

FFWM April 2022 Newsletter

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

**friendship force**

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

FFWM April 2022 Newsletter

A Message From Our President

This newsletter includes information on our Journey to Azerbaijan and Turkey this fall. This promises to be a wonderful trip. Please consider joining us on this Journey. The host clubs are opening their arms and their homes for us. Let's join them, break bread, experience their culture and spread friendship throughout the world!

Another organization, in which Louise and I are active, is the Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association. The KRCA has a long history of building friendship with the people of Pushkin, Russia... Kalamazoo's Sister City. Late last year the KRCA was approached by the people of Pushkin to plant a Peace Pole in both cities to signify our

friendship and the importance of recognizing peace throughout the world. We took our request to plant this Peace Pole in Bronson Park to the City of Kalamazoo's Parks and Recreation Commission at their March 1st meeting. Unfortunately, Russia's invasion of the Ukraine raised some concern within the commission as to "whether this was the right time" to do such a thing. We don't have a definitive answer to our request at this time, but, in my mind, there is no better time than NOW to spread peace between regular everyday people... everywhere around the world. That's what we do through KRCA and that is what we do as members of Friendship Force. Let's be a force for peace! Let's travel together and make new friends!
Jerry

Let's Eat Out

Unfortunately, the March LEO had to be cancelled. There was bad weather that day.

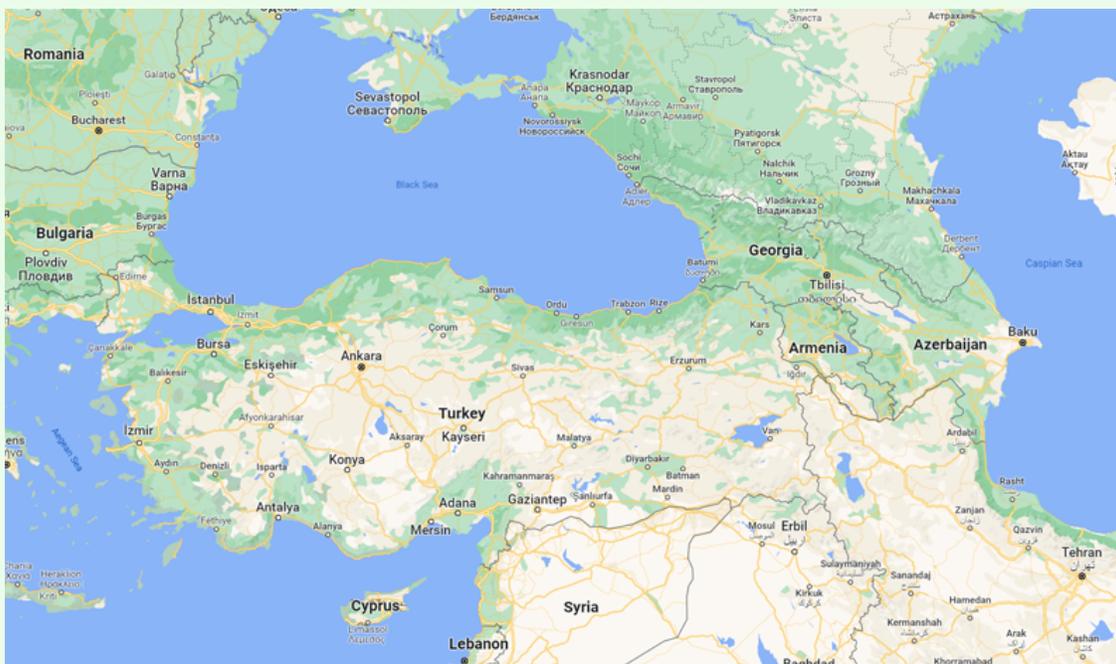
The LEO on Tuesday, April 12 will be at 12 noon at Ol Asian Bistro, 68 W. 8th St., Call or email Lyn Hargreave (lynhargreave@gmail.com) to RSVP if you plan to go so she can make a reservation for the correct number of people.

Journeys

We are finally going to Turkey! And also a homestay in Azerbaijan! We have a basic itinerary for our journey to Turkey and Azerbaijan. The Bursa club in Turkey can accommodate 15 guests. Baku, Azerbaijan club can take a few more so it is possible to visit Turkey OR Azerbaijan OR both!
Dates: September 22 to October 22 (1 month)

FFWM Journey to Turkey and Azerbaijan Sept-Oct 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Sept 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Depart USA | 23 Homestay Arrive Azerbaijan | 24 Homestay |
| 25 Homestay | 26 Homestay | 27 Homestay | 28 Sheki | 29 Sheki | 30 Sheki | Oct 1 Fly to Istanbul Hotel |
| 2 Istanbul | 3 Istanbul | 4 Istanbul | 5 take ferry to Bursa for homestay | 6 homestay | 7 homestay | 8 homestay |
| 9 homestay | 10 homestay | 11 homestay | 12 Stay in Ankara | 13 Ankara To Cappadocia | 14 Sightseeing #1 Option: Balloon ride Cappadocia | 15 Sightseeing #2 Option: Whirling Dervish Option: Balloon ride Cappadocia |
| 16 Fly to Antalya OR Bus Antalya | 17 Pamukkale PM tour Hotel | 18 Ephysis | 19 Izmir | 20 Izmir | 21 Depart for home | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



The following costs are based on our 2020 trip. Keep in mind that many things have changed (Izmir is now part of the tour, Azerbaijan has been added, prices have changed.)

Cost for Bursa homestay: \$350*

Cost for Baku: \$530* + cost of 3 nights in a hotel

FFI fees: \$340* (2 weeks of homestay)

Approximate cost of tour through Turkey: \$2000 (yet to be determined by travel agent. This estimate is probably high.)

e-visa for Azerbaijan: \$45*

e-visa for Turkey: about \$50

ED, tips, contingency: \$200

Airfare: 1. USA to Baku, Azerbaijan 2. Baku to Istanbul 3. Kayseri to Antalya (maybe) 4. Izmir to USA 5. some transfers.

* actual cost

All travelers must have their immunizations up to date (3 for Covid) and wear masks when appropriate.

It is decision time!

*If you wish to go you must make the commitment by **April 10** by sending an email to ellism@wmich.edu, then \$500 down payment in the mail (302 Sabin, Kalamazoo, MI 49006).*

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.

Snow Birds Take Flight

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Louise and I were ready to become snow birds, spending the entire month of March and most of February in warmer climates... Hawaii and Florida to be exact. It was nice to be out and about again, especially in such beautiful settings... and with such wonderful friends. We spent our time on the big island of Hawaii with Dave and Lyn Hargreave, who know the island like the back of their hands!



This is a photo, courtesy of Dave, from our visit to Akaka Falls State Park.



This is the scenic Waipio Valley. Absolutely beautiful.



We spent some time in Florida visiting Marci and Roy at their beautiful home in Punta Gorda, along with Louise's mom, Inge. And we hosted Pam and Stan Sackett at Inge's house in St. Petersburg. It is nice spending time with Friendship Force people wherever you go!



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