



friendship force

G R E A T E R M I L W A U K E E

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.



November – December, 2020

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

President's Message



Ann Line, President

How are you doing? I hope you are healthy and happy and busy. FFGM is here for you. Although Covid-19 does not make it possible to present our full agenda of activities, you are encouraged to stay INVOLVED remotely via Zoom. It is definitely not the same, but we can still see and hear one another and that's better than nothing right now. So, tune in for Trivia Evening, the 5th at 5, and the Annual Meeting. As for in-person with social distancing, check out the FFGM Book Club and the hike at the Forest Exploration Center. All details are in this newsletter.

Even though I am writing this article in late October it will be my last President's Message to you. It hardly seems possible that my time as your FFGM President will soon end. Who would have ever thought that this past year would have curtailed so many plans and activities? You probably have noticed that WOW! and INVOLVEMENT may be my favorite words, but I will tell you that CANCELLATION is one of my least favorite words. This, too, shall pass and we will see each other again in person. When that time comes, make a resolution to become more INVOLVED. You don't need to wait to be asked. Offer to help. Everyone has skills and talents to share. Sometimes it takes something big like this year to remind us of what really matters.

GRATITUDE is another favorite word. My parents taught me to be grateful. You can never say

thank you enough if you do it sincerely. Thus I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president these past two years. I thank you for your support, encouragement, kind words, and INVOLVEMENT. Thank you to all of you FFGM members for caring enough to be a member of this wonderful organization. Thank you to those of you who have served on committees, who have hosted 5th (President's letter continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events Update

The 5th at 5 events: always will be on the 5th of each month, except July.

- 10/30 Zoom Meeting – Clarification of By-laws Amendment and Q&A
- 11/05 5th at 5, Michelle and Norm Humitz' home AND via Zoom
- 11/11 Book Club. "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" (Hmong) – Brookfield Library
- 11/14 Hike at Forest Conservation Center, Wauwatosa
- 11/16 Deadline for returning ballots for vote on By-laws Amendment
- 11/23 Trivia via Zoom
- 12/01 Annual Meeting via Zoom
- 12/05 5th at 5, Valentinelli's home AND via Zoom
- 12/07 Board Meeting via Zoom

2021 – TENTATIVE

- November – Tucson Outbound
- May or September – Karsiyaka, Turkey Outbound
- Summer or Fall – Connecticut Inbound
- October – Toulouse, France Inbound

We know there are travel concerns due to the Virus situation. We have scheduled journeys for 2021 which are currently tentative. No plans have been made or coordinators assigned. If you have questions, contact Ann Line

FFGM Annual Dinner Meeting and Elections

Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020

This will be an Annual Meeting like none other. No need to dress up, no need to send in dinner reservations, no need to drive if the weather is bad! How much easier could it get? Just tune in to Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1. Start off December with your Friendship Force friends! The Zoom link will be sent at a date closer to the meeting.

Please join us for: *Business Meeting, *Election of Officers, *Treasurer's Report, *President's Report, and *Journey Updates. There will be surprises and prizes to be won, but you **must** be present to win.

2020 Election of Officers

Candidates for Co-President: Bob and Nancy Mitchell

Bob, who prefers to be called "Mitch," has spent the last two years with his wife as Co-Vice President, learning the job of president. He has been a member of FFGM for more than 20 years, as an ambassador (as they used to be called), and hosting travelers and Open World participants. He has had many memorable journeys with Friendship Force and wishes to repay the hospitality he has experienced.

Mitch was a college instructor for 35 years, and continues to educate as a docent at the Milwaukee Art Museum and teaching for the Learning in Retirement program of WCTC. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Delafield Library Board.

Nancy has participated in many Friendship Force journeys worldwide which has broadened her understanding of people and places. In addition to the wonderful journeys Mitch and Nancy have hosted travelers from many parts of the world. In addition to travel and hosting through Friendship Force they are longtime members of Servas, a person to person organization which includes travel and hosting. Nancy is currently an interviewer for US Servas and has served on the board.

Nancy was a special education teacher for many years before becoming the Director of Special Ed for a consortium of schools in the Hartland area and continued after retirement to supervise student teachers as well as teach graduate classes.

Every journey, hosting and teaching experience is a learning experience in understanding the importance of person to person interaction which will continue to be shared.



Membership Dues Renewal

October 31st is the time for renewing your 2021 FFGM membership

If you didn't receive an invoice by email, contact

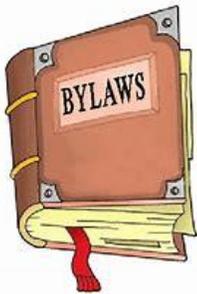
Treasurer Dorothy Krupa ffgreatermilwaukee2@gmail.com

(President's letter, continued from page 1)

at 5 gatherings, Book Club, and Trivia Evenings, who have planned ethnic luncheons and Annual Picnics, did leadership training, helped on service projects, and spear-headed strategic planning initiatives. Much gratitude is due our Journey and Ambassador and Open World Coordinators as well as those who have hosted and driven and fed our visiting ambassadors. A big thanks to those who put together the newsletter you are now reading: the editors, the proofreaders, the mailers. I want to give a special thank you to the FFGM Board for your many hours of work and advice. You have all stepped up to the plate. This organization could not continue without your dedication.

Although this will be my last President's Message in the newsletter, I still will do my bi-weekly "Keep-In-Touch" emails and handle my duties until the end of 2020. It is more important than ever to stay connected.

Come January 1, Nancy and Bob Mitchell will take over as co-presidents. Thank you to them for being willing to serve. Best Wishes to both of you!



BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

Dear FFGM Members,

Due to Covid-19 we are unable to hold in-person meetings of our organization. Since our FFGM by-laws neither address nor allow virtual meetings we are in violation and must amend our by-laws in order to be in compliance. The by-laws must be amended by a quorum of 20% of the members. The proposed amendment is as follows:

"The Board of Directors, standing committees, special meetings and any other meetings are authorized to meet by telephone, web conference or other electronic communications media so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. The annual meeting may be conducted in such a virtual setting if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors."

"Amendments to the By-laws shall take effect immediately upon their approval unless a later effective date is specified at the time of adoption."

You will receive a mailing via the U.S. Postal System with an enclosed ballot and envelope for you to sign and return with your vote. In advance of the mailing a Zoom session to discuss and answer any questions concerning the by-law amendment is scheduled for FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 at 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM. Please contact Bob Mitchell at rjmitch1336@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom link.

Thank you for your support of FFGM.

Ann Line
President, FFGM

You should have already received an email detailing the need for a by-laws amendment on virtual meetings. Look for a ballot and envelope to arrive in the U.S. Mail System. Here are the dates you need to remember:

Zoom Question/Answer Meeting: Oct. 30 6:30 p.m.

Ballot Return Date: by Nov. 16 in U.S. Mail System

Fifth at Five Events

With the weather getting chillier outside, the 5th at 5 Events will need to move inside. To better accommodate everyone we will be trying a two-prong approach in November and December. For those comfortable with meeting indoors there will be a 5th at 5 inside as usual but with a limit of 10 – 12 persons and masks. You MUST reserve ahead of time by contacting the host. For those more comfortable with not meeting inside, there will be 5th at 5 on Zoom. The link will be sent closer to the date. It's up to you to do whichever way you prefer but do choose to show up on the 5th of the month.

Questions: contact **Barbara Geck** at **262-542-2960** or barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com.

Nov. 5 Host: **Michelle and Norm Humitz, 414-416-1107,**
hello.its.me.michelle@gmail.com
3811 Turnwood Dr., Richfield, WI 53076

Dec. 5 Host: **Helen Valentinelli, 262-544-6840, nhvalentinelli@wi.rr.com**
W222 N2609 Glenwood Lane, Springdale Estates off Springdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53186

For those doing the 5th at 5 on Zoom we will have a theme to get the conversation going.

Nov. 5: Bring your favorite mug(s) and show and tell why it's your favorite.

Dec. 5: Thanksgiving: How was it different this year? What are some of your family's favorite traditions or food? Do you have a special childhood Thanksgiving memory?

October 5th at 5



Nancy
Rubly

Clarine
Furey

Kathryn
Heydenhoff

Barbara
Barrett

Welcome



New Member – Linda VanDyne I grew up in Milwaukee and moved to New Berlin after getting married. We have 2 daughters; my youngest is at the University of Illinois in Champaign pursuing a doctorate degree and my older daughter is a high school teacher in Union Grove. She and her husband just had a baby girl in June, so we are first time grandparents! I received my undergraduate degree in Information Systems at UW-Milwaukee, after a long 8 years of working full time and attending night classes. I threw my legal secretarial job out the window when I graduated and moved into the world of technology. I went on to get an MBA at Cardinal Stritch (nights and weekends, of course), propelling me into a career in IT. I've travelled pretty extensively in the U.S. but I've had limited experiences outside our borders. My well-planned retirement in March of this year was supposed to help remedy that, but we all know how travelling in 2020 has worked out (not!). After 45 years in the workforce, there has been more than enough to keep me busy and happy at home. I'm looking forward to enjoying some old passions (joined a choir in January) and pursuing some new ones. I joined the Friendship Force after seeing the variety of trips and activities you had to offer, the volunteer opportunities and also in hopes of making some new friends along the way. I love being outdoors, enjoy gardening, cooking, baking, reading, art museums, movies, photography, card games/board games, craft fairs.... I'm pretty much up for anything and am not one to sit still for long. Everyone in the club has been very welcoming and I look forward to getting to know you better.



FFGM Book Club

The last FFGM Book Club of 2020 will meet on November 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Brookfield Library located at 1900 N. Calhoun Road. We will meet in the Community Room (to the right off the lobby) which is very large and conducive to social distancing. You must wear a mask.

The book to be discussed is "The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down" (Hmong) by Anne Fadiman. In addition to discussing this book, we will choose the books that we will be reading in 2021. The books may be fiction or non-fiction and must deal with another culture or take place in a foreign country. Please come with your ideas for books to read next year and be prepared to make the case for your book selection.



Virtual Travel

FFI hosts some very interesting virtual experiences. Past events are usually recorded and posted for future viewing.

Go to the FFI website: <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>



Trivia Evening Updates

- Sept. 29: TRIVIA EVENING #4:
Winner: Ann Line
- Oct. 26: TRIVIA EVENING #5:
Winner: Bob Mitchell
- Nov. 23: TRIVIA EVENING #6:
Winner: It could be you!**



Let's Go for a Hike!

What can we do to get together in November before the snow flies? How about a crisp November hike? It's outside and we can socially distance. We will start with an easy hike at the Forest Exploration Center. There is a new 2020 nature trail loop that is level, on crushed gravel, and ADA accessible. The one mile loop traverses a beautiful forest with a canopy of hardwood trees. It is a hidden gem in the middle of the city. There are interpretive signs along the route to educate about the forest and the 158 species of birds that can be found there. There are other trails nearby to check out if you wish to hike more. After doing the new nature loop, you are invited to participate in a socially distanced tailgate so we can visit. Bring a lawn chair, mask, and a snack. Dress warmly! R.S.V.P. to Ann Line.

WHERE? Forest Exploration Center: 1800 Forest Exploration Dr., Wauwatosa, WI 53226.

Directions. Exit Watertown Plank Rd. off the expressway and go west to Swan Blvd. Turn right at the stop lights, go past the Park and Ride, and enter the roundabout. Look for the blue sign with Forest Exploration Center as you circle the roundabout and take that road to the parking area.

WHEN? Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m.

WHY? To get some exercise, to see one another, to do something different! **Why Not?**

Other Hiking Opportunities

Clarine Furey, FFGM Community Connections Chair, has connections with "Vagabonds". Every Sunday "Vagabonds" has hiking opportunities in various areas in the Milwaukee metro area. Please contact Clarine at 262-993-8050 for details on hike locations and times.

FFGM Updates

Filled: Sunshine Chair
Cris Reischl, effective immediately
 Thanks, Cris!

Filled: Membership Chair
Dorothy Kelley, effective January 1, 2020
 Thanks, Dorothy!

Still Open: FFGM Store
 Call Ann Line if you're interested in this opportunity.



Happy Birthday!

If your birthday is in November or December, FFGM wishes you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If your birthday was in any other month in 2020, FFGM wishes you a HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

FFGM Executive and Operating Board

President	Ann Line.....	262-784-3085.....	linerusy@yahoo.com
Co-Vice-Presidents	Bob & Nancy Mitchell	262-646-2842.....	rjmitch@execpc.com
Secretary	Carole DeRoche	414-421-7857.....	carolederoche@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dorothy Krupa	262-894-7076.....	dorothykrupa@me.com
Ex-President & Membership.....	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	414-208-0135.....	calldmm@gmail.com
Fundraising	Ed Kelley	262-375-1616.....	edkelley88@gmail.com
	Donna Baldwin-Haut	414-550-4450.....	djhaut2006@sbcglobal.net
5 th at 5 Events	Barbara Geck	262-542-2960.....	barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com
Community Outreach.....	Sue Pack.....	414-351-5572.....	spack@wi.rr.com
Community Connections	Clarine Furey.....	262-993-8050.....	Clarineaf@yahoo.com
Archivist	Rosie Haas	414-259-1747.....	rmhaas1@gmail.com
FFGM Store	Charlotte Button	262-835-4124.....	ca_b@msn.com

COORDINATORS: HC = HOST COORDINATOR, AC = JOURNEY COORDINATOR

2021

Tucson, AZ, Outbound, Domestic.....	Open.....
Karsigaka,Turkey, Outbound, International	Open.....
FF-Connecticut, Inbound, Domestic	Open.....

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	https://www.facebook.com/groups/129406703803635/	
Friendship Force International	1-800-554-6715	FFI@thefriendshipforce.org
FFI website	FAX 1-404-688-6148	www.friendshipforce.org
FFI NEW mailing address	279 Crogan St., Lawrenceville GA 30046	

Note: For inbound journeys, the title is HC, (host coordinator), and for outbound journeys the title is AC, (ambassador coordinator) Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee

Ann Line, President
165 Elmridge Ave.
Brookfield, WI 53005

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For details about Friendship Force, see
our website at [www.friendshipforcemil-
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