

## 2022 November FFWM Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Mon 10/31/2022 9:14 PM

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

**Attention:** This email is from outside Western Michigan University. Use caution when opening links and attachments.



## President's Message

This time of year gets really busy doesn't it? We quickly transition from Halloween to Thanksgiving to Christmas (or whatever other holiday you might recognize) and finally to New Year's Eve. Various activities just kind of push us, or pull us, along. Ready, or not, here it comes!

Activity is picking up for FFWM too! We will gather for a LEO on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and we will celebrate at a Holiday Dinner and Concert on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (see information on both below). I would love to see as many members as possible at both events!

From what I have observed on social media and heard from personal testimony, our Ambassadors that just returned from their Journey to Azerbaijan and Turkey had an absolutely incredible time! If they can process through their thousands of photos in time, we hope to Zoom with them in January to hear (and see) more about their trip. I expect that they will bring their enthusiasm to the November LEO and our Holiday Party, so we will get some early feedback soon.

November, of course, is the month for us to officially give thanks for all of our blessings. We all have our challenges and no one's life is perfect, but give thanks we should and give thanks we will. I hope that each of you has a fun and festive Halloween and a most enjoyable Thanksgiving.

## Dues are Due!

Our annual dues are due at the holiday party on December 2. FFI has decided to hold its portion of our annual dues for 2023 at the same \$25 level as 2022. FFWM has set our club portion at \$10 to bring the dues total to \$35 for each membership. Please make your check out to FFWM and give it to Lisa Fisher at the party. Or you can mail it to her at 9704 Oakview Dr., Portage, MI 49024.

## LEO

Our next LEO is November 6 at 6pm at Comensoli's,  
762 W. Main, Kalamzoo.  
(Exit 38A from 131, go east. You'll find the restaurant at the bottom of  
the large hill on your left.)  
<http://www.comensolis.com/menu/>  
RSVP to Lyn Hargreave by Nov 3.

## To the Great Pacific Northwest "Here we come!"

The 2023 dates for our Journey to Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho have been set for arrival on May 15 and departure on May 22.

Reserve these dates on your calendar now and let Jerry know if you have early interest in making this trip ([jerrypotratz@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrypotratz@hotmail.com), or 269-569-3259). Catherine Henze has volunteered to be an Assistant Coordinator for this Journey and will work with EW/NI about "things to do" while we are in the Spokane area. Catherine was an EW/NI member prior to moving to Western Michigan. **We need a volunteer to be our Ambassador Coordinator** and provide additional leadership for this Journey. Please consider this opportunity and let Jerry know if you are willing to volunteer.

We are contacting other Northwest FF clubs to see if they would be willing to host us either pre- or post-EW/NI. If that opportunity presents itself, we will let you know.

Other journeys for 2023:

Inbound 2023

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Outbound 2023

Metropole Rohr, Germany

## Join the Board

To all our members. . . start thinking about board service!  
Terms are for 2 years.  
Duties include:  
Selecting the officers from those Directors elected by the Club membership.  
Appoint committee chairpersons.  
Approve the financials of the club.  
Set the annual schedule for journeys

**Work with a fun group of people!**

## FFWM Holiday Party

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

Don't Miss Our Holiday Party and Concert!

**Friday, December 2nd**

**5:00pm: Dinner** at Martell's

(3501 Greenleaf Blvd, Kalamazoo)

**8:00pm: Concert** at Miller Auditorium

(2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo)

*Featuring The Kalamazoo Concert Band and  
The Kalamazoo Children's Chorus*

We will start our evening with dinner and a brief end-of-year business meeting and then migrate to WMU's campus to enjoy what should be a most beautiful yuletide concert. Per person dinner cost will be \$33 (\$25 plus 20% gratuity plus tax). Although the concert is free, you will need a ticket and we will distribute concert tickets at dinner. If you work and cannot make it to Martell's, we can still hold a concert ticket for you and meet you at WMU.

It is absolutely necessary to have an accurate dinner count one week in advance, therefore please respond to Lyn Hargreave by November 20th regarding if you will or will not be attending!

(lynhargreave@gmail.com, or 269-352-1120)

Please come! The evening should be very enjoyable and a lot of fun!

## Starter

HOUSE V

heritage greens with citrus vinaigrette, dried apricots, candied walnuts and sliced brie

## Entree – Your Choice Of

SALMON FILLET GF

pan seared 5 oz. north atlantic salmon fillet topped with a chilled tomato, cucumber & dill salad served with mashed potatoes, grilled asparagus and chili oil drizzle

TUSCAN GRILLED PORK CHOPS

this version called "arista" translates to "the best", marinated in fresh rosemary, thyme, and garlic, with a mustard, fig and balsamic reduction sauce, whipped potatoes, vegetable medley

CHICKEN PICATTA

seasoned and pan seared chicken breast with a lemon-caper butter sauce, mashed potatoes, and grilled asparagus topped with blistered tomatoes

RAVIOLI V

cheese filled ravioli with your choice of our house made tomato sauce or a pesto cream sauce and topped with sun dried tomatoes, parmesan, and parsley

## Dessert

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

whipped cream and ganache

## Hello From Bursa and Baku!

In Azerbaijan we visited many sites in Baku (capitol) and spent 3 nights in Sheki, a mountain town. The FF of Baku hosted us for 5 nights. The journey coordinator, Khalida Rustova, is an English teacher and several of her students joined us in our activities so they could improve their English!

We spent 4 nights in Istanbul, then ferried across the Sea of Marmara to meet FF of Bursa. We spent a week visiting Bursa and surrounding areas including old Greek and Ottoman villages. We ate all kinds of Turkish foods everywhere we went!

And then we took a 10 day bus tour of western Turkey. A highlight for some was the hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia, for others it was a swim in the Mediterranean, and for others it was hiking through ancient ruins.

It can be said that a great time was had by all!



## Travel Opportunities

Click the link below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you!

[2022 Journey Catalog.](#)



FFWM Newsletter

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

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