

January 2022 Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Sat 1/1/2022 8:15 AM

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



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FFWM January

2022 Newsletter

A Message From Our President

There is always something special about welcoming in a new year. Feelings typically include some nostalgia associated with the year just passed... moments that you would love to repeat and times that you painfully endured... and a sense of optimism and wonder about the new year ahead. What will the new year bring? In what activities will we challenge ourselves? In what ways will we be challenged? Nothing ventured... nothing gained. What do I want to venture into? For most of us, at our ages, we cannot afford to "sit out a year"... there are just too few that remain. What are those things that we would really like to do in 2022? Is there anything wrong with just taking the time to smell the roses... enjoying those simple things that surround us every day? There needs to be some balance between counting our blessings and pursuing new adventures. A new year allows us to survey our personal landscape and assess what might be added, deleted, or improved.

I think that 2022 is going to be a great year. A year far more positive and healthy than the pandemic-plagued recent years. As far as FFWM is concerned, we will continue to try to engage all of our members through a combination of virtual and face-to-face get togethers and ... drum roll please... our first outbound journeys in nearly two years! We will take advantage of whatever 2022 offers us! I want to wish all of you, and your loved ones, a very healthy and happy new year. Let's explore and enjoy 2022 together!

Jerry Potratz

Dues Were Due!

Our annual dues were due in December 2021. FFI increased our dues to \$25 and our club (FFWM) dues are \$15 for a total of **\$40**. If you have not yet paid, please write your **check made out to FFWM** and mail it to Lisa Fisher at 9704 Oakview Dr., Portage, MI 49024.

Holiday Party

And a good time was had by all!



December 6, 2021 was our Christmas party at Martell's in Kalamazoo. We enjoyed excellent food and comradery in a beautiful setting. Icy roads reduced our numbers to 29 members. Jerry reviewed the past year's activities and outlined what to look forward to in 2022. It was a lovely affair!

Committee Service

Please consider serving on one of our Committees!

Just contact jerrypotratz@hotmail.com.

There are openings on the Social Committee (picnics, trivia, etc.), the Membership Committee (recruitment, retention, etc.), and the Communications Committee (Facebook, web page, newsletter, etc.).

We want you!! Come join us in the fun! Just let Jerry know!
jerrypotratz@hotmail.com

Let's Eat Out!

Our next LEO. . . .

When: January 12, Wednesday at 12 noon.

Where: Sheshco Mediterranean Grill, 2121 Celebration Dr., GR
Reservations will be in Stan Sackett's name.

RSVP to Lyn Hargreave at lynhargreave@gmail.com

Note: The restaurant line-up for February has changed. Check our website at: <https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/upcoming-events.html>

Trivia Night Is Coming!!



Put your thinking caps on!
Get the popcorn made!
Join us on Wednesday, January 26
at 7pm for a game of trivia!
Watch your email for the Zoom link.

Have You Registered With FFI Yet?

29 members of our club have registered.
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. A recent message from FFI through this website informed us of an update of the latest features that were added:

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.

More news from Nancy Draayer, with Lisa Fisher, about their trip to Turkey in October:

The highlight of Turkey was Cappadocia with it's awe-inspiring balloon ride over a magical terrain of 'fairy chimneys'. We arose at 4:30 a.m. to board the basket of the hot air balloon and it was well worth it. We floated over and among the mountains as the sun rose. See the photo, as words just don't do it justice.

Other places of interest were the Goreme open-air museum which includes a network of caves that were turned into monasteries and Byzantine churches dating as far back as the 5th century. Also, of interest are the underground cities built for people to hide from their enemies during various conflicts over the centuries. Imagine living in these subterranean cities for months. If hiking is an interest, I recommend the Red and Rose Valleys where you see cave dwellings and tent rock formations as well as beautiful vistas.

Also, in the Cappadocia area are the Turkish baths. Check your modesty at the

door and enjoy getting scrubbed in a public bath (genders separated). I also enjoyed a gentle massage afterward. Then head to watch the whirling dervishes. If you imagined the whirling dervish to be a colorful and flashy form of entertainment as I did, it couldn't be farther from the truth. The traditional dervish was dressed in white performing a spiritual whirling dance to meditative music. It's fascinating, but if you've already had a long day you may enjoy some caffeine before the performance. The show is very relaxing and hypnotic. I could have spent a week in the Cappadocia area alone.

Turkey has a long and rich history dating back to the beginning of civilization and there are many archaeological ruins to prove it. Ephesus, being one of the most famous, is a must see. As I walked through the ruins of this ancient city, I imagined the theater/stadium where the gladiators fought, the grand library filled with books and the marble street filled with people going to the market. Don't be surprised if you sit down on a park bench or somewhere around the many ruins, that suddenly you have a cat sitting on your lap. Cats are honored by Muslims and it is said that is why they always land on their feet. In summary, if you're interested in beautiful scenery, amazing ancient ruins, historic locations and maybe even a Turkish bath, Turkey is a must do trip.





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