

December 2020 Newsletter

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



# December 2020 Newsletter

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**Mark your calendars for our  
Holiday Event!**

**This is a reminder that we are  
gathering in front of our computers**

# for a holiday party!

## Monday, December 21 at 7pm

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### **President's Holiday Message**

I hope this note finds all of you doing well.

Throughout this year, we have sanitized and minimized our holiday celebrations due to the pandemic. FFWM is a social group so, for people like us, these restrictions were frustrating... even though we recognized why they were needed.

Thanksgiving, one of my favorite holidays, annually reminds me of the many reasons I have to give thanks. Now we move into our end-of-year holiday celebrations... whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Bodhi Day, Pancha Ganapati, New Year's, or something else... and I hope we can embrace our holidays with eyes and ears and hearts open wide. Just as we gradually realized the hidden benefits of quarantining (e.g., quiet reflection, reading, virtually reaching out to family and long-lost friends), I am confident that we will find a new-found depth of meaning to these upcoming holidays.

No surprise here... FFWM's holiday celebration will be virtual this year! I hope as many of us as possible will join our holiday Zoom. Let's raise a glass, in the best spirit of the holidays, to each other. I hope to see you, virtually, on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm. Put it on your calendar and watch for the emailed Zoom link.

A vaccine is on the way and I hope we can physically meet sometime soon in the new year. Happy Holidays to each of you!

Jerry

### **Thank You to Board and Committees**

Last month, I asked for board volunteers. Since no one expressed an interest in joining our board, our current members have agreed to remain in their current positions through 2021. Board officers are: Jerry Potratz (President), Nancy Draayer (Vice President), Lisa Fisher (Treasurer), and Shirley Wiersma (Secretary). Remaining Board members are: John Richmond, Cathy Dopp, and Melanie Perry (chair of Membership Committee). Marci Ellis does not sit on the board, but chairs our Communications effort.

Our Social Committee members (Lyn Hargreave, Patty Richmond, and Louise Potratz) have been challenged all year in how to engage our members, when we are not traveling or hosting. I think this group has done a very good job. I have chaired this committee and I know that this group has worked hard, and had a lot of fun, all year.

**Working as a board, or committee member, can be very rewarding and a lot of fun. I want to encourage anyone who wants to get involved in the administration and success of our club to let a board member know of your interest. We will happily welcome you!**

I want to thank all of the above people for stepping up and leading FFWM through a very challenging year. We couldn't have a club without you! I look forward to working with all of you throughout the New Year!

Sincerely,  
Jerry

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## GAME NIGHT

On November 11 our club had a zoom scavenger hunt. Our social committee was very creative in developing this game. It was amazing that we all found so many items in our homes like a sock with a hole in it, a high school picture, a ceremonial mask, or a fire extinguisher. But no one had every item. And there were bonus points available, too! The winner with the highest score was Marcia Ellis. She had a lot of stuff in her house!!! A good time was had by all!

We will have another trivia game night in January. Watch for the announcement with details!!



# An Update From FFI

You all should have received an email from FFI which included a video featuring Jeremy Snook, the FFI CEO. He discusses possible changes the board is discussing to ensure a more stable revenue stream. FFI board has been working hard at updating our club. They are working on a member portal that we will be able to use in a variety of ways. There were informational zoom meetings offered for those who had questions about his presentation the first week in December. Those sessions were recorded and can be accessed on the FFI virtual experiences page: [click here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page.

# Photocluster

November topic was fall colors.

You can see more at: <https://ffwmphotocluster.shutterfly.com/pictures>



**Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season!**

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