



March · April, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 16, 2014: Join the FF of Greater Lansing with a visit to the American Museum of Magic for a 10:30 tour: 107 E Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI 49068. We will share lunch together and visit the Post Office Museum also in Marshall if interested. See more details below.

May 22, 10:00 a.m.: Board meeting, Hargreave's. All welcome who wish to attend.

May 30-June 1: Regional Meeting, Cincinnati. More details below.

June 1-4: New member mini exchange to Louisville KY

June date TBA: Taking a walk/hike in the Holland area.

June 27: Small group dinner gathering for Holland members and prospective members. Home of Sue Bohlander.

July date TBA: Member pool party Details later

August date TBA: Cook out/pot luck at the Decatur lake home of Roy Pearson and Marci Ellis

September 21-28: 4th Coast Adventure. Our "inbound" themed exchange with participation from all.

October 14-18: FFI World Conference, Auckland New Zealand.

October 19-November 8, 2014: West Michigan and Memphis to Salvador and Araraquara, Brazil with visits to Rio and Iguazu Falls.

November 15: 19th Annual Russian Festival at Western Michigan University's Fetzer Center.

To find out what goes on at this event, check out last year's festival here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7Nno451sCw>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (or page):

Though there is once again snow on the ground around here, we have been assured that Spring has finally arrived. Maybe that was what occurred last Saturday - followed by summer on Sunday, fall on Monday, and winter again today. Lyn and I are taking no chances this time - we are heading for Florida next week.

At the February Board meeting a motion was passed establishing an Honorary Lifetime

Membership category for club members who have reached the age of ninety and have been Friendship Force members for at least ten years, beginning in 2015. Pat Pasbach and Annabelle Samuelson will be the first two club members so recognized. I am certain that you all will want to join me in congratulating these two wonderful women and in thanking them for all they have done for the Friendship Force of Western Michigan over the years.

Since the beginning of the year the FFWM Board has focused most of its attention in three areas; exchange initiatives, ongoing recruitment strategies, and our social calendar. Regarding the first of these, our outbound exchange to Brazil is full and ED Lyn Hargreave continues to work on program details. The Louisville mini-exchange, which is slated to follow the Great Lakes Regional FFI meeting in Cincinnati at the end of May, is close to capacity. Our inbound global exchange, *Fourth Coast Adventures*, still has room for more participants. We have communicated with FFI headquarters in Atlanta that we accept the proposed 2015 exchange with the Braunschweig-Peine Club from Germany and we should be getting a confirmation back from Atlanta soon saying that the Braunschweig-Peine club has also accepted that proposed exchange. As soon as we get official notification, initial planning can begin. We would very much like to have someone in the club step forward to serve as an assistant ED or ED in training for that exchange so that Lyn can get some relief from those duties down the road.

As I have already mentioned in previous newsletters and email communications, we did not receive an outbound exchange for 2015. If there is interest in doing so, we can still attempt to set up a domestic exchange, but we need to hear from you if you have something in mind in this regard. You are also free to travel outbound with other FF clubs or join global exchanges that may have openings. Though it will not be an official FFI function, Lyn and I have agreed to take up to twelve FFWM club members with us when we travel to Hawaii in 2015 (late May and early June).

Time to turn this missive over to the newsletter editor. I have to go wax my cross-country skis just in case. *Dave Hargreave*

EXCHANGES, PAST & FUTURE

INBOUNDS

September 21-28 2014 Fourth Coast Adventure: This is our inbound for the year of 2014. It is currently published in the World of Friend's Catalog and has gone out to the world. We have 7 ambassadors who have committed to joining us. One from Varel, Germany, two from Haliburton, Ontario Canada, two from Omaha, NE, one from Huntsville, AL, and one from western IL, the Quad Cities club.. A targeted "invitation is to be sent out from Atlanta soon in hopes that we will fill this with 16 participants.



In addition to days which will include biking, kayaking (with G.R. Paddling members Jeff and Rita Neumann), hiking and exploring Warren Dunes and Warren Woods, we anticipate visiting Art Prize and Meijer Gardens. There will also be activities still to be determined along the

lake shore including a dune ride at Saugatuck and a sunset beach cook out at Holland S.P. The week will end with a sail on the tall ship Friends Goodwill at 3:15 on September 27. There will be room for members, so let us know if you are interested. We are considering a pizza party and line dancing (with instruction) as the final farewell night. Throughout the week there are plans to visit at least 4 breweries/pubs (Bells (for the welcoming party) Greenbush in Sawyer, New Holland in Holland and Founders in Grand Rapids..

PLEASE mark your calendars and commit to these dates. As indicated in our past newsletters we will be needing home hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts. We can't do this without your commitment. .

OUTBOUNDS

June 1-4, 2014 Louisville, Kentucky:

Due to our regional meeting being in Cincinnati on May 31, this seemed like an opportunity to visit a club nearby. Louisville has agreed to host a 11-12 of our members. This is an effort to introduce NEW members so that they may experience a Friendship Force exchange.

This from their exchange coordinator:
"The program I am working on – which is not set in stone as I haven't contacted anyone yet for reservations/information – includes the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs and the Louisville Slugger Museum, a welcome party, home hosted dinners, a free evening for host/ambassador dining, a drive to Frankfort for our capitol tour and a distillery



tour. I am also looking at places to have lunch included both days. With the included lunches, \$75 should cover the fees."

The host/ambassador dining is when ambassadors are expected to treat their hosts to dinner.

October or November 2014 - Salvador, Bahia and Araraquara SP BRAZIL.

Dates have been confirmed. There are 8 ambassadors from Memphis and 7 from West Michigan going to Araraquara, SP then the 8th person will join us from W. Michigan to visit Iguazu Falls and Rio before continuing to our second exchange in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The Salvador club visited us 2 years ago and we are looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Everyone has purchased their airline tickets and put in a deposit. Next step is to acquire visas.

OUTBOUND 2015

We were not granted an exchange to **Hawaii** which was our only requested destination for 2015. Lyn and Dave Hargreave have offered to take approximately 14 members to the islands on a biodiversity tour of the **Big Island and Kauai departing the 3rd week in May and returning the 2nd week in June (a total of 22 days).**

This would be an active trip with considerable hiking, and snorkeling. The Hargreaves have taken numerous other groups to explore these islands and are comfortable with the history and geology as well as the flora and fauna.

Lodging would be in rented houses, state park camping facilities including a historic CCC camp. Mode of transportation is planned to be in mini-vans and the majority of meals will be prepared by the participants.



An informational meeting was held April 14 for those who were interested and attended by 13 members, representing a total number of 17 possibly interested individuals.

Decisions will need to be made by May 15 so that final decisions regarding appropriate size houses can be made and a more accurate cost provided by

June 1. This will require a non refundable deposit in at that time to reserve the lodging facilities. Non refundable because if someone backs out then the others would have to pick up the additional cost and that is not fair. Substitution would be an option, but there is no guarantee that another individual(s) would be found.



OTHER OUTBOUND and TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

World of Friends Catalog

This publication on the FFI web site has many exchanges listed with openings. You are able to find this catalog on the FFI website: <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org> or you may be receiving it in your email box. Unfortunately it is no longer sent snail mail. If you are not receiving it in your email box and wish to do so you may sign up for it through the web site, or let Lyn Hargreave know and she will sign you up to receive it.

Currently mentioned are:

- 1) Discover the geology, history and fauna of Iceland (July 16-29).
 - 2) Making a friend and a difference in Kenya (Aug. 9-19)
 - 3) Take in the architecture, cuisine and culture of Turkey with the FF of Greater Ismir and then explore multiple destinations in Greece Oct. 13- Nov. 1.
 - 4) Experience the warm hospitality and friendly people of Japan (Ehime and Aichi) October 9-23.
- Plus many, many more. Check out the catalog for many other options.

http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/ffi_listonly.aspx

OTHER INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES:

2014 Regional Meeting:

May 30-June 1 in Cincinnati with a full day of presentations and "work" on May 31. There will be home hosting available.

Allison Lindsey from Atlanta will be joining us and presenting the keynote address..

"Looking Toward the Future with Founders and Millennials" will give us all an opportunity to look at the next generation of members. Afternoon group sessions will try to identify challenges and generate ideas for ways we might grow younger and remain vibrant.

But we are not looking at all work. The Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati has made arrangements for those who are interested to participate in an Ohio River Dinner Cruise on Friday evening.

We will be car pooling to this and the mini exchange with Louisville KY. If you have signed up to go, please contact **Sheila Nichols to discuss these arrangements with her: 269-679-5519.**

2014 World Conference:

Planning is already underway for next year's World Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. The conference will run from October 14 to 16, 2014, and it be held at the Rendezvous Grand Hotel Auckland. Registration will begin soon via the FFI web site. There will be post conference home stays, so you might want to consider this opportunity.

The 2015 World Conference:

This will be held in Vancouver, Canada. The conference will take place September 11 to 14, 2015. More details will be available as the time approaches.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS:

MeetUp: We continue to grow our Friendship Force of West Michigan Meet Up group. We have now listed MeetUp in the communities of Holland and Kalamazoo in addition to Grand Rapids. For those who are on the internet, it would promote our organization if we showed a larger support group. Therefore **ALL members are encouraged to go to "<http://www.MeetUp.com>"** Click "Find" at the top.

Put in your closest location Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, or Holland and search for Friendship Force. You should see our group come up. Click on that and "join". There is no cost, and except for reminders of meetings and happening that week, including reminders of our own meetings your email is not going to be filled with spam from this. It is a very easy way to RSVP and let me know you will be coming to our various activities.

We are paying for this service as a recruitment tool, so your help in promoting it is important.
Thanks!

Presentations: Lyn Hargreave presented information at the Schoolcraft Ladies Library Assn and at the Wayland Community Leisure Time group in April. Though no one signed up, all were give pamphlets and applications. Several from the Wayland group

expressed interest and asked to be placed on our list for the Newsletter..

Lyn and Dave are scheduled to do a presentation for the **Meet Up ExPat's** group on May 19 in Grand Rapids. Thanks to Meet Up member Cathy Dopp for arranging this.

Lyn is also scheduled to do a presentation for **Chapter DW of P.E.O.** on March 4, 2015. Our Facebook page was responsible for this connection.

If any organizations you belong to would like a program presented. Please inform a board member: Dave Hargreave, Sheila Nichols, Deb Williamson, Roy Pearson, Lyn Hargreave.

Kalamazoo Library Resource Directory: Our non-profit organization has been listed in the Kalamazoo Resource Directory. This is a digital directory used by library staff and community groups and individuals. Go to: <http://www.kpl.gov/local-organizations/> Enter Friendship as a keyword.

Colleagues International (CI): We continue to work with this Kalamazoo based organization who is part of the national Global Ties program. A collaborative article to submit to Encore magazine has been started to work toward publicity for both of our organizations.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, anyone living in the Kalamazoo area and interested in hosting a guest, or providing a dinner for their international visitors should contact Susan Larner at sllarner@hotmail.com

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, PAST AND FUTURE

PAST:

March: Several members brought nibbles and joined together at the Hargreave's in Kalamazoo on March 23 before heading off to the International Festival at the Berhard Center on the campus of Western Michigan University. There they could fill their stomachs with a variety of ethnic dishes and were entertained by students from around the world with dancing and playing of musical instruments, all in native costumes.

April: Was "April in Paris" (West Michigan Style). We met at the Euro Bistro on 28th Street in Grand Rapids for lunch. The food was very good, and the service very European (we had a 3 hour lunch). They opened the restaurant for about 25 of us. There were several new faces, many from MeetUp, but others too. We had a little trivia quiz to see how much we didn't know about France. Meet Up participant Pam VanOverloop won a long stem rose for missing only five of the twenty five questions.

FUTURE:

As indicated above, we will join with the FF of Greater Lansing for a combined event to **visit the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, MI** on **May 16**. Address above at the beginning "Coming Events" as well as info for car pooling from Kalamazoo should you want to do that.

<http://www.americanmuseumofmagic.org/>

An apology for two months in a row with meetings on a week day which isn't convenient for you working folks. This date and time was arranged by the Lansing Club. We'll try to be more accommodating in the future by varying the days and times.

Other future activities

Some of the social committee met following the board meeting and selected activities for the summer months, however dates and times have not been decided as others need to be consulted. Special email communications will announce these times and dates. These are listed at the beginning of the Newsletter.

We plan to focus on outdoor activities while the weather is good, and then consider options such as ethnic dancing in months like October or November when the weather becomes more questionable.

Comments or suggestions for other activities welcome. Contact:

Deb Williamson, Sheila Nichols, Lyn Hargreave
Contact info available via the membership list from the web site. Members have been given the password.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS:

LAURA FORD: I have lived in the Kalamazoo area since 1961, moved here from Berlin Germany where my Dad was stationed. I am a nurse practitioner, like to sew and garden. Love my dog – my kids are absolutely awesome. Tom is a web and graphic



designer, living in Portage for now – and my daughter Jessegrace is a freshman at Mattawan and plays lacrosse. I haven't travelled very much except at the 'bookends' – as a child travelled in Europe and with my parents to different states. And now that I am single, I have started to travel again – thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Scotland in 2012, have started to

explore a few of the different states I had not visited such as South Carolina and Virginia this year. I will go on a Medical Mission trip to Guatemala this summer, and hope to visit Alaska next year. My daughter and I are planning on an excursion to South Korea in 2016 to visit the country of her birth. I joined Friendship Force mostly because of Lyn's influence, and because of the joy of expanding my circle of friends and acquaintances.

Pictured above is Laura with her beautiful daughter Jessegrace.

Those of you from whom information has been requested, please send. It will be used in future newsletters.

MEMBER UPDATES:

We are happy to report that **Rose Haaksma** is now doing well after a set back from her previous surgery. **Sheppy Douma** and **Dennis Mahoney** are also recovering well after recent surgeries. You should see her Sheppy walking on her two new knees! Amazing in just three weeks.

OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS:

If you still haven't checked our web site, please do so: <http://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/> If you need a password for member resources, join up, just \$25/year sent to Roy Pearson, 455 Austin Blvd. Decatur MI 49045, and it will be sent to you :-).