



Friendship Force

Wisconsin — Madison

ffwis.org

October 2023

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everyone involved with our most recent incoming Journey indicates that the time we had with the Ambassadors from Japan and Australia was a success. The Farewell Picnic was sometimes pretty emotional as hosts and ambassadors expressed favorite memories. Many thanks to everyone who planned and hosted! Now we are planning for incoming and outgoing journeys in 2024. Watch for details and your opportunity to be involved.

We are also working to see if we will be able to host visitors from [somewhere] under COIL – formerly Open World – as we have done several times previously. Watch for an invitation to host.

I was disappointed that the bus trips so carefully planned by Donna Hussin fell through. If you have ideas on how we can create a stronger interest in attending these great day-trips, contact your favorite member of the Board.

Speaking of the Board, we are welcoming Jan Barbone to the long-vacant position of Outreach Director! Thanks to Jan for accepting that invitation.

I hope you have responded to the invitation and that you will attend the Fall Membership meeting Sunday afternoon, Oct. 1. During those two hours expect a little time for business but a good deal of fun, food and visiting!
— Doug Johnson

HIGHLIGHTS:

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, OCT 1

1:30 - 3:30 pm

— Beach House Shelter
365 Lakewood Blvd
Maple Bluff, WI

REVISED DATES

FOR 2024 JOURNEYS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Board Meeting:

The FFI-Madison Board meets VIRTUALLY on the second Thursday of each month @ 4pm.

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- Oct 1: Fall Membership Meeting *p1*
- Oct 2-5: FFI Conf: Dubrovnik, Croatia - *June News*
- Oct 12: FF Board meeting - via Zoom
- Oct 13: La Crosse trip - **CANCELLED** *p7*
- Oct 16: Book Club *p6*

Nov 5-11: Outbound - Christchurch NZ

Nov 9: FF Board meeting - via Zoom

Nov 20: Book Club *p6*

Dec 18: Book Club *p6*

2024

- May 2-9: Outbound - Harrisburg, PA *p2*
- June: Inbound - Toronto, Canada *p2*
- July: Outbound - Ghana, Africa *p2*
- Oct 7-9: Regional Conf in Milwaukee *p2*

Calendar updates will be posted on our website (ffwis.org) and/or emailed to you via MailChimp.

JOURNEYS

Journey Updates — Past & Future

We recently completed two very successful Journeys - one Outbound to Toronto and one Incoming from Japan and Australia. Many, many thanks to all who helped make these such great experiences! Our last 2023 Journey participants will be leaving for New Zealand shortly. We wish them all *Bon Voyage!* ~~~~~

2024 is shaping up to be a very interesting year with lots of variety. We will have a Domestic Outbound Journey to Harrisburg, PA scheduled for **May 2 - May 9, 2024** and an International Outbound Journey to two different clubs in Ghana tentatively scheduled beginning **July 24, 2024**. In between we will host Toronto as an Incoming Journey sometime in **June**. The particular dates of the last two may still be in a bit of flux, but the months are solid so please mark your calendars.

These are being scheduled fairly closely together and we will need “all hands on deck” to get these organized. I will need two Journey Coordinators for each of these three Journeys as well as several planning committee members to give Toronto as lovely a visit as they gave us.

Fall will also be busy with a possible Open World program - we have submitted applications and are waiting for decisions. There will also be a Super Regional Conference in Milwaukee from **October 7th - 9th, 2024**. We would really like to see members, especially newer members, take advantage of this opportunity to connect with people in other clubs and learn more about FFI.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping with any of our 2024 Journeys! I will have a sign up sheet at the Oct 1 meeting for those interested in going to Harrisburg or Ghana as Ambassadors. You can also let me know of your interest by emailing me at: ssorensen268@gmail.com.

— *Stephanie Sorensen*
Journey Manager

JOURNEYS

Inbound: Japan /Australia — Aug 24-31, 2023

The first morning of the Journey, August 25, did not go quite as planned! A storm en route caused the Oita (Japan) Ambassadors to arrive later than expected, and so the planned tour of Olbrich Gardens was split into two trips. The guests from Tweed Valley (Australia) visited the Gardens that morning of the 25th as planned, while our Japanese guests enjoyed their tour later that weekend.

After lunch, both sets of Ambassadors toured the Wisconsin Governor's Mansion and had the good fortune to meet with Mrs. Evers, the wife of Governor Tony Evers, before proceeding to the Welcome Picnic at nearby Warner Park. (*See picture below w/Mrs. Evers.*) The weather was perfect as the sun set over Lake Mendota!

Saturday, August 26, found the Ambassadors and their hosts at the Dane County Farmers Market on the Capitol Square, followed by a tour of the Capitol building with a volunteer translator.

After lunch in downtown Madison, it was time to explore, so some Ambassadors and hosts went to Monona Terrace overlooking Lake Monona, while others walked to the Wisconsin Memorial Union Terrace on Lake Mendota. Next was a tour of the UW-Madison Chazen Art Museum led by volunteer docents, including one who spoke Japanese for our guests.

That evening, Ambassadors and home hosts went to small group dinners at the homes of dinner hosts. Day hosts and volunteer interpreters for the Oita Ambassadors were also included. By all accounts, these dinners were quite a success!



JOURNEYS

Inbound: Japan /Australia (cont)

Sunday, August 27, was a free day with hosts. Our guests from Japan were able to make up the tour of Olbrich Gardens that morning, and then some of them used the afternoon to prepare a traditional Japanese meal for their hosts, in lieu of taking the hosts out for a restaurant dinner. This experience was enjoyed immensely by both hosts and Ambassadors!

On Monday August 28, the Ambassadors, hosts, and day hosts traveled about an hour north to visit the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo. *(See picture below.)* Lunch was at the Summer House Grill in Lake Delton; and after lunch, the group boarded the tour boat Marquette for a two-hour cruise of the Upper Dells on the Wisconsin River. *(See picture to the right.)*



JOURNEYS

Inbound: Japan /Australia (cont)

It was an early start on Tuesday morning, August 29, with a one-hour drive to Plain for a tour of Cedar Grove Cheese Factory. The factory owner talked about the history of this factory and the surrounding dairy farms. One of his employees took groups to watch the making of cheese curds. *(Picture below.)*



The rest of the day was taken up by various activities in Sauk County, including a scenic walk along the Wisconsin River in Sauk City, a tour and tasting at Wollersheim Winery, and free time at Devil's Lake State Park. That evening many of the Ambassadors took their hosts out for dinner.

Wednesday, August 30, we went on a tour of the Hinchley Dairy Farm in Cambridge, east of Madison. Tina Hinchley, her husband Duane, and their daughter Anna milk about 250 cows with robotic milkers. The cows decide when it's time to be milked, they enter the milking stall, and the robot goes to work!



The Farewell Dinner was at the Vilas Park Shelter on Lake Wingra. The meal was catered except for the drinks and desserts that were provided by the Host Committee. After dinner, the Host Co-Coordinator presented gifts to the Ambassador Coordinators and thanked all the home hosts for their generosity and kindness. The Oita Ambassadors sang and performed three songs for the enjoyment of the crowd!



With a fond farewell, the Oita and Tweed Valley Ambassadors departed for their next host club on Thursday morning, August 31. We were sad to see our new friends leave.

ACTIVITIES

Book Club:

Eight Book Club members met on September 18 by zoom for a discussion of *How the Word Is Passed*, by Clint Smith. We all agreed it was well worth reading and recommend the book to one and all!

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Three books were chosen for the next three months:

*Turn Right at Machu Picchu*, by Mark Adams - discussion via zoom on **Monday, Oct 16 at 7pm.**

In 1911, Hiram Bingham III climbed into the Andes Mountains of Peru and located the lost city of Machu Picchu. A hundred years later, Mark Adams set out to retrace the explorer's perilous path, even though he'd written about adventure far more than he'd actually lived it. In fact, he'd never even slept in a tent. The bestseller *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* is Adams' fascinating and funny account of his journey through some of the world's most majestic, historic, and remote landscapes guided only by a hard-as-nails Australian survivalist and one nagging question: Just what *was* Machu Picchu?

— A recent choice of the the FF Int'l book club.

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Africa is Not a Country, by Dipo Faloyin - discussion via zoom on **Mon, Nov 20 at 7pm.**

"An exuberant, opinionated, stereotype-busting view of contemporary Africa in all its splendid diversity by one of its leading new writers. A lively and diverse continent of fifty-four countries, over two thousand languages, and 1.4 billion people, Africa has long been painted with a broad brush in Western literature, media, and culture, flattening it into a monolith. In *Africa is Not a Country*, the acclaimed journalist Dipo Faloyin boldly counters the stereotypes and

Book Club (cont)

highlights the realities of Africa's communities and histories."

— *Recommended to us by several Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Africa.*

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*The Deep Blue Between*, by Ayesha Hamuna Attah - discussion via zoom on **Monday, Dec 18 at 7pm.**

Twin sisters Hassana and Husseinah have always shared their lives. After a raid on their village in 1892, the twins are torn apart. Taken in different directions, far from their home in rural West Africa, each sister finds freedom and a new start.

Hassana settles in in the city of Accra, where she throws herself into working for political and social change. Husseinah travels to Salvador, Brazil, where she becomes immersed in faith, worshipping spirits that bridge the motherland and the new world. Separated by an ocean, they forge new families, ward off dangers, and begin to truly know themselves.

As the twins pursue their separate paths, they remain connected through their shared dreams. But will they ever manage to find each other again?

— A novel written for teens.

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All three books are available with several copies in the library system (<https://www.linkcat.info>), so please pick one up and join us on any or all three dates. We meet on third Mondays at 7:00 pm, by zoom, and are happy to welcome interested participants even if they have not read or finished the book.

The zoom link will be sent out a few days before each meeting, so contact one of us if you want to be added to the list. Happy reading!

Marjie Marion midsi@aol.com

Marian Ehrenberg marianeh2014@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES

Adopt-a-Highway

Pictured here is our intrepid team of Highway Cleaner-Uppers, fending off rain in their pursuit of duty on Sept. 19th at the Middleton Park 'n' Ride off Exit 249 (Parmenter St.)



From left to right, our fun-seekers are Kathleen Martinson, Marjie Marion, Vivian Norton, and Stephanie Vanden Bush. Pete Marion was there too, hiding behind the camera:)

*Thank you for making the highway (and us!)
look good!!!*

Dining on the 6th

Dining on the 6th was not scheduled in September due to the two picnics held during the inbound Japan/Australia Journey. The picnics took place on Friday, August 25, and Wednesday, August 30. The latter picnic was also our Club's annual summer picnic.

There will not be a Dining on the 6th in October because of the Club's Fall Membership Meeting on October 1. A November date has not yet been announced.

ACTIVITIES

Status Update: Second Harvest Foodbank

Our Second Harvest service day on Thursday, August 31, was cancelled due to the busy schedule of those volunteers who were also acting as hosts for the inbound Australia and Japan journey that week.

In general, there has been low participation in recent months, and so the Club will now be suspending its volunteer work at the Foodbank.

Status Update: Day Trips

In the June Newsletter, we announced the results of a survey to determine the most popular day trip destinations for our Madison Club.

The first two day trips (August 8th at the Menominee Reservation and October 13 in La Crosse) were duly planned but never executed. Both of them had to be cancelled because there were not enough people signed up for the tours.

The decision has now been made to discontinue these day trips.

*— Regarding the above Status Updates —
The Friendship Force Activities Committee
would like to extend sincere appreciation to Lois
Schulz (Second Harvest Activity Leader) and
Donna Hussin (Day Trip Coordinator) for their
contributions to expanding the purpose and
outreach for our club members.*



IN MEMORIAM



IRIS (RILEY) WEILAND

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Iris at age 93. She leaves an amazing legacy of warmth, inclusion, laughter, and hospitality at a moment's notice.

She and her husband George went on the very first trip ("Exchange") with FFWI to Zurich. They even took their young son along with them. They were active members from 1978 to 2018. They made numerous other trips, making friends across the globe, hosted regularly and assisted the club in many ways.

Iris and George were the parents of Mary Weiland Lindquist and in-laws to Rita Weiland who are currently active in our club.

If you wish to express your sympathy, the family requests that you consider donating to Agrace Hospice whose care made Iris and her family more comfortable.

A more complete obituary can be found at <https://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituaries/iris-weiland>



George & Iris Weiland

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Second Harvest Foodbank

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Official Publication of

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