



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

April - July 2015

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25: Regional Meeting.

Dayton. Home hosting will be provided 7/24 and 7/25.

July 30, 4:30, Concert at Bronson Park, Kalamazoo. Bring picnic lunch, chair/blanket meet at banner.

August: Concert in Saugatuck/Holland. Watch for separate email.

August 28-31: International Conference, Vancouver

September 12: PowWow, Grand Rapids. Watch for more info.

September 26-Oct. 3: Inbound Exchange with Braunschweig-Peine Germany. See itinerary.

March 12-19, 2016: Outbound to Omaha.

YOUR BOARD

President: Dave Hargreave

VP: Lyn Hargreave

Secretary: Debra Williamson

Treasurer: Roy Pearson

At Large Members:

Sue Bohlander

Jane Curtin

Laura Jane Colber

Cathy Dopp

www.friendshipforcewmich.org

This is the season when exchange activity becomes hectic. We recently hosted twelve members of the Louisville club for five days. A big thank you to Marci Ellis and all who helped her make the exchange a great success. Next up will be an inbound exchange with the Braunschweig and Peine club from Germany in September. You will find more on that exchange elsewhere in this newsletter. Planning has already begun for three exchanges scheduled for 2016. Beginning on March 12 we will travel outbound to visit the Greater Omaha club for a week. As part of that exchange we and several of our Omaha hosts will journey further west to Kearney, Nebraska for two days to experience the migrational gathering of Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River. If you are interested in joining in that expedition, let either Debra Williamson or me know ASAP. Sometime between May 10 and 14 we will begin hosting the Taichung, Taiwan club for a week and we have begun a dialogue concerning our scheduled outbound exchange to the Murray Bridge and Casterton, Australia clubs sometime in October/November. There is also a possibility that the Greater Omaha club will accept the invitation that has been extended to them to visit us in southwestern Michigan sometime in 2016. Looking even further down the road, club member Bill Hoover and I are in the process of contacting two clubs in Japan to see whether we can set up an outbound exchange with them for 2017. As part of this overture we will be inviting them to visit us in return either in 2017 or 2018. Bill Hoover is a retired professor of Japanese history at the University of Toledo and he and his wife have lived in Japan for significant periods of time. If an exchange can be arranged, he and his wife Marie would be willing to lead a tour of special places in central Honshu as an extension of the Friendship Force home stay(s).

Increasing the number of inbound exchanges we host each year is exciting and affords us more opportunities to make new friendships both here and abroad. However, it also challenges our resources. Hosting is vital to our mission to promote friendship, but it requires an outlay of time and money on the part of those club members who agree to host incoming ambassadors. Unfortunately, the load is not being equitably shared. There is a tendency for the same club members to volunteer to home host, dinner host or day host for each and every inbound exchange, while other club members seldom if ever step up to the plate. Your Board is looking at ways to at least partially offset the monetary costs associated with hosting and we will be coming to the membership later this year with a recommendation for you to vote on. Two points are relevant to this issue. First, we cannot and should not ask our invited guests to shoulder this cost as part of their exchange fee. We must look at ways we can help our own in this regard. Second, our club treasury only retains \$10 of each person's annual dues. The remainder is sent as club dues to Atlanta. That amount of revenue is not sufficient to both run the club and reimburse hosts. The budget passed by you last December sets aside \$500 to help defray the costs associated with hosting inbound exchanges. That same budget assumes that this and other expenses will be offset by an unspecified influx of revenue above and beyond our present dues. The Board is wrestling with the question of where that revenue stream should come from. Stay tuned.

EXCHANGES

The **World of Friends** Catalog has a variety of exchanges listed that currently have openings. The catalog usually comes out the 15th of the month, so be sure to check after that date for the most current listings: Here is a link to the site: http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/

REGIONAL AND WORLD CONFERENCES:

Regional meeting will be in Dayton, OH on July 25. Home hosting will be provided for Friday and Saturday nights. If possible, please plan to come. Your ideas for the future of our organization are important. There are members of our club attending.

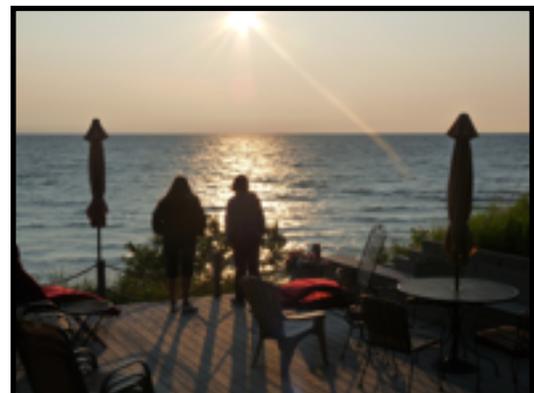
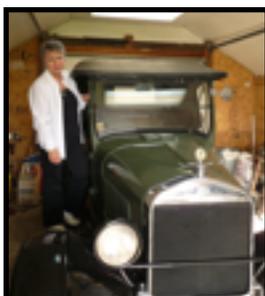
World Conference: This will be held in Vancouver from August 28-31. Chances are it is full as there were limited spaces, but conference planners were attempting to find a way to increase availability. If interested it would be worth getting on the waiting list. Check the web site at:

<https://www.etches.com/ehome/102747>

INBOUNDS:

Louisville, KENTUCKY: June 26-July 1

As President Dave mentioned, this was a successful exchange thanks to all of you who participated and to Marci Ellis for her excellent organization-her first time by the way- as E.D. and non members Mary and Ron Voss who opened their lakeshore home to us for our farewell party.



Braunschweig/Peine, GERMANY. September



Because of illness our planned 19 ambassadors are now down to 15. There are still hosting opportunities so please step up and contact LynHargreave@gmail.com with ways you can help.

PLANNED ITINERARY:

Saturday Welcome: Potluck at home of Sheila and Bill Nichols.

Sunday: Morning free. An afternoon sail on the Friends Goodwill tall ship out of South Haven is still on the agenda, but **we need seven more participants to make this happen.** If we do not recruit an additional seven another activity will be substituted. Dinner at host discretion. Please contact Lyn ASAP with your interest on sailing.

Monday: Wander Art Prize (Ford Museum) G. R. (Cathy Dopp is organizing this) Dinner at the home of a non home hosting club member.

Tuesday: Amish lunch and house tour, Menno-Hof Museum, Topeka and Shipshewana, IN (Marci Ellis organizing this day—car pooling planned.) Small group dinners.

Wednesday: Lakeshore day, Saugatuck Dune Ride, Sunset beach picnic. (Sue Bohlander organizing this day)

Thursday: Free day with various “choose your passion” options offered. Guests take hosts to dinner.

Friday: Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park (Laura Jane Colber organizing this day). There will be a casual farewell pizza party in the evening.

Saturday: Ambassadors depart.

Taichung, TAIWAN (with AZ) May 2016

More information and exact dates will be forthcoming when this has been decided. Marci Ellis will be choosing an E.D. to work with her for this exchange. Volunteers welcomed!

OUTBOUNDS, Past and Future:

HAWAII:

Six of our members (Jim Cousins, Melanie Perry, Dennis Mahoney, Sandi Vegter, Dave and Lyn Hargreave) returned still friends after living like locals in Hawaii for 3.5 weeks. They stayed in very nice homes and in a state park bunk house and in an historic CCC camp. They hiked trails with spectacular views, enjoyed beaches and historical monuments, watched spectacular sunsets (and yes, saw the “green flash”.) Though not a FF exchange, they did meet again with Laura and Frank Marsh who visited FF of W. MI during our 4th Coast Adventure last year. Frank and Laura who are docents at NaAinaKai gardens on Kauai treated us to a tour there.

Below are photos of the group at Akaka Falls and President Dave enjoying Taco Tuesday at Dukes in Lihue Kauai with members of the FF of Kauai club



April - July 2015

OUTBOUNDS: FUTURE

OMAHA: March 12-19, 2016

We have arranged an exchange with the Omaha club for a home stay during the above time period. In the middle of this time we will travel to Kearney, NE to witness the sandhill crane migration phenomena that happens every year at this time. A block of hotel rooms (~\$70/night double occupancy) have been reserved for a two night stay there. This information has been sent to members in a previous email.

If you are interested in this exchange, need the hotel information or have questions, please let Deb Williamson <debwill_10@sbcglobal.net> or Dave Hargreave <hargreave@wmich.edu> know ASAP.



AUSTRALIA: October / November 2016

Lyn Hargreave is beginning the process of looking at our options when we go to visit Casterton and Murray Bridge in the fall of 2016. These two cities are in S. Australia between Adelaide and Melbourne. This is a huge country and she needs help in determining if there is a desire for an optional extension before or after our exchanges. If so, where would people like to go. These can be very pricy, but some are more reasonable than others. One company "G Adventures" has a variety of options for small group tours. I encourage those going to take a look at all the options and do some research so that when we have a meeting of those going they will have some solid opinion of where they might like to go: <<https://www.gadventures.com/search/?f=d8b1513b7d3c>> These are adventures, not luxury tours. For those who want more luxury, you may want to look at the Overseas Adventure Tour (OAT)<https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/south-pacific/ultimate-australia/2016#tripinformation>. Neither of these include international airfare. With OAT we may want to see if it is possible to start (or end) without the Melbourne/Adelaide days. And we would need to coordinate the times with our hosts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST:

Holland:

<http://www.holland.org/events/>

This site will tell you much of what is happening in Holland. Our social organizer is considering one of the following in Kollen Park for an August event:

8/7 6:30 Kari Lynch band

8/8 7:30 Symphony concert

8/14 6:30 Quentin Flagg concert

8/21 6:30 The Soulsyndicate concert.

Grand Rapids:

<http://www.experiencegr.com/events/>

This is the site to go to for events in GR. Of special interest may be the Tea Ceremony happenings at Meijer Gardens on 8/16 and 9/13. The cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non members and reservations are required.

Also you may want to catch the Discovery of King Tut at the Grand Rapids Public Museum until January 31.

Kalamazoo:

http://www.kalamazooarts.org/org/detail/2005/Concerts_in_the_Park

This site will tell of upcoming concerts in Kalamazoo, with time and rain location.

NOTE we have planned to make this a FF event on July 30. Bring your picnic meal and drink, chair/blanket at 4:30, or when you can get there, and join us at a picnic table, preferably the north side near the band shell.

The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts currently has an exhibit of flowers in Chinese Art. This will be there until January 27.

Member update:

Rose Haaksma recently had knee surgery and is currently recovering.

And, we welcome:

Norma Killilea of Holland

Jim and Yvonne Hackenberg of Kalamazoo.

We look forward to getting to know all of these new members better in the near future.

A Pledge of Friendship:

As a member of The Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission. That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace will be furthered. I CAN make a difference.