



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

July - August, 2014

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21-28: Inbound Global Exchange, 4th Coast Adventure

October 5, 2:00: Vineyard experience at Fenn Valley, Fennville, MI

October 13 Noon: Board meeting at Hargreave's

October 19-November 9: Outbound Exchange to Araraquara and Salvador, Brazil

November 15: Russian Festival, Fetzer Center. Campus of W. M. U.

December: TBA, Holiday Party and annual meeting of membership.

OF INTEREST

October 7, 7:00 pm American Conversations: What in the World Is Going On? A Global Intelligence Briefing. L. V. Eberhard Center. Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus

October 8, 7:00pm: SWITCH, The acclaimed agenda free documentary, embraced across political lines. Energy resources, undergoing change. Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, GVSU

October 16, 7:00pm: China Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St. GR

October 23 & 30, 7:00: Fall Lecture Series - The Future of Energy (Parts 3 & 4). Steelcase Theater 901 44th St.

It is a busy time around here for Friendship Force activities. The Great Lakes Regional Field Representative, Lyn Hargreave, recently returned from the field rep meeting in Atlanta with an expanded region to oversee. Kentucky's two Friendship Force clubs are now a part of the Great Lakes Region. On the 21st of September we will welcome sixteen ambassadors from Germany, Canada and various far-flung parts of the U.S: Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Wyoming - who will join us for a week to participate in our *Fourth Coast Adventure* global exchange. In October nine members of our club, along with eight members of the Memphis Friendship Force club, will travel to Brazil to be home hosted there by clubs in Araraquara in the state of Saõ Paulo, and Salvador in the state of Bahia. It is also the time of year when we must collectively decide on the countries that we would be interested in traveling to in 2016 and the number and types of inbound exchanges we would be willing to host during that year.

Those of you who have volunteered to participate in some part of our upcoming inbound exchange have received numerous emails from either our Exchange Director Lyn or me concerning various aspects of the week's activities as we coordinate home stays, dinner hosting and transportation for our guests and update head counts of participants for individual activities. I once again wish to thank all of those club members who have volunteered their time, energy, homes, vehicles, and other items to support this program. If you intend to be at any of the planned social functions, I urge you to wear your club name badge and, if weather permits, your club shirt so as to help our guests get to know us better.

By the 19th of September at the latest you all will receive from me a **preliminary** listing of countries suggested by members I have already heard from as outbound destinations for 2016, including a measure of the degree of interest expressed by them for each. If you wish to have your ideas included in that preliminary tally, please respond to my lengthy email on the subject sent out on September 6th ASAP. This preliminary listing is being sent out so that all club members can give further reflection to those places that they would be willing to travel to with our club in 2016. A final "ballot" will be sent out to all members on October 6th and must be returned to me before the October 13th Board meeting when we will be making decisions on how to respond to the exchange request form that must be submitted to Atlanta prior to November 1st.

On that same request form we will also need to provide Atlanta with our wishes concerning the **number and kinds** (club-to-club international, club-to-club domestic, or global/themed) of week-long inbound exchanges we would be willing to host during 2016. It should be noted that Atlanta presumes that there will be a correlation between the number of weeks that a club is hosted elsewhere on outbound exchanges and the number of weeks that same club is willing to host. It is simple arithmetic - globally you can't accommodate more outbound exchanges than you have clubs willing to host those exchanges. So, if we wish to have more than one outbound homestay in 2016 then we should be willing to host more than once during the year. To date I have heard very little on this subject from any of you. That too will be part of the ballot sent to you on October 6th.

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

You will note there is a new format to this newsletter. I was forced to get a new computer and with it new software that I am trying to learn. Consequently, the Newsletter has taken a back burner to the need to complete the exchange booklets for both our outbound and inbound exchanges. This took longer than usual as I had no usable templates and had to begin again. The same as this. Therefore please accept my apologies for this August printing coming to you in mid September. And since I will be in Brazil until mid November, it is definite that the October issue will be coming to you in late November. Maybe by then I can get back to our schedule. Lyn.

EXCHANGES

BIG CANOE, GA: As Dave mentioned I recently attended the annual Field Rep meeting in Atlanta, GA. After that meeting the Field Reps were invited to a 3 day home stay with the Big Canoe club. I feel it is worth mentioning because I had no prior knowledge as to what was in Big Canoe, except a club which had members that I had traveled with to Costa Rica and Germany: Ches and June Tredway. It is a fascinating gated community of woodlands and lakes in the Georgia mountains about 1.5 hours north of



Atlanta. There are about 3500 homes and full time residents there of all ages. It is pretty self contained with it's own post office, restaurants, athletic facilities, bike and walking paths. There is no grass to mow., every house is deeply in the woods. In the valley is the church where Wayne Smith (FFI founder) was the minister after he returned from his missionary work. This club might be called the "hub" of FFI's origins. I met the author of "The Other Side of the Mountain, Charlene Terrell, who's book tells the story of FFI and it's beginnings. She gave our club a copy of the book and if anyone is interested it is available for loan.

INBOUNDS

4th COAST ADVENTURE Schedule of activities

Sunday 5:30 Welcome at Arcadia Brewery, Kzo

Monday-Hiking Warren Woods and Dunes with Will Reding. Greenbush Brewery lunch, Dinner in Decatur at Ellis/Pearson home

Tuesday-Biking in respective communities. Dinner with other club members.

Wednesday-Saugatuck Dune Ride, New Holland Brewery lunch, Windmill Island/Downtown Holland. Sunset beach cook out Holland State Park

Thursday-Art Prize wander. Meet at Ford Presidential Museum 9:00. Lunch Founders Brewery.

Friday-Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and GR Paddle on the Grand.

Saturday-Sail the Friends Goodwill at 3:15 following docent led Maritime Museum tour. Farewell Party, 25766 Almena Dr. Mattawan.

Sunday-Departure day.

OUTBOUNDS:

BRAZIL: Those participating in the home-stay from our club: Roy Pearson, Marci Ellis, Joanne Roschmann, Peg Stanitzek, Sandi Vegter, Lyn and Dave Hargreave, and "honorary members who have traveled with us to NZ and Germany, Bill and Marie Hoover from Toledo. Cathy Dopp will be participating in the extension to Iguazu Falls and Rio.

We will depart October 19 and first visit Araraquara in the state of Sao Paulo about 3 hours from the city. Our transport there will be by bus. After a week of friendship we will return to Sao Paulo airport and fly to Iguazu Falls for two nights, fly to Rio for 3 nights and continue to Salvador for our second home-stay with the club who visited us in 2012. In addition to renewing friendship, we anticipate experiencing a very different culture from the rest of the country. The state of Bahia is the home of Brazilian music, like the south is for country music here. African/Caribbean influence abounds in the rhythm that ignites this culture. We return home on November 9.

HAWAII: Eight club members will participate in this experience in the spring/summer of 2015.

OTHER OUTBOUND OPPORTUNITIES:

Check out the WORLD OF FRIENDS where you'll find such opportunities as these. Only a few openings were remaining on the trips coming soon, but the later trips should be available:

2014 World Conference: Auckland, **NEW ZEALAND** October 14-16 with coordinated home stays.

Guzelbache, **TURKEY**, Oct. 30-Nov. 5 with optional tour extension.

Christmas Market **Cruise on the Rhine**, Dec. 12 to the 24th.

Heredia, **COSTA RICA**, home stay with 7 day extension. Feb. 24-Mar. 10.

Get away from winter at the Tamworth Country Music Festival with two home stays in Tamworth and Newcastle **AUSTRALIA**. Jan. 15-30

Gardens of Oregon: Including Columbia Cascades and southern Oregon. May 28 - June 11.

Ramblers to the **Isle of Wight, UK**. June 4 to 11.

Moscow and the Golden Ring, **RUSSIA**. Including St. Petersburg. June 9-25.

Looking at the choice places folks want to go in 2016. All of the above except Oregon were mentioned. So there should be some interest here.

OTHER INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES:

FIELD REP CONFERENCE REPORT.

The main emphasis at the conference that Lyn attended in Atlanta was on recruitment of younger "NextGen" members. As clubs age, their members cease to travel and are unable to host. Without recruitment efforts the organization will die. Those Reps present whole heartedly agreed, but were very vocal that looking toward incorporating 30-40 year olds into our current clubs was impractical and difficult. We encouraged recruitment of the boomer generation, or those "working" and active, but not specifically targeting those who are still paying off student debt, or raising their own families. The movement for NextGen recruitment will be presented in Auckland hopefully with modifications to what was presented to us.



Above: CEO Joy DiBenedetto talking with group.

FIELD REP CONF. CONT.

There was also discussion on social media, the use of Meet Up, web pages, Facebook and how to use this effectively.

The matching procedure was discussed in detail and I was asked to do a presentation on moving beyond club to club exchanges. Therefore making your own "inbound" if one was not assigned, and using the catalog for outbounds, not only individually, but with several members of your club,

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Lakeside potluck was held in **July** at the home of Roy Pearson and Marci Ellis. All those present enjoyed a tour around the lake in the pontoon boat and the delicious food that was brought by all.

In **August** we had two events: An ethnic potluck held in Ada Township Park. We invited several Meet Up groups to this event and had about 25 total people show up. We hope to see many of them again. The other event was a pool party and dinner at Peg Stanitzek's. We were pleased to have Loie Dye join us. Loie is a new member and it gave us the opportunity to get to know her better.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS



SANDI VEGTER is from Grandville and is still a working person. She is self employed as a real estate investor: "I purchase homes and with a minimal work force, tear them down to the studs and fix them up and rent them, usually to those with challenges. I have dedicated most of my life to working with those who have ben dealt many hard knocks in life. I'm a darn good car mechanic, and that too has been a part of my past.

I am a divorced mother of a very special son, Brad. He is responsible for me being the person I am today. He is 35, hearing and visually impaired due to Rubella. He is the reason I have a big heart for people with disabilities.

I enjoy walking, riding bike and new adventures are always welcome. I like to volunteer with theatre, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other organizations sharing my beliefs. I love meeting new people and sharing life experiences. The recent downturn in the economy caused me to make many changes in my life and the way I was doing business. But I think I have come out of it as a better person.

My fashion tendency does not go for big hats, but it was fun to try them on during the recent exchange to Louisville, home to Churchill Downs. You are more likely to find me in jeans and work boots, than in fancy dresses and high heels.

President: Dave Hargreave

Vice President: Sheila Nichols

Secretary: Deb Williamson

Treasurer: Roy Pearson



JOYCE ELFERDINK is from Holland, MI and joined FF of W. MI this spring after attending the presentation by the young men from Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, and the April in Paris Lunch. She accompanied us to the Regional Meeting in Cincinnati and on a the mini-exchange to Louisville, KY (thus the big hat from Churchill Downs) in early July. She will be hosting for our 4th Coast Adventure.

Her interests lie in issues of social justice. Her career has been in the banking field and she teaches business courses at a local college.

She is a former Peace Corp volunteer where she served in Kazakhstan. She is an accomplished author who has published a novel.

MEMBER UPDATES:

We send condolences to Connie Corriveau on the recent death of her sister.

MEMBERSHIP LIST:

A new and updated membership list is on our website. <http://www.friendshipforcewmich.org> in the members resource section. If you need the password please contact a board member:

BOARD MEMBERS:

The Board will need to fill the vacancy of Vice President for this coming year. Anyone interested in serving in this worthy cause, please contact Dave Hargreave who will present your name to the nominating committee. Current Board members are listed to the left.