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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### SUMMER 2013: (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

**August 20, 6:00 p.m. Bunco Party and Potluck**  
at the Gospel Barn 1125 122nd Ave, Martin, Mi.

**September 4, 12 noon** Board Meeting (all welcome), Hargreave 215 Sabin St. Kalamazoo, MI, Bring a sac lunch

**September 15-22** Practice inbound with six friends for "4<sup>th</sup> Coast Adventure". Seem below.

**September 21 3:00** Two hour sail on the tall ship Friends Good Will, South Haven. Cost \$40

**November 23-25** International Conference in New Orleans..

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

As we enter the month of August those of us who have only recently returned from our outbound exchange to Germany are wondering when summer is due to arrive in Michigan. The trip was wonderful, both in terms of the new friends that we met in Norderstedt and the Braunschweig/Peine areas, and in terms of the ambiance of the old Hanseatic towns and cities of Northern Germany that we visited with those friends. In my official capacity as club president I have invited both of our German host Friendship Force clubs to visit us here in our favored corner of Michigan in the future. We may in fact have an opportunity to host one or both of these clubs as early as 2015 or 2016.

As for our planned inbound themed exchange, *Fourth Coast Adventure*, due to limited response we had to cancel this as a FF exchange. But we decided to offer it as a small, informal visit for those who were known to us. This will enable us to obtain feedback on the various events before going "global" with the program in 2014. We will still need club members to help with the various aspects of planning and to participate with our six intrepid incoming friends in the week's many and varied activities. Of particular note is the planned excursion on the tall ship, *Friends Good Will*, on **Saturday, September 21. It will be the ship's last sail of the season and will be open only to our club and our visitors.** To make it happen, we will need to have at least 15 passengers (and can take as many as 28). **In addition to the six ambassadors, we will be looking for somewhere between nine and 22 members of our club to accompany them. Keep the date in mind and let one of us (Lyn or Dave) know if you wish to participate in that component of**

**the exchange.** Cost is \$40 and we will follow with dinner in South Haven.

Meanwhile, our own club is growing. We have added six new members in the past two months. Welcome aboard to Robin and Margaret Bowles of Grand Rapids, Connie Corriveau of Holland, Dennis Mahoney of Kalamazoo, Linda Love Stewart of Grand Rapids, and Debra Williamson of Holland. I invite you all to "get your feet wet" with some aspect of the September inbound exchange - possibly by joining the ambassadors in one or more of their planned activities, serving as a day host or driver, agreeing to be a dinner host, or joining the group for the welcome party or fair well dinner. As a bit of encouragement, the Board recently agreed that preference be given first to host families then second to new club members for the trip on the *Friends Good Will*.

We continue to work on various things that will make our club more visible in the West Michigan community. In addition to the shirts, we have also engaged a Grand Rapids company to create a free-standing club banner for us. If all goes well that should be available to welcome our guests in September. Also, the Board has discussed the possibility of having a club pin that could be given out by club members to ambassadors they are hosting or to host families when they are on outbound exchanges. Stay tuned for more on that as well as for some other ideas that are percolating on the Board.

Looking into the future a bit, I should be receiving notice from FFI in Atlanta concerning our requested destinations for outbound exchanges in 2015 (we are still scheduled to travel to Brazil in 2014). We will have to have our requests in to Atlanta this fall, so begin to dream a little about where you would like to go in 2015. We will be canvassing the membership in the coming months to get your input for our top three choices. **Dave Hargreave**

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## EXCHANGES, PAST & FUTURE INBOUNDS

**September 2013** As just mentioned by your president this will be a trial run with friends who are Friendship Force members from Orlando and Bloomington, IN. A tentative itinerary is attached so that you can mark your calendars to participate or assist in some of the activities.

**September of 2014** - Plans will continue to be pursued for a similar themed exchange but to include the international community as an inbound for 2014. .

## OUTBOUNDS

**June 27 - July 15 2013 to Norderstedt and**

## **Braunschweig-Peine, Germany.**

All those who participated in this exchange were overwhelmed by the hospitality shown by our hosts. We look forward to sharing our experience and photos with you at an up coming meeting.

## **November 2014 - Salvador, Bahia BRAZIL**

The status of a second exchange week remains uncertain.

We will keep you informed, so that if this exchange does not appear to be viable you will have time to select another destination from the World of Friends Catalog for travel in 2014.

## **OTHER INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES:**

### **World of Friends Catalog**

This publication has many exchanges listed with openings. You may find this 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 in your email box and wish to do so you may sign up for it through the web site.

### **Other recent announced trips include:**

Joining Perth Australia as they enjoy a **Winter Wonderland Adventure in Detroit, Haliburton Highlands, and Ottawa! January 23 to February 10, 2014.** Not sure, but if the last two destinations are of interest, you might consider asking if you could do the last two only. Glenys Russell is the ED: [geriatricgypsies@dodo.com.au](mailto:geriatricgypsies@dodo.com.au)

Join your fellow Friendship Force members on an exciting **voyage through Northern Europe and Iceland! May 18 to June 15, 2014** This is a one month enrichment voyage that starts off in the beautiful city of Hamburg, Germany and disembarks in Southampton, England. The ports of call on the Iron and Ice voyage include stops in Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Iceland and the Isle of Man. Send questions to: [romero@thefriendshpforce.org](mailto:romero@thefriendshpforce.org)

### **The 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 in early 2014.

### **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.

### **FFI LOGO EMBROIDERED SHIRTS:**

Are available. Primarily we have focused on your choice of shirt style (long sleeve button front @ \$28,60 or polo/golf @ \$21.20 including tax) with

FF of WM logo embroidered on light blue. Catalog of apparel is available and will be at the August 20th gathering. You may have any shirt you already have embroidered for \$10.00. Caps are available for \$12.72 with the logo in the front.

### **INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS:**

Not only do we have the recent 6 new members, but we also have welcomed other members within the past year. Beginning with this Newsletter I will try to introduce you to these folks with a small bit about them. So those mentioned by Dave above, plus Jim Dean, Pat Grupp, Marti Hearron, Pat Merchant, please anticipate a request in the future for information and a photo.

For this issue, I would like to introduce you to Melanie Perry and Jim Cousins. Melanie and Jim were great ambassadors who joined us to Germany for their first exchange.



**Jim Cousins and Melanie Perry**

### **Kalamazoo, MI**

**Jim Cousins** spent most of his life in and around Niles, MI, where he worked first as an attorney and then most of his working years in the banking business. He has a married daughter who lives in the Chicago area, and she has three children. He enjoys an active outdoor life of bicycling, kayaking and hiking. He has enjoyed many cycling and hiking trips throughout the U.S. as well as sea kayaking along the U.S. and Mexican coasts.

**Melanie Perry** is a life-long resident of Kalamazoo, MI, where she retired after 30 years in the Intellectual Property Law area of a local pharmaceutical company. She now owns and works part time in a small real estate appraisal business. She has two married daughters, one in Texas with two young daughters, and one in Kalamazoo with 12-year-old twins. She enjoys an active outdoor life of hiking and bird watching. She has traveled on several trips with the Road Scholar program (formerly Elderhostel), i.e. Alaska, Peru/Bolivia, Galapagos Islands, as well as trips to England, Norway, Israel, New Zealand and Tasmania. Now she has gone to Germany with Friendship Force. She has hosted many international visitors in her home.