

October 2021 Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Mon 10/4/2021 9:36 PM

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



FFWM October 2021 Newsletter

A Message From Our President

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our 30th anniversary celebration! Special thanks go out to Marci Ellis for all of her help and leadership with the food prep (delicious!) and arranging our immigrant speakers from Syria, and also to Lyn Hargreave and Jennette

Pankhurst for their conversational reminiscing! Marci and Pam Sackett did a marvelous job as co-coordinators of our Arts and Friends mini-journey and thanks also go to our host families and dinner hosts. It was great to have visiting ambassadors again, wasn't it?

We were honored to have the two top officials in FFI join us for our celebration. James Permana, Chair of the Board of FFI, was one of our visiting ambassadors (from Chicago) and Jeremi Snook, CEO and President of FFI, joined us virtually to recognize our birthday and share with us some memorable moments from his own life.

Thirty years is a very nice milestone! Why not thirty more? Okay... maybe none of us will be around for FFWM's 60th anniversary, but we can certainly set the framework for such an event, through our commitment to building friendships near and far and our engagement in club activities on a regular basis. Don't stand back folks... step up! Let's continue celebrating the force of friendship!

See you at the LEO!

When: October 6 at 6pm
Where: Maui Poke
310 N Drake Rd, Kalamazoo
Be there or be square!!!

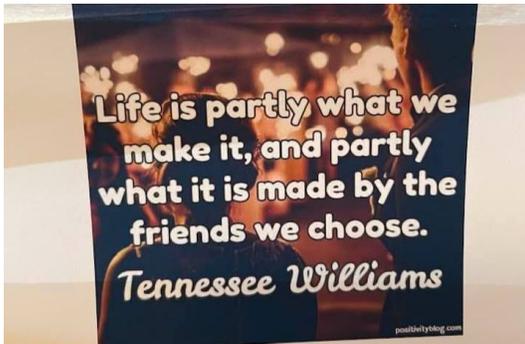
RSVP to lynhargreave@gmail.com

FFWM 30th Anniversary
Celebration

On Friday, September 24 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our club!

Our club members worked together to make the food with Marcia's mother's recipes (Lebanese). Jeremi Snook, FFI CEO, Zoomed in to wish us a happy 30th celebration. Jeanette Parkhurst, a founding member of our club, was interviewed by Lyn Hargreave about the earliest days of our club. A Syrian refugee family, Aola and Emad Alhasan and their sons, Hasan and Zain talked with us about their experience fleeing from the war in Syria to Jordan and eventually to Kalamazoo. Our FFWM choir sang "This Land Is Your Land" with some lyrical adaptation by Jerry and Louise Potratz. We had 49 people attend with our 8 guests and the Syrian family!





Journey Friendship and Art

Pam Sackett and Marcia Ellis were journey coordinators for our inbound journey, "Friendship and Art". We hosted 8 guests from Chicago, Toledo, and Lansing. We attended Art Prize and Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on Thursday. Friday we had a tour of downtown Kalamazoo with Lynn Houghton and a tour of the Kalamazoo Institute of Art. Our guests attended our 30th anniversary

celebration for their farewell dinner.

Meijer Gardens and Art Prize



Kalamazoo Downtown Tour and Lunch at Bell's Brewery



Board Nominations

Please consider Board service!
Send all nominations for board members to
Jerrypotratz@hotmail.com.

Have You Registered With FFI Yet?

If you have not. . . **PLEASE DO IT NOW!!!**

FFI Online is now live. It will eventually house all our member resources and exclusive member-only content, and keep you up to speed with news from FFI and around the world.

Eventually the member portal will be used to sign up for journeys, pay any fees etc.

The minimum information required to sign up is your name, club and email address.

Be sure to sign up if you have not already done so!

Here is the website sign-up

page. https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in

Travels

Wonder where your friends are traveling recently?

If you have taken a trip--even a weekender--please share your story with us! Include pictures, too!!

Send your story and pictures to ellism@wmich.edu.



Lisa Fisher and Nancy Draayer are traveling in Turkey now.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



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