

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND



friendship force
MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES



Don Wolter Award



Louise Anderson was the deserving recipient of the 2018 Don Wolter award at our annual holiday gathering. This award is presented in memory of Don Wolter who was not only our newsletter editor for twenty years, but fulfilled many other roles as well.

Some of the criteria for this award includes consistently demonstrating qualities such as leadership, a strong interest in understanding other cultures and being positive and flexible. Someone who dependably goes the extra mile.

The committee, comprised of Evelyn Pallas, Judy Johnson and Barb Emer, reviewed the information on the nominees and knew we had a tough task ahead of us. Nonetheless, after much discussion and consideration, Louise stood out as the recipient most worthy of the award and the board approved our choice unanimously.

Congratulations Louise!

Submitted by Barb Emer

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome two new members for 2019: Ed Ehlinger, who advised the 2018 Open World team on finding medical training venues for the delegates, and Cindy Wold, who found our Club through FFI. We have 42 renewals and 2 new members for 2019 so far, with 48 left to go. Total membership including life members and “elders” is 121. We hope to have the renewal process completed early this year – that will save time for all of us. When you complete your member form, be sure to answer the questions about FFI Journeys and Open World opportunities. We need that information to decide what FFI Journeys or Open World programs we have the resources to accept, and to know which members to contact about hosting, travelling, or planning. So, please help us out with this – it’s a one-time request.

Words from our president, Jane Bardon

Looking Ahead to 2019

When the horns toot and the whistles blow to herald in the New Year, the 2019 FFMNTC Elected Officers and their fellow Board Directors will assume office for 2019. What will the year be like? I'm looking forward to a more flexible board structure and meeting schedule, treasuring our club traditions, outreach into our local community to explore other cultures, welcoming Ambassadors from Germany, another Open World challenge, new faces at our gatherings, and fine-tuning our communications to keep members informed and involved.

Here are the elected Officers for 2019:



President – Jane Bardon
2018 Vice President plus several terms as Communications Chair, Webmaster, and Membership Chair.



Secretary – Louise Anderson
2018 Don Wolter Awardee, 2018 Open World Delegate Host (with Godfrey Peterson), and 2015-16 President.



Treasurer – Rose Emerick
New Member in 2018, 2018 Open World Delegate Host (with John Verby), and professional accountant.

Other Board Directors for 2019 are: Cindy Cauble, Barb Emer, Buck MacDonald, and Rita Mays.

As we move on to 2019, it is in full recognition and appreciation of the 2018 Board Directors who are continuing in 2019, Barb Emer, Buck MacDonald, and Rita Mays and of the retiring Board Directors from 2018: John Christianson, Mary Cunningham, Jane Norman, and Tom Scott. Thank you to all.

***In Friendship,
Jane Bardon, President***

BOARD DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President: Jane Bardon
janesbardon@gmail.com
651-484-7989

Secretary: Louise Anderson

Treasurer: Rose Emerick

DIRECTORS

Host Coordinator
Halle-Saale, Germany:
Cindy Cauble

Member-at-Large:
Buck MacDonald

Newsletter Editor:
Barb Emer

Past President: Rita Mays

Non-Board Volunteers

Historian:
Jan Lanyk

Sunshine
Val Hessburg

To email a Board Director, go to friendshipforcetwincities.org
Click on "Board Contacts" on the red menu bar, then click on the person you want to contact.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: February 15,
2019**

ACTIVITIES



In November, 29 people enjoyed a traditional family style Somali dinner at the Safari Restaurant in Minneapolis. There was lots of tasty food. The service was a little different from what we are accustomed to which made it an interesting experience. Osman Ali, head of the Somali Museum, spoke on the Somali culture and how he and his kin are adapting to Minnesota culture.

Our holiday party and annual meeting was well attended with over 50 people present. The party was complete with music and a sing-along thanks to Marge Runnako. As our party was ending, a snow storm blew in fast and furious giving an early start to December and sending people on their way.

As the year comes to an end, we hope that you've been able to attend some of our monthly events. John and I are stepping down but we are sure that you will enjoy the programs that your new committee will have for you in 2019. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

John Christensen and Jane Norman



*Happy New Year
Around the World*

A New Year of Friendships

During the business meeting at the holiday party, I volunteered to work with club members to put together a 2019 Social Events program. We would like to focus on events that will give members added opportunities to meet more often and get to know each other. Valerie Hessburg, Barb Emer and Terese Libby have expressed an interest in this committee but ideas from all members are welcome. More information will be forthcoming;

Some ideas include meeting up at happy hours, local biking or hiking, attending plays, meals at ethnic restaurants, and maybe short tours to places of interest near the Twin Cities. We'd like to get a calendar of events started so members can plan to attend.

If you have an interest in helping us plan, please leave a message for me. I will request a contact link in "Contact Us" on the website.

Submitted by Marge Runnukka

2019 World Conference Scholarship Fund

This past fall, our FFMNTC Board challenged members to donate to the FFI 2019 World Conference Scholarship Fund. The Board voted to match up to \$1500 in donations from our club treasury. Currently we have received \$750. We will continue to accept your donations in any amount until March 15, 2019.

Checks made to FFI (memo World Conference Scholarship) can be mailed to Buck MacDonald, P O Box 24294, Edina MN 55424. Or donate on line at www.friendshipforce.org under Donate/Annual Gift/Develop Leaders. Note that you are a FFMNTC member contributing to the World Scholarship Fund.

A full-scholarship donation of \$1,500 will cover all conference and most of the travel costs for a deserving leader from a club that might not otherwise be able to attend. The conference is July 23-26 in Boulder, Colorado. FFI will select the recipient in consultation with our club leaders.

International travel is financially challenging to some FF members around the world who graciously open their homes and host each year without having the opportunity to be an ambassador or participate in a conference.

Submitted by Rita Mays

Incoming Journey from Halle-Saale, Germany

Guten Tag. This is good day in German. We will be hosting 15 to 20 ambassadors from Halle-Saale, Germany July 3rd to July 10th. We are in need of volunteers to be home, day and dinner hosts and also to serve on the planning committee. The make-up of the Halle-Saale club is men and women between 60 and 80 years of age. Some are still working but most are retired. Some, but not all, speak English.

Halle-Saale, on the Saale River, is a commercial city with highly trained or educated professionals with emphasis on art and design. The Twin Cities has many things in common with Halle-Saale.

If you are interested in volunteering or receiving more information, please contact Cindy Cauble, Host Coordinator at cindyc219@msn.com or call 952-929-6090.

Journey to Jordan

By Louise Anderson and Godfrey Peterson

Matthew Nidek, of Friendship Force International, served as the Journey Coordinator for a trip to explore Jordan's remarkable historical sites and also to connect personally with the people of Jordan. Friendship Force coordinated our twelve-day global journey by contracting with an organization entitled Engaging Cultures Travel of Jordan.

The journey included home hospitality for three nights in the village of Orjan where we helped our family pick olives for two days. It was an intimate experience to join families around an olive tree and share in this time-honored tradition. Lunch and tea were served under the olive trees. Later we visited a local olive press to learn where the olive oil was processed.



Godfrey Peterson after camel ride at Petra

We explored the Wadi Rum desert area, following the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia. We stayed at a Bedouin Tribal camp for three nights in goat hair tents and dined in their local homes. Our journey included a swim in the Dead Sea where we stayed for two nights in a five-star hotel. We visited many women's cooperatives during the journey where we learned how to cook the national dish, mensaf, how to make traditional crafts, and how the Arab bread is made over a fire.

We explored Petra, one of the seven Wonders of the world by walking through the Siq, a mile-long canyon that ends at the Treasury, Petra's most famous carved façade. We rode camels into Petra on our second day entering from a secret passage.

We visited the historical site of the Baptism of Jesus on the Jordan River and drove up to Mt. Nebo, the location where Moses looked out across the Holy Land. The journey also included a guided tour of Jerash, one of the largest cities of ancient Rome in the Middle East.

If this journey becomes available again, we highly recommend you engage in this Middle East cultural exchange.

December 1, 2018 - Our Holiday Party and 2018 Annual Meeting, a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of friends.



Mary and Gordy, Hosts Extraordinaire

