



Friendship Force

Wisconsin — Madison

ffwis.org

Jan/Feb 2024

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was good to see so many at the Holiday party at the Maple Bluff Country Club with a great buffet, all arranged by Activities Director Gail Holmes. Many thanks to her!

I'm also happy to report that we will have some new Board members beginning in July. Their biographies will appear in the next newsletter and you will vote for them (I hope!) at our Annual meeting in April.

Did you catch that? Mark your calendar for the **Annual Meeting on April 21 at 2pm** at the Fitchburg Public Library.

There are many opportunities for you to support your club in the next few months. The club in Milwaukee will be looking for help in planning for the **North American Regional Conference, October 7-9, 2024**, as well as seeking presenters. I hope we have a good number of members who wish to develop leadership skills by attending. (The board has started discussing whether the club should offer some funding for future leaders to attend.)

Remember though: A conference like this is for everyone! This will be a great time for us to attend since it is so close to home. Related, we hope to host a one-day visit to Madison for a limited number of attendees at the end of that conference.

We've known for a while that we are hosting an incoming journey for the club from Toronto in the spring. Just recently though, we have decided to host another incoming journey for the club from Northern Colorado, near the time of the Milwaukee conference.

We know it's going to be a busy time; Please be generous when asked to help make these events memorable for these ambassadors.

Doug Johnson




HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

- *New Journey Managers named p3
- *Second Harvest is back - Sign up now! p6
- *NEW* Inbound Journey:
Northern Colorado in October p3
- *Our Club's 2024 Annual Meeting &
Regional Conference dates announced p2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 6:	Dining on the 6th	p7
Jan 22:	Book Club — via Zoom	p5
Jan 29:	Sign up for Second Harvest	p6
Jan 31:	Second Harvest service day	p6
Feb 6:	Dining on the 6th	p7
Feb 8:	FF Board Mtg — via Zoom	
Feb 19:	Book Club — via Zoom	p5
Feb 22:	Brazil program — via Zoom	p8
Feb 26:	Sign up for Second Harvest	p6
Feb 28:	Second Harvest service day	p6
Mar 6:	Dining on the 6th — TBD	
Mar 14:	FF Board Mtg — via Zoom	
Mar 15:	Mar/Apr Newsletter deadline	
Mar 18:	Book Club — via Zoom	p5
Apr 21:	Annual Membership Meeting	p2
May 1-9:	UPDATE: Harrisburg, PA	p3
May 9:	FF Board Mtg — via Zoom	
May 15:	May/June Newsletter deadline	
June 6-13:	Inbound - Toronto, Canada	p4
Late Aug:	Outbound - Ghana, Africa	p3
October:	Inbound - Northern Colorado	p3
Oct 7-9:	Regional Conf in Milwaukee	p2

Monthly Events:

Social:	Dining on the 6th	  
Board Mtg:	2nd Thursday	
Book Club:	3rd Monday	
Foodbank:	last Wed of each month	

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**A World of Friends is a
World of Peace**



Save the Date!

**Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**Please join the FF Wisconsin-Madison Board for
Friendship, Food, Fun, and
Our Annual Business Meeting**

Details available in the March/April issue



JOURNEYS

Change of Journey Manager

In March, I will be stepping down from this position. I have been on the FF Board for 12 years and it is time to pass the torch to someone else.

Kathy Speck Kemeny and Tom Miller will be sharing the job of Journey Manager, and as such, will oversee our club's Journey Coordinators as they plan inbound and outbound Journeys.

This position requires experience in leading Journeys, so a newer member could not be appointed. There are, however, many other ways for newer people to get involved in Journeys, and with Friendship Force in general.

Please continue to contact me about either Harrisburg or Ghana as we go forward.

Stephanie Sorensen
Journey Manager
ssorensen268@gmail.com

NEW!

Inbound Journey: No. Colorado — Oct 2024

We received a note from the Northern Colorado Club requesting a short visit around the time of the North American Regional Conference in Milwaukee Oct. 7-10. About 5-10 of their members would like to come for 3-5 days right before or after the conference dates.

We can certainly manage to host this small group in October. We will need planning committee members, Journey Coordinators, home hosts, and possibly some day hosts and dinner hosts, depending on the length of time they stay and the program. Please contact me if you are willing to help out in any way.

Stephanie Sorensen
ssorensen268@gmail.com

JOURNEYS

Outbound Journey: Harrisburg - May 1-9, 2024

UPDATE:

The Friendship Force of Spokane, WA, will now be taking over this Journey, although we will still be participating.

Two of our Club members will be joining five people from Spokane, WA; two from Montana; and two from Hawaii to visit Harrisburg, PA, in May. Our two participants will have the opportunity to meet and talk with others about how their clubs function, as well as to just meet people from other parts of the US.

If you think you may want to go, please contact me and I will see if there are still any spaces available.

Stephanie Sorensen
ssorensen268@gmail.com

Outbound Journey: Ghana — Late Aug 2024

UPDATE:

I am still accepting applications to go to Ghana, but need them ASAP. I recently spoke to the Volta Lake Coordinator and he suggested we move the dates to about a month later in the year so that we could attend some of the regional festivals. We will now be going late August to early September, instead of in late July. I am happy to discuss this Journey and potential activities with anyone who contacts me.

Larry Neuman will be coordinating the Journey to Ghana and I will be helping him. Right now, any questions should be directed to me.

Stephanie Sorensen
ssorensen268@gmail.com

JOURNEYS

Inbound Journey: Toronto — June 6-13, 2024

UPDATE:

Journey Coordinators (JCs) Appointed:

Donna Hussin and Carla Di Iorio (along with Mike Di Iorio) have agreed to coordinate the Toronto Inbound Journey June 6 - 13.

Please read the accompanying information regarding hosting. We will need home hosts (contact Donna), as well as day hosts and dinner hosts (contact Carla) for this group of incoming Ambassadors.

To those of you who went to Toronto last year, we anticipate you will want to help with these events. And to those of you who have gone on other Journeys, you are *most* welcome and we hope you will help out too.

Journeys are a reciprocal experience in that others spend time, energy and money hosting us and we should happily do so for them!

Stephanie Sorensen
ssorensen268@gmail.com



A note from the new Toronto JCs:

In less than five months, we will be hosting 15-20 ambassadors from the Toronto, Canada, Friendship Force Club!

Home hosts needed! In June 2023, nineteen ambassadors from our club were guests of the Toronto Club. We invite those of you who were hosted by Toronto club members to reciprocate and host those coming. We also invite other club members who have sleep accommodations to sign up to be a home host. No experience needed!

You may download and print the Host Form from the Friendship Force International website at:

<https://my.friendshipforce.org/>

Print the form, fill it out, and then either mail or email a copy to:

Donna Hussin
 406 Lucille St
 Verona, WI 53593
djhussin@yahoo.com

Day hosts and dinner hosts are also needed. You can be a day host for one day, or more than one day.

If volunteering to be a dinner host, we need to know the number of people you can accommodate. If two different families want to share dinner hosting, that works also.

For those of you interested in being a day or dinner host, please contact me:

Carla Di Iorio
 (608) 257-9164
carlad@tds.net

We look forward to hearing from you!

Donna Hussin & Carla Di Iorio
Co-coordinators
Toronto Journey to Madison, WI

ACTIVITIES

Book Club

On December 18, eight Book Club members gathered around their respective screens for a zoom discussion of *The Deep Blue Between* by Ayesha Hamuna Attah. The author grew up in Accra, Ghana, studied at Mount Holyoke College, Columbia University, and New York University, and now resides in Senegal.

We were in various stages of completing the book at the time of our discussion, but we carried on with good conversation about the story, the power of dreams, the special relationships of twins, and the Yoruba/Candomblé religion and its West Africa-to-Brazil connection.



Upcoming Selections:

January 22

—Two books by Norwegian author Lars Mytting

Norwegian Wood was a best-seller in Europe, and provides in-depth information about tree types, wood-stacking methods, tools, and stoves; it also examines the history of man's longstanding need for warmth and his passion for open fire."

The Sixteen Trees of the Somme, a novel, describes one man's "desperate quest to unlock the family's tragic secrets" and "takes him on a long journey - from Norway to the Shetlands, and to the battlefields of France - to the discovery of a very unusual inheritance. It is about the love of wood and finding your own self, a beautifully written intricate and moving tale that spans an entire century."



ACTIVITIES

Book Club (cont)

February 19

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World (2015) by Tim Marshall.

OR

The Power of Geography: Ten Maps That Reveal the Future of Our World (2021), by Tim Marshall.

Prisoners covers Russia; China; the USA; Latin America; the Middle East; India and Pakistan; Europe; Japan & Korea; Greenland & the Arctic.

The Power has sections on Australia; the Sahel; Greece; Turkey; the UK; Iran; Ethiopia; Saudi Arabia; Spain; and space.

Both books "provide a context often missing from our political reportage: how the physical characteristics of these countries affect their strengths and vulnerabilities and the decisions made by their leaders."



March 18

Owner of a Lonely Heart: a memoir by Beth Nguyen (aka Bich Minh Nguyen), a professor of creative writing at UW-Madison.

The book is "a powerful memoir of a mother-daughter relationship fragmented by war and resettlement.... Vivid and illuminating, *Owner of a Lonely Heart* is a deeply personal story of family, connection, and belonging: as a daughter, a mother, and as a Vietnamese refugee in America."



— Excerpts reprinted
from publisher websites

ACTIVITIES

Book Club (cont)

Please join us for any or all of these discussions! We meet on third Mondays (except for January) at 7:00 pm, by zoom, and are happy to welcome interested participants even if they have not read or finished the book. Some of us have connections and knowledge about the places, topics, or situations that come up in the books, which always adds to our understanding.

The zoom link will be sent out by email a few days before each meeting, so contact one of us if you want to be added to the email list. If you have trouble finding a copy of a book, we can help.

Happy reading!

Marjie Marion midsi@aol.com

Marian Ehrenberg marianeh2014@gmail.com



Second Harvest Foodbank

Second Harvest Food Bank has created a theme of NOURISH * THRIVE * TRANSFORM. Without nourishment, our community can't thrive. And when our community thrives, transformation is possible.

Nourishment for a family is not only food security, but nutrition security. The types of food that are sourced and shared support our neighbors with choice and dignity and cultural responsiveness.

Communities thrive when they work towards equitable food distribution solutions that are co-created with members of the communities they seek to support. Nutrition Security and Food Equity are big goals but not the complete answer.

ACTIVITIES

Second Harvest Foodbank (cont)

For transformation to be possible, steps must be taken to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. Solutions include affordable housing, healthcare, and a household income that provides financial stability over time.

The Friendship Force joins this journey by volunteering on the last Wednesday of the month from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. We experience camaraderie with fellow club members and meet volunteers from other organizations, as well as individual volunteers.

To volunteer for the **January 31** service day, please contact Gail Holmes (glholmes@wisc.edu, 608-249-1846) by Monday, January 29, 2024.

For **February 28**, our new leader for Second Harvest, Judy Thorpe (jthorpe12@charter.net, 608-772-5438) is looking forward to hearing from you. Let's provide a hearty representation from Friendship Force!

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD FOR EVERYONE!

Come join us on our volunteer service days:

Jan 31 **12:30-3:30pm**

Feb 28 **12:30-3:30pm**

Second Harvest Foodbank
2802 Dairy Drive
Madison WI 53718



ACTIVITIES

Dining on the 6th

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:00 a.m. for breakfast

Pancake Café
 724 South Gammon Road
 Madison, WI

Our February 6 gathering will be for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. at the Pancake Café in the shopping center on the corner of Gammon and Watts Roads. A dining room is reserved for the Friendship Force at the back of the restaurant. Let's be "sweeties" and **wear red** for Valentine's Day!

The breakfast menu offers their famous pancakes, pancakes baked in the oven (about 20 minutes), crepes, 4 egg baked omelets, Belgian waffles, just eggs, eggs benedict, french toast; and classics like biscuits and gravy, breakfast quesadillas and burritos, and veggie, chorizo, and steak skillet. Some breakfasts come with hash browns, toast, and meats.

A variety of beverages is available, including Hawaiian Kona coffee. There are also sandwich and salad entrees. Most meals cost from \$11.99 to \$13.99.

For an enjoyable time with your Friendship Force friends, **please register by Sunday, February 4**, with host Gail Holmes: phone (608) 249-1846, or email glholmes@wisc.edu, so that a table space will be prepared for you. Please plan to wear your name tag.



ACTIVITIES

Recent Dining on the 6th / Holiday Party

On January 6, 2024, we were at the Maple Bluff Country Club for noon lunch at a combined Club Holiday Party and Dining on the 6th.

We dined from the banquet menu on the Southern BBQ Buffet in the private ballroom at white clothed round tables while enjoying a beautiful wintry view of snow-covered pine trees.



—photo courtesy of mbcc fb

Thirty folks attended, enjoyed the numerous tasty dishes, participated in a holiday gift drawing, and stayed around for conversation and friendly socializing.

Gail Holmes, Host

PROGRAMS

Brazil: A Zoom Presentation — Feb 22, 2024

*Another look at Brazil with
native Brazilian, and UW student, Leticia.*

If you missed Rayanne's Brazil program a year ago, the Program Committee has scheduled another Brazil zoom presentation on **Feb. 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

Leticia was born and raised in Recife, which is located in Northeast Brazil. She moved to Madison two years ago to pursue her M.A. in Portuguese culture and literature at UW-Madison. Prior to that, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil.

She is currently a PhD student in Portuguese culture and literature at UW-Madison. During her time in Madison, she has also worked as a Teaching Assistant for Portuguese language students. Leticia's other credentials include being a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Representative and acting as an Editorial Assistant to the *Luso-Brazilian Review*.

The Program Committee invites you to meet Leticia, and discover just why she's very excited about introducing her country to our club.

To sign up for the zoom presentation, contact Mike Lambert at lambertmichaelj@gmail.com or David Blado at david-blado@sbcglobal.net.

More Programs Coming Soon!

*Check next month's newsletter for
info on two new zoom presentations:*

***New Zealand - in March
&
Taiwan - in April***

IN MEMORIAM

Dan Eggerding



Dan Eggerding passed away suddenly in his apartment December 4th, 2023.

Dan joined the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014. He was an ardent traveler and enthusiastic supporter of our Club. He traveled extensively both with Friendship Force and independently. He led a local travel Meet Up group as well.

Dan willingly shared his expertise in developing and managing websites as part of our Electronic Communications team and was often called upon to prepare the Journey booklets. Much of our current website was initially developed by Dan. We will miss him and miss his contributions to our club.

Dan's brother Phil states that it was Dan's wish that he be buried near his father in Valparaiso, Indiana. The family is planning a memorial service for next summer.

If you wish to offer condolences to Phil, you can reach him at (906) 279-0180. We assume cards sent to Dan's address will also be forwarded to family. For Dan's full obituary, visit this link:

<https://obits.cremationsocietyofmadison.com/daniel-eggerding>

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