



# friendship force

## GREATER MILWAUKEE

*a world of friends is a world of peace*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

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

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

"Incredible" is a word that has been so trivialized as to become meaningless, but it is appropriate for the on-going Open World program welcoming physicians from war-torn Ukraine. The experience of these courageous people was made more poignant by hearing the account of one participant who has lived for more than 200 days in the basement of her hospital after shelling obliterated her beautiful home in Kharkiv.



The contributions of our club members, the American Red Cross in Madison, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, and Medical College of Wisconsin have been truly incredible. Club members responded to Nancy Rubly's call for hosts with enthusiasm. Jan and Bob

Blazich (whose Thiensville Rotary Club has raised over \$3,000 for war relief), Kathy Luglio, Chris and Dave Vogel, Gayle Best and David Martinez, and Carrie and Jim Landers are all acting as hosts as we write this. Dave Kalan, Nancy Rubly and Dorothy and Ed Kelley are acting as dinner hosts. Jack Bridich drove a van, the use of which was donated by Ewald Chevrolet. Others volunteered, too.

Early planners like Chris Vogel, Cris Reischl and Iva Richards passed the baton to Kevin Hesse of Red Cross of Madison, Tiffany Frazer of MCW, and Sue Johnson and Mary Parlow of Versiti. At the Red Cross headquarters in Madison, senior executives, department heads and staff, in heartwarming fashion, demonstrated their solidarity with the mission of improving Ukraine's blood supply system. At last count, at least 24 staffers of MCW and Versiti have given their time to produce an outstanding program.

As important as the site visits and demonstrations is the offer by participating institutions to establish long-term relationships — that is, networking — after the program is over. We believe that we have fulfilled one of the purposes of Friendship Force: to serve the cause of peace.

## FAREWELL, ZOOM. LET'S EAT OUT!

FFGM annual meeting is  
Dec. 3 in Wauwatosa

After two years of holding the Annual Meeting via Zoom, are you ready to finally gather in person?

Let's have a great turnout at noon on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the recently refurbished Hui's Cantonese Restaurant at 8820 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa. This will be a private party where we will enjoy a buffet with a varied selection of Chinese goodies. Tea is included.

There will be a business meeting, election of officers (see page 6), presidents' report, and journey updates — and conversation, friendship, prizes and surprises!

Reserve your spot by Nov. 30 by sending a check made out to FFGM for \$15 per person to Mary Hauser, 10131 W. Nash Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53222.

## One last W.H.E.T. in '22

Let's get in one last hike before winter really sets in! W.H.E.T. (Walking, Hiking, Eating, Talking) will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4, at Hidden Lake Park, 2865 Lilly Road in Brookfield. It is on the east side of the road between Burleigh and North Avenue. Please meet in the parking lot. The trail is paved. We can do the eating part of W.H.E.T. afterwards at nearby Murf's Custard. R.S.V.P. to Ann Line at 262.784.3085 or [linerusy@yahoo.com](mailto:linerusy@yahoo.com).

## AT A GLANCE

**11/4** WHET (Walk, Hike, Eating, Talking), 2 p.m., meet at Hidden Lake Park, 2865 Lilly Rd, Brookfield.

**11/5** 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 – WE NEED A HOST! Contact Barb Geck, [barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com](mailto:barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com).

**11/9** Dia de los Muertos Tour and Lunch, 11 a.m., Latino Arts, 1028 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee. Send \$10 by Nov. 2 to Mary Hauser, 10131 W. Nash Ave, Wauwatosa, WI 53222

**11/16** Book Club, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. The book is *When The Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe

**12/3** Annual Meeting, noon, Hui's, 8820 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa. Send \$15 by November 30 to Mary Hauser, 10131 W. Nash Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53222

**12/5** 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 CANCELLED

**12/5** Board Meeting, 6:30p.m. via Zoom

## JOURNEYS 2023

Fall 2023 — Toulouse, France Inbound  
TBD — Vietnam, Outbound (Tentative)

## 5TH AT 5

Hosts are needed for November. Please respond to Barbara Geck at [barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com](mailto:barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com) or 262.542.2960.

## BOOK CLUB

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 IS THE NEW DATE.**

The date of the last FFGM Book Club of 2022 is changed due to a conflict with the Latino Arts excursion.

Please attend the Latino Arts event on Nov. 9 and then join us one week later on Wednesday, Nov. 16, for FFGM Book Club. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. This gives you an extra week to read our November selection, *When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe which takes place in the Philippines. Facilitator is Ann Line.

In addition to discussing *When the Elephants Dance*, we will be choosing the books we'll be reading in 2023. Please come with suggestions and a brief oral summary of the book you are recommending. Book selections can be fiction or nonfiction and should take place in a foreign country or deal with another ethnicity or culture.

## Day of the Dead tour Nov. 9 at Latino Arts

Day of the Dead (*Dia de los muertos*) is a celebratory holiday, especially popular in Mexico, that unites the living and the dead. Offerings (*ofrendas*) are created to honor departed family members. It is a rare holiday that honors both death and life, unlike any other holiday, where mourning is exchanged for celebration.

We will have a guided tour of Day of the Dead Ofrenda displays at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, at Latino Arts, 1028 S, 9th St., Milwaukee. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. (Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged.)

After our tour, we will have a group burrito lunch in the Cafe at noon. The price is \$10 for both tour and lunch. Please send your check, made out to FFGM by **Nov. 2** to Mary Hauser, 10131 W. Nash St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222.





## “My Blood Can Fight”

So say bracelets given by the Kharkiv Blood Center, which has sustained heavy damage from Russian aggression. At right, doctors from Ukraine with staff of Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, which provided an intense education to help improve Ukraine's blood donor system, and FFGM members at a farewell reception. Below, delegates at Versiti. At right, doctors tour the American Red Cross center in Madison. Bottom left, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Milwaukee welcomes the doctors. Bottom right, Dave Kalan was among FFGM members who hosted dinner parties.







## Asheville, N.C., Journey

A visit to the beautiful Biltmore Estate with all 10 ambassadors, above, was among the highlights of the journey. At left, ambassadors enjoyed one of the many great meals their FF of Western North Carolina hosts served. Below, ambassadors sampled teas at the High Climate Tea Company.





# These ambassadors' first journey won't be their last

The Sept. 29-Oct. 5 Journey to Friendship Force of Western North Carolina was worth waiting for! Ten FFGM members filled the COVID-postponed May 2020 journey. Of course, we visited the iconic Biltmore mansion, but we also had a terrific almost three-hour trolley tour of Asheville; learned about, tasted and chewed tea at High Climate Tea Company; hiked to waterfalls; saw where forestry got its start; enjoyed a cook-out; made new friends; and delighted in mountain views. The only thing Hurricane Ian stopped us from doing was visiting the Carl Sandburg House.

For a number of ambassadors, this was only their first or second time on a FF journey. What did they think of it? What were their impressions and experiences? Below are their comments.



Cindy Hum, left, and Betty Riley with host Ron.

I drove to Asheville, NC with Cindy Hum, and it was the best way to see the Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the country I hadn't visited before. Our hosts Jan and Ron were very special. I enjoyed making their acquaintance and their friendship. We spent the first two evenings with Cindy, who is a decorator, helping them make some changes to their pictures and decorations. We visited other homes and met many nice people.

The week was very well-organized but hectic, and I'm not sure I could live with those hilly and curved roads everyday. Our first event was to visit a tea shop, where we learned about the medicinal properties of the teas we tasted. Being a nurse, I really enjoyed the information. We hiked in the mountains and visited the Vanderbilt home, the Biltmore. I love learning about history. Our host Jan had sparkle tinsel in her hair and she was able to get me an appointment for sparkle in my hair. I am having a great time telling my friends about my sparkle hair and that they should all join Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee to meet great people and travel.

— Betty Riley

After being in Friendship Force for about 10 years, I finally took my first journey to Asheville, NC. What I

expected: warm weather and the Biltmore mansion. What I got: not-so-warm weather (but no torrential rains caused by Hurricane Ian) and the unbelievable grandeur, detail and magnificence of touring the mansion and grounds. What I expected: staying with people I had never met and feeling awkward. What I got:

meeting people who made me feel at home immediately and were like-minded in thoughts and opinions. What I expected: rigid schedules touring things I had only a little interest in. What I got: a variety of interesting activities (from tea tasting to dahlias to beautiful views and waterfalls) and schedule flexibility caused by unforeseen circumstances but juggled masterfully by well-oiled, cohesive Western North Carolina Friendship Force members. What I expected: missing my dog. What I got: meeting a whole bevy of canine friends. What I expected: feeling alone. What I got: getting to know FFGM club members I'd never met and meeting a new group of friends in North Carolina.

The worst part of the whole trip was that I found out that I snore loudly enough to wake up a small town, but I'll be sure to put that on my next application, because I plan to travel again. And I urge you to do likewise. If you have any questions, contact me.

—Nancy Bowen

I'm a "second timen' tripper" after the first in Urla, Turkey, an outstanding experience. With its stunning mountains, Asheville was right up there, too! It was reassuring to roll into town and be greeted by fun, interesting and outgoing club members while knowing that everything was also being taken care of.

See **ASHEVILLE**, page 6



Nancy Bowen

## ASHEVILLE, *from page 5*

The club did a nice mix of indoor/outdoor excursions. Hiking to water falls, immersion in a dahlia garden, touring Biltmore House, imbibing in southern foods and more. (Those collard greens and cheese grits are something!) The club did a nice job of balancing “all-together” time with “host-only time.” We had great conversations. Waking up each morning and looking out at the beautiful Smoky Mountains was mesmerizing!

— Meg Ziegelmann

I don't know what I expected. I just love an adventure. But my first outbound trip with FF far exceeded any expectations.

My host was immediately like a sister. While I suspect some thought went into this match, being hosted by someone who so closely matched my interests and experiences was uncanny, and we filled unscheduled time with activities we both enjoy like hiking and stopping in a shop where stringed instruments are made. Wow.

The activities were engaging. Whether we were taking a hike in the woods or touring the amazing Bilt-



more, having a meal, seeing the sights, learning relevant information, or just enjoying the fellowship, it was all energizing.

Not only did I meet wonderful people from Asheville area but learned about my fellow FF Wisconsin travelers. After two years of limited activities and social contact, this alone made the trip worthwhile.

Asheville may have been my first trip, but it won't be my last.

—Sherry Payne

## New president, assistant treasurer on ballot at Dec. 3 Annual Meeting

At the Dec. 3 Annual Meeting, we will elect a new president and an assistant treasurer. We also need a new vice president. If you are interested in that position, please let Bob or Nancy Mitchell know.



**Chris Vogel** is the nominee for president. She has been an FFGM member since 2017 and has served the past two years as vice president. A retired editor, she lays out and helps write the newsletter and has served as publicity chair. This fall, she helped Bob Mitchell, Cris Reichl and Iva Richards plan the Open

World visit by four Ukrainian doctors and hosted a doctor. Chris had the privilege of attending an FF leadership training workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska and has participated in journeys to Tallahassee, FL, and Lake Simcoe in Ontario. She and her husband, Dave, have hosted ambassadors and a previous Open World participant from Ukraine. Chris and her dog, Udo, are a pet therapy team that visits colleges and nursing homes, and she enjoys studying languages, history, reading, hiking and biking —

and, of course, traveling. Chris and Dave have three adult children and two grandchildren.



**Stephanie Freier**, nominee for Assistant Treasurer, was born and raised in Wisconsin and was inspired to travel by her grandparents, Don and Terry Peters, who were members of FFGM. She has a daughter, 13, and son, 10, with whom she has shared her love of travel and exploring the world. As an Aerospace Engineer by degree, Stephanie loves data, project management and budgeting. She started her career as a Robotics Flight Controller in Mission Control for the Space Shuttle at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Then she spent time with Rockwell Collins on business jets before joining Kohler, where for the last nine years she has worked in Kitchen and Bath Operations. Stephanie is also an active member of the Society of Women Engineers and loves to inspire young generations, especially girls, in exploring STEM.



## MEMBER UPDATES

Pat Graham's new email address is  
[pattygram75@gmail.com](mailto:pattygram75@gmail.com)

### NEW Members:

Betty Riley  
1448 Horizon Trail  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
H: 262.574.3648  
C: 262.888.9978  
[Betty.riley1937@gmail.com](mailto:Betty.riley1937@gmail.com)

Angela Michel  
2965 N. Bremen St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
H: 414.374.3548  
C: 414.430.6192  
[amichel2@wi.rr.com](mailto:amichel2@wi.rr.com)

## Leroy Bley, former FFGM member, remembered

FFGM member Amy Bley shared the following:

I am so sad to share the news that my dear father, Leroy Bley, passed away on September 30. He was 97.

My parents were enthusiastic members of the Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee from the beginning of our chapter. They participated as both ambassadors and hosts for many years. Although my dad's mobility was limited in his later life, he did participate in the tour of the Luxembourg American Cultural Center this year as well as a get-together with visitors from our Switzerland journey. He enjoyed catching up with many of you at those events.

My dad believed in serving his community and put that belief into action through public service to his city and county, and through passionate volunteerism. In fact, he volunteered the day he passed away and had plans to volunteer the next day!

A full obituary is at <https://www.poolefh.com>.

### EXECUTIVE AND OPERATING BOARD

**Co-Presidents:** Bob & Nancy Mitchell, 262.370.6023  
[rjmitch1336@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmitch1336@yahoo.com) (Bob) and 262.370.6025  
[mitchell.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:mitchell.nancy@gmail.com) (Nancy)

**Vice-President:** Chris Vogel, 414.412.7721, [cvogel@wi.rr.com](mailto:cvogel@wi.rr.com)

**Secretary:** Susan Feddersen, [belisima563@gmail.com](mailto:belisima563@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Dorothy Krupa, 262.894.7076, [dorothykrupa@me.com](mailto:dorothykrupa@me.com)

**Past President:** Ann Line, 262.784.3085, [linerusy@yahoo.com](mailto:linerusy@yahoo.com)

**Membership:** Dorothy Kelley, 262.375.1616,  
[dorothykelley60@gmail.com](mailto:dorothykelley60@gmail.com)

**Activities Co-Chairpersons:** Mary Hauser, 414.466.5688,  
[mhauser2012@att.net](mailto:mhauser2012@att.net); Ann Line, 262.784.3085,  
[linerusy@yahoo.com](mailto:linerusy@yahoo.com)

**Leadership Development:** Dave Kalan, 414.766.6056,  
[dakalan@yahoo.com](mailto:dakalan@yahoo.com)

**Public Relations:** Chris Vogel, 414.412.7721, [cvogel@wi.rr.com](mailto:cvogel@wi.rr.com)

**Communications:** Position open

**Fundraising Co-Chairpersons:** Ed Kelley, 262.375.1616,  
[edkelley88@gmail.com](mailto:edkelley88@gmail.com); Donna Baldwin-Haut, 414.550.4450,  
[djhaut2006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djhaut2006@sbcglobal.net)

**5th at 5 Events:** Barbara Geck, 262.542.2960,  
[barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com](mailto:barbarafrancesgeck@gmail.com)

**Community Outreach:** Sue Pack, 414.351.5572,  
[spack@wi.rr.com](mailto:spack@wi.rr.com)

**Community Connections:** Clarine Furey, 262.993.8050,  
[clarineaf@yahoo.com](mailto:clarineaf@yahoo.com)

**Archivist:** Rosie Haas, 414.259.1747, [rmhaas1@gmail.com](mailto:rmhaas1@gmail.com)

**FFGM Store:** Position open

**Newsletter:** Rosie Haas, Chris Vogel, Dave Kalan, Ann Line

### 2022-23 AMBASSADOR/HOST COORDINATORS

Western North Carolina Domestic Outbound: Ann Line and Clarine Furey, co-ACs

Toulouse, France International Inbound: Ann Line, HC

### WEBSITES & CONTACT INFORMATION

**Midwest Regional FFI Rep.:** Bob Mitchell,  
[rjmitch1336@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmitch1336@yahoo.com)

**Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee websites:**  
[www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org](http://www.friendshipforcemilwaukee.org)  
(At [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org) under Wisconsin clubs)

**FFGM on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129406703803635/>

**Friendship Force International:** 1.800.554.6715,  
[FFI@thefriendshipforce.org](mailto:FFI@thefriendshipforce.org)

**FFI fax:** 1.404.688.6148

**FFI address:** 279 W. Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA 30046