

Fwd: June-July 2020 FFWM newsletter

Lyn Hargreave <lynhargreave@gmail.com>

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Subject: June-July 2020 FFWM newsletter

Date: July 6, 2020 at 8:16:39 PM EDT

To: <lynhargreave@gmail.com>

Reply-To: <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

June-July 2020 Newsletter

President's Report

By Jerry Potratz

Waiting for the new normal? I know that I am. How about you? Right now, being social is an online exercise and traveling is an at-risk exercise. Dining out means that you are having a picnic, by yourselves, in your back yard, or on your deck. Reality is not very real.

As far as FFWM is concerned, we were hoping to have an outdoor activity in July (a hike followed by a bring-your-own picnic), and we still might, but for now we remain cautious.

We are working on a couple of things that we can do virtually:

- An international trivia contest (more on that later)
- Connecting online with other FFI clubs (those we have visited in recent years and some that we hope to visit soon)
- Virtual discussions of various subjects

Please watch for emails and messages on the above.

Some good news is that FFI appears to have gathered a lot of support from their fundraiser and has likely hit their ambitious \$340,000 target... assuring operations through 2021.

Just like our own FFWM fundraiser, most clubs exceeded their goals. This speaks highly of FFI clubs and our desire to keep the organization, and our friendships, going.

In this newsletter, you will see bios from some of our newer members. So, when you get a chance to meet up with them, you will already know what you have in common!

I'm looking forward to connecting with as many of you as possible as this month progresses. In the meantime, be well and spread friendship!

FFWM Photocluster Activity

FFWM Photocluster had the first meeting (via zoom)! The topic for photos this month was landscapes. Eight members submitted 1 to 3 photos each. Twelve photos were discussed and evaluated. Click [HERE](#) to see the photos submitted. Click on the Monthly Focus folder. This is a dynamic folder so each time you view it there may be different pictures. All FFWM members are invited to be a part of this group. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 7:30pm via zoom. Please contact Dave Hargreave (david.hargreave@wmich.edu) if you would like to join in.

New From FFI!!

FFI is now featuring Virtual Experiences! This is a series of opportunities to meet friends, experience other cultures, or learn something new. There are three types of virtual experiences: Virtual Journey, Learning Place, and Members Connect. Learn more [HERE!](#)

Click on the link below to access the 2019 FFI Annual Report.

[FFI 2019 Annual Report](#)

Get To Know Our Members



Kathy Berglund

Kathy grew up in Maryland, went to school in North Carolina and then moved to Kalamazoo in 1980. She is retired but worked for 42 years as a physical therapist. Kathy has 4 children and 2 grandchildren in the area. She is very active and walks, hikes, bikes, kayaks, skis and is an avid pickleball player. She has traveled a lot in the past and is looking forward to opportunities to enjoy people from around the world with FF.





Gayle and Paul Franklin

Gayle:

I am a retired media secretary with Portage Public Schools. I grew up in Mark Twain's hometown of Hannibal, MO, moved to Boulder, CO where I met and married my husband Paul and moved with him to Midland, MI and then to Kalamazoo/Portage. Paul and I have two daughters, Amy and Laura, two grandchildren, Joel and Clara and two wonderful son-in laws, C.J. and Mark. I am an avid genealogist who enjoys traveling and researching in archives and courthouses. Quilting is another of my favorite hobbies, which has included traveling to major shows for lessons and many quilt retreats. I also enjoy planning and going on trips with our Model A, spending time with family and grandchildren, horseback riding, hosting for Colleague's International and traveling. My father was most happy behind the wheel of a car, so with my parents I saw a large part of the western US on our yearly vacations. I have not been to Washington (state) or North Dakota but have gone through or vacationed in the other 48 states. I feel fortunate to have traveled in many places in Europe, Canada, and South America either on our own or with small tour groups.

Paul:

I am a Viet Nam era vet doing a 2 year tour of duty in Norfolk, Virginia as a Navy weather man from 1966 to 1968. After getting my Bachelor's degree in 1970, I started my professional career. I worked for Dow Corning in Midland, Michigan for 10 years and then Upjohn/ Pharmacia and Upjohn for 25 years before retiring in 2004. My three main hobbies are music, (playing in bluegrass bands and recently a Swing music band called Somewhere in Time). My main instrument is the violin but I also play the guitar and sing a little, plus mandolin. I recently started taking piano lessons. Maintaining and driving our 1930 Model A Ford is another way of having fun. Of course, another of my passions is travel. My wife and I will have been married for 50 years next year. I believe citizen diplomacy is how to represent our country in a more personal and positive way. We have hosted many people from Europe, Russia, and the Middle East as members of Colleagues International over the past 10 years or so. We hosted a Spanish girl from Barcelona Spain for a school year when our daughters were in high school.



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Experience different views. Discover common ground

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN,
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR CLUB'S GENEROUS DONATION TO OUR CURRENT
 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL HELP ENSURE
 THE CONTINUATION OF OUR ORGANIZATION. YOUR SUPPORT IS
 MOST APPRECIATED AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY,
 ON BEHALF OF THE FFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANK YOU ALL FOR
 YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.
 IN FRIENDSHIP AND WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,
 Marilyn Peterson, VICE CHAIR FFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 PETERSON.MARILYN @ COMCAST.NET
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A thank-you note from FFI for our contribution.



FFWM Newsletter

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/>

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