



friendship force
WISCONSIN - MADISON

ffwis.org

September 2025

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

August was a special month for world peace and international understanding, reminding us of core Friendship Force values. The U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 80 years ago, on Aug. 6, 1945. That bombing, and that of Nagasaki three days later, instantly destroyed two Japanese cities of their vibrant color and took over 200,000 lives. In addition, since 1994 the UN has recognized August 9 as International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Both at home and in our travels, we long shared a deep respect for the teachings of Indigenous peoples. As the FFI leadership noted, "While their cultures are diverse, they are proud stewards of their traditions and their lands and they face common challenges in their fight to preserve them."

In August, club members gathered for our Annual Picnic, one of three major club-wide events (in addition to the Holiday Party in early January and the Annual Meeting in late April). It was great to see so many members at McKee Farms Park and to learn about the Brazil Journey from our club's Ambassadors. We would like to thank the picnic committee for planning and organizing such a successful event: Gail Holmes, chairperson; Maureen Kind; Donna Ulteig; Diane Mertens; and Dorothy Baldwin. And a special thank you goes to our chefs for the delicious pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches they prepared – Dorothy and John Baldwin!

Several club members participated in a field trip to the American Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee on Saturday, August 23. After viewing the powerful exhibits, participants reflected on what they learned. We would like to thank Vicki and Ken Warren for planning this field trip and for serving as Journey Managers for the Birmingham Journey, October 19-24.

Our board has been discussing ways to refocus/revitalize the Program Committee. We have some good news. The board redefined the mission of the Program Committee: **"To create and offer to the membership and the public programming related to journeys or other travel by members, as well as general exposure to other cultures and places in the USA and other countries."** Five club members have come forward to plan and develop programs for the club during the rest of 2025 and in 2026: Mary Crave, Ken Warren, Pat Watson, Patrick Fleming, and Margaret Harrigan. They are excited to offer a series of programs for all club members, and they hope you will



invite interested friends, family members, and neighbors to attend. In addition to providing members with educational experiences, the programs will help to publicize the club to the larger Madison-metro community, connect with like-minded organizations, and attract potential new members.

The Board of Directors has determined that two of the three ad hoc committees (Marketing the club and Diversifying Membership) developed during Strategic Planning Sessions in Spring, 2024, accomplished their goals and will be dissolved. Their accomplishments will assist the work of existing standing committees. The Mission-focused Travel and Education committee will continue its work, especially with Journey Managers and Journey Coordinators.

The entire Board of Directors extends its thanks to Jan Barbone who served as the Chair of the Outreach Committee for the past two years. Jan brought new energy and creativity to the committee and expanded the number of venues where Friendship Force had visibility. We now have openings for club members who would like to join to raise the visibility of our club and to publicize its mission and activities.

We hope you enjoy Wisconsin's beautiful autumn!

Diane and Larry





Club Activities Calendar

BOARD meets VIRTUALLY the second Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM

- September 6 Dining on the 6th
- September 13 Book Club
- September 24 Second Harvest 12:30-3:30 PM
- October 4 Book Club
- October 6 Dining on the 6th
- October 19-24 Birmingham, AL Outbound Journey

2026

- January 4 Holiday Party
- Mid-May Sacramento, CA Outbound Journey
- April 24-27 North American Regional Conference Memphis, TN
- July 14-21- Wairarapa, NZ Inbound Journey
- Late September Seferehisar, Türkiye Outbound Journey
- September Lower Columbia, Inbound Journey

Other Activities of Interest

- August 9 – October 31 Farley Center Land Art Project Theme – Peace Songs 2025 Verona, WI
- September 2-September 30 Unjust Deeds: A History of Racial Covenants in Dane County & Beyond Verona Public Library



Remember to check Wisconsin-Madison website (ffiwis.org) for any additions, updates or corrections to event schedules during the month, and keep an eye out for email updates as well. We don't want you to miss anything!



FFW-Madison 2026 Holiday Party

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Buck's and Honey - Monona

1:00-4:00 PM

Menu, Prices, & RSVP details to follow

JOURNEY NEWS



Journey Manager's Update

We appreciate all members who expressed interest in participating in the outbound and inbound journeys scheduled for 2026 at the club picnic.

Once journey coordinators have been appointed for the outbound trips to Sacramento and Seferehisar, Türkiye, an invitation for applications will be sent to the membership. The journey to Türkiye is tentatively planned for the final weeks of September 2026, while the Sacramento journey is expected to take place in mid-May 2026.

The inbound journey from Wairarapa, New Zealand is confirmed for July 14–21, 2026. At present, the Wairarapa club has recruited eight Ambassadors and continues its efforts to expand this group.

Journey Managers are actively working to finalize dates in late August or early September for the inbound visit from Lower Columbia, Washington; these dates will be confirmed once a coordinator is appointed.

If you wish to volunteer as an outbound or inbound journey coordinator or would like your name added to the list of interested ambassadors, please contact Journey Managers, Kathy at kspeckemeny@gmail.com or 608-557-4885, and Tom at tfmillerphoto@sbcglobal.net or 608-334-3327. Your participation is crucial to ensuring successful and memorable journeys.

Brazil Ambassadors Present at Club Picnic

During the club's annual picnic on August 20, the eight Ambassadors to Brazil presented their experiences to attendees. Their discussion encompassed information about Brazil and the host clubs in Belo Horizonte and Belem, notable sites visited, interactions with host families, adventures in nature, engagement with local youth, and Brazilian cuisine. Additionally, the Ambassadors exhibited gifts and souvenirs brought back from Brazil.



The Ambassadors pictured with the Brazilian flag, from left to right, are Deb Gunther, Matt Gazo, Tom Miller, Jan Barbone, Donna Miller, Kristen Mathews, Mary Crave, and Gail Holmes.

Club Members Visit America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee



Journey Coordinators for Birmingham, Vicki and Ken Warren, arranged a visit to America's Black Holocaust Museum in

Milwaukee. Eleven club members participated, including several ambassadors preparing for their journey to Birmingham on October 19–25, 2025. Pre- and post-journey activities will include visits to sites significant to the Civil Rights movement.

During their visit, participants engaged with exhibits detailing the breadth of African American history, resilience, and hope. The museum presents comprehensive displays that document the atrocities of slavery, the challenges faced during the Civil Rights Movement, and the continuing legacy of Black Americans. Through photographs, artifacts, personal narratives, and interactive exhibits, guests gain insight into both the hardships and achievements that have shaped the Black experience in the United States, encouraging deeper understanding and thoughtful reflection.

Dining on the 6th

Saturday, September 6, 2025
 12:00 Noon
 Cafe Hollander
 Hilldale Shopping Center
 701 Hilldale Way, Madison



In anticipation of warm fall weather, the Friendship Force will gather for lunch on the patio at Café Hollander. In case of inclement weather, we'll dine indoors. We will be able to place individual orders from the menu.

Café Hollander offers starters, soup, salads, Grand Café plates (\$16.95 to \$23.95), sandwiches, burgers, and a brunch-all-day menu. There are also fresh-steamed mussels, frites in a paper cone with house-made dipping sauces, desserts (pecan pie, triple berry cheesecake, fudge brownie). If you wish to pair your food with a bier, they will assist with recommendations. They also serve cocktails, bloody marys, mimosas, coffees, sodas, and nonalcoholic beverages. Their website states: "Bier is a huge part of Lowland European culture—as integral as frites, cafés, 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 cafés. We call this partnership the Lowlands Brewing Collaborative. "They strive to cook local, clean food from scratch with honest ingredients: food that's meant to be enjoyed with friends."

Register by Thursday, September 4, with host Gail Holmes, phone 608 249-1846 or email glholmes@wisc.edu, so that they can reserve enough private space for us at the umbrella tables on the patio. Please plan to wear your name tag.

ACTIVITIES

Dining on the 6th
Monday, October 6, 2025
Ian's Pizza
12:00 noon
Garver Feed Mill
3241 Garver Green, Madison

Join your Friendship Force friends under the roof of the outdoor patio for lunch at Ian's Pizza. There are tables indoors in case of inclement weather.

Ian's offers cheese or pepperoni slices for \$4.50 and all the rest are signature pizzas for \$5.50 a slice. There are a dozen and a half signature offerings with red sauce, pesto, white sauce, and BBQ. Ian's is the home of its famous Mac n' Cheese pizza made of creme, mozzarella, mac noodles, cheddar and white sauce. One slice is bigger than the plate! I would suggest that you wait to make a choice until you view the pizzas on display that day. Last time I was there, I barely finished a slice of Smokey the Bandit with BBQ sauce and BBQ chicken, cheeses, bacon and ranch dressing that caught my eye. Along with a 16 oz. can of Sprecher root beer for \$3, my total meal cost was \$8.50. They also offer build your own salads and seasonal salad options of Greek, Caesar, Southwest or the Wisco. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages fill both sides of their bar menu, and several beers are on tap. And to complete your meal, there is Calliope Ice Cream (part of Ian's) priced at \$4 for one scoop and \$5 for two scoops in a cup, regular cone, or waffle cone.



Ian's in Garver Feed Mill is located between Atwood Avenue (Monona Drive) and Milwaukee Street, behind Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Take South Fair Oaks Avenue to the small driveway between the row of bushes along the sidewalk. The Garver Feed Mill sign blends in with the greenery. Drive in on the winding road to the parking lot. Ian's is just inside the building.

Please register by Sunday, October 5, with host Gail Holmes, phone 608 249-1846 or email glholmes@wisc.edu. Looking forward to a spectacular slice of pizza, a tasty beverage, yummy ice cream and enjoyable conversation. Be sure to wear your name tag.

ACTIVITIES



2802 Dairy Drive, Madison,
Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Our volunteer day at Second Harvest Food Bank will be Wednesday, September 24, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 2802 Dairy Drive (off Pflaum Road). Contact Gail Holmes at glholmes@wisc.edu or phone 608 249-1846 by Monday morning, September 22, so they will know how many folks to count on for their work projects.

Second Harvest provides food support to thousands of families, seniors, and kids across southwestern Wisconsin through a network of 300 partner agencies and programs. They represent the pipeline through which food makes it onto the tables of those who need it.

They are now looking for volunteer delivery drivers to deliver healthy, nutritious food to the neighboring community pantries, utilizing the Second Harvest vehicles. And help is also needed as a delivery support volunteer to help load or unload deliveries. Volunteers are needed on weekdays, with flexible weekly hours. If interested, contact Brie McNett at volunteers@secondharvestsw.org or call 608 216-7214 for more information.

ACTIVITIES

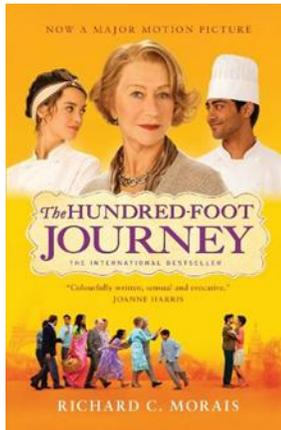
Book Club September and October

After two months of free-range reading (it's been fun!), we will meet in PERSON.

**Saturday, September 13
4:00 PM**

Maureen Kind's home
5901 Mayhill Dr. Madison

We look forward to discussing The Hundred-Foot Journey, and to hearing about everyone's summer adventures. Autumn approaches!



The Hundred-Foot Journey - Richard C. Morais (2008), 245 pp. 10 copies currently available through the library system.

If you can't read the book, then try to see the 2014 movie - or do both! Book and DVD are both available from the library.

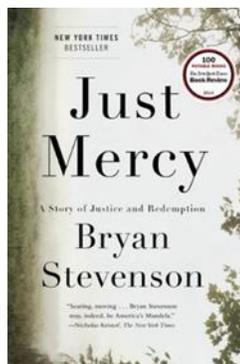
"A New York Times Bestseller; now a major motion picture starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri. Born above his grandfather's modest restaurant in Mumbai, Hassan Haji first experienced life through intoxicating whiffs of spicy fish curry, trips to the local markets, and gourmet outings with his mother. Then tragedy pushes the family out of India, they eat their way around the world before settling in a small village in the French Alps. There they open an inexpensive Indian restaurant opposite the esteemed French *relais* of chef Madame Mallory."

Saturday, October 4 - time, location TBD

Contemporary insight into our justice system, from a brilliant lawyer who works to make it a better one.

Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption Bryan Stevenson (2014) 336 pp. 53 of 60 copies are available.

"Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship--and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.



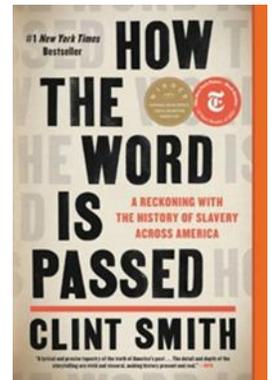
ACTIVITIES

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice."

Additionally, and especially for those who did not happen to read this with the club in September 2023, we add it for October. Each chapter stands alone, as the author visits important sites in a human rights assessment of some historical monuments. This was the UW Big Read for 2022-23.

How the Word is Passed: a reckoning with the history of slavery across America - Clint Smith (2021), 336 pp. 74 of 82 copies available.

This 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."



There is much to be gleaned from each of these books - read one or both for the October meeting, and especially interesting as our ambassadors journey to Birmingham later in October.

We would love to hold some more in-person meetings. Let us know if you would like to host. While our regular meeting time is third Monday at 7:00PM by zoom, date and time can be adjusted to the host's preference when we meet in person.

Marjie Marion (midsi@aol.com) and Marian Ehrenberg (marianeh2014@gmail.com)

"Reading is a means of thinking with another person's mind; it forces you to stretch your own." Lionel Trilling



**Experience different views.
Discover common ground.**

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEACE SONGS SANCTUARY 2025

LAND ART INSTALLATIONS

Farley Center for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability

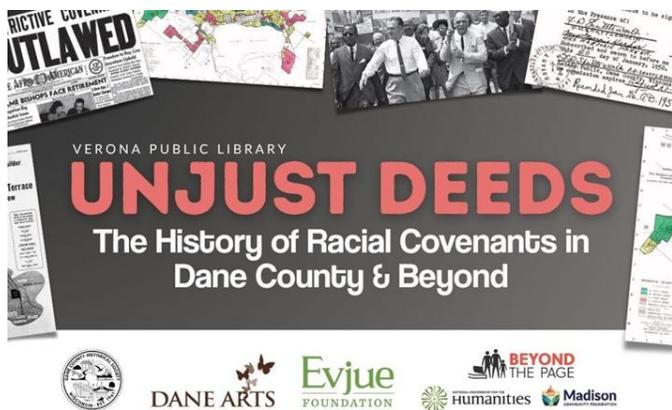
Open for Public Viewing

August 9 – October 31, 2025

September 13, 10am-5pm Artist Reception

Peace Songs 2025 is the seventh bi-annual land art project hosted by the Farley Center. We invited community artists to get creative in the woods using natural materials from the land. They were asked to be inspired, expand creative boundaries, play with mystery, explore, and celebrate our connection to earth.

This year we have 18 participating artists creating 16 different installations in the Natural Path Sanctuary. The Center is located at 2299 Spring Rose Rd, Verona 53593. More information is available at <https://farleycenter.org>



September 2 – September 30
Verona Public Library
500 Silent St, Verona 53593

For most of the 20th century, racial covenants were an insidious tool used nationwide to segregate whites from Blacks and other minorities in America's burgeoning suburbs and residential neighborhoods. Racial covenants were clauses inserted into property deeds to prevent non-whites and non-Christians from buying or occupying land.

Racial covenants were made illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Their impacts were pervasive and are still with us today.

Visit this travelling exhibit developed by the Dane County Historical Society, and learn about the ordinances once in place in Dane County. <https://verona.librarycalendar.com/event>



On behalf of the BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB of Dane County, a big THANK YOU for participating in the drive to supply young students with the needed supplies. Some volunteered their time, some brought coloring pens and other items, others gave money.

All the donations were delivered in person to the appreciative staff on Monday morning. Overall it was a success and **720** backpacks were filled and will be distributed at the start of the school year.



Boys and Girls Club staff member, Rachel, and some of the donated supplies.

Joining Another Club's Outbound Journey (Tallahassee, FL to Quad Cities Iowa/Illinois)

By Donna Hussin and Lise Skofronick

Come along with us as we share our recent journey as ambassadors with the Tallahassee, FL club to the Quad Cities Illinois Iowa Club from May 14-20, 2025. The Tallahassee Club was unable to fill the spaces with their members and reached out to other clubs in Florida and people the journey coordinator had met at Friendship Force International events. The group totaled 11 ambassadors. Four members were from the Tallahassee Club, two from Louisville, KY, two from Madison, WI, two from The Villages, FL and one from Calgary, AB, CA. Lise and I traveled by car. Lise drove and I was her navigator for the three-hour trip. On the way we happily explored new restaurants.



The Quad Cities is made up of five cities in two counties, two states and numerous outlying areas. The major cities include Rock Island, Moline and East Moline in Illinois and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa. Population is over 380,000. The area is nestled on the only section of the Mississippi River that flows East to West. Eight bridges cross the river for the hosts and ambassadors to get acquainted with each other. Thursday, we spent the day on the Mississippi River aboard the **Celebration Belle** Riverboat for a 4-hour cruise, that



included good weather, good food, music and dancing. The narrated cruise pointed out key landmarks and we observed barge activity moving the goods to major markets from Minneapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. We ended the day visiting the Putnum Museum that included a lecture on Homer's Greece Odyssey and visiting the special display of Quad Cities inventions that included bread slicer, washing machine, steel plow, movie camera and projector, chiropractic care (Palmer) and Dairy Queen and soft serve.

Friday, we drove to LeClaire, IA and visited the Buffalo Bill Museum and American Pickers and did some shopping. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was born in LeClaire. The museum held Buffalo Bill

memorabilia, Mississippi River pilot artifacts, local Indian history, and items common to homes in the early 1800's. American Pickers is an antique and special collection retail business that also hosts a popular TV show by the same name.

Saturday morning our activity was an art project called "Make a Memory" at the Mad Potter in Bettendorf. We could choose from a ceramic ear of corn dish or a small plate to be painted any color. We left them to be fired in the kiln and were returned to us at the farewell dinner. This was a fun activity. Something different to do on a journey. Lise and I feel it is something to add to our list of events for our inbound journeys.

After pizza for lunch we toured the Palmer House built in 1874 and purchased in 1912 by the Palmer family for \$25,000. For example, the "rustic room," Palmer's favorite incorporates the trunks and branches of four oak trees that were cut down to make room for a classroom building that was build next to the house.



Lise S and host Barb J "Make a Memory"

Joining Another Club's Outbound Journey (Tallahassee, FL to Quad Cities Iowa/Illinois) cont.



Some of the logs are wrapped in belts with metal buckles from the uniforms of Palmer students who served in World War I. The rooms and furnishings can best be described as eclectic. The kitchen is restored to its 1950's appearance. The floor is covered in multi-colored tiles where no two look alike.

Remnants of a garden built in 1924 called A Little Bit O' Heaven, containing the smallest chapel in the world at eight square feet, is located on the northside of the home. The garden dismantled in 1983 now functions as a patio for the students of Palmer College.

Palmer House Music and Living Room

Sunday was free time in the morning and in the afternoon we visited the Deere-Wiman House in Moline, IL and the Blackhawk Historic Site and Hauberg Museum. The **Deere-Wiman** house was built in 1872 by Charles Deere, son of John Deere, for his wife Mary Little Dickinson Deere and their daughters, Anna and Katherine. The tour offer visitors an authentic glimpse into Victorian family life and architectural innovations of the past century—specifically an elevator from the 1890s, a Kimball pipe organ (c. 1910 - 1920) in the library, and a multi-nozzle spa shower reminiscent of the healing hot spring resort waters popular during the Victorian era.



The **Black Hawk State Historic Site** is a 213-acre park in Rock Island, IL that is home to the Hauberg Indian Museum that features a collection of Sauk and Meskwaki Indian artifacts, the last two Native American Indian nations to occupy the area. Many artifacts come directly from Black Hawk's family and tribes connected with Chief Black Hawk

Monday was a rainy day, but luck was on our side as the activity was a self-guided tour of the Rock Island Arsenal. As it is an active military installation, we had to have a visitor pass which half of the group went and got on the first day of our journey and the other half did their background check on the day of the scheduled tour. The permanent exhibits explore the history of Rock Island and the Arsenal from 1805 to the present. On display are many pieces of artillery designed and built at the Arsenal and used in the many wars the U.S. have fought in over the years.

The journey included two evening events that any members could attend. The first was called Tri Night. It consisted of dinner provided by the members, a presentation by a club member who shared her many travels and concluded with a series of mental and physical skill activities, such as flip a penny in a cup, bean bag toss game, trivia questions on international sites. We worked in teams but had to rotate after each game. Both Lise and I agreed the mental and physical activities would be a worthwhile activity for our club to incorporate into a journey. We also had the standard small group dinners and take your host to dinner.



**Joining Another Club's Outbound Journey
(Tallahassee, FL to Quad Cities Iowa/Illinois) cont.**

Our journey concluded with a very nice farewell dinner, again provided by the members and for entertainment we played music bingo. The songs were from the 50's through the 80's. To set the mood, the club member who spun the music wore a poodle skirt with lots of crinoline, pink sweater, saddle shoes and socks and glasses like they wore in the 50's. It left us with happy memories of the week. Bottom line: this club knows how to have fun

If our journeys for one reason or another do not interest you, take a chance on one that is advertised on the FFI website that has seats to be filled, or say "yes" if a journey coordinator from another club reaches out to you. It will be an enriching experience!



**Donna H and hosts The Kimie
Quad Cities Botanical Center**



**I-74 Bridge Mississippi River, Quad Cities Iowa/Illinois
Received a National Award in the Major Span category 2022**

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Second Harvest Foodbank

Vacant

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