



# friendship force

## GREATER MILWAUKEE

*a world of friends is a world of peace*

MARCH-APRIL 2024

### president's message

All of us have been members of many different organizations over the years. If you're like me, you've sometimes taken it for granted there will be interesting and worthwhile activities — reasons to be part of that organization.

Please do NOT take the FFGM Activities Committee (Ann Line, Gayle Best, Donna Malone, Mary Hauser, Mary Cimbalnik, Cris Reischl and Nancy Bowen) for granted! We are extremely lucky to



Chris Vogel

have a dedicated (and growing) group of volunteers who, month after month, plan outings that take us throughout the metro area and beyond. The January visit to the Milwaukee Urban Stables (photos on page 5) with lunch at a great Asian restaurant, was a perfect example.

Speaking of activities, we're changing how we sign up for those that have a cost involved. You'll notice at the end of the Milwaukee Public Museum article that starts on this page that you will R.S.V.P. to *both* the activity committee member who is planning the event and to Treasurer Dorothy Krupa. Dorothy will invoice you for the amount owed, and you can pay by check, credit card, debit card or — the best method of all — e-check. (What is an E-check? See the extra page at the end of this newsletter and maybe print it for future reference.)

Kudos to Kathy Buenning, one of our newer members, for a great gift idea. She gave her sister, Chris Tralongo, a gift membership in FFGM for her birthday! What a great way to grow our club's membership, introduce friends and family to Friendship Force, and recognize a birthday or other milestone. And welcome to Chris!

Have you noticed many emails lately from FFGM about opportunities to travel with other clubs? Some of our members are taking advantage of them. For example, the Lincoln, NE, club has a two-week journey to Indonesia in June, and at least two from our club plan to go.



Milwaukee Public Museum photo

## WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

### VISIT MUSEUM MARCH 13

It has been a faithful and steady friend for years, and most of us have been there and have fond memories. But soon the **Milwaukee Public Museum and the Streets of Old Milwaukee**, as we know it today, will be gone and replaced with a new building. The Streets of Old Milwaukee will be quite different in the new building. It's hard to let an old friend go, so we are planning one last trip there.

**When:** Wednesday, March 13

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. — Meet in the lobby where you normally purchase tickets, 800 W. Wells St.

**Cost:** \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

**Includes:** Entrance fee to the museum and a guided tour to the Streets of Old Milwaukee AND the Native American exhibit, as well as access to the planetarium show *Lights Out! Eclipses: Whys, wonders and wows* (12 p.m.)

See **MPM**, page 4

## at a glance

---

**2/21** 1 p.m. Phobruary lunch at Vientiane Noodle Shop, 3422 W. National Ave., and the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum. R.S.V. P. To Ann Line.

**3/5** Fifth @ 5. **Host needed.**

**3/12** Book Club. 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* (Botswana) by Alexander McCall Smith, plus another book from the series.

**3/13** 10:30 a.m. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., (\$20) and lunch at Maders. R.S.V.P. to Donna Malone AND Dorothy Krupa.

**4/1** 6:30 p.m. FFGM Board meeting via Zoom.

**4/5** Fifth @ 5, **host needed.**

**4/11:** 11 a.m. tour of Oconomowoc Historical Society. Lunch at Maxim's. R.S.V.P to Gayle Best.

**5/1:** 12:30 p.m. Private tour of Road America between Elkhart Lake and Plymouth. Early dinner at Chissy's supper club in Waldo. R.S.V.P. to both Ann Line and Dorothy Krupa.

### 2024 Journeys

April 15-22 - Shelby, NC Outbound

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

August 10-17 - Baton Rouge, LA Inbound

Aug. 21-24 - Hsinchu, Taiwan, Mini-Inbound

October 10-13 - Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Mini-Inbound

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

## MARCH ?: fifth @ 5 (maybe 2 or 3)

---

Have you ever hosted a Fifth at 5? Now's your chance! We have no host (yet!) for March or April. How about hosting a game night? Or an early Pie party (March 14 is, of course, pi day)? Think of a theme and run with it — or just have everyone bring over appetizers and beverages.

March 5 is a Tuesday, but you're free to move your gathering to a weekend afternoon on March 2 or 3, or March 9 or 10. Have it at 5 p.m., or 2 or 3 p.m. so attendees aren't driving at night. (We're being flexible this year.) These events are a great opportunity for you and others to invite friends who might be potential FFGM members.

Hosts are needed throughout 2024. Please respond to Barbara Geck.

## MARCH 12: book club

---

Do you like to read? If so, come read with us. It would be great to see you for every book, but if you can't make it each time, come when you can. We meet the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered months at 1:30 p.m., usually via Zoom. Books read can be fiction or non-fiction and take place in another country or deal with a different culture.

On March 12 (Note: the date was changed to avoid conflicting with the Milwaukee Public Museum event), we will discuss *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* (Botswana) by Alexander McCall Smith. The facilitator is Kathy Buenning.

To make it a bit different, each person will read the first book in the series, *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, PLUS your choice of one of the other 22 books in the series.

Other selections for 2024 are:

- May 8: *In the Time of Butterflies* (Dominican Republic) by Julia Alvarez; facilitator: Rosie Haas.
- July 10: *The Elephant Whisperer* (South Africa/Zululand) by Lawrence Anthony; facilitator: Marisue Zillig.
- September 11: *Send for Me* (Germany and Wisconsin) by Lauren Fox; facilitator: Mary Hauser. Special Event: Author Lauren Fox will be speaking to us.
- November 13: *American Dirt* (Mexico and U.S.) by Jeanine Cummins; facilitator: Iva Richards.

## FEB. 21: phobruary phun + market + bobbleheads

Let's have some phun! Phobruary is pho month. So, what is pho? It is a soup from northern Vietnam that is also common in Laos and Thailand. It is pronounced "feu." Its flavorful broth is due to its long cooking time that extracts flavor from meaty marrow bones. The spices used make each restaurant's pho different. One can customize the pho by adding garnishes such as sprouts, cilantro, lime juice or fish sauce.

The Silver City neighborhood is home to several restaurants offering pho specials in Phobruary.

FFGM will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Vientiane Noodle Shop, 3422 W. National Ave. The special Phobruary price is only \$7 for a beef and meatball pho bowl. Last summer, when *Top Chef* was filming in Milwaukee, the show's host and judge ate at Vientiane Noodle Shop.

After lunch we will stop briefly at Asian International Market just across the street at 3401 W. National Ave. Then we'll bop over to the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum. We can follow National Avenue to 170 S. 1st St. (second floor with elevator) where more than 10,000 bobbleheads await our perusal. Admission is \$5. There is street parking as well as free parking in a lot on the northeast corner of the building. In 2023 the National Bobblehead Museum made it into the *USA Today* top ten best Pop Culture Museums in the country.

Make an afternoon of it with your FFGM friends. You do not need to send any money in advance. You will pay on the spot. But you must R.S.V.P. to Ann Line to reserve your spot. The restaurant needs a count to be called in as there is limited seating.

## APRIL 11: off to see oconomowoc

Which building in Oconomowoc was used to train the national guardsmen? How was the basement used at the National Guard Armory? Which city in Wisconsin was the first place to show the movie *The Wizard of Oz*? Come take a stroll down the streets of Old Oconomowoc to find these answers.

This historic journey at the Oconomowoc Historical Society and Museum will include a Victorian home, an old school room, and local past businesses. A huge model train exhibit travels through various Wisconsin landmarks. Watch a DVD to learn about the wealthy families that lived in this quaint place. So many memories to relive from the past in Oconomowoc!

Meet at 11 a.m. at the Oconomowoc Historical Society on 103 W. Jefferson St., Oconomowoc.

Following our tour, at 1:15 p.m. we will have a delicious American meal at Maxim's in the historic Oconomowoc Train Depot (115 E. Collins Street).

Contact Gayle Best by April 3 if you plan to attend. Please bring \$5 on the day of the trip to donate to the Oconomowoc Historical Society. Plan to purchase your own lunch at Maxim's following the tour.



### RU AMONG FILMS AT FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

On Sunday, Feb. 25, you're invited to join FFGM friends to see the 2023 film *Ru* at 5 p.m. at the UWM Union Cinema, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. The FFGM Book Club read *Ru*, by Kim Thuy, in 2021.

*Ru* takes place in Vietnam, a Malaysian refugee camp, and Montreal. This short, lyrical book was the All-Canada Reads selection in 2015.

*Ru* is one of 20 films being shown at the 27th Annual Festival of French Films at UWM from Feb. 16-25. All films are free and are subtitled. They are from all parts of the francophone world. Check out the entire list at [uwm.edu/french-film-festival](http://uwm.edu/french-film-festival).



## MAH JONG, ANYONE?

Jacki Margis, Cindy Hum and Mary Buczynski are among the FFGM members who play Mah Jong every other Friday at 1 p.m. in Greenfield. New players — including those new to the game — are welcome. Contact Cindy Hum for dates and location.

### MPM, from page 1

In keeping with our theme of “visiting old friends,” we have 1:30 p.m. reservations for lunch at **Mader’s**, an iconic German restaurant located at 1041 N. Martin Luther King Dr. We will be seated at tables of four and order off the menu. Each table will be presented a check, which can then be split. Please bring cash to make paying your portion easier.

### Parking at the Museum:

1. Highly recommended: MacArthur Square parking structure, adjacent to the Museum and accessible via James Lovell Street. The parking structure has an entrance to the Museum on the Ground level and costs \$4 per hour.
2. Metered spaces are available on most downtown streets.
3. Several municipal lots are near MPM. Mader’s has complimentary valet parking.

Please R.S.V.P. by **March 4** and **e-mail both Donna Malone and Treasurer Dorothy Krupa**. You will be invoiced by Dorothy via QuickBooks and can pay with a credit card, debit card or e-check, or by mailing a regular check.

\*Note: An e-check is the preferred payment method, as it saves FFGM from paying a fee for using a credit card.

## MAY 1: road america private tour

Rev your engines! On Wednesday, May 1, we’ll travel to Road America, half-way between Plymouth and Elkhart Lake, one of the fastest permanent racing circuits in the world.

Road America, opened in 1955, has a 4-mile and 14-turn race track, the longest of NASCAR race courses. It covers 640 acres and hosts over 500 events annually.

During a private 1 1/2- to 2-hour guided tour that begins at 12:30 p.m., we’ll see the track, the paddock and the V.I.P.



tower, go behind -the-scenes, visit the I.T. room and see where TV crews film. Because May 1 is a Track Day, we’ll be able to watch amateur racers trying out the course.

The tour costs \$20 and only 20 spots are available.

Afterward, we’ll do some shopping in downtown Plymouth, check out the Cheese Counter/Dairy Heritage Center, and view the almost 30 murals on downtown buildings until it’s time to leave for a 4 p.m. early supper at Chissy’s. The supper club, renowned locally for its soup and salad bar, as well as burgers and sandwiches, chicken, ribs, steak, and seafood, is on the way back to Milwaukee, on the corner of Highways 57 and 28 East in Waldo. You can order off the menu and will pay there.

Please reserve your Road America spot by emailing (in the same email) BOTH Ann Line and Dorothy Krupa. Dorothy will then invoice you for \$20 for Road America, and you can pay electronically via debit/credit card, bank (e-check), or by check. Let Ann Line know if you want to car pool.



## GARY DRESCHER MEMORIAL

A memorial is scheduled for Gary Drescher at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Wisconsin Memorial Park (Memorial Building), 13235 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield, WI.

Gary, a long-time and very active member of FFGM, passed away on Jan. 18. Besides traveling with FFGM, he often traveled with other FF club journeys. Gary helped where needed, including participating as inbound and outbound journey coordinator.

The program in the chapel will include a video presentation, readings from a church member and short, interesting stories about Gary from attendees. If you want to tell a story, contact Dave Kalan to be put on the schedule.

A reception will follow.

## 2024 JOURNEYS, HOSTING AHEAD

FFGM's 2024 journeys are shaping up, with 11 of our members traveling April 15-22 to Shelby, N.C.

July 16-23 we'll journey to Iowa for three days with the Quad-Cities club and four days with the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City club. Please let Chris Vogel (414.412.7721 or [chrisvogel52@gmail.com](mailto:chrisvogel52@gmail.com)) know if you're interested in this journey.

Hosts will be needed for an Aug. 10-17 inbound journey from Baton Rouge and a three-night stop-over by the Hsinchu, Taiwan club in Aug. 21-24.

We'll also host Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Oct. 10-13.

An outbound journey to Tweed Valley, Australia and Manawatu-Whanganui, New Zealand tentatively will be in November.

## member updates

### New members:

Rita Hozeska

Mercedes and Ismael Sialer

Chris Tralongo

Lynn Lance

Sally Natchek

Mary Wacker



## URBAN STABLES TOUR, PETTING HORSES AND A YUMMY LUNCH

28 FFGM members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Milwaukee Urban Stables, where Milwaukee police keep their horses, on Jan. 29. Milwaukee police talked about how the horses are trained and used. The stables also are home to therapy horses, miniature donkeys and ponies for veterans and youth. Afterward, the group had lunch at Momo Mee's a mile north of the stables.



## OH, CHRISTMAS TREES AND TREES

Dave and Lynne Loosen hosted a festive Fifth @ 5 at their home in West Allis in January. They left their dozens of Christmas trees — each decorated in a theme — up for the occasion.



## A TASTE OF PERU

Peruvian desserts (and a lot of other good food) made the February Fifth @ 5 especially tasty. Dora Sialer and her parents, Ismael and Mercedes Sialer, hosted at their home in Menomonee Falls.



## **WENDY TURK**



I grew up in Shorewood, Wisconsin and graduated from Homestead High School in Mequon. I earned my bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and graduate degree from UW-Whitewater. In 1978 I moved to

Burlington, Wisconsin where I lived until 2016. Living 38 years in a small town is a long time! During those years I raised four children and taught school in three different school districts.

I retired and moved to New Berlin in 2017 and am happy that this location offers many more opportunities. I enjoy theater, museums, zoo, dancing, hiking, biking, gardening, reading, and spending time with my adult children who, fortunately all live within 20 miles of my home.

What drew me to join Friendship Force was the opportunity to travel, meet new people and experience other cultures. I have not traveled a lot and cannot rattle off long lists of places I've seen, but the few experiences I have had have been exceptional. I was a recipient of an Earthwatch Education Fellowship studying macaque monkeys in Bali, Indonesia. My son and I hiked, a four-day hike, on the ancient Inca trail into Machu Pichu. My daughter and I drove the entire perimeter of Ireland. Lastly, I taught a three-week summer school program in Taiyuan, China.

From these travel experiences, it is easy to infer that I love adventure, but I will admit that even though my enthusiasm remains strong, my courage and willingness to step into the unknown are a bit rusty and even a bit shaken. I hope to start out taking baby steps with Friendship Force and little by little rebuild my confidence to travel, explore, and venture out onto some Friendship Force journeys.

# PAYING AN FFGM INVOICE?

## E-CHECK IS BEST WAY

The **e-check is the FFGM Board preferred payment** as it is the lowest cost for FFGM. But payment by check or credit/debit card may also be used. Using the e-check payment (direct withdrawal from your bank account) is easy to set up, as explained below.

**What is an E-Check?** An E-check (or electronic check) is an electronic version of a paper check used to make payments online. Anyone with a checking or savings account, and the necessary funds, can pay by E-check. Your payment amount will be directly withdrawn from your account via a secure electronic transfer.

### How to set up e-check payment

To make a payment with an E-check

**OPEN** - FFGM emailed invoice

**SELECT- REVIEW AND PAY** (near bottom of screen) Next screen will show \*Debit \*Credit \*Bank.

**SELECT** - Bank.

**SELECT** - Pay (large green bar at bottom of screen).

**ENTER** - Information requested. (Should be a one-time entry of info).

To make a payment with an E-check, you simply provide the following information:

- Your bank routing number
- Your bank account number (typically a checking account)

These two pieces of information are printed on your paper checks. See below:

The image shows a sample check form with the following fields and values:

- Sample Check** (top left)
- 123 Main St.** (top left)
- Anytown, MO 12345** (top left)
- 1215** (top right)
- DATE** (top right)
- PAY TO THE ORDER OF** (middle left)
- \$** (middle right)
- DOLLARS** (bottom right)
- MEMO** (bottom left)
- 123456780** (Bank Routing Number, highlighted in red)
- 055 1111111** (Bank Account Number, highlighted in red)
- 001215** (Check Number, highlighted in red)

Below the check form, the following labels are provided for the highlighted fields:

- Bank Routing Number**
- Bank Account Number**
- Check Number (not required)**