



friendship force

GREATER MILWAUKEE

a world of friends is a world of peace

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

president's message

With a new year about to start, how about making a resolution? Make 2025 the year you get a little more involved in Friendship Force. Although everyone can't travel or host, everyone can do something.

FFI's North America Conference, which brought about 200 people from throughout the U.S. and Canada and two women from Chiapas, Mexico, took place in Milwaukee in early October. Seven FFGM members were delegates, and several more volunteered. Besides a chance to reconnect with people I've met on journeys, I enjoyed hearing how other clubs operate. One speaker talked about how important it is to get all members of an FF club involved: "Everybody can do — something! And everyone should do something!"



Chris Vogel

So if you read in the newsletter that we need a task done — or if you get a phone call asking if you'd be willing to help with something — think seriously about it. The more you put into Friendship Force, the more you'll get out of it.

We have one fairly big job for someone with an accounting or bookkeeping background. FFGM is looking for a new treasurer. After five years on the job, Dorothy Krupa would like to "retire." Please let me know if you'd like to see a description of the treasurer's duties.

Another great session at the conference was about journeys and coordinating both inbound and outbound journeys. This kind of travel — where as members our mission is "breaking down the barriers that separate people" — is at the heart of Friendship Force.

In 2025, you'll have opportunities to help plan inbound and outbound journeys, as well as join other clubs on their journeys. Make this the year you find out how much fun they are!

DEC. 15: save date for holiday party, annual meeting

Mark your calendars for the FFGM Annual Meeting/Luncheon Party on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, 13175 W. Graham St. in New Berlin. The social hour will begin at 11:45 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

At the Annual Meeting, we'll elect officers for 2025 and 2026. Nominees are Dave Loosen for President and Stephanie Freier for Vice President. (*See biographies on page 6.*)

Lunch will be a buffet with Italian marinated chicken, penne pasta, mini-meatballs, Marinara sauce, Alfredo sauce, green beans, Caesar salad and garlic bread. We'll have cake for dessert, and coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are included. Your price, including gratuity, will be only \$24 as FFGM is subsidizing part of the cost. There will be a cash bar at your expense.

Our banquet room with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooks the golf course. It is a beautiful setting, tucked away with no city buildings in sight. We have the entire venue just for FFGM to enjoy.

The easiest access to New Berlin Hills is off 124th Street south of Greenfield Avenue where you would turn west onto Graham. You'll see a

ANNUAL MEETING, page 3



Dave Loosen



Stephanie Freier

at a glance

11/5 5th @ 5 Host needed.

11/13 Book Club. 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. *American Dirt* (U.S./Mexico) by Jeanine Cummins.

11/14 Fort Atkinson Day. Visit Hoard Museum and Blackhawk Annual Art Show at 11 a.m. Lunch at 12:45 at Paddy Coughlin's Pub. Visit Jones Dairy Farm Market and numerous optional stops. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line, 262.784.3085 or linerusy@yahoo.com.

12/2 FFGM Board meeting. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

12/15 Annual Meeting and Holiday Lunch. 11:45 a.m. social hour; 12:30 p.m. lunch. \$24. New Berlin Hills Golf Course, 13175 W. Graham St., New Berlin. R.S.V.P. to both Ann Line, linerusy@yahoo.com, and Dorothy Krupa at dorothykrupa@me.com.

1/5 2 p.m. Fifth @ 5 at Barbara and Joe Geck's, 1258 Seitz Dr., Waukesha. R.S.V.P to 262-409-5361 or barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com.

2024 Journeys

April 15-22 - Shelby, NC Outbound

July 16-23 - Quad Cities & Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Outbound

Aug. 10-17 - Baton Rouge, LA Inbound

Oct. 19 - Nov. 10, New Zealand and Australia.

Check my.friendshipforce.org frequently for other travel opportunities.

FIFTH @ 5: at your home?

The January Fifth @ 5 will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, at the home of Barbara and Joe Geck, 1258 Seitz Dr., Waukesha. Please tell Barbara you plan to attend by calling 262-542-2960, texting 262-409-5361 or emailing barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed for the rest of 2025. (See president's letter about getting involved.) Hosting a Fifth @ 5 is one of the easiest things you can do. Your FFGM friends come over for a couple of hours, bringing appetizers, desserts and their own beverages, and you provide plates, napkins and cups. Or you can host a game night. Or some other activity you think people would enjoy.

During winter months, when it's dark early, we have been changing the time to earlier in the afternoon. You can even change the date to a Saturday or Sunday closer to the actual 5th of the month.

Please let Barbara Geck know when you'd like to host.

NOV 13: book club

The last FFGM Book Club discussion of 2024 will be Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. The book is *American Dirt* (U.S./Mexico) by Jeanine Cummins. Iva Richards will be the facilitator. Everyone is welcome. If you never have joined us, think about doing so.

IMPORTANT! Come prepared to suggest books to be read in 2025, when we'll celebrate our 50th book to be read! We have been reading together since April 2017. We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months. In 2025 we will do a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. We read both fiction and non-fiction. Books need to take place in a foreign country or deal with another culture or ethnicity.



Lauren Fox (wearing mask), the Milwaukee author of *Send for Me*, was a special guest at the September book club.

JOURNEY TO INDONESIA

Friendship Force of Lincoln, Neb. will have spots available on its 2025 summer Journey to Java, Indonesia, and is still finalizing dates.

Possible dates include June 25 to July 2 in Yogyakarta and July 2 to 8 in Bogor. The club hopes to take 15 Ambassadors.

If you are interested in joining the Lincoln club, please let Maxine Moul know by calling her at 402-432-1386 or emailing mmoull@allophone.com.

ANNUAL MEETING, *from page 1*

sign for the golf course. If you are coming from Sunnyslope Road, turn east onto Honey Lane and then on Elm Grove Road.

Besides electing officers at the Annual Meeting, you'll also hear journey reports and updates, the president's report and the treasurer's report, as well as committee reports.

You can count on surprises and prizes and entertainment. Members are also requested to bring canned fruit, cereal and canned meat (chicken or tuna) for the Friedens Food Pantry/Nourish MKE. *(See page 6 for suggestions of other items the food pantry needs).*

Reservations must be made by Dec. 8 by contacting BOTH Dorothy Krupa at dorothykrupa@me.com AND Ann Line at linerusy@yahoo.com. Dorothy will invoice you for \$24. **IMPORTANT:** Reservations made after Dec. 8 will incur a \$10 per person late fee, per the restaurant's regulations.

NOV. 14: fort atkinson

Join your FFGM friends on Thursday, Nov. 14, for a fun-filled day in Fort Atkinson. No, we are not going to the Fireside Theatre! Instead, we'll see a fort and Indian mounds, learn about our dairy heritage, tour a farm market, and have lunch at an Irish pub.

We start at the Hoard Dairy Museum and National Dairy Shrine at 401 Whitewater Ave. You need to be there at 11 a.m. for a welcome and introduction followed by a self-guided tour and a 17-minute video. You will learn about local history, the Blackhawk War, mysteries of the mounds, dairy farming, and cow breeds. As a bonus, we will be there the week of the Blackhawk Annual Art Show. The Hoard Museum is free but requests a \$5 donation, which you can pay individually on site.

After the Hoard, we head to a 12:45 p.m. lunch at Paddy Coughlin's Pub at 14 Sherman Ave. You will order off the menu, and you can request individual checks.

Next we'll visit the Jones Dairy Farm Market at 601 Jones Ave. After a free, half-hour guided tour at 2:15 p.m., you might like to shop for some of the market's meat products or try some of its ice cream.

This ends the organized group activities, and you are on your own to explore the area further . . . or head home. Please consider sticking around. Three top places to see are:

1. The Panther Intaglio, a quick stop at 1230 Hwy. 106, which is also Riverside Drive. This is the **ONLY** known intaglio effigy mound in the world. Normally the mounds are elevated, but this is a reverse mound, a depression, in the shape of a panther. It dates back to about 1000 A.D. There is only a historical marker and the intaglio effigy to see.
2. Indian Mounds Park at W7561 Koshkonong Road. There are 11 effigy mounds, new signage, and a walking trail.
3. Fort Koshkonong. This is a replica of the original fort from the Blackhawk War. It is located in Rock River Park on Riverside Drive.



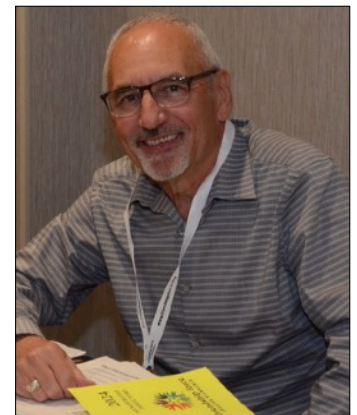
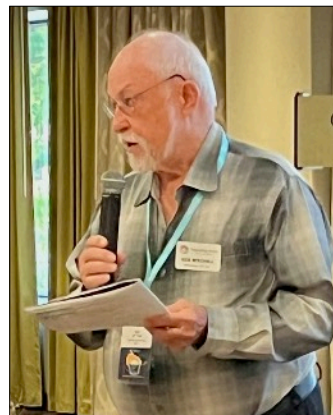
More bonus items to check out: Poyer's Farm Market at 323 N. 4th St., open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., which is known for homemade pies, and Simple Life Country Store at N2795 Ebbert Lane, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Amish store sells bulk food.

Please contact Ann Line at 262-784-3085 or linerusy@yahoo.com to let her know you are coming by Nov. 10, as a lunch count needs to be called in. No money is needed in advance. Also, if you are interested in car pooling, please let Ann know.



CITY SHINES FOR FFI NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The nearly 200 attendees of the North American Conference felt very welcomed in our vibrant city. We gave them samples of kringle, the official Wisconsin pastry, as well as bottles of water. It seemed as if nearly everyone took advantage of laminating their business card to form a luggage tag. And we provided them with warm hospitality as well as guidance on what to see and do in Milwaukee. With the downtown location of the Drury Plaza Hotel, the participants could step outside and experience the many interesting sights of our downtown. They loved Milwaukee! Thank you to our members who volunteered to make the conference a total success.





A DAY FOR CAVE & TROLLS

22 members toured the Cave of the Mounds, followed by lunch at the Grumpy Troll in Mt. Horeb and a visit to the Mt. Horeb Driftless Historium.



LOOSEN, FREIER NOMINATED TO LEAD BOARD

At the Annual Meeting on Dec. 15, you'll be asked to vote for Dave Loosen to be FFGM's new President and for Stephanie Freier as Vice President. The club continues to seek someone to fill the Treasurer's position.

When Dave retired in 2011 after a 38-year career with the Milwaukee County Council of the Boy Scouts of America, he was able to "close the loop" and put to good use his long-ago zoology degree. He volunteers hundreds of hours each year at the Milwaukee County Zoo, giving tours and Animal in Action talks, and helping with special events and educational programs — "a little bit of everything."

This year, he expects to have spent more than 500 hours at the zoo, where he especially enjoys interactions with guests and "continually learning new things."

The late Gary Drescher recruited Dave and his wife Lynne to join FFGM at least ten years ago. They have occasionally traveled on journeys and have hosted small dinners and Fifts at 5 at their West Allis home, and participated

in many club activities. In July, Dave led FFGM members on a zoo tour.

Dave also served for 28 years as Scoutmaster for a troop of 50 to 55 boys in West Allis and is proud that during those years, 75 young men achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, including his son.

A Milwaukee native, Dave graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in zoology. But jobs in that field were scarce, and the Boy Scouts were recruiting. So Dave, himself an Eagle Scout, joined the county council's staff. His final job before retiring was as Director of Support Services, with responsibility for camp operations and risk management, among other duties.

Dave also helps when needed at Mount Hope Lutheran Church, where Lynne is very active in its Ministries program that includes a food pantry and provides clothing and household goods to needy families. He also continues to be an assistant scoutmaster for his West Allis troop, although it shrank dramatically during the pandemic.

He and Lynne have a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Stephanie, nominee for Vice President, was born and raised in Wisconsin and was inspired to travel by her grandparents, Don and Terry Peters, who were members of FFGM. She has a daughter, 15, and son, 12, with whom she has shared her love of travel and exploring the world.

As an aerospace engineer by degree, Stephanie loves data, project management and budgeting. She started her career as a Robotics Flight Controller in Mission Control for the Space Shuttle at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Then she spent time with Rockwell Collins on business jets before joining Kohler, where for nine years she has worked in Kitchen and Bath Operations and most recently in Hospitality responsible for Environmental Health and Safety and Program Management.

Stephanie is a part of FFT's volunteer task force responsible for improving the onboarding and retention of new members.

YOUR DONATIONS CAN HELP MITCHELL STREET FOOD PANTRY

The Mitchell Street Food Pantry (formerly Despensa de la Paz) continues to provide food and daily living items to clients on Saturday mornings. The new site manager, Chad Walter, and his team have improved the procedures and are doing some much-needed re-decorating to the interior.

The pantry still is in need of all the help it can get! In particular, save:

- Egg cartons
- Plastic bags (Sendik's and others)

- Artificial green plants
- Money donations, no amount too small.

Also, please ask your dentist if he or she could donate toothbrushes and toothpaste, which always are needed.

Give items to Gayle Best (414-469-8433) or Mary Cimbalnik (262-719-6725). Also, feel free to ask them or Dave Kalan, (dakalan@yahoo.com) about joining them as volunteers at the food pantry.

For more information on the pantry, check out NOURISHMKE.ORG.



DOWN ON THE FARM

In early September, 17 members enjoyed pizza outdoors at Grassway Organics, a farm near East Troy, following a walking tour of the farm.



A FIFTH @ 5 IN GRAFTON

Diane Stoiber and Tom Golding used the community room at their senior apartment complex in Grafton for Fifth @ 5 in September. The event included a tour of the complex.





friendship force

GREATER MILWAUKEE

EXECUTIVE AND OPERATING BOARD

President: Chris Vogel, 414.412.7721, chrisvogel52@gmail.com

Vice-President: Kathy Luglio, 262.391.9637, kgluglio@gmail.com

Secretary: Carrie Landers, 970.310.5381, carjimlanders@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Dorothy Krupa, 262.894.7076, dorothykrupa@me.com

Past Presidents: Bob & Nancy Mitchell, 262.370.6023 rjmitch1336@yahoo.com (Mitch); 262.370.6025 mitchell.nancy@gmail.com (Nancy)

Membership: Dorothy Kelley, 414.573.0107, dorothykelley60@gmail.com

Activities Co-Chairpersons: Ann Line, 262.784.3085, linerusy@yahoo.com; Gayle Best, 262.790.9221, gbest40215@aol.com

Community Outreach: Dave Kalan, 414.766.6056, dakalan@yahoo.com

5th at 5 Events: Barbara Geck, 262.542.2960, barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com

Community Connections: Clarine Furey, 262.993.8050, clarineaf@yahoo.com

Archivist: Rosie Haas, 414.259.1747, rmhaas1@gmail.com

Website: Jack Bridich, 920.960.3711, jbfdl@yahoo.com

FFGM Store: Position open

Newsletter: Rosie Haas, Chris Vogel, Dave Kalan, Ann Line

2024 AMBASSADOR/HOST COORDINATORS

Shelby, NC Outbound: Chris Vogel, AC

Baton Rouge, LA Inbound: Cindy Hum, HC

Quad Cities/Cedar Rapids IA Outbound: Chris Vogel, AC

New Zealand and Australia Outbound: Clarine Furey and Carol Gau, AC

WEBSITES & CONTACT INFORMATION

Midwest Regional FFI Rep.: Bob Mitchell,

rjmitch1336@yahoo.com

Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee websites:

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

(At www.friendshipforce.org under Wisconsin clubs)

FFGM e-mail: ffgreatermilwaukee2@gmail.com

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129406703803635/>

Friendship Force International: 1.800.554.6715,

FFI@thefriendshipforce.org

FFI fax: 1.404.688.6148

FFI address: 279 W. Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA 30046

new member profile

SHARRON RONCO

I'm originally from Milwaukee, but have lived most of my life in other places, mainly Texas and Florida, before returning back home in 2012.



During my career, I was a university administrator and faculty member in statistics. I'm now mostly retired but still teach an online class and engage in other activities related to the evaluation of colleges. As a result of living in Spain for three years, I am a fluent Spanish speaker. I now split my time between Milwaukee in the summer and Delray Beach, Florida, in the winter, ensuring that I don't have to endure much cold weather!

I enjoy gardening, cooking, playing pickleball, volunteering, and of course, traveling. This summer I visited Alaska and have recently returned from Quebec City. I especially enjoy exploring South America with its diversity of people and cultures.

FF offers so many opportunities to get to know people from other places in a way you never could as an ordinary tourist. It seems like a great organization, and I look forward to learning more.

member updates

Please make the following address change in your Member Directory:

Amy Bley
415 N. Lake St. Unit 103
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: 262-416-2673 (landline eliminated)