

September 2020 Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Sat 9/12/2020 9:14 AM

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



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

Our First Game Night!!

INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA NIGHT !!

On Wednesday August 26, 21 members of FFWM and 6 members of FF Southwest Florida played trivia! Teams were the Lucky 9, the Crazy 9, and GTG (Go Team Go). We had four rounds of questions to answer. It was a close game with the GTG team winning by only 1 point!! It was so fun to meet up for some social time with our own club members AND with our friends from the SW Florida club!! We will be doing this again on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm**. Please join us for an hour of fun and competition! The more people on a team, the more fun it is!!!



Club Activities

It's a Travelogue!
Mark your calendars!!

Lisa Fisher, Nancy Draayer and Marcia Ellis traveled to Singapore and Indonesia with two Friendship Force clubs, Southwest Florida and Sarasota in April 2019. The journey started with three days in Singapore. Then on to visit two Friendship force clubs in Indonesia, Malang on the island of Java and Banjarmasin on the island of Borneo. Their journey ended on the island of Bali. They will share their experiences in this presentation. Please join them for this activity on **September 30 at 7pm**. A zoom invitation will be sent to all members prior to the 7pm start.



OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS . . .

- Tuesday, September 29th, in the afternoon: a "walk and talk" at Yankee Springs. This will be live and in person!! (more details coming soon!)
- Wednesday, October 14th, 7:00 pm, our second International Trivia night
- Wednesday, November 11th, 7:00 pm, FFWM's virtual Scavenger Hunt

Journeys

When to Host and When and Where To Go?

The board has been discussing when we will be able and willing to start hosting and traveling again. In the days of Covid-19 these are big questions. These are the journeys being discussed:

- Marcia has been in contact with our **Turkey** host clubs. Both clubs do not plan to resume any inbound or outbound journeys until 2022. We will ask FFI to give us the two weeks with the Turkey clubs for 2022 and will plan our tour in between the hosted weeks, as previously planned.
- Our club was assigned a journey to **Russia, Georgia and Slovakia**. Jerry is contacting them about a fall 2021 date.
- Jerry is also going to contact our international inbound assigned club for 2020, **Turrialba, Costa Rica** to discuss other times for their journey.
- Our domestic outbound for 2020 was to visit **Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho**. Nancy will be contacting them.
- Our domestic inbound for 2020 was **Quad Cities**. Jerry is contacting them about a new date.
- **Baton Rouge, Denver and Dallas** have expressed interest in our club visiting them in the future.

In addition to the questions of what to do with postponed 2020 and 2021 journeys, we also have to soon request "where we would like to go in 2022". To help the board represent your personal thoughts and interests, you will be receiving a survey next week asking you to comment on

1. "when you would be willing to begin to host" guests from other clubs,
2. "when you would be willing to begin to travel" domestically and internationally on an outbound journey
3. "where would you like to travel domestically and internationally".

Please watch for this survey in your email and please share your feedback with us! We will be asked to submit our travel preferences to FFI in mid-November and we will want to know your feedback prior to that time.

FFI Virtual Experiences

Check out the offerings:

https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/?utm_source=Friendship+Force+Members+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=89723ca37d-COVID-19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5feca96946-89723ca37d-93997981

FFWM Photocluster

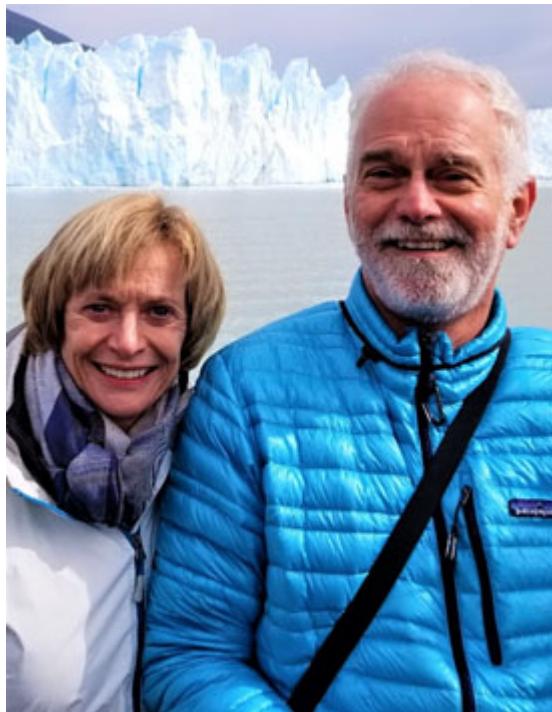


Our FFWM Photocluster met to review and evaluate pictures of birds.
Check out our pictures here:

<https://ffwmphotocluster.shutterfly.com/pictures>

Scroll down to checkout the different folders!

Get to Know Our Members!



Jim and Lauri Ziech

Married in 1980 and moved to Kalamazoo 1986.

They have two Daughters, Angie and Kristy both in their 30's and married, and 5 grand kids!!

Jim is a retired Mechanical Engineer having worked 42 years in the Automotive Industry.

Laurie is a retired Executive Assistant having worked 20 years for the Kalamazoo YMCA.

Jim and Laurie enjoy traveling, hiking, bicycling, reading, and family activities. They have traveled to Europe, Asia, South and Central America. They have hiked many US National Parks including Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Grand Tetons, Appalachian Trail, Rocky Mountain, Smokey Mountain, Death Valley and Joshua Tree. Overseas hikes include Mont Blanc France, Inca

Trail Peru, German Bavarian Alps and Swiss Alps.

Jim is a member of the FFWM Photocluster.



Marilyn Justus

I moved to Michigan after retiring from teaching at Northern Illinois University (College of Ed.).

I live by the Kalamazoo River with my daughter, son-in-law and 15 year-old granddaughter.

I begin birdwatching first thing every morning and often hike with them in the nearby Saugatuck dunes. I hiked in the Grand Canyon and Sedona with my son and daughter-in-law, who live in Denver.

I love classical music and have returned to studying the piano.

Other favorite activities include yoga, gardening, and taking adult education classes about almost anything (but especially history).

I'm glad to have time now to do some traveling. Last year I took a very special trip with my cousin to the former Volga German area in Russia, where our families lived for generations. We also visited Sicily. I recently traveled to Greece. I enjoyed a lovely FFI tour through Spain and Portugal in November. In March I joined several of the friends I made on that Iberian trip for a wonderful FF journey to Australia and New Zealand. That trip was cut short by Covid-19, so I'm looking forward to returning there--and elsewhere with Friendship Force when travel becomes safe and available again.

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Contact us: FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com

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