

Upcoming Events and FFI Connections

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To: Marcia Ellis <marcia.ellis@wmich.edu>



A Note from Our President

Hello Friends:

I hope all of you are doing well. I have a few things that I want to share with you. Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with the following:

First, as an organization dedicated to improving our understanding of the people, societies and cultures of our world, I want you to be aware of a series of speakers and discussions throughout February and March that are being sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan (Grand Rapids). **I plan on going to the Monday (tomorrow) evening discussion about Kashmir. If anyone from the Kalamazoo area would like to ride up with me, please let me know and we can make arrangements.** Cost is \$10 per session, or you can buy a pass for \$60 that allows you to attend all eight sessions. Here is a summary of topics and dates and below is a link to more information:

Feb. 10 and 11

"Kashmir: Flashpoint between India and Pakistan"

Feb. 17 and 18

"Mirror to the World: The Philippines under Duterte"

Feb. 24 and 25

"Regional Security in the Red Sea"

Mar. 2 and 3

"Green Peacebuilding': Justice in the Face of Climate Change"

Mar. 9 and 10

"Human Trafficking: Global and Local Perspectives"

Mar. 16 and 17

"The Future is Now: Artificial Intelligence and National Security"

Mar. 23 and 24

"China's Road into Latin America"

Mar. 30 and 31

"Central American Immigration and U.S. Foreign Policy"

Link to more information: <https://www.worldmichigan.org/greatdecisions2020>

Secondly, I want to make sure that each of you gets a chance to connect with FFI programs that are being conducted all around the world. If the timing of our local club's trips don't work out for you, you can always travel with other clubs that might be looking to fill their allotted journey slots. To review these Journeys, please see the following link <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/>. You should also sign up for your own emails and updates from FFI: [Join the FFI Mailing List](#)

Thirdly, I want to make sure each of you is aware of the Super Regional Conference coming up this fall in the Twin Cities. Please see [this link](#) for more information. It sounds like a very worthwhile event. I hope that a number of us can add this conference to our schedule.

Finally, we had a nice gathering at the February LEO at Chau Haus in Kalamazoo. Thank you Lyn! **Our next scheduled LEO is Friday, March 6th, at noon, at The Curragh, 73 E Eighth St., an Irish pub in Holland.** I hope to

see many of you there. It will be, specifically, very nice to see our Holland members and to celebrate St. Patrick's month together!

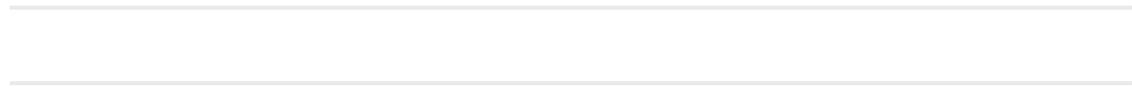
Please let me know if you have any questions or would like me to address any other upcoming opportunities to network.

In Friendship,
Jerry

Jerry Potratz

President, Friendship Force of Western Michigan club

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