

2022 Oct Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Sat 10/1/2022 11:14 AM

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

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friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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



President's Message

Over the last two weeks, FFWM members have completed a full 180-degree transformation from international hosts to international travelers! First, we spent a very enjoyable week hosting our guest ambassadors from the four-corners of Germany and now, as of Saturday the 1st, we are completing our visit to Azerbaijan and arriving in Turkey.. *Oh how I wish that Louise and Inge and I were part of that trip, as we had originally planned!*

We had around 60% of our membership participate, in some way, in the Lubeck Journey. I would always like to see a higher percentage, but this is pretty good! Thank you to our Home Hosts, Day Hosts, Dinner Hosts and those of you that took the time to attend the Welcome Luncheon or Farewell Potluck or any activity in-between.

We provided a memorable week for our guests and they will remember it for a lifetime. I received many truly nice comments from our visiting ambassadors.

I am going to make one last request for you to engage yourself with FFWM in 2023 through service on one of our committees (Social, Membership, or Communications) or through board participation. We will finalize our 2023 board nominations in November. As we learned in Finance 101... without investment, there is no growth! So it also is in life... if you want to get something out of an activity, you have to invest yourself in it! Enjoy what Friendship Force has to offer. Don't stand back folks... step up! Call me (269-569-3259), or send me an email (jerrypotratz@hotmail.com), and we can discuss.

Jerry

LEO

October 6, Thursday at 6pm.

Jungle Bird, 155 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo.

RSVP to Lyn Hargreave

The Jungle Bird is a brand-new restaurant that is building a very good early reputation. Let's check it out!



Welcoming our Ambassadors from Germany

Our guests from Germany experienced the best that Western Michigan has to offer throughout their week-long visit. They arrived as strangers, but they left as friends! Below are a few photos from the varied activities... from a lakeside Welcome Party (thank you, Nancy, for hosting) to Meijer Gardens to sailing on a Tall Ship to the Gilmore Car Museum to a horticulture tour to our Auf Wiedersehen Farewell Potluck. A special thank you to our German Ambassadors for choosing to visit FFWM. We value your friendship and wish you well with your future travels!













Journeys

Outbound 2022

September 22- October 22: Seventeen ambassadors are currently visiting FF Baku, Azerbaijan and FF Bursa, Turkey. Journey Coordinators: Marcia Ellis and Louise Potratz.

Inbound 2023

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Outbound 2023

Metropole Rohr, Germany

Outbound 2023

Eastern Washington - Northern Idaho



Photocluster

The topic was sculpture and statues.

Next month we are sharing our favorite uncategorized photos. If you have any interest in photography, please join us!



Hello From Azerbaijan

Our fellow club members are currently visiting Azerbaijan and are leaving for Turkey today, Oct 1! There is a possibility that Azerbaijan has changed our friend, Stan, forever! Our November Newsletter will cover the Azerbaijan and Turkey Journey in much more detail. Continued best wishes to our traveling ambassadors!



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!

FFI World Conference Dubrovnik, Croatia

October 2-5, 2023



This is the first world conference in four years! It will have so much to offer our members. In addition to the main hotel where our conference events will take place, guest rooms for varying budgets will be available at three sister properties just a short walk around the bay. Day tours and post-conference tours in and outside of Croatia will be on offer for our delegates. There really is something for everybody! More info coming up on your FFI member portal. Please consider attending this conference. Anyone can go!

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
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