



# friendship force

## GREATER MILWAUKEE

*a world of friends is a world of peace*

MAY-JUNE 2024

[www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org](http://www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org)

### president's message

Our amazing Activities Committee has planned a Spring Fling on May 18 that I'm certain will be a lot of fun. I know that because my YMCA line-dancing instructor Polly Oldenburg will be teaching some simple dances. Polly is a very good teacher with a great sense of humor. Even if you think you have two left feet, she'll leave you wanting more!



Chris Vogel

As I write this, 10 of us are about to leave for a journey to Shelby, N.C. Another 10 have signed up to visit both the Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF clubs in July. It's so good to be traveling again!

Are you interested in attending the FFI North America Conference in October? Please consider signing up. Our club will subsidize the conference cost to the tune of \$50 for up to 10 of our members. This is a fantastic place to talk with FFI members from throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico and to meet FFI staffers. More information will come later about conference roles for FFGM members.

To our many newer members: Please think about giving hosting a try! Or dinner hosting or day hosting. We have a group coming from Baton Rouge, LA, in August. Ambassadors from the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Iowa, club may visit us for three nights immediately following the FFI conference. We had planned to host the Hinschu, Taiwan club for a few nights in August, as well, but that club had to cancel its journey to Brazil and no longer is stopping over.

Finally, we were saddened earlier this year by the deaths of long-time and very active FFGM members Gary Drescher and Paul Cieslak. They will be very much missed.

## DUST OFF YOUR COWBOY BOOTS SPRING FLING MAY 18

Get ready to kick up your heels on Saturday, May 18, with FFGM's Annual Spring Fling.

This year's dinner will be at Greendale Community Church, 6015 Clover Lane, Greendale, with a social starting at 5 p.m., dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m. and dancing 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Polly Oldenburg will teach various line dances, giving you a chance to work off the dinner of barbecue ribs and baked chicken, seven-layer salad, cheesy potato casserole, and vegetables.

A vegetarian plate, available upon request, will be marinated roasted portabella mushroom sliced and served over a bed of lettuce.

The meal includes soda and water and a choice of brownies, bars, cookies or cupcakes.

**R.S.V.P. by May 8** to Gayle Best  
**and** Dorothy Krupa.

Dorothy will invoice you for the \$20 cost of the meal, with payment options of e-check, check or credit card.



## at a glance

**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. This event is full.

**5/4** 3 p.m. Peruvian fiesta at N89 W17625 St. Thomas Dr., Menomonee Falls, hosted by Ismael, Mercedes and Dora Sialer. R.S.V.P. to Dora.

**5/8** Book Club. 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. *In the Time of Butterflies* (Dominican Republic) by Julia Alvarez.

**5/12** W.H.E.T. walk 1:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park, 13600 W. Juneau Blvd. Meet at the gazebo near the Elm Grove Library.

**5/18** 5 p.m. Spring Fling, Greendale Community Church, 6015 Clover Lane, Greendale (\$20). Dinner and line dancing. R.S.V.P. to Gayle Best AND Dorothy Krupa.

**6/3** 6:30 p.m. FFGM Board meeting via Zoom.

**6/5** Fifth @ 5. 5 p.m. hosted by Barbara and Joe Geck, 1258 Seitz Dr., Waukesha. R.S.V.P. to Barbara.

**6/12** 6 p.m. picnic and 7:30 p.m. play, *Steel Magnolias*, at Lapham Peak State Park, W329 N846 County Highway C, Delafield. R.S.V.P. Mary Wacker.

**6/27** Cedarburg Day. Cedarburg History Museum and Cedarburg Art Museum visits, 10:30 a.m. Lunch at 12:45 p.m. at Dorsey's Cafe and Market. R.S.V.P. to Gayle Best.

**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

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

**MAY 4: fifth @ 5 (4th @ 3)**

It's time for a Peruvian fiesta! Ismael, Mercedes and Dora Sialer will host the May gathering at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Dora's home, N89 W17625 St. Thomas Dr., Menomonee Falls. They'll serve a buffet of delicious dishes from their native Peru, as well as a Peruvian beverage.



Feel free to bring wine, beer or soda, if you prefer, as well as a dessert to share with others.

R.S.V.P. by April 26 to Dora.

On **Wednesday, June 5**, Barbara and Joseph Geck are hosting the 5th at 5 at their home, 1258 Seitz Dr., Waukesha. R.S.V.P. a week ahead by calling Barbara. Please bring your treats to share!

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

Hosts are still needed in 2024. Please respond to Barbara Geck.

**MAY 8: book club**

Do you like to read? If so, come read with us. 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 May 8, we will discuss *In the Time of Butterflies* (Dominican Republic) by Julia Alvarez. The facilitator is Rosie Haas.

Other selections for 2024 are:

- July 10: *The Elephant Whisperer* (South Africa/Zululand) by Lawrence Anthony; facilitator: Marisue Zillig.
- Sept. 11: *Send for Me* (Germany and Wisconsin) by Lauren Fox; facilitator: Mary Hauser. **Special Event:** The book discussion will be at 1 p.m. at the Firefly Room of the Wauwatosa Public Library, where author Lauren Fox will be speaking to us. Please consider inviting your non-FFGM-member friends so that we have a good turnout to hear Fox talk about her book. *Send for Me* moves between Germany on the eve of World War II and present-day Milwaukee.
- Nov. 13: *American Dirt* (Mexico and U.S.) by Jeanine Cummins; facilitator: Iva Richards.



## JUNE 27: Cedarburg day

Discover how nearly 92,000 Wisconsin citizens volunteered for service during the War of Rebellion. “Wisconsin in the Civil War,” a special exhibit at the Cedarburg History Museum, is a celebration of the brave citizens’ effort to protect the Constitution, end slavery and preserve our nation. View artifacts from private collections that have never been seen publicly.

Our free historical tour at the Cedarburg History Museum (N58W6194 Columbia Road) will be 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 27. Wander through this museum, which was the old Hilgen and Schroder Mill Store, to uncover Cedarburg’s past.



Stroll down the street to the free Cedarburg Art Museum at W63N675 Washington Avenue from 11:45-12:30. Here we will make a stop to view the various artists’ works as they display their interpretation of the earth’s most valuable element that is essential to all life — water. Also see a collection of charcoal and pencil drawings, oil and watercolor paintings, and ceramic sculptures created by the former mayor of Cedarburg, Stephan Fischer. This exhibition offers a glimpse of coexistence of governance and artistic expression through the eyes of the artist.

Following the art museum, our group will have lunch at Dorsey’s Café and Market (W63N657 Washington Avenue) at 12:45 p.m. Here you will be able to select from hot/cold sandwiches, salads, or items from the grill. Please plan on paying for your lunch that day.

Reserve spots at both museums and the cafe, by contacting Gayle Best by June 19.

## ROAD AMERICA TOUR SPOTS FILLED

Twenty FFGM members — the maximum — have signed up for a May 1 private tour of Road America, the longest of NASCAR courses, between Plymouth and Elkhart Lake. The group also will do some shopping and admire the murals in downtown Plymouth, then have an early supper at Chissy’s supper club in Waldo.

## MAY 14: W.H.E.T.

In case you’ve forgotten over the long, cold winter months, W.H.E.T. stands for Walking, Hiking, Eating, Talking. As the weather improves, this opportunity to mingle with your FFGM friends, get a little exercise, and grab a treat to eat is making a comeback.

The first W.H.E.T. of 2024 will take place at the Elm Grove Village Park, 13600 W. Juneau Blvd.

We will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the gazebo near the library. Afterwards we can head to nearby RJ’s Ice Cream Shop for a treat.

R.S.V.P. to Ann Line so that we know to look for you before heading out.

## MAY 16: ethnic event

A Klezmer Concert of Eastern European Jewish Music will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at the Rubenstein Pavilion at Ovation Chai Point, 1400 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. The cost is \$10.

# JUNE 12: theater outing to Lapham Peak State Park

We'll gather Wednesday, June 12, for a picnic dinner and the play "Steel Magnolias" at the Summer Stage Theater at Lapham Peak State Park, W329 N846 County Highway C, Delafield.

Bring chairs/blankets, food and beverages (candy, chips, beer, wine and soda also are sold onsite) and meet at the park on-site box office at 6 p.m. We'll park there and walk together about 300 yards to the stage area. (A free shuttle is available.)

There, we'll set up our chairs, have dinner and enjoy the park before the 7:30 p.m. performance. Tickets cost \$13 and will be available later this spring from the online box office. You will purchase

your own tickets. Once the box office has opened, we'll send an email with final details on ticket prices for this season.

There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle unless you have a state park sticker. We will set up carpooling to the parking area.

See [www.summerstageofdelafield.org/plan-your-visit](http://www.summerstageofdelafield.org/plan-your-visit) for more information on weather, parking, etc.

Please text or email Mary Wacker with your name, contact information and whether you would like to carpool or be a driver.



## SEEING GREEN

A couple dozen Irish-at-heart members gathered in March in New Berlin for a 5th @ 5 hosted by Terry and John O'Dell.



## HISTORY IN-DEPTH

Seventeen FFGM members and soon-to-be members got a last look at Milwaukee Public Museum exhibits that will be changed when a new museum is built. Guides described the Native American exhibit and took us through the Streets of Old Milwaukee. Lunch at another old favorite — Mader's Restaurant — followed.



## 'FILL THE VAN' FOR DESPENSA DE LA PAZ

Despensa de La Paz, the food pantry that our FFGM club members support through volunteering, in late winter experienced two major floods within three weeks. Sadly, the pantry lost office furniture, technology, supplies and 21,000 pounds of food.

Let's help this food pantry restock its shelves! Please take a look around your kitchen or add a few items to your grocery cart and bring items to the Spring Fling

on May 18. Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned proteins (tuna and chicken) and boxed cereal are especially needed.

On May 18, look for the gray van outside the Greendale Community Church. Gayle Best and Mary Cimbalnik will make sure your food items are delivered safely to Despensa de La Paz. Thank you so much for your support.



## PHUN PHOBRUARY

Noodles were slurped and heads were bobbing on Feb. 21 when FFGM enjoyed a Phobruary special of pho at Vientiane Noodle Shop and then visited the National Bobblehead Museum, featuring more than 10,000 Bobbleheads.



## HISTORICAL OCOMOWOC

About two dozen FFGM members and prospective members spent an April morning at the Oconomowoc Historical Society and Museum, learning about the small city's fascinating past. Lunch at Maxim's in the city's old train depot followed.



**MARK  
LAUX AND  
WENDY  
JABAS**



We both grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin but our paths didn't cross until we met at UW-Madison. Wendy's degree was in Social Work and Mark's was in Finance. Love and marriage followed, and we raised two sons in Brown Deer. Wendy retired from a career spent mostly in geriatric social work, and Mark is a CPA and is retired from Fiserv. We are enjoying retirement life in Cedarburg. Our two sons are both married, and each has two beautiful daughters whom we adore.

Wendy enjoys reading, hiking, canoeing, volunteering, and travel, among other things. Her special passion is raising sturgeon for the DNR at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg as part of an effort to reintroduce this species to the Milwaukee River basin. Mark is an avid cyclist and enjoys the same outdoor sports and travel as Wendy. He regularly volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Milwaukee and is on the board of JFS Housing in Brown Deer.

We became acquainted with Dorothy and Ed Kelley at church and were intrigued to hear of the travel and friendship opportunities of Friendship Force. Mark experienced a home stay with a family in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank and found it to be a very meaningful experience. We also had the opportunity to spend time in a rural town in Honduras and explore the country with our younger son and daughter-in-law when they were serving in the Peace Corps. Other travels have taken us to several European countries, plus Mark's business travel took him to Costa Rica, India, Singapore, and Australia. We look forward to engaging in Friendship Force activities and travel and getting to know club members.