



friendship force

GREATER MILWAUKEE

a world of friends is a world of peace

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

president's message

Talking with leaders of many clubs from around the world at the recent FFI World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, reinforced my sense that FFGM is a strong club. With just over 100 members and growing, it's significantly bigger than many clubs.

Our club mirrors many of the findings in FFI's 2023 Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis:

We need to focus on being a diverse and apolitical organization of friendship and cultural exchanges, focusing on home stays, and hosting programs that have interesting activities and take in local attractions.



Chris Vogel

At the conference, I talked with leaders of U.S. clubs that I hope will result in inbound and outbound journeys in 2024 and 2025. More information to come!

We were disappointed that, for health reasons, ambassadors from Toulouse, France cancelled their inbound journey to FFGM in September/October. We will try to reschedule. Ann Line, who worked hard to plan Toulouse's journey, made the best of it by involving our members in some of the activities in Racine (see photos on page 5).

It seems early, but plans are taking shape for FFI's 2024 North American Regional Conference (involving clubs in the United States, Canada and perhaps Mexico) in Milwaukee Oct. 7-9. Jeremi Snook, president and CEO of FFI, visited in September to scout out possible venues, and Dave Kalan from our club helped significantly. We think we have a downtown Milwaukee location secured. When that's for sure, we'll let you know.

Although FFGM isn't responsible for planning the conference, we will be asked to suggest activities for visitors to our city. We also will be talking soon about hosting visitors for a few nights before or after, although attendees will stay at the downtown hotel during the conference. We'll hope to get other nearby FF clubs involved as well. If you'd like to serve on a planning committee, headed by Dave Kalan, let him know.

Attenzione!

ANNUAL MEETING

DEC. 2 AT THAT'S AMORÉ

Please plan to attend the FFGM Annual Meeting from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at That's Amoré, 5080 S. 108th St., Greenfield.

Besides enjoying a sit-down Italian lunch, we'll review the year, share upcoming events and elect a new board secretary. The Nominating Committee will nominate Carrie Landers for that role. Members will also vote on keeping Dorothy Krupa as treasurer for another two years. (See page 5.)

Send \$20 (the lunch price is actually \$3 higher, but is being subsidized by FFGM) and your choice of entree **by Nov. 15** to Cris Reischl at 7163 Horizon Dr, Greendale, WI 53129. The meal includes soda, coffee and tea (cash bar for other beverages) and marble cake for dessert.

Please plan to bring your extra dollars for a 50/50 raffle: Half the jackpot will go to the winner and the other half to Friedens Food Pantry, where several FFGM members volunteer.

Along with your check made out to FFGM, send your name(s), telephone number and choice of entree for each person:

- Chicken Parmigiana
- Pasta Norcina (Italian sausage, garlic, arugula, cream, and Romano cheese with noodles)
- Shrimp Fettuccine
- Lasagna (made with beef, pork, and lots of cheese)
- Eggplant Parmigiana (vegetarian option).



at a glance

10/19 W.H.E.T. 1:30 p.m. on Greenway Trail, Elm Grove. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line, 262.784.3085 or linerusy@yahoo.com.

10/21 Holy Hill Art Farm Flannel Fest, 2-9 p.m., 4958 Holy Hill Rd., Hubertus, \$27 per carload. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line by Oct. 19 for carpooling.

11/2 Polish Chicago bus trip, 7:30 a.m. \$90 (\$70 for FFGM members). A few spots remain. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line.

11/5 5th @ 5 at 17400 W. Westward Dr., New Berlin, hosted by Gayle Best and David Martinez. R.S.V.P. to Gayle Best, 414.469.8433 or gbest40215@aol.com.

11/8 Book Club 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. *Desirable Daughters* by Bharati Mukherjee (India).

11/13 W.H.E.T. 1:30 p.m. starting at Mount Zion Park, 14550 North Ave., Brookfield. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line, 262.784.3085 or linerusy@yahoo.com.

12/2 Annual Meeting. Noon to 3 p.m., That's Amoré. Send \$20 and entree choice to Cris Reischl, 7163 Horizon Dr, Greendale, WI 53129.

12/4 FFGM Board meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

2023 Journeys

Feb. 18-25 — Phoenix, AZ Outbound

April 18-21 — Quad Cities Mini-Inbound

July 28-Aug. 4 — Asheville, NC Inbound

2024 Journeys

October TBD - Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand and Tweed Valley, Australia Outbound.

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

NOV. 2: Polish Chicago

We already have 40 people who have paid for the Polish Chicago trip on Thursday, Nov. 2. We can still take a few more, but don't delay and miss out on an all-day motorcoach excursion.

We will tour the Polish Museum of America, visit three Polish churches (St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. John Cantius, and the Basilica of St. Hyacinth) and enjoy an authentic Polish meal at Staropolska.

All this is included as well as all transportation costs for \$70 for FFGM members and \$90 for non-members. There are two pick-up points: Watertown Plank Road or College Avenue Park 'n' Ride. Checks made out to FFGM should be sent to Ann Line at 165 N. Elmridge Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53005.

NOV. 5: 5th at 5

These events are a great opportunity for you to invite your friends who might be potential FFGM members.

Nov. 5: Gayle Best and David Martinez are hosting Game Night at 17400 W. Westward Dr., New Berlin. Various games (Scattergories, Taboo, Telestrations, Code Breakers . . .) will be played. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Soda and water will be provided. R.S.V.P. to Gayle at 414.469.8433 or gbest40215@aol.com. If you have a favorite game, bring it along to play.

Hosts are needed for every month of 2024. Please respond to Barbara Geck at barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com or 262.542.2960.

NOV 8: book club

FFGM Book Club will discuss *Desirable Daughters* (India) by Bharati Mukherjee at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 on Zoom. The facilitator will be Meg Ziegelmann. Contact Ann Line at linerusy@yahoo.com if you wish to receive the Zoom link, which will be sent closer to the meeting.

We also will be deciding which books to read in 2024, so start compiling your recommendations. Books can be fiction or nonfiction and need to take place in another country or deal with another ethnic group or culture.

FFGM Book Club welcomes all book lovers to participate in its bi-monthly gathering. We have been reading together since April 2017. If you have not joined us before, please decide to do so this fall or in 2024. We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months, usually on Zoom as we have members in West Bend, Sheboygan Falls and Door County.

OCT. 19, NOV. 13: LAST '23 W.H.E.T.S

We'll meet at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Sendik's Elm Grove, 13425 Watertown Plank Rd., for a walk on the Greenway Trail. The trail goes under Bluemound Road, and we'll continue to Krueger Park before returning to Sendik's. Then we can decide if we wish to go to Fazio's Chocolate Store or RJ's Ice Cream or the new Faigrounds Coffee & Tea for our treat.

Weather permitting, the last W.H.E.T. of the season will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13 starting at Mount Zion Park, 14550 North Ave., Brookfield (west of Lilly Road) on north side of the street. Go through the cemetery and meet at the shelter in the rear next to the parking spaces.

Please let Ann Line (linerusy@yahoo.com or 262.784.3085) know if you're coming so we know to look for you.



CONFERENCE PRE-TRIP TRANSPORT

Mary Buczynski hurt her foot just before leaving for the FFI World Conference but was able to join the Venice to Dubrovnik pre-conference trip a few days late. On an island in the Adriatic, she got a ride in a wheelbarrow.

OCT. 21: ENJOY TASTE OF FALL AT FLANNEL FEST

Put on your flannels and join us at the Holy Hill Art Farm Flannel Fest, 4958 Holy Hill Road, Hubertus, on Saturday, Oct. 21. The event runs from 2-9 p.m., but you can come when you want and stay as long as you wish.

The price is \$27 per carload. There are groomed walking trails, bonfires in the evening, live music, a chainsaw artist, and beverages and food available for purchase.

The schedule of activities is extensive:

- 2-4 p.m. Chili Contest: Taste and vote for your favorite
- 2-5 p.m. Prairieville Desperado Show (cowboy fast shooters)
- 2:30-4 p.m. line-dancing lessons;
- 4 p.m. hot air balloon launch
- 4:30-8:30 p.m. Tim Castle's Country Legends.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite and supposedly are limited. Because the price is for all you can fit in your car, it would be a good idea to carpool. Please let Ann Line know (linerusy@yahoo.com or 262.784.3085) if: A) you are willing to drive or B) you need a ride. She will try to arrange carloads according to location.

You need to contact her by **Oct. 19** at the latest; earlier would be greatly appreciated. After that date you will need to make your own arrangements.

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Two upcoming events may interest members:

- An Evening of Ukrainian Dance and Culture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 at UW-Washington County Theatre on the Hill, West Bend.
- Hmong New Year Celebration, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10 at State Fair Park.



NEW BERLIN DAY

A big group of members toured the New Berlin Historical Society's Prospect Hill Settlement District during its 30 anniversary event Sept. 10. Afterward, they enjoyed a take-out dinner at the home of Gayle Best's mother. in New Berlin.



RECOGNIZING FFGM VOLUNTEERS IN 2023

I lead the effort to reach out into the local community to participate in volunteer activities to make a difference. For 2023, I can report that we have made a significant difference!

We have some committed volunteers who have been challenged at Despensa de la Paz food pantry to help people who have limited skills in English. The clientele is mostly Spanish-speaking and some Rohingya refugees. Plus, FFGM provides 50 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless each month.

I want to recognize the following volunteers for their dedication:

Gayle Best and David Martinez, Mary Cimbalnik, Amy Bley, Iva Richards, Donna Malone, Chris Vogel, Nancy Bowen, Pat Graham, Chris Reischl, JoAnn Richards, Cindy Hum, Charlotte Ann Button, Stephanie Freier, Kathy Buenning and Sue Pack.

I have to admit that I am addicted to serving the people at Despensa de La Paz because it is such a fulfilling experience. If you want more information, or if you want to lead a volunteer project, please contact me at dakalan@yahoo.com.

—Dave Kalan

INTRODUCING NOMINEES FOR 2024-26 OFFICERS

At the Dec. 2 Annual Meeting, members will vote on two club officers: Dorothy Krupa, who has been asked to continue as Treasurer for another two years, and Carrie Landers as Secretary.



Dorothy has been the Treasurer since 2020. She started her career as an auditor for the Ernst & Ernst accounting firm in 1969 and retired from North Shore Bank in 2009. During her 34 years there, she served as controller, Vice President of Information Systems and Vice President of Internet Banking.

Dorothy has always had a passion for helping and supporting women. In 2012, she co-founded “we-Build,” a microloan organization for women in Haiti.

Carrie, who lives in Waukesha with her husband Jim and dog, Benny, lived for many years in Fort Collins, CO, where she worked in the foster care system for Lutheran Family Services. She previously worked as a psychiatric social worker, as Director of Social Services at the Congregational Home in Brookfield and as a hospice social worker in Kansas. Carrie holds a Master of Social Work degree from UW-Madison and a Master of Family



Therapy degree from UW-Stout.

She is originally from Rhinelander, WI. Carrie enjoys traveling, reading, playing Scrabble and bridge, and swimming.



MAKING LEMONADE . . .

. . . out of lemons. Ambassadors from Toulouse, France were, unfortunately, unable to visit Milwaukee this fall, but all the planning Ann Line did wasn't wasted! FFGM members spent much of Oct. 1 in Racine, visiting the Chainsaw Festival and Art Fair at River Bend Nature Center, followed by lunch at Joey's Yardarm Grill and a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed S.C. Johnson Administration Center.



IN THE FALLS HISTORY

26 members and prospective members toured Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls and enjoyed dinner at the Hot House afterward.



membership updates

Please add the following new members to your membership directory:

Judy Mastaglio
1975 Derrin La.
Brookfield, WI 53045
jmast1@wi.rr.com
Phone: 262.366.4696

Dora Sialer
N89W17625 St. Thomas Dr.

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
dorasieler50@att.net
Phone: 414.357.7109
Cell: 414.708.2397

Thomas Schneider
1411 Josephine St., Unit E
Waukesha, WI 53186
thomtrek@yahoo.com
Phone: 414.975.7908



LAKEFRONT 5th @ 5

About 35 FFGM members gathered in September at South Shore Shore Park in Milwaukee for a 5th @ 5 hosted by Mary Buczynski.

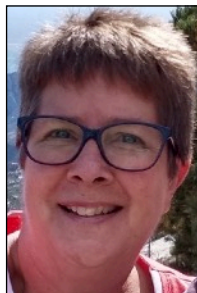


new member profile

CAROL GAU

I was raised outside of the small town of Oakfield, WI (home of the 1996 F5 tornado). I am the youngest of five children, and I have a son who lives in Madison. I inherited my love of dancing from my parents, who would polka dance as often as possible. I prefer '50s, '70s and '80s music and, like my parents, dance as often as possible.

I enjoy traveling, especially if I can make a good connection with a fellow traveler on the trip. My favorite trip was to Iceland (lots of mountains and waterfalls!). I have also been to Costa Rica, Viet-



nam, China, Egypt, and many Western European countries. I would like to visit the national parks in Utah and the Grand Canyon and see the redwoods in California.

I also enjoy reading (murder mystery/thrillers), playing cards and board games with friends/family, and baking. I am a member of the Windy Hill Handbell Choir, through UW-Waukesha. I enjoy volunteering for different organizations, but NAMI is close to my heart.

I am a licensed insurance agent, but do not actively sell. I am an account manager, handling lots of questions and paperwork. I have quite a few years before I will be retiring, so my hobbies have to fit around a work schedule.



friendship force

GREATER MILWAUKEE

new member profile

EXECUTIVE AND OPERATING BOARD

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

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

Secretary: Susan Feddersen, 262.302.9729, belisima563@gmail.com

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

Assistant Treasurer: Stephanie Freier, 920.912.7964, stephaniefreier412@gmail.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

Fundraising Chairperson: Ed Kelley, 262.375.1616, edkelley88@gmail.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

2023 AMBASSADOR/HOST COORDINATORS

Phoenix, AZ Outbound: Chris Vogel, AC

Quad-Cities Inbound: Nancy Rubly, HC

Asheville, NC Inbound: Clarine Furey, HC

Toulouse, France Outbound: Ann Line, HC

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/>

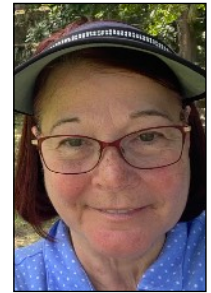
Friendship Force International: 1.800.554.6715,

FFI@thefriendshipforce.org

FFI fax: 1.404.688.6148

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

DONNA MALONE



I am thrilled to be a member of this wonderful group. I've already had lots of fun and met some wonderful people.

Despite having grown up in New Berlin, I had never visited the New Berlin Historical Society until the FFGM trip in September. Many of the volunteers there knew my father because he was the Mayor of New Berlin when I was growing up. I heard many funny and heart-warming stories from these people about my father.

I am married to a wonderful man named Joe Salmon (I have always gone by my maiden name). I have three children, three step-children and five grandkids. I was a special education teacher until I retired early in 2022. I occasionally sub when needed.

Aside from being on the Activities Committee for FFGM and volunteering at the Friedens Food Pantry on occasion, I also volunteer for an organization called forgoodnesscakes.com. It's a national organization and we bake cakes for kids who are in foster care or have suffered trauma in their lives. It's amazing how many kids have never had their very own birthday cake, and the joy in their eyes when they get a cake is priceless. As a community ambassador for this organization in SE Wisconsin, I visit 501C organizations, bring them some baked goodies and let them know how they can request a cake. I also sing in my church choir and babysit 2 of my grandkids two days a week

I have done some traveling — Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy (I was there when they won World Cup in soccer. Wow, what a party that was!). I got involved with FFGM through my best friend Gayle Best. Even though we look like we're only in our 40s (LOL!) we've been friends for over 50 years! My oldest daughter also joined FFGM when I did. Her name is Krista-Lee Malone, and she has her PhD in Anthropology and teaches at UW-Madison.

Thanks for welcoming me into the club and I hope to learn about all of you in the future.