

## FFWM July 2021 Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Tue 7/6/2021 6:59 AM

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



friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

# July 2021 FFWM Newsletter

## A Note From the President

I hope you are still speaking to me after the very difficult trivia/puzzle questions used during our game night on June 9<sup>th</sup>! Usually our participants get a good portion of our questions correct, but, on this night... we definitely needed to grade on the curve! Anyway, I had fun and I hope everyone in attendance did also.

Our next gathering will not be virtual, however, as..... **LEO is back!**

We haven't seen LEO since February 2020! Our last Let's Eat Out was in Holland over a year ago. It is time to resume this popular gathering. This time of year, our LEO's are on the 6<sup>th</sup> of each month at 6:00 pm. Lyn Hargreave recently sent out an email organizing our

first 2021 LEO for Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, at Salvinos Italian Restaurant in Plainwell. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, we will meet at Sovengard, Scandinavian Restaurant, in Grand Rapids. More LEO's are listed below. Lyn needs to notify the restaurants of our approximate numbers, so remember to regularly notify Lyn that you are coming. I'm looking forward to seeing you and enjoying some great international cuisine, while at the same time supporting our local businesses who have struggled their way through this pandemic. Let's Eat Out!

### **Yes! We are ready!**

As I mentioned in our June Newsletter, our board decided to host visitors this fall, if we could find a nearby Friendship Force club to co-host. Friendship Force of Lansing is going to partner with us on this journey. See further information in this newsletter. Thank you to Lansing! Fire up people! We will have visitors on the way!

### **I really *mean* this: Crossing the Finish Line with FFI**

If you have not yet made a contribution to FFI's Crossing the Finish Line fundraising effort, please consider a donation. You can read more about this campaign, and donate, by going to this website: [Crossing the Finish Line \(kindest.com\)](https://www.kindest.com). FFI has used the covid-induced travel break wisely. FFI has become leaner and *meaner*... and, in this context, I *mean* more focused... like a *means* to an end. FFI's tagline: A world of friends is a world of peace... tells us what the end-game is, and it is a very worthy cause. If clubs are the *means* to this end, then count us in! Please give and help FFI get meaner!

### **Migration to myfriendshipforce.org**

Please sign up for myfriendshipforce.org. FFI will be gradually migrating to this new website for all member communications and transactions. Want to know about Journeys? Go to this website. Want to pay for your Journey fees online? Go to this website. Want to get in touch easily with people who you have hosted or visited? Go to this website. But you can only enter this website IF you have signed up. Here is the website page to do so:

[https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in)

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## LEOs

Remember LEOs? Let's Eat Out and visit with our FFWM friends. The following is a list of the upcoming LEOs. Mark your calendar so you don't double book yourself!

**July 6** LEO is at Salvinos Italian Restaurant, 1290 M-89, Plainwell

**August 6** LEO is at Sovengard, Scandinavian Restaurant, at 443 Bridge St NW #1, in Grand Rapids.

**September 6** is Labor Day. . . . no LEO

**October 6** at 6pm Bombay Cuisine, 1420 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids

**November 6** at 6pm Casa Real, 232 W Allegan St, in Otsego

**December 6** at 6pm is our Christmas party. Details TBD.

## Journey Updates

### **Inbound. . . a Journey with FF Lansing!**

This will be a modified "global" journey. Our guests will come from only the US. All guests and hosts must be vaccinated for Covid-19. The plan is for guests to arrive to the Lansing club on Sept. 17. On Sept. 21 the Lansing club will bring guests to Grand Rapids (lunch and tour Meijer Gardens and possibly Meyer May House). Guests will go home with our club hosts. We will have our guests until departure date of Sept. 25.

**We are looking for HOSTS.** Please email Journey Coordinators

Pam Sackett and/or Marcia Ellis (journey coordinators) if you can hosts these dates. **We will also need day and dinner hosts.** This is a great way for our newer members to get involved in a journey.

### **Outbound . . . Turkey**

Louise and Marci recently received emails from both FF of Greater Izmir and FF of Bursa. Both clubs are preferring to wait until the fall for scheduling our journey. They want to wait until more people are vaccinated in Turkey and life is more normal for them. We will keep you posted!

### **Outbound . . . Novgorod, Russia and Tbilisi, Georgia**

Lisa Fisher has volunteered to be a Journey Coordinator. Thank you Lisa! She is looking for a co-coordinator to help her. Please consider joining Lisa in planning this trip. Combining Novgorod and Tbilisi, two historically and culturally significant cities, with a side trip to St Petersburg, the Venice of Russia, one of the world's great cities, assures that this journey is going to be very memorable! Plus, is there anyone that thinks we couldn't use some improvement in U.S. relations with Russia and Eastern Europe? As ambassadors, we will grow friendships, improve our own understanding of the world, and make this world a more peaceful place!

## **30th Anniversary Celebration of FFWM**

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

The 30th anniversary celebration of our club will be held on **Friday, September 24** at the farewell party of our inbound journey. Mark your calendars!!

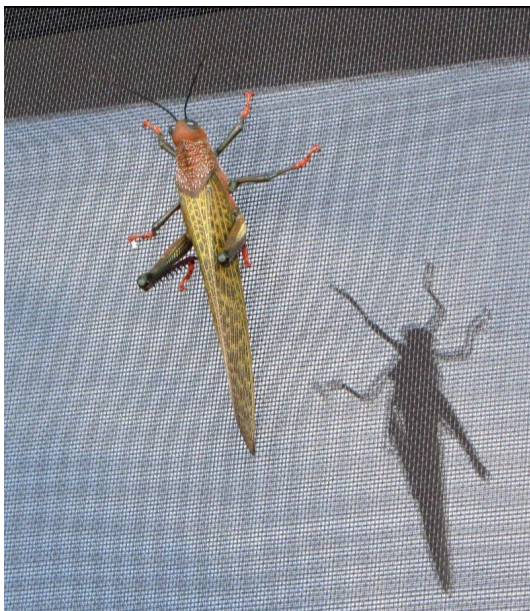
Thirty years is a significant milestone for any organization... let alone a totally volunteer-driven club! We will reminisce and honor the past as well as look forward to our future. Plus, you can expect some surprises!

We are looking for volunteers to plan this party. If you are interested in helping please notify Lyn Hargreave (lynhargreave@gmail.com)

Marcia Ellis (ellism@wmich.edu) or Pam Sackett (tulikivi@msn.com).  
To our newest members, this is a great way to get involved, so please consider it!

# Photocluster

## Bugs, butterflies and more bugs!!





# GAME NIGHT!



**It was another great game night!**  
 On June 9th 18 FFWM members and 7 FFSWFL members played a very tough game of trivial pursuit. There was a tie for the winning spot! Our game nights are getting more boisterous!!

## Email from our friends FFSWFL

On behalf of Southwest Florida Friendship Force Club we thank you for including us on the fun trivia Zoom event. We had a wonderful time and appreciate the generosity of your club. Please pass this note to everyone involved in this fun social!

In Friendship,

Joanne Collins  
 FF of Southwest Florida

# Invitation from FF Dayton

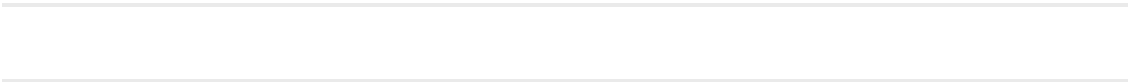
Friendship Force of Dayton invites the Friendship Force clubs of the Great Lakes region to join us for a visit to meet our members and explore our city!

August 4- 7, 2021

We are ready to welcome 10 ambassadors for a few days of fun and friendship!

Cost: FFI fees of \$45/person plus cost of individual activities

Contact Bambi Saxe at [jonandbambi@gmail.com](mailto:jonandbambi@gmail.com) by July 14



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*FFWM Newsletter*  
Contact us: [FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com)

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