitation to attend the welcome picnic, the farewell picnic, and a few of the other activities. I hope there will be a good number of us who choose to join in some of the fun.

All clubs have been asked to think about what things they do that they consider "best practices" and then share those things. One of the several that we will submit is all of the opportunities (activities) we have for our members to get to know each other while doing something together. We can, I'm saying, be friends with folks in our own club as well as with ambassadors from other clubs around the country and around the world. In the previous newsletter I listed several of these activities: hiking, biking, a book club, volunteering, and monthly lunches together at a variety of restaurants come quickly to mind.

But: perhaps there is something we aren't doing that you would like. (Bowling, anyone?) Anyone can put out a call for such a thing. If that's you, let me know and we'll get out an invitation to the whole club.

Finally, watch for an email announcement of a membership meeting to be held in the Fall.

Doug Johnson

ATTENTION!!!

DEADLINE EXTENDED

to AUGUST 8

FOR

OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

&

ALL JAPAN / AUSTRALIA JOURNEY ACTIVITIES!

A sign-up sheet appears at the end of this newsletter for anyone who has not yet sent one in

Hope to see you there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Aug 1: Orientation - Japan/Australia hosts	<i>p</i> 2
Aug 6: Dining (and biking!) on the 6th	<i>p5</i>
Aug 8: Deadline for picnic reservationsAug 8: Deadline for Japan/Aust activities	p11 p11
Aug 8: Menominee trip - CANCELLED	
Aug 10: FF Board meeting - via Zoom	
Aug 16: Cultural notes on Japan - via Zoon	n
Aug 24-31: Inbound - Japan/Australia	<i>p</i> 2
Aug 30: Summer picnic (w/Japan/Aust)	<i>p</i> 4
Aug 31: Second Harvest Foodbank	<i>p</i> 7
Sept 6: Dining on the 6th	
Sept 8: Deadline: La Crosse Day Tour	p9
Sept 13: Toronto Travelog - via Zoom	
Sept 14: FF Board meeting - via Zoom	
Sept 18: Book Club - via Zoom	<i>p6</i>
Sept 19: Adopt-a-Highway	<i>p</i> 7
Sept 28: Second Harvest Foodbank	<i>p</i> 7
Oct 1: Fall Membership Mtg Oct 2-5: FFI Conf: Dubrovnik, Croatia Oct 13: La Crosse Day Tour	<i>p</i> 8
Nov 5-11: Outbound - Christchurch NZ	
Calendar updates will be posted on our w	

(<u>ffwis.org</u>) and/or emailed to you via MailChimp.

JOURNEYS

Inbound: Japan/Australia Aug 24-31, 2023

Sign Up by August 8 for Japan/Australia Journey Activities!

There are many opportunities for you to participate in fun and friendship of the Oita, Japan and Tweed Valley, Australia journey. Final deadline for receipt of reservation forms and payment is now Tuesday, August 8. The Journey week includes the Annual Summer Picnic, which is being catered by Upstairs Downstairs Catering. Print and complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send with payment to the Journey Treasurer Magdi Sebestyen magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com. For questions, please contact Journey Coordinators Tom Miller miller1950@sbcglobal.net or Kathy Speck kspeckemeny@gmail.com.

More Dinner Hosts Needed!

One of the ways our Madison Friendship Force members extend the hand of friendship to visiting clubs is to open their homes for a small group dinner. This is a great opportunity for you to spend quality time with the visiting ambassadors and their hosts. It is also a nice break and "evening out" for home hosts. Day hosts that accompany an ambassador that day usually participate too. A Japanese interpreter may be available to join the group dinner. Regardless of the language barrier, the group dinners are a lot of fun!

Please contact Magdi Sebestyen if you are able to host a small group for dinner. The dinners will be held on Saturday evening, August 26, following a busy day downtown and at the UW Campus. This can be a group effort with other Friendship Force members. Please let Magdi know how many guests you can accommodate and if you have pets, as a few ambassadors have pet allergies.

Workshop for Japan/Australia Journey **Hosts and Volunteers**

A workshop will be held for all Japan/Australia home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts and volunteers on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm at the Fitchburg Library.

JOURNEYS

Outbound: Toronto May 31-June 6, 2023

First Outbound Trip Since 2020 a Huge Success



Welcome Banner

On May 31, after much preparation, 19 Madison Friendship Force ambassadors, 7 of us first-timers, met our hosts in Toronto, Canada, for the start of a memorable trip. The mixture of new FF travelers and seasoned ones worked well. Inbound coordinators, Shelagh Barrington and George Maclaren along with the entire Toronto club presented us with a varied itinerary to showcase their city.

Even the weather, which, in my opinion, adds roughly 50% to a trip's enjoyment, was on board. We had no rain the entire time, just a couple of 90 degree, low humidity days in the beginning with some smoke from the fires in northern Canada drifting in near the end.

I specifically mention the weather since we were in the heart of the city the whole time, making walking, along with mass transportation, the way to get around. Toronto, a city of close to three million people, is laid out on a grid making finding your way fairly easy.

JOURNEYS

Outbound: Toronto (cont)

Following an abundant welcoming breakfast, we started off our trip by attending a Toronto Blue Jays vs Milwaukee Brewers game with dinner at the Dim Sum King restaurant. In the process of walking to these places our hosts took us on interesting side trips to further explore the city.



Welcome Brunch

Other highlights during the week included the CN tower, a choice of the Art Gallery of Ontario or the Royal Ontario Museum, the St Lawrence Market, and The Distillery District where we saw the play, "Sizwe Banzi Is Dead". The plot showed the heart-wrenching situation of a black man in South Africa.



Madison-Toronto Group Photo

JOURNEYS

Outbound: Toronto (cont)

We spent the entire last day, before the farewell dinner, on Center Island where the views of the Toronto skyline were fantastic. The ferry rides to and fro were a nice break.

And I would like to make special note of a highlight for many of us, the host dinner parties (an event our club also always tries to include in our incoming journeys) which were held on Sunday evening after, as it turned out, a relaxing day with our home hosts. It was a comfortable way to get to know each other better while enjoying great food.





In closing, I would like to thank our hosts for taking on the project of herding such a large group (the largest they have ever had) thru a metropolitan city complete with crowds and traffic while not losing anyone. I am looking forward to welcoming them to Madison next year.

In friendship,

Pat Watson — Journey co-coordinator

ACTIVITIES

Summer Picnic

This year our summer picnic will be held on **Wednesday, August 30 at 5 pm** at Vilas Park. It is being combined with the Farewell Picnic for our guests from Japan & Australia.

Please RSVP for the **Summer Picnic** on the Japan/Australia Activities Sign-up sheet at the end of this newsletter, even if you are not involved at least the state of the stat

involved otherwise with the Japan/Australia Journey. It is listed as the Farewell Picnic.

The deadline for reservations for BOTH picnics (the Welcome picnic on August 25 and the combined Annual Club Picnic - Farewell Picnic on August 30) has been extended to August 8, 2023.

ALL other activities mentioned on the Sign-up Sheet for the Japan/Australia exchange also now have a deadline of August 8.

Dining on the 6th

Riley Tavern

8205 Klevenville-Riley Road Verona, WI (608) 845-9150

Sunday August 6, 2023

10:00am Brunch

Come join other Friendship Force members for Sunday Brunch!

Where?

The Riley Tavern is located about 7-8 miles NW of the center of Verona, along the Military Ridge Bike Trail.

Sunday breakfast menu (served 9am-noon): Pancakes w/sausage (buttermilk, blueberry or chocolate chip, served with sausage links) - \$7; Riley Breakfast Sammie (sausage, egg and cheddar on an English muffin) - \$7; Cinnamon French Toast (made with cinnamon swirl bread from Clausen's Bakery, and served with sausage links) - \$7; Pigs in a Blanket (2 sausage links wrapped in buttermilk pancakes, garnished with blueberries) — \$5. Coffee, water, and soda, as well as other beverages from the tavern, are available.

**The Best of Madison 2022 Readers' Poll awarded Riley Tavern the Gold for Best Patio and the Bronze for Best Outdoor Dining. Wow!

ACTIVITIES

Dining on the 6th (cont)

When & how to get there?

By Bicycle: Meet at parking lot of Verona Station, at the Hometown Junction Park, W. Railroad St & Main Street in Verona at 91m. We will bike the flat, crushed gravel Military Ridge Trail for about 6 miles to Riley Tavern. A WI State Rail Pass is needed to bike the trail. Please wear a helmet and sign a consent form before starting the group ride.

By Car: Meet at the Riley Tavern, 9:45 - 10:00am and look for picnic tables with the friendly faces of your fellow Friendship Force club members who biked out from Verona.

Questions & RSVP: Contact Larry Neuman by email (<u>WLNeuman@yahoo.com</u>) or call 608-271-8657 by Friday, Aug 4, if you plan to bike or drive to join us. Hope to see you there!

Note: Our July 6th dining experience was to be held on the outdoor patio at Liberty Station American Tavern and Smokehouse. It was cancelled due to members having other commitments during the week of the 4th of July holiday.

Book Club

On **July 17**, three club members came together by zoom to discuss <u>The Sentence</u> by Louise Erdrich. For various reasons, not least of which was the fact that I had not finished reading the book, actual book discussion was brief. In the end we spent more time pouring over Erdrich's book list offered in the final pages of the book, mulling over past reads and thinking of possible books for the future - an enjoyable conversation!

Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on September 18 at 7:00 pm. Skipping August seems wise, given the incoming journey and people's summer travels. For September Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed* will be discussed. This was the UW Big Read last year, and copies were very difficult to obtain through the library for several months. Now there are plenty of copies available, and it comes highly recommended.

"How the Word Is Passed is Clint Smith's revealing, contemporary portrait of America as a slave-owning nation. Beginning in his own hometown of New Orleans, Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks - those that are honest about the past and those that are not - that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves." As Smith tours locations (among the sites he leads us through are Monticello Plantation, Angola Prison, Galveston Island and finally Gorée Island in Senegal), we benefit from his clear-eyed conversations with locals and tour guides, and the stories they have to tell.

ACTIVITIES

Book Club (cont)

Just a reminder to contact Marjie or Marian for the Zoom link if needed. Let one of us know if you have questions about how to find the books, or suggestions for further reading — an effort is underway to develop a 12-month book list starting with October — or if there are ways we can improve our book club experience. Let us know, too, if you would like to be added to the book club email list.

Marjie Marion <u>midsi@aol.com</u> Marian Ehrenberg marianeh2014@gmail.com

Second Harvest Foodbank

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD FOR EVERYONE!

Our Madison club volunteers at the Second Harvest Foodbank on the last Thursday of each month. We sort, package, and generally prepare bulk food into smaller proportions for distribution by the Foodbank.

Come join us on our next volunteer service days:

Aug 31	12:30-3:30pm
Sept 28	12:30-3:30pm
Oct 26	12:30-3:30pm

Second Harvest Foodbank 2802 Dairy Drive, Madison, WI 53718

ACTIVITIES

Adopt-a-Highway

The next Adopt-A-Highway clean-up event will be **Tuesday**, **Sept 19 at 10 am.** Meet us at the Middleton Park and Ride off exit 249 (Parmenter St). Gloves and grabbers will be provided. Contact Stephanie Vanden Bush at slipacobs2@gmail.com or 920-676-1441 to join.

The picture below was taken at the highway clean up Sunday **July 2nd**. Gail, Margie, Pete and Katie joined myself, my husband Dean and our 2 daughters EV and Hazel.

Stephanie Vanden Bush



Bike Rides etc

Team Friendship Force

Bikes for the Boys & Girls Clubs

Six club members formed a team to participate in the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County, Move 'N' Groove event held **Saturday**, **July 15**. Team FF bicycled 25 miles in beautiful weather across rolling hills and raised \$305 for the event.

The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County is to provide programs to inspire and cultivate youth, including its brand-new McKenzie Regional Workforce Center that helps youth, especially those in need, reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring adults by preparing them for occupations in the skilled trades.

This is the first year the FF Wisconsin-Madison Club participated in the event as a team. After the bicycle ride, team members Mike Lambert, Mary Juckem, Vivian Norton, Maureen Kind, Larry Neuman, and Diane Mertens enjoyed lunch, music, and conversation at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg, the Move 'N' Groove headquarters.



ACTIVITIES

La Crosse Day Tour

La Crosse Queen Cruise, Granddad Bluff and Historic City Tour

Friday, October 13, 2023

Invite a friend, make it a fall color outing, rediscover La Crosse and the Mississippi River! On the 1 and 1/2 hour narrated cruise aboard the paddlewheeler, La Crosse Queen, the captain offers facts and trivia of the historical and present-day river and points out local points of interest. Includes lunch. Sunshine is requested for the day as inclement weather does not cancel the cruise.

Following the cruise, we continue discovering LaCrosse with a guided tour of the river front, Granddad Bluff, and downtown historic district.

Our journey to La Crosse is via the Interstate and return to Madison is via The Great River Road, stopping at an apple orchard in the Prairie du Chien area before continuing on U.S. Hwy 18 through Fennimore. We pass the 20-turbine wind farm between Montfort and Cobb, and at Dodgeville, pickup U.S. Hwy 151, riding the "ridge line" and enjoying the beautiful views of Wisconsin's Driftless region as we continue on to Madison.

For the cruise to include the lunch, we need 30 reservations. We have a backup plan if we don't meet the lunch requirement and any refund would be given on the day of the tour. The \$120 fee covers all costs for the day except for personal expenses.

Registration deadline is Friday, September 8, 2023. The registration flyer with more details is included in this newsletter. Any questions, please contact, Donna Hussin, <u>djhussin@yahoo.com</u> or 608-770-0980.

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

OCTOBER MOTOR COACH DAY TOUR



LaCrosse Queen Cruise, Guided Granddad Bluff and Historic City Tour



Join us for a full day in LaCrosse, WI enjoying the fall colors and a narrated cruise with buffet meal on the main channel of the Mississippi River aboard the La Crosse Queen paddle wheeler. Following the cruise, we have a guided city tour of its riverfront, Granddad Bluff and historic downtown. Return to Madison is via the Great River Road to again enjoy the fall colors and the scenic Mississippi River. The day's final stop is a visit to one of the apple orchards in the Prairie du Chie area. Sunshine is requested for the day as the cruise does not cancel due to inclement weather.

LaCrosse Queen has restrooms on board, is handicap accessible for standard-size wheelchairs, and the lower deck is enclosed with windows all around and temperature controlled. The buffet lunch includes chef-carved roast beef, herb baked chicken, honey glazed carrots, garlic mashed potatoes, dinner rolls with butter pads, and carrot cake. Coffee, iced tea or water are provided. Other beverages are available for purchase. Cash or check is preferred. A \$10 minimum is required for using a credit card and American Express is not accepted.

Departure time7:30 a.m. South Towne Mall vacant area north of E parking section with McDonalds to the left of the roadway and parking to the right. Return estimate 7:30 p.m.

Reservation deadline: Friday, September 8, 2023. LaCrosse Queen requires 30 people to include the buffet meal as part of the cruise. If less than 30 you would be notified of the plan for providing lunch after the cruise. No refunds once final count has been given LaCrosse Queen.

Cost: \$120 all inclusive. Covers transportation, cruise fee, lunch, guide fee, and gratuities.

Any questions, please contact tour coordinator, Donna Hussin, djhussin@yahoo.com or 608-770-0980.

Invite a friend. Make it a fall color outing. Rediscover LaCrosse, and the Mississippi River!



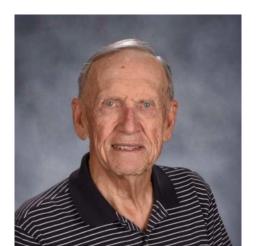
Please wear a name tag.



Reservation Form—DEADLINE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
LaCrosse Queen Cruise, Granddad Bluff and Historic City Tour - LaCrosse, WI, October 13, 2023

Amount enclosed(1 person)	(2 pe	eople)() people	
Name(s):		Email Address	
		Email Address	
Need wheelchair accommodations	Yes		
Make check payable to: Friendship Fo	rce of Wiscons	sin-Madison. Mail to Gail Holmes, 3457 Hargrov	e
St Madison WI 53714-2224			

IN MEMORIAM



GEORGE WEILAND

Long-time Friendship Force member [1978-2019] George Weiland passed away on June 21 at the age of 93. In 1978, George and his wife Iris along with their two sons, Jim and Joe, participated in the first Madison exchange to Zurich, Switzerland. Later, he was the Exchange Director for the inbound exchange from Belgium. George and Iris served as hosts for several exchanges and enjoyed their involvement in Friendship Force. He will be missed by all that knew him. May he rest in peace.

Funeral services were held Friday July 14, 2023. For details, please see the obituary in the link below.

Condolences may be sent to Friendship Force member, Mary (Weiland) Lindquist, 5809 Julia Street, Madison, WI 53705.

To read George's full obituary, go to: https://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituaries/ george-weiland

IN MEMORIAM



STEVE BABCOCK

Another long-time member of our Madison FF family, Steve Babcock, passed away on June 17. Steve and his wife Kay were two of our founding members and were honored at our annual meeting in April.

The initial Wisconsin FF exchange to Switzerland in 1978 involved sending chartered planes full of ambassadors to Switzerland and filling the same plane at the destination with ambassadors and bringing them to Wisconsin. Steve, Kay, and their young children were among the lucky few that were selected from many applicants for the trip. Steve and/or Kay also traveled to Cuba, Thailand, Mongolia, England, Jersey, China, Moscow, Novgorod, Russia, Siberia, the Netherlands, and Germany. They also hosted many ambassadors from other countries. Steve continued to support FF over the past 45 years.

Steve's full obituary may be found here: https://www.gundersonfh.com/obituaries/Steven-W-Babcock?obId=28243823

***Our Club's Annual Summer Picnic is printed on this form as the "Farewell Picnic" for our guests from Japan & Australia.

*** In order to make the print a little larger, it is now 2 pages long, so please mail BOTH pages to Magdi.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR FORM (BOTH PAGES) AND PAYMENT HAS BEEN EXTENDED.

THE NEW DEADLINE IS AUGUST 8.

Sign-Up Sheet for Activities of Incoming Journey from Oita, Japan, and Tweed Valley, Australia

Date	Time	Activity	Cost per person	# attending	Cost
Friday	10:00 – 12:00	Olbrich Botanical Gardens & Bolz Conservatory Visiting the Conservatory – Free for Olbrich Members; for others:	\$6 pp		
August 25	12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Walking in the outdoor gardens and tram ride – free for everybody Lunch Welcome picnic at Warner Park – Potluck provided by members	On your own See note #1		-
Saturday August 26	11:00 a.m. 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Free time	Wisconsin State Capitol Tour – If you plan to attend, please sign up Lunch – State Street, food trucks, or Memorial Union Chazen Museum Tour – If you plan to attend, please sign up Union Terrace, Bascom Hill, Allen Centennial Gardens	Free On your own Free Free		-
Sunday August 27	All day	Free day that ambassadors and hosts spend together			
Monday August 28	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	International Crane Foundation Tour, Baraboo, WI — See note #2 Lunch — Summer House Grill & Bar, Lake Delton, WI Wisconsin Dells Boat Tour — 2+ hours	\$10 pp On your own \$33 pp		-
Tuesday August 29	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Cedar Grove Cheese Factory Tour, Plain, WI Home-packed lunch at Jaycee Park Shelter, Sauk City, WI Wollersheim Winery Tour, Prairie Du Sac, WI Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo, WI – Hike/walk/enjoy the lake We will stay at the White Oak Shelter, on the South Shore	\$3 pp See note #3 Bring your own \$18 pp Entrance fee		1
Wednesday August 30	9:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Hinchley's Dairy Farm Tour, Cambridge, WI – 3+ hours Lunch – Box lunch at the farm, from Cambridge Market Select from the following "protein bowls": Roasted Veggies Pico Ranch Chicken Honey Mustard Chicken Farewell picnic, Vilas Park Shelter – Catered Buffet Dinner	\$15 pp \$15 pp See note #4 \$25 pp See note #5		
			See note #5	Total cost:	

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Your Phone Number:

Your email address:

Page 2: Japan/Australia Activities & ANNUAL PICNIC Sign-up Sheet

PLEASE NOTE:
THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF
YOUR FORM (BOTH PAGES) AND
PAYMENT HAS BEEN EXTENDED.

THE NEW DEADLINE IS AUGUST 8.

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Your Phone Number:

Your email address:

Note #1	For the welcome potluck, please contribute a dish that serves 10 people, and can be served cold or at room temperature. To help us get a wide variety of foods, please contribute according to your last names beginning with: A-F: Main dish (for example chicken wild rice salad) G-L: Raw vegetable tray, or green salad M-R: Fresh fruits, or fruit salad S-Z: Dessert
Note #2	Based on current information from the International Crane Foundation, reserved, guided tours are not included with ICF membership. Thus, even if you are an ICF member, you will still need to pay \$10 for the guided tour.
Note #3	Due to space limitations, this tour is available only to ambassadors and home hosts/day hosts accompanying them. For those, who participate, the cost will be \$3 per person.
Note #4	Roasted Veggies: roasted carrots, peppers, squash, and onion with chickpeas, hummus, and fresh spinach Pico Ranch Chicken: diced chicken, black beans, corn, fresh pico, ranch dressing, and fresh spinach Honey Mustard Chicken: diced chicken, chickpeas, black beans, cucumbers, sweet peppers, honey mustard dressing and fresh spinach All meals come with a fruit cup, a cookie, some rolls and/or chips, and some beverages
	Farewell Picnic Buffet Menu, catered by Upstairs Downstairs Deli: Beef kabob; Broccoli-cheddar stuffed chicken breast; tossed green salad; roasted sweet potatoes; green beans almondine; iced tea; lemonade Vegetarian substitute by special request only: Grilled Veggie Kabob
Note #5	If you prefer the vegetarian substitute, please check here:
	Donna Miller will prepare an assortment of desserts. Thank you, Donna!
	You may also choose to contribute a favorite dessert of your own (OPTIONAL). If so, please check here:

Please make checks payable to Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison, and send your check along with this filled-out form to the Journey Treasurer: Magdolna Sebestyen, 133 Alpine Meadow Cir, Oregon, WI 53575

The Host Committee invites all members to participate in any or all of these activities! Please submit your sign-up form and payment as soon as possible. The final deadline for receipt of your form and payment is August 4th.

ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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djohnson44@ameritech.net

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mertensdk27@gmail.com

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wlneuman@yahoo.com

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maj2810@gmail.com

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Marjie Marion <u>midsi@aol.com</u>

Day Travel Trips

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Dining on the 6th

Gail Holmes glholmes@wisc.edu

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Sandi Wysock <u>sandrawysock@msn.com</u>

<u>Let's Walk/Let's Hike</u>

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Second Harvest Food Bank

Lois Schulz loisschulz1942@gmail.com

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