



friendship force
WISCONSIN-MADISON

ffwis.org

October 2025

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The FFWM Board has been hard at work preparing for the club to have a successful 2026. We will “kick off” the new year with our Holiday Party on Sunday, January 4, starting at 1:00 pm. This year it will be at Buck & Honey’s in Monona. Be sure to save the date!

Hal Wissink has done a fantastic job leading the Ad Hoc Marketing Committee, and he distributed the club’s brand-new brochure for members to share with the public. He also oversees the club’s Membership Committee with great efficiency and diligence. Hal stepped down from these positions as of September 5. We thank him for all his energy, creativity, and work on behalf of FFW-M. Lise Skofronick has kindly agreed to serve as interim Chair of the Membership Committee. It will soon be time for your Membership renewals. Please contact a Board Member if you are interested in serving on the Membership Committee.

The Program Committee is planning an event in December that will focus on the American Civil Rights Movement and on what was learned by ambassadors during their Outbound Journey to Birmingham, Alabama. Watch the newsletter and email messages for more information.

Lastly, FFI is sponsoring a North American Regional Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, April 24-27, 2026. It is not too soon to make tentative plans if you are interested in attending to represent our club.

We hope you can enjoy the harvest season and Wisconsin’s colorful autumn.

Happy Halloween!!

Diane and Larry



Club Activities Calendar

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

- October 4 Book Club
- October 6 Dining on the 6th
- October 14 Adopt a Highway
- October 19-24 Birmingham, AL Outbound Journey
- October 29 Second Harvest 12:30-3:30 PM

2026

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



Remember to check Wisconsin-Madison website (ffwis.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 so far have expressed interest in participating in the outbound and inbound journeys scheduled for 2026.

Once journey coordinators have been appointed for the outbound trips to Sacramento and Seferihisar, 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.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

Program Committee Takes New Approach

A new iteration of a program committee is organizing four programs over the next twelve months. Exact dates and locations are still in the works but you can look forward to a variety of opportunities for fun, fellowship, and enlightenment.

Early December: Discussion and possible presentation on Civil Rights. This is a follow up on the club's journey to Birmingham.

February: Game night for all ages.

April: Wisconsin's Indigenous Peoples, perhaps a tour of the effigy mounds on the UW-Madison campus. This may be a contrast and comparison with indigenous persons/Māori issues that our guests from New Zealand may encounter

Early summer: Turkish food, demonstration, dining, and potential speaker relevant to the Outbound Journey to Turkey in August of 2026.

Specifics will come out in the newsletters and direct emails when they're set.

Committee members are:

Mary Crave (mtcrave@gmail.com)

Patrick Fleming (pflaming@edgewood.edu)

Margaret Harrigan (margaret.harrigan@wisc.edu)

Ken Warren (ken04271948@gmail.com)

Pat Watson (cc2ss@yahoo.com)

We welcome your suggestions, referrals and ideas.



Promoting global understanding across
the barriers that separate people

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

**Adopt a Highway Clean Up
Tuesday, October 14
1:00-3:00 PM**

Our final Adopt a Highway clean up for the season is on Tuesday October 14, 1:00-3:00 PM. Come help our environment while enjoying some crisp fall weather (hopefully). Meet up on Highway 51 (Park on Highway 51 at the intersection with Tower Drive – there is a large gravel shoulder to park on.) See map link below. Note, there is a Tower Rd that intersects with Highway 51 near McFarland that could be confused with our location. Another way to find it is to search for Altemus Corners House Bed and Breakfast. On maps it is located at the same intersection.

https://www.google.com/maps/@42.9186274,-89.1515839,15z?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDQxMy4wIKXMDS0ASAFQAw%3D%3D

Please contact Stephanie Vanden Bush (sljacobs2@gmail.com or 920-676-1441) to commit or with questions.



Tom Miller, Donna Miller, Katie Martinson
June Volunteers

ACTIVITIES

Book Club
Saturday, October 4
Noon – 2:00 PM

Alicia Ashman Branch
Library
733 N. High Point Rd,
Madison



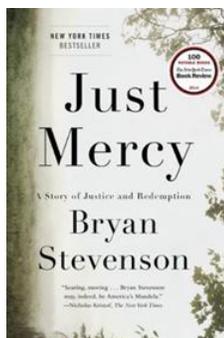
A group of seven readers gathered at the home of Maureen Kind on Sept. 13, and we had a perfectly lovely time discussing *The Hundred-Foot Journey* – both the book by Robert C Morais and the 2014 film of the same title. It was interesting to compare the two works, and we wandered far afield in a conversation about food and cooking and how powerful they are in bringing people and cultures together. Many thanks to Maureen for her hospitality!

Next, we will meet very early in October! On **Saturday October 4, from noon to 2:00**, we will gather in a meeting room at the Alicia Ashman branch of Madison Public Library, 733 N High Point Rd, on Madison’s west side.

If possible, let us know if you plan to attend. But feel free to come along and participate whether you have read either of the books, and if it is a last-minute decision to attend. We will be happy to see you!

The books being discussed are:

Just Mercy: a story of Justice and Redemption, **Bryan Stevenson** (2014), 336 pages. (2015-16 UW Go Big Read selection)



"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.

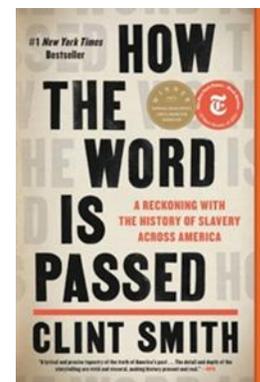
Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice."

ACTIVITIES

How the Word is Passed: a Reckoning with the History of Slavery across America - **Clint Smith** (2021), 336 pages. (2022-23

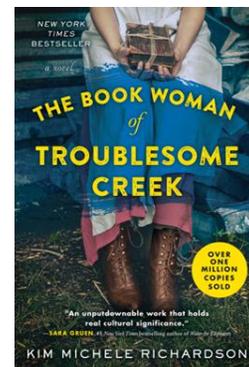
UW Go Big Read selection, and our Sept. 2023 FF Book Club selection)

"...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."



We hope to welcome many of our ambassadors who will travel in October to Birmingham, Alabama, as well as any Friendship Force members interested in these wonderful books. Again, no reading requirement!

Looking ahead to November, we will be reading *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson (2019), 308 pages. 35 of 53 copies available now in the library system. If you have read it already you might like to continue with *The Book Woman's Daughter* from 2022; it sounds like a very similar story of the next generation and is also available through the library.



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

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ACTIVITIES



***2802 Dairy Drive, Madison,
Wednesday, October 29, 2025***

Our volunteer day at Second Harvest Food Bank will be Wednesday, October 29, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 2802 Dairy Drive (off Pflaum Road). Contact Mary Crave at mcrave@gmail.com or phone 608 575 9847 by Monday morning, October 27, 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.



FFI Wayne Smith Medal

At the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2025 this medal was presented to two long time members, Mary Lindquist and Sandi Wysock, for their contributions to the club. The award reflects the values of mutual respect, cultural diversity, and humanitarian service that he championed.

The medal was not available to award at the Annual Meeting. It has since arrived and been given to each of them. They wish to share it with all of you and have provided the picture below. Congratulate each of them the next time you see them.



A World of Friends is a World of Peace

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lise Skofronick ((608) 274-7732)
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Outreach

Vacant

Program

Committee of 5

ACTIVITIES LEADERS

Gail Holmes, Chair glholmes@wisc.edu

Adopt-A-Highway

Stephanie Vanden Bush sljacobs2@gmail.com

Bike Rides

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Book Club

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Dining on the 6th

Gail Holmes glholmes@wisc.edu

Let's Walk/Let's Hike

Maureen Kind dmkind@sbcglobal.net

Second Harvest Foodbank

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WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP FORCE

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