



friendship force

GREATER MILWAUKEE

a world of friends is a world of peace

MARCH-APRIL 2023

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

president's message

FFGM doesn't usually give homework. But in the next two months, you have a simple but important assignment that will help keep FFGM healthy and able to host and participate in journeys.

- Think of five (or more!) people who might enjoy being members.
- Send their names and email addresses to Rosie Haas at rmhaas1@gmail.com.



Chris Vogel

- Tell those friends, relatives, former co-workers, etc., to watch their e-mail for an invitation to an event in June where they can learn more about FFGM.

That's all. But please don't wait. As the names of people you know — or even new people you meet — occur to you, send them to Rosie.

In late May, FFGM will send e-vites to what we hope will be a long list of people, asking them to stop by the Kneeland-Walker House in

Wauwatosa between 5 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21. They can have a glass of wine or a soda, enjoy appetizers, and hear about FFGM and journeys we have taken and hosted.

This membership recruitment event is very similar to one we hosted in 2017, which attracted 25 new members. We hope to do even better this time.

On page 4, Dave Kalan mentions a developing community service opportunity that is fun and also helps many needy people. A few of us have volunteered twice so far at Despensa de la Paz, a food pantry on Milwaukee's south side. The ability to speak at least a little Spanish is useful, but not necessary. Please let Dave know if you'd like to give it a try or have other community service ideas.

I'm putting in a plug for the March 14 visit to Lebnani House restaurant. The food is delicious! You won't be disappointed.

TASTE OF MIDDLE EAST AT LEBNANI HOUSE

How about trying some Levantine (Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Palestine) cuisine at the hottest new Middle Eastern restaurant in town? This upscale Middle Eastern restaurant has received rave reviews in the press.

So, where are we going?

- Lebnani House, 5051 S. 27th St. (west side of street)
- 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14
- Price: \$20 including tax and tip.

See **LEBNANI**, page 3

QUAD CITIES AMBASSADORS VISITING IN APRIL

FFGM members will be excited to know we are hosting 10 to 12 Ambassadors from the Quad Cities (Iowa) April 18-21.

This is a short, three-night journey, but we won't skimp on the welcome. They will ride-share arriving mid-day on Tuesday the 18th. Early plans include viewing "Art in Bloom" at the Milwaukee Art Museum, enjoying the "Domes," and easy walks, depending on the weather. Ambassadors will leave early Friday morning.

We are promised a reciprocal mini-journey in the future.

Bob Mitchell is the journey coordinator, and Nancy Rubly is coordinating hosting. Contact her at njrubby@gmail.com or call 262.860.0777 if you want the chance to host.

at a glance

2/28 Snowshoeing, 1:30 p.m.
Mequon Nature reserve, 8200 W.
County Line Rd., (need 4" snow)

3/5 5th at 5 at Mary Buczynski's
house, 2935 Rhode Island Ave.,
Milwaukee. R.S.V.P. 414.517.3472.

3/8 Book Club, 1:30 p.m. via
Zoom. Three books by Tony
Hillerman.

3/14 1 p.m. Lunch at Lebnani
House, 5051 S. 27th St. R.S.V.P
with \$20 payment by March 7 to
Ann Line.

4/3 Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via
Zoom.

4/5 Racine Art Museum and lunch,
11 a.m. R.S.V.P. with \$5 payment
by 3/28.

4/5 5th at 5. Host needed

4/17 New members orientation, 6
p.m. at Chris Vogel's house, 2039
Pleasant St., Wauwatosa.

4/22 FFGM participation in Com-
munity Fair at noon, Underwood
Memorial Baptist Church,
Wauwatosa.

JOURNEYS 2023

Feb 18-25 — Phoenix, AZ Out-
bound

April 18-21 — Mini-Inbound, Quad
Cities

Late July/early August — Asheville,
NC Inbound

Fall 2023 — Toulouse, France In-
bound, Sept. 28-Oct.5 (tentative)

Check my.friendshipforce.org fre-
quently for other travel opportuni-
ties.

5th at 5

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

March: Mary Buczynski, 2935 Rhode Island Ave., Milwaukee,
will host the March 5th at 5. Call Mary at 414.517.3472 or email
buczynski.mary@gmail.com if you'll be attending. Please bring an
appetizer and a beverage.

Hosts are needed for April and the rest of 2023. Please respond to
Barbara Geck at barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com or
262.542.2960.

book club

The FFGM Book Club welcomes all book lovers to participate in
its bi-monthly book club. We have been reading together since
April 2017. If you have not joined us before, please decide to do so
in 2023. We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the
odd-numbered months, usually on Zoom as we have members in
West Bend, Sheboygan Falls and Door County.

Books read can be fiction or non-fiction and need to take place in
another country or deal with another culture or ethnic group.

Books for 2023, which the Book Club recently nominated and vot-
ed on, include the following.

March 8: We will try something a little different. We will read
three books by Tony Hillerman and will divide the group in three,
alphabetically by last name to determine the book you will read.
A - H: *Dance Hall of the Dead*; I - Q: *Skinwalkers*; R - Z: *A Thief of
Time* (Native American: Navajo).

May 10: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman (Sweden)

July 12: *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker
(Burma)

Sept. 13: *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright (Cambodia)

Nov. 8: *Desirable Daughters* by Bharati Mukherjee (India)

Please join us for as many books as you can. The Zoom link will
be sent a few days in advance. Contact Ann Line at linerusy@yahoo.com
if you wish to receive the Zoom link.

PEEP(S) SHOW APRIL 5 IS RATED “G” FOR GOOFY

Get your sugar fix and fine art fix at the same time on Wednesday, April 5, with a visit to the Racine Art Museum. We'll tour the museum from 11 a.m. to about noon, with a half-hour devoted to the 14th Annual International Peeps Exhibition and a half-hour to the rest of the museum.

Admission to the RAM is \$5 and must be sent by March 28 to Ann Line, 165 N. Elmridge Ave., Brookfield, WI 53005 with your R.S.V.P.

The one-of-a-kind competition, inspired by or created with colorful marshmallow Peeps® candies, attracts thousands of visitors, as well as national press coverage. You'll have a chance to vote on your favorite creation for the PEEPls Choice Award.

There's more! With more than 11,000 works, the Racine Art Museum at 441 Main St. has the largest contemporary craft collection in the United States. The works, by internationally recognized artists, are



Peepzilla by Cremona Weisser of Milwaukee won First Peep in the Adult Division, as well as the PEEPls Choice Award, at last year's Racine Museum 13th Annual International Peeps Art Exhibition.

concentrated in ceramics, fibers, glass, metals, art jewelry, polymer and wood. The collection also includes prints, drawings, watercolors and photograph, as well as artists' books, from the 1930s to the present.

You can park on the street or in a ramp kitty-corner from the museum.

Tentatively, we'll head about 1 1/2 blocks away for lunch at The Maple Table, a farm-to-table restaurant at 520 Main St.

After lunch, those who are interested can walk to the Racine Heritage Museum at 701 Main St. Admission is free.

The Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Ave. is also free and is about two miles from the Racine Art Museum. Currently, the exhibit is Watercolors Wisconsin 2022.

Anyone interested in car-pooling — driving or riding with someone — can call Ann at 262.784.3085.

LEBNANI, *from page 1*

Arrangements have been made to give you a variety of small plates to share in groups of four. You will have five typical dishes to sample:

- Hummus Trio (red pepper, beet, and pesto)
- Beef Filet Bil Ajin (flatbread wrapped in strips of beef)
- Eggplant and Beef Fatteh (Comfort casserole of beef, eggplant, yogurt, bread and pine nuts)
- Battata Harra (Potatoes with garlic and spices served in a traditional clay pot)

- Tabbouleh (Salad with chopped parsley, onions, tomatoes, bulgur, lemon juice).

Please join your FFGM friends for this delightful culinary outing. The owner will also speak to us about the food you will be eating and Levantine cuisine and culture. He will answer any questions you may have.

You need to send a check made out to FFGM for \$20 per person to Ann Line at 165 N. Elmridge Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53005 **so that it arrives by March 7.**

BE A VOLUNTEER FOR FRIENDSHIP

We continue to look for volunteer activities where our club members can become engaged with the local community.

- Volunteers continue to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless, but we are allowed only one slot each month. If you are interested in participating in this project, there may be openings later in the year.
- A project is being developed to work at a Milwaukee food pantry. If you are interested in the details, contact Dave Kalan at dakalan@yahoo.com.
- We have collected a small number of winter coats for those in need. If you have coats you would like to donate, contact Chris Vogel at cvogel@wi.rr.com.
- Also contact Chris if you have sample sizes of shampoos, soap, toothpaste, etc. The food pantry needs them.

If you would like to initiate a volunteer project for our club, Dave Kalan would be willing to work with you.



From left, Gayle Best, Dave Kalan and David Martinez were among FFGM members who volunteered Feb. 11 at Despenza de la Paz food pantry on Milwaukee's south side.



FEBRUARY 5th at 5

Above, from left, Kathy Luglio, Angela Michael, Sherry Payne, Mary Jo Travis and Ann Line were among those who attended the gathering at Mary Jo's house.



HOPE MINISTRIES VISIT AND A PERUVIAN LUNCH

Top, Marita Paz, owner of Chef Paz Restaurant in West Allis, speaks to more than 20 FFGM members who had lunch Jan. 11 after visiting Hope Ministries in West Allis. Dave and Lynne Loosen arranged a tour of the food pantry/ clothes closet, a collaboration between Mt. Hope Lutheran Church and the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District. Each year, more than 200 children who are homeless or between homes are identified by the schools, and their families receive food and new clothes. Below, FFGM members Ann Line, left, and Nancy Bowen look through clothing donations with Hope Closet Coordinator Donna Jonassen, right. FFGM members are invited to a Spring Festival 6-8 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the church, 8633 W. Becher St. It features an art show, silent auction, concert and dramatic presentation on the lives of families served. A free-will offering will be appreciated.



'FUN IN THE SUN' JOURNEY TO PHOENIX

When you receive this newsletter, 15 ambassadors (10 from FFGM, two from the Madison club, two from the Chicago club and a woman from the state of Washington) are about to embark on a journey to Phoenix, AZ Feb. 18-25.

FF of Central Arizona has planned a week packed with western sun and fun. It's great to be traveling again!

DO YOU PLAY MAH JONG?

Or do you want to learn? Several FFGM members meet at 1 p.m. every other Friday to play traditional Chinese-style Mah Jong. Contact Kathy Luglio at 262.391.9637 or kgluglio@gmail.com, or Cindy Hum at 414.573.6783 or cindyscreations@wi.rr.com, for dates and location.



JANUARY 5th at 5

From left, David Martinez, Bob Mitchell and Angela Michel at the home of Mary Hauser.

EXECUTIVE AND OPERATING BOARD

President: Chris Vogel, 414.412.7721, cvogel@wi.rr.com

Vice-President: Kathy Luglio, 262.391.9637, kluglio@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 Co-Chairpersons: Ed Kelley, 262.375.1616, edkelley88@gmail.com; Donna Baldwin-Haut, 414.550.4450, djhaut2006@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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

FFGM Store: Position open

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

2022-23 AMBASSADOR/HOST COORDINATORS

Phoenix, AZ Inbound: Chris Vogel, AC

Quad-Cities Inbound: Bob Mitchell, HC

Toulouse, France International Inbound: Ann Line, HC

Asheville, NC Inbound: Clarine Furey, 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

new member profiles

MEET JANET LIPSCOMB

I am a Milwaukee native who has lived in Wauwatosa for the past 32 years. I have one child, Sara, who lives in San Diego with her husband. I am a very active, young-at-heart senior. I enjoy spending time in nature, especially hiking. Additional interests include yoga, music, dancing, traveling, reading, meeting new people, and learning about other cultures. Recently, I



began working on uncovering and documenting my family's genealogy. I am very happily retired from a 39-year career in banking. Prior to retirement, my travels were primarily limited to the U.S., Mexico, and the Caribbean, but in late March I'll spend 16 days in Ireland and the UK. I look forward to experiencing future adventures with FFGM!

MEET LINDA BARISAS

I'm 75 years old. I have four daughters and two granddaughters and one grandson.



They are wonderfully young, well-educated and well-traveled. I have one little 17-pound Bernadoodle dog named Zoe. I try to stay busy with dancing any chance I get. I shop food for some shut-ins and people impacted by COVID and sometimes cook meals for them. I am

a Lutheran and enjoy studying and hearing the Word. In the winter I cross-country ski, shovel and sled. Summer brings me to the water for those sports. I have been a widow for 20-plus years and now enjoy dating and doing the social things with my friends.