



friendship force

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

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.



January-February, 2021

www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org

Presidents' Message



Nancy and Bob Mitchell
Co-Presidents

Why is FFGM having two people sharing the office of President? Obviously, it will take two people to match the performance of the retiring Ann Line, admired for her enthusiasm, creativity, humor and resolve. She has dealt with the restrictions on social interaction by instituting virtual meetings so that members can still interact and the Board continue to govern. Guided by the principle of "Keep in Touch," Ann asked members to telephone one another just to do just that. We were even able to do the "5th at 5" meetings. But what about travel? We make no promises as to when FFGM can journey or host, but we promise to keep you informed as we learn more. As a poor substitute, perhaps, there are many virtual journeys available on the internet, from the FFI website and hundreds of other sites. Books, articles, and lectures on travel and culture are rewarding and are material for discussions. Send us notice, by our e-mails, of the ones you've found interesting. We wish to thank Sara and Dale Harmelink for their years of service to FFGM, retiring most recently as Membership Coordinator and Treasurer, respectively. They will continue to be active

members. And our nomination for club MVP for the year 2020 is Rosie Haas who was invaluable in keeping us "in touch" with her communications. But most of all, our thanks to our members who participated in our activities, made financial contributions and yes, remained patient. Better days ahead!

Calendar of Events

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

- 1/05 5th at 5, via Zoom
- 1/08 "Chocolate" presentation by Dawn Scher Thomae via Zoom
- 1/13 Book Club. "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri (India) via Zoom
- 1/18 Trivia Evening #7 via Zoom
- 2/05 5th at 5, via Zoom

2021 – TENTATIVE

- September – Karsiyaka (Izmir), Turkey Outbound
- Summer – Connecticut Inbound
- October – Toulouse, France Inbound
- March 2022 – Tucson Outbound

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 Bob or Nancy Mitchell.

FFGM Annual Dinner Meeting and Elections

1 December 2020

The meeting using the Zoom platform was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Ann Line.

Attendees: Approximately 30 members gathered on Zoom. Attending the meeting were Board Members Ann Line, Bob and Nancy Mitchell, Sara Harmelink, Rosie Haas, Dorothy and Ed Kelley, Dave Kalan, Sue Pack, Chris Vogel, Dorothy Krupa, Clarine Furey, Donna Baldwin-Haut and Carole DeRoche.

Report on Bylaws Update: Bob and Nancy Mitchell

There were 82 responses to the mailing of 91 envelopes. All responses were for approval of the amendment to the Bylaws authorizing the conduct of meeting via electronic methods. The proposed amendment was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting: Ann Line

Iva Richards motioned to approve the minutes; Donna Baldwin-Haut seconded; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Dorothy Krupa

General Fund \$10200.53

Wellington Fund \$10000.00(cost basis) \$15122(market value)

Restricted Funds \$6177.47

Exchange Account \$2000.00

In 2020 a change was made to electronic billing for dues and there was a reduction of dues to \$20 for 2021 because of Covid-19 and journey cancellations.

Membership Report: Sara Harmelink

There are 81 renewals and 2 new members.

Election of Officers:

Nancy and Bob Mitchell were elected Co-Presidents by unanimous voice vote.

Chris Vogel was elected Vice-President by unanimous voice vote.

Board and Committee Updates – Ann Line

Thank you to Sara Harmelink for her contributions as chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Thank you to Charlotte Button for her many, many years of service managing the FFGM store.

Dorothy Kelley will be the Chairperson of Membership on January 1.

Cris Reischl is the Chairperson of the new Sunshine Committee.

President's Report – Ann Line

Ann thanked everyone for their support and encouragement during the year and especially during the pandemic. Ann especially thanked the Board for their support as well as the Journey Coordinators for much work already done that is yet to be realized due to all the cancelled journeys. Ann thanked all for the opportunity to serve as FFGM president these past two years which were busy and especially challenging this year, but also fulfilling. She urged all to become involved, her favorite word during her presidency.

Ann reviewed the 2020 Club activities which required cancellation of many planned activities due to the coronavirus. Fifth at 5s were held in various formats both in person, via Zoom and at multiple sites. The picnic was held outside as planned, Book Club was held as planned and six (6) Zoom Trivia nights were held. Game Night was held, the Board made two sets of phone calls to the entire membership, and Sue Pack did an Indian cooking demonstration for members.

Ann started a bi-weekly email to the members to keep connected during the pandemic and has done 17 emails so far.

Journey Updates 2021: Inbound: Connecticut, Summer 2021; Inbound: Toulouse, France: early October 2021; Outbound: Turkey: September 2021; Outbound: Tucson: November 2021. All journeys are tentative due to Covid-19.

FFGM with additional contributions from members sent \$5510 to FFI to support their work. Other members contributed directly to FFI.

Ann Line adjourned the business meeting at 7:08 pm.

Show and Tell: A number of members shared items they had purchased or received while on FF journeys and told the story behind them.

Surprises and Prizes: Thanks to all the members who graciously donated an item or service for our Annual Meeting Surprises and Prizes. Congratulations to the winners!

| <u>Donor - Prize</u> | <u>Winner</u> |
|---|------------------|
| 1 Sue Pack - Cooking Class | Carole DeRoche |
| 2 Nancy Bowen - Soup | Bob Mitchell |
| 3 Amy Bley - Peppermint schnapps | Nancy Bowen |
| 4 Amy Bley - Vanilla Rum | Don Birschel |
| 5 Iva Richards 2x 2 doz cookies | Nancy Mitchell |
| 6 Iva Richards 2x 2 doz cookies | Michelle Humitz |
| 7 Iva Richards 2x 2 doz cookies | Agnes Rusy |
| 8 Bob Mitchell - MAM Tour for 2-3 people | Dee Birschel |
| 9 Mitchell's - 1yr Mbrship- WI Historical Society | Rosie Haas |
| 10 2021 FFGM Membership | Gordy Birschbach |
| 11 Free Annual Picnic | Sara Harmelink |
| 12 Linda VanDyne - Ride to or from Airport | Nancy Rubly |
| 13 Mary Hauser - Banana Bread | Iva Richards |
| 14 Ann Line - French Lessons | Chris Vogel |
| 15 Ann Line - Dessert | Marisue Zillig |



Membership Dues Renewal

It's time for renewing your 2021 FFGM membership.

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

Treasurer Dorothy Krupa ffgreatermilwaukee2@gmail.com



FFGM Book Club

Until further notice our book club meetings will be held on Zoom and the information on accessing the Zoom session will be provided a day or two before the meeting. Each session will have a facilitator who is familiar with the book. Book club selections are made from books that involve another country or culture. All FFGM members are welcome to participate in the book club discussions that are held every other month on the following dates:

January 13:

The Namesake: Jhumpa Lahiri (India)

March 10:

40 Autumns: Nina Willner (Germany)

May 12:

The Man Who Loved China: Simon Winchester (China)

July 14:

Portrait of a Turkish Family: Orfan Orga (Turkey)

September 8:

Two short, rather poetic works:

- How to Be an Indian in the 21st Century: Louis V. Clark, III (Native American)
- Ru: Kim Thuy (Vietnam)

November 10:

The Bookseller of Kabul: Asne Selerstad (Afghanistan)

P.S. If you have not finished a selected book, and even if you haven't read it at all, we invite you to join our lively discussions as a listener or a participant.

Fifth at Five Events

Winter has arrived, so the 5th at 5 events for the foreseeable future will be via Zoom. The link will be sent closer to the date. We will have a theme to get the conversation going.

Jan. 5: How did you celebrate the 2020 Holidays? Was it different than usual? Share a memorable Christmas/Hanukkah experience from your past. In the 2nd hour, our newest members, Shelly & Clay Sabourin, both health care workers, will talk about and answer questions about dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Feb. 5: Theme - Winter: Why do you like or dislike winter. What do you like to do during winter?



Trivia Evening Updates

Tune in on Zoom for Trivia Evening # 7 on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. You could be the next winner...and get your name in the FFGM newsletter! Winner of Trivia Evening # 6 was Ann Line. Second place was a tie between Rosie Haas and Chris Vogel.



Happy Birthday!

If your birthday is in January or February, FFGM wishes you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Chocolate!

Friday, January 8 at 6:30 pm on Zoom



This tasty presentation by member Dawn Scher Thomae, a curator at the Milwaukee Public Museum, will cover the fascinating history of one of the world's favorite morsels. At the end of the presentation, learn fun facts by playing the *Chocolate Game* where you can test your chocolate knowledge by answering questions on chocolate history, the cacao tree, and chocolate in popular culture. The link will be sent closer to the date.



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.



Member Updates

Doris Mueller continues to recover at the Lutheran Home after a bad case of Shingles with complications.

Judy Golding, a long-time previous member, passed away in December from cancer.

New members:

Shelly & Clay Sabourin

6920 N. Ardara Ave.

Glendale, WI 53209

608-963-8079

srsabourin@gmail.com

Change of Address:

Rosie Haas

4535 N. 92nd St, Apt U204

Wauwatosa, WI 53225

Email correction:

Rita Czukas: czukasr@gmail.com

Phone correction:

Chris Vogel: delete Home phone: 414-257-2982

Current number: 414-412-7721



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/>



Welcome

New Members – Clay and Shelly Sabourin

We would like to introduce ourselves. Clay is originally from Milwaukee spending the first 31 years of his life here. He started his career as a Respiratory Therapist at St. Michaels. He then moved to Baraboo where he met Shelly. Shelly is born and raised in Baraboo. Both stayed at home raising their kids and both returned to college to pursue degrees in nursing. Our kids since all are grown and out of the house for the most part and we wanted to be back in Milwaukee as we felt strong ties to the community to have opportunities to be involved in a more diverse and culturally rich community. As mentioned, we are both Registered Nurses. Clay is a Circulating nurse with Orthopaedic Hospital of WI and Shelly is a Regional Director of Operations for Froedtert Health, Community Physicians. We have 5 children. Jacob is 25 and works for Epic in Verona. Hannah is 24 and a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis for Occupational Therapy. Ronan is 24 and a welder who just relocated his wife and our new 6 month old granddaughter, Willow to Milwaukee a month ago. Bethany is 21 and graduating from UW Milwaukee this month with her double major in Digital Arts and Culture and Journalism and Media Studies with a minor in Music. Mariah is 21 and attending University of Minnesota Twin Cities in her Junior year studying Communications in Environmental Studies after taking a year volunteering with Americorp.

Clay volunteers for the We Got This Garden in the 53206 zipcode which serves Black youth ages 12-17 to provide mentoring and education. Shelly is a co-chair for Courage MKE which is the State of WI first group home serving homeless LGBTQ youth and also sit on the board of directors for Cycling Without Age which serves providing trishaw bicycle rides free to seniors in a variety of senior living settings.

Clay and Shelly love to travel and experience food scenes along with meeting new people and building new relationships. They love to host dinner parties and provide guests with customized experiences when they dine often times matching food with childhood memories or food that is important culturally to the guests. They spent a month in Copenhagen in 2017 when the last two children went to college and have since travelled around to different countries and cities to experience local life in these areas.

They are excited to be a part of this club and hope to one day meet some of you in person.

FFGM Executive and Operating Board

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Co-Presidents | Bob & Nancy Mitchell | 262-646-2842..... | rjmitch@execpc.com |
| Vice-President | Chris Vogel | 414-412-7721..... | cvogel@wi.rr.com |
| Secretary | Carole DeRoche | 414-421-7857..... | carolederoche@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Dorothy Krupa | 262-894-7076..... | dorothykrupa@me.com |
| Membership | Dorothy Kelley..... | 262-375-1616..... | dorothykelley60@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 Co-Chairpersons..... | 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 | Open | | |

COORDINATORS: HC = HOST COORDINATOR, AC = JOURNEY COORDINATOR

2021

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|--|------------|
| Karsiyaka, Turkey, Outbound, International | Open |
| Toulouse, France, Inbound, International | Open |
| FF-Connecticut, Inbound, Domestic | Open |

2022

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|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Tucson, AZ, Outbound, 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

Robert and Nancy Mitchell, Co-Presidents
W289 N1336 Elmhurst Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53188-9404

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For details about Friendship Force, see
our website at [www.friendshipforcemil-
waukee.org](http://www.friendshipforcemil-
waukee.org)

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