

May 2021 Newsletter

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friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

May 2021 FFWM Newsletter

A Note from the President

I have grown so much smarter since our last Newsletter! *You might be thinking: 1) really Jerry... I doubt this; or you might be thinking... 2) yes, but you started with very little smarts to begin with!* My knowledge of Michigan has increased exponentially. *You might be thinking: Jerry, this just supports point #2 above.* Check out the photo and article below. Factually speaking, I have found that I enjoy facts! Another thing that I enjoy is meeting people. People from all over the

world. Yes, there are facts to be learned, but, more importantly, there are relationships to be enjoyed. We haven't traveled anywhere in a long time, but that doesn't mean that we can't make new friends. How about trying the old-fashioned way? Want to be a Pen Pal? *You might be thinking: Really, Jerry, how old are you? Writing in pen on paper? Isn't that taking two light-year steps backward? Are your letters going to be delivered by Pony Express?* FFI has a Pen Pal program. You just fill out a registration form sharing your interests and hobbies and FFI matches you with a Pen Pal. Resources needed to participate: a pen, a piece of paper... or, I suppose you could print out your letter and then just sign it... and postage stamps. Go to the FFI website to learn more about the program, or just use this link to register: [Friendship Force Pen Pal Application \(google.com\)](#) *You might be thinking: Okay, Jerry, after you! Well... Jerry is already registered... and that's a fact!*

Ready or Not? Still don't know!

Last month I mentioned that we would be sending out a survey to determine our club's readiness to host visitors in 2021. I emailed the survey to our club on April 13th. I heard back from about half of you. Pretty good for a survey response rate, but I would like to hear from more members. Please complete the survey and send your comments back to me by May 18th. Our board meets on May 19th and we need to make a decision as to whether we are Ready or Not.

Save the Dates!

Messages from our Social Committee

The Outdoors is Calling!

Let's venture outside and have a little fun! Our Social Committee is planning an afternoon picnic (bring your own everything), with games

and optional hiking. We will identify a place that not only allows us to gather, but also offers access to easy, scenic, nature walks. We will follow CDC guidelines.

For now, please reserve the afternoons of these two dates: **Monday, May 24th, and Wednesday, May 26th**. Our picnic will begin at **2:00 pm**. Once we know the weather forecast for the week, we will choose the date that gives us the best opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Our committee will also be spending the next few weeks investigating “where” to meet, so watch your emails for details to come! If you have any suggestions, please feel free to send an email to jerrypotratz@hotmail.com. The more suggestions we receive, the more options we can consider for May and beyond!

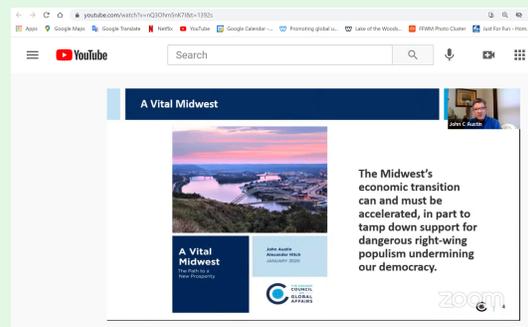
Trivia is not Trivial!

Since the pandemic began, we have used virtual Trivia Nights as one way for our club members to stay connected. Clubs need camaraderie to sustain themselves... hardly a trivial thing. As CDC guidelines allow, we will begin (as above) to safely gather in person. Does this mean that our Trivia days are over? Not yet! We will have another Zoom **Trivia Night on Wednesday, June 9th, at 7:00 pm**. Please put this on your calendar. You will receive an email link to the Trivia Night prior to the event.

Recommendations

World Affairs Council

Cathy Dopp recommends this YouTube video ["Towards a Newly Vital Midwest"](#).

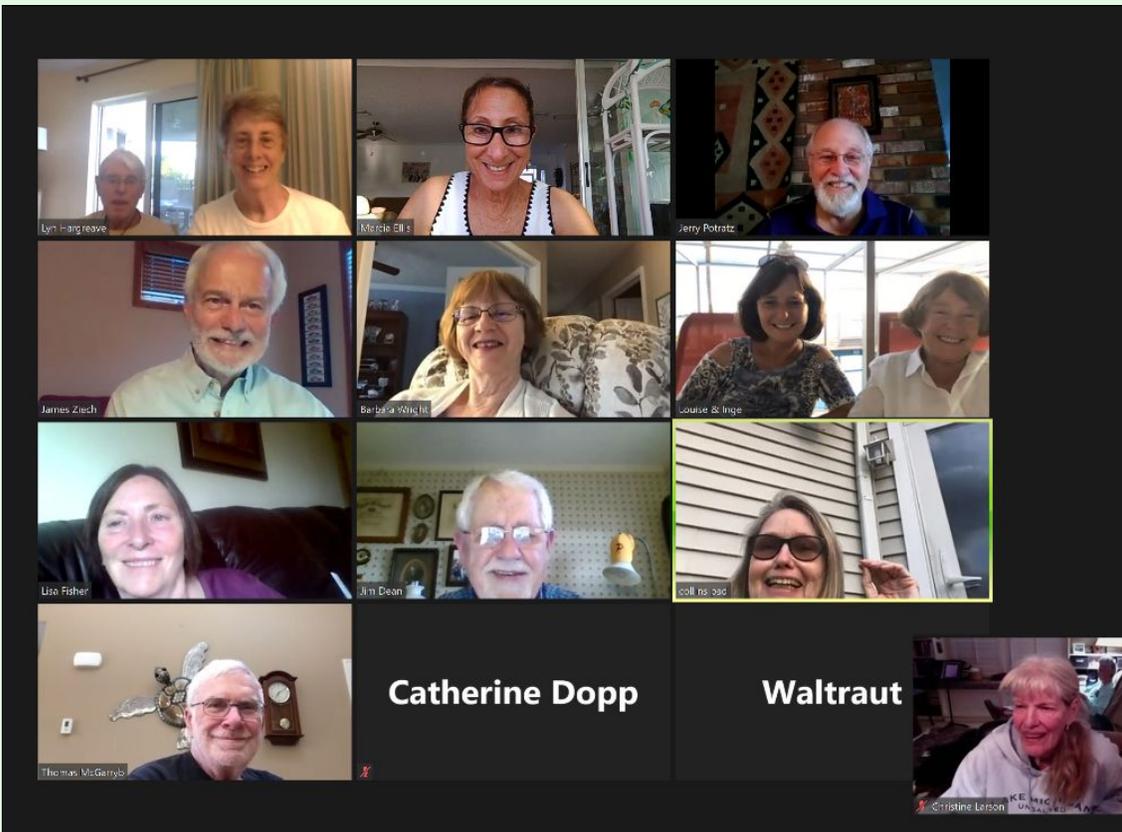


A Video by Stan Sackett

On February 24th Stan Sackett gave a talk about Pam & Stan's African Adventure. He subsequently made a little 4 minute video which can be found [Here](#). Just scroll down to the Feb 24 entry and click on the video. Be sure your sound is on. It is a great taste of his talk!!



Michigan Trivia



On April 27th 15 members of FFWM played Michigan Trivial Pursuit. Many interesting Michigan facts were recalled and we had a great time visiting. Interesting item. . . half the attendants were out of state!

Photo Cluster



**The last photo assignment was "sunsets and sunrises".
See the pictures in the [permanent gallery here](#).
All cameras are welcome!!
If you would like to join the group contact Dave Hargreave at
david.hargreave@wmich.edu.**

FFWM Newsletter
Contact us: FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com

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