



President's Message

In my last message to you I wrote about INVOLVEMENT and I would like to continue on that theme. Ideally, I hope you have considered how you might become more involved in FFGM. In doing so, FFGM can become more meaningful and relevant to you and your contribution can help FFGM thrive even more. You will get to know more members and to know them better.

How about some specific ideas? 5th at 5 needs hosts for May, July, October, and November. Open World (June 7 – 15) and the Japanese Language Learners Journey (July 17 – 23) are both looking for home hosts and dinner hosts.

Not able to host? Simply join us for Celtic Nights on March 2 preceded by dinner together if you wish. Come and enjoy Syrian cuisine at the new Damascus Gate on March 18. Do you like to read? Check out the March 7 Book Club discussion of The Wandering Falcon.

Are you into computers? FFGM is looking for help on our newsletter, website, and Facebook page.



Ann Line, President

Thank you.

If you have a skill to offer, please share it with us. We welcome your participation in any and all of our activities. Your contribution is wanted, needed, and encouraged. Let's get to know one another better. How? By getting involved!

Calendar of Events

2019

- 03/02Celtic Nights event
- 03/055th @ 5, Barbara Barrett
- 03/07Book Club
- 03/18Damascus Gate Restaurant
- 04/01Board Meeting
- 04/055th @ 5, Humitz home
- 04/06-12Tallahassee, FL, Outbound
- 04/23Montreal Workshop, Tosa Library
- 04/26Open Door Café Service project
- 05/19Spring Fling, Fox & Hounds, Brunch
- 06/03Board Meeting
- 06/07-15Open World, Ukraine, Inbound
- 07/17-23English Language. (Japan), Inbound
- 07/19Annual Picnic, Thiensville Park
- 07/23-25FFI World Conference, Boulder, CO
With 2 day tour option afterwards
- 08/05Board Meeting
- 09/04-11FF-Montreal, Canada, Outbound
With an extension to Quebec City
- 10/TBDBaton Rouge, Inbound
- 10/7Board Meeting
- 12/2Board Meeting

See inside for more event dates

2020

- TBDSanta Barbara, CA, Inbound
- TBDLeadership Training Conference, Inbound



FFGM has a busy schedule for the months ahead. Check where you can participate or volunteer.

Getting involved is the best way to create friendships and to contribute to the success of the Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee

CELTIC NIGHTS MARCH 2

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early.

There is a group of 12 Friendship Force members who have signed up for this event and we have purchased group discount tickets for them.

Other club members indicated that they might be interested in attending performance. Here is a deal for you: Michelle at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center will sell discounted tickets at \$30 to anyone in our club who purchases advance tickets and identifies themselves as a member of Friendship Force. This offer is for tickets purchased in advance only and will not be available at the door. Contact Michelle at 414-766-5049.

We will be going to The Gourmet House (800 Milwaukee Avenue, South Milwaukee) for



dinner before the show at 5:00 p.m. A group reservation will be made, but each person will order and purchase his/her own dinner. Members and guests are welcome to join us for dinner, the show (purchase your own tickets if you are not in the group of 12), or both.

To be included in dinner reservations contact Cris Reischl at creischl@hotmail.com or 414-425-9300. To see a preview and description of the show go to <http://southmilwaukeepac.org/event/celticnights>

Celtic Nights: Oceans of Hope is a story of the Irish told in song, music, dance, and narration. It presents its story of crossing oceans in hopes of freedom. 'The Epic journeys of our Ancestors' This new production of Celtic Nights-Oceans of Hope captures the very essence of who we are, where we came from, the dreams of a better place, liberty, Freedom and above all ...family. It's the story of America, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. It's the story of people.

Damascus Gate Restaurant Mar. 18, Save the date!

A new Syrian Restaurant, Damascus Gate, 807 W. Mitchell St. is our destination for an ethnic dinner on Monday, March 18, at 1 pm.



We will sample an array of Syrian dishes including tabbouleh, stuffed eggplant, falafel, grilled vegetables, stuffed zucchini, chicken and ground beef kebabs, hummus, salad, baba ganoush, rice, Arabic bread, kibbeh, grape leaves, soda and water. Coffee or Turkish coffee is included with dessert: kanafa, Syrian rice pudding or baklava (no extra charge).

Restaurant staff will be available to tell us about the various dishes we will be served. A reservation for this wonderful meal is \$18.00 per person. Send checks made out to FFGM to Mary Coughlin, 16860 A Lake Road, Brookfield WI 53005. Reservation deadline is March 10. Any questions contact Mary at 262-395-4667. Read an interesting article found in JSonline: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/money/real-estate/commercial/2019/01/03/1yrian-restaurant-opening-milwaukee-family-fled-civil-war/2465451002/>

Japanese Inbound English-Practicing Program

The committee has been busy planning fun, educational, and cultural activities for 14 Japanese ambassadors whose goal is to improve their English. So all activities have an element of telling what was learned. We still need home and day hosts (July 17-23), and committee members.



Contact JC Gary Drescher, at 414-489-7769 or gdrescher2001@yahoo.com or JC Joe Geck, 262-542-2960, geckj@icloud.com with questions or for volunteering.

Open World, Jun. 7-15

Delegates from the Ukraine will be coming here to study infrastructure this year. The visiting group will include five participants, one



facilitator, and one interpreter. Since this is in the early planning stage, watch the future issues for more details. If you have any questions, contact HC Bob at 262-242-4653 or

rblazich@gmail.com

Tallahassee, FL, Apr. 06-12

Thirteen Ambassadors are looking forward to a visit to warmer Florida. Rosie Haas and Nancy Mitchell report plans are underway. Questions: contact Rosie Haas at rmhaas1@gmail.com or 414-259-1747 or Nancy Mitchell at rjmitch@execpc.com or 262-646-2842.

Montreal, Outbound

Workshop, April 23

A meeting for the Montreal ambassadors will be held on Tuesday, **April 23, 6:15 pm** at the Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room.

Plans are underway for an exciting journey. Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee is going to Montreal September 4 -11 with an extension to Quebec City, September 11-14.

Twenty members have signed up and there is now a waiting list.

Contact JC, Dorothy Kelley at 414-573-0107 or dorothykelley60@gmail.com

Annual Picnic, July 19

Mark your calendar for the popular summer Annual Picnic. The location and price are yet to be determined. Come to meet visiting Ambassadors from Japan. Watch for details in future newsletters.

Book Club



The March 7th meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Mitchell, W289 N1336 Elmhurst Dr., Waukesha. R.S.V.P. to Nancy at rjmitch@execpc.com. The book is The Wandering Falcon (Pakistan/Afghanistan) by Jamil Ahmad.

Here are the books that have been chosen for 2019:

May 2: Cry the Beloved Country (South Africa) by Alan Paton

Jul. 11: Bury Your Dead by Louise Penny and The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier, (both Quebec, Canada)

Sept. 5: Beneath the Scarlet Sky (Italy) by Mark T. Sullivan

Nov. 7: The Tiger's Wife (The Balkans) by Tea Obreht

Hui's Cooking Demo

Thirteen FFGM members enjoyed a Chinese cooking demonstration on Feb. 2 at Hui's Chinese restaurant in Wauwatosa. Rose Hui showed us the "Happy Family" dish and provided many cooking tips for wok cooking. We feasted on other Chinese dishes as well, including sweet and sour chicken, pepper steak, fried rice, and eggrolls.



Fifth at Five Events

These popular 5th at 5 events are attended by a great group of members, newcomers and lots of guests. What a great opportunity to meet your friends and to get acquainted with FFGM.

Volunteer to host for a few remaining 2019 Fifth at Five events.

This is an easy activity to arrange. Plan it with another member if you wish. Choose either your home or a local place to bring members together for a fun evening. If interested, contact Barbara Geck at 262-542-2960 or geckj@icloud.com. It is a worthwhile and fun volunteer opportunity.

Date	Host/Address	RSVP Phone, Email
March 5	Barbara Barrett W277N1592 Lakeview Drive, Pewaukee, WI 53072	262-542-2282, bbarrett3@wi.rr.com
April 5	Michelle and Norman Humitz 3811 Turnwood Drive, Richfield, WI 53076	414-416-1107, hello.its.me.michelle@gmail.com
May 5	Open	
June 5	Nancy and Bob Mitchell W289 N1336 Elmhurst Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188	262-646-2842, rjmitch@execpc.com
July 5	TBD	
Aug. 5	Barbara and Joseph Geck 1258 Seitz Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186	262-542-2960, barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com
Sept. 5	Sally and Dan Natchek W125S7587 Essex Court, Muskego, WI 53150	414-235-8725, Sally.natchek@sbcglobal.net
Oct. 5	TBD	
Nov. 5	TBD	
Dec. 5	Barbara and Joseph Geck 1258 Seitz Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186 Call 414-379-6889 if you need directions.	262-542-2960, barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com

The January 5th at 5 event was hosted by Inge Adams. Everyone enjoyed lots of fellowship and fine food.





Spring Fling – Fox and Hounds, May 19th

Plans are underway. This event will be a noon brunch at the picturesque Fox and Hounds Restaurant located at 1298 Friess Lake Rd., Hubertus, WI. 53033. The cost will be approximately \$18/p. Car-pooling may be arranged. Details will be in the next newsletter so plan on the date.

FFGM Executive and Operating Board

President	Ann Line	262-784-3085	linerusy@yahoo.com
Co-Vice-President.....	Bob 'Mitch' & Nancy Mitchell	262-646-2842	rjmitch@execpc.com
Secretary	Louise Cieslak	414-418-4541	lamck58@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer.....	Dale Harmelink	414-355-4676	dalelink627@gmail.com
Interim Assistant Treasurer.....	Dorothy Krupa	262-894-7076	dorothykrupa@me.com
Ex-President	Sara Harmelink.....	414-355-4676	hlinkds@gmail.com
Activities Co-Chairpersons	Mary Hauser	414-466-5688	mhauser2012@att.net
	Ann Line	262-784-3085	linerusy@yahoo.com
Leadership Development	Dave Kalan.....	414-766-6056	dakalan@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Chris Vogel	414-257-2982	cvogel@wi.rr.com
Communications	Doris Mueller.....	414-778-1108	calldmm@gmail.com
Fundraising.....	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 Outreach.....	Sue Pack	414-351-5572	spack@wi.rr.com
Archivist	Rosie Hass	414-259-1747	rmhaas1@gmail.com
FFGM Store	Charlotte Button	262-835-4124	ca_b@msn.com

COORDINATORS: HC = HOST COORDINATOR, JC = JOURNEY COORDINATOR

Tallahassee, FL, Outbound	JC Rosie Hass	414-259-1747	rmhaas1@gmail.com
	JC Nancy Mitchell	262-646-2842	rjmitch@execpc.com
Montreal, Canada, Outbound.....	JC Dorothy Kelley	414-573-0107	dorothykelley60@gmail.com
English Language, Inbound	HC Gary Drescher	414-489-7769	gdrescher2001@yahoo.com
	HC Joe Geck	262-542-2960	geckj@icloud.com
Open World, Inbound	HC Bob Blazich	262-242-4653	rblazich@gmail.com

WEBSITES & CONTACT INFORMATION

Midwest Regional FFI Rep.	Dale Moore	mooredale@imonmail.com
Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee Websites:	www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org	
	(Also under Wisconsin clubs on FFI website)	www.friendshipforce.org
FFGM on Facebook		www.fb.me/joinFFGM
Friendship Force International	1-800-554-6715	FFI@thefriendshipforce.org
FFI website	FAX 1-404-688-6148	www.friendshipforce.org
FFI NEW mailing address	400 W. Peachtree St. NW, Suite 4-980, Atlanta, GA 30308	

Open Door Café Service

This is a volunteer service activity of FFGM. The remaining 2019 dates for serving at the Open Door Café are Apr 26, Jun 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, and Dec 27. To volunteer, contact Sue Pack at 414-351-5572 or spack@wi.rr.com.

Membership

Updates:

Geck, Barbara email:
barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com

Goeks, Mary new address
1100 W. Estates Dr., 124N
Mequon, WI 53042

The Friendship Force Newsletter
A bi-monthly publication of FFGM
Editor & E-newsletter: Doris Mueller
Proof-reader: Dave Kalan
USPS Mailing: Joe and Barbara Geck



Remember



A number of FFGM Members have lost close family members recently. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Gayle Best, her mother; Michelle Humitz, her mother; and Cindy Hum, her aunt.

Recalling 2018 FFI Festival at Sea Transatlantic Cruise



FFI: Jo, Jeremi & Laura



Over 90 FF passengers on the voyage.



Several Lincoln Center Musicians

April 22 to May 10 of 2018, Doris Mueller and Mary Goeks went on the Friendship Force 18 day Festival at Sea transatlantic cruise on the Holland America's MS Zuiderdam. We could select tours at the countries we were visiting or explore on our own. Stops at the ports on the itinerary included: Kings Wharf, Bermuda; Horta Azores, Portugal; Ponta Delgada Sao Miquel, Azores, Portugal, Southampton, England; Cherbourg (Normandy), France; Zeebrugge, (Brussels), Belgium; Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Copenhagen, Denmark.



MS Zuiderdam



Azores, Portugal



With Hera & Peter, FF-Adelaide



Amsterdam, The Netherlands

After 1 night in Fort Lauderdale and meeting many of our fellow passengers, we boarded the ship and joined many of the 90 plus FF members for a wine and cheese reception. Throughout the trip FF president, Jeremi Snook and staff, Laura Romero provided us with 4 major FF workshops that were engaging and enlightening. Jo Custead, Chair of FFI Board of Directors planned the daily Happy Hour set aside for the FF passengers.

Being at sea was no time to be idle. We were given a multitude of options... for example America's Test Kitchen, BBC Earth Experiences, Microsoft Digital Workshops, and Exploration Central with electronic board games, map discoveries and group games and puzzles. There was swimming, spa, Pilates, ping pong, Texas Hold'em tournaments, art of flower arranging or artistic towel folding, and a 5K deck walk for a cause, bridge classes or casino fun.

Of the many FF members aboard ship it was easy to develop relationships, especially being seated at a table for 8 during each sumptuous evening dinner. What a great opportunity for us to exchange ideas, share adventures, and build new friendships. Besides the breakfasts and lunches at the array of offerings at Pinnacle Grill, evenings we could choose from 3 fine dining locations and 3 casual dining options. We made many new friends and now have new connections for future inbound and outbound journeys here and abroad.

Entertainment was varied. European musicians played splendid classical music every evening after dinner at the Lincoln Center Stage. Others preferred the upbeat B.B. King's Blues Club. Best were the grand Main Stage shows featuring 1st class performers or shows. And that was only onboard the ship!! We were even able to watch 1st run movies in our suite. Never a dull moment.

A stop at each port offered either a prepaid tour or the option to explore on one's own. Here are only a few unique highlights: touring organic tea plantation and factory; strolling through botanical orchid gardens; partaking of healing hot spring waters; exploring a seaside fishing village; experiencing a chocolatier's skills and tasting the delicious products; discovering a city's walls and underground vaults; and filming windmills, canals and wooden shoe-making and much, much more. This was truly a voyage of faces AND places!

If you yearn for a different kind of FF adventurous journey, do consider a future FF Festival at Sea Voyage.

~ Doris Mueller

What is your story? It will be included in the newsletter as space allows. Send to Doris at calldmm@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER MILWAUKEE – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print – One Form Per Person

Last Name _____

Home Phone _____

First name _____

Cell Phone _____

Street _____

E-mail _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Is any of your information new? Yes No

Please check any of the following that you use: FFGM website Facebook FFI Website

Texting LinkedIn Twitter Skype WebEx

Age range: Under 36 Age 36-50 Age 51-65 Age 65 +

Language(s) _____ Very Little Good Fluent

Referral source: friend/neighbor _____ website media other _____

Current or former vocation _____

EVERYONE IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE BY SERVING ON AT LEAST ONE COMMITTEE OR HELPING WITH ONE OR MORE OF OUR INBOUND OR OUTBOUND JOURNEYS. PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE BELOW.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS: Photography Publicity FFGM Facebook Website

ACTIVITIES: Event Set-up/Clean-up Food Preparation Planning a 5th at 5 event

MEMBERSHIP Greeter Mentor Collect Survey Information Directory Assistance

JOURNEY ACTIVITIES Journey Coordinator Be a traveling Ambassador Home Host Day Host

Dinner Host Number of guests _____ Planning Committee Driving Have a Van? Yes No

SPECIAL SKILLS Website Fund Raising Outreach/speaker Public Relations

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES: Single (\$35) Family (\$65) Hardcopy Newsletter (\$10)

(Optional) Donation to FFGM: \$500 to \$1,000 or more _____ \$250 to \$499 _____

\$100 to \$249 _____ \$10 to \$99 _____ **Tax-deductible Donation Amount** _____

Note: All donors will receive an acknowledgement from FFGM for tax purposes.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Check one: New Member Renewal New Member Benefits: Bi-monthly E-Newsletter, Name Badge.

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY: FREE NAME BADGE. The badge is 3 3/8" wide x 2" high with full color logo with your name and club name in black. Print your name exactly as it should appear on the badge: (Maximum number of characters is 22).

Choice of fastener: _____ Pin _____ Bulldog Clip _____ Magnet

Applicants: Please attach or email a high resolution head shot photo, (a close-up of 100 KB or more).
(Members have the option to send a new photo to replace one sent in the past.)
This is for the FFGM club directory. (The directory is for club use only.)

Make dues check payable to: **Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee (or FFGM).**
Send photo, check and completed application to: **FFGM c/o Dale Harmelink**
2911 W. Bradley Rd., River Hills, WI 53217-2052

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee
Ann Line, President
165 N. Elmridge Ave.
Brookfield, WI 53005

If undeliverable, return to sender

Experience Different Views Discover Common Ground

PHILOSOPHY: Every friendship formed across the barriers of nationality, language, religion or politics makes the world a better place.

HISTORY: Founded in 1977 by Wayne Smith with US President Jimmy Carter. Honored with a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 1992. Celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2017.

WHAT: A non-profit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay Journeys and personal friendships. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends – and we know that by experiencing different views, you can discover common ground. Friendship Force International conducts over 300 programs every year, in over 350 communities throughout more than 60 countries.

Our programs bring diverse people together into each other's cultures and homes to share one-of-a-kind experiences not available to regular tourists. When you travel or host with the Friendship Force, you get to know real people by sharing real life. Friendships are formed that often last a lifetime.

HOW: Our unique Friendship Force Journeys provide international travelers with opportunities to be hosted by local people, and to be treated to a local experience in places around the world, seeing the world through other people's eyes.

WHO: Friendship Force members are ordinary people like you, living all over the world, who are eager to welcome you into their culture and their life, sharing insights and experiences that are not available to tourists. By sharing experiences, a home, meals, and conversations, we believe we can reach a new level of understanding among the human family.

For details about Friendship Force, see our website at www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org