

2023 February Newsletter

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

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February 2023 Newsletter



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

President's Message

Whether you are a new member or a seasoned traveler of FF, it's important to be aware of how you can be informed and find the answers to pertinent questions. The first thing you can do is join my.friendshipforce.org. It's a great place to learn about upcoming events and journeys. The FFI Help Center is the new home for our old 'Member Resources'. Just log into your my.friendshipforce.org account and click on Help Center in the left-hand menu.

Also, if you are planning a journey, did you know that FFI now has a concierge service? Valerie Malfara is glad to help you with many travel services by contacting her at concierge@thefriendshipforce.org. Our goal is to get all our members registered on this important website. Contact me if you have questions or need help.

Nancy Draayer
ncdraayer@gmail.com

January LEO



A small, but hungry, contingent gathered at Roam restaurant in Grand Rapids on January 12th. The menu featured specialty dishes from all over the world and each of the table tops featured maps of various destinations. The food and camaraderie were world class!

No LEO for February. Lanterns instead!

Since Sunday mornings are typically filled with church or other family activities, we will not have a LEO at noon on February 12th. Instead, we will substitute the Lantern Festival on February 4th as our LEO for the month. Join us at the festival, followed by dinner! Should be fun!

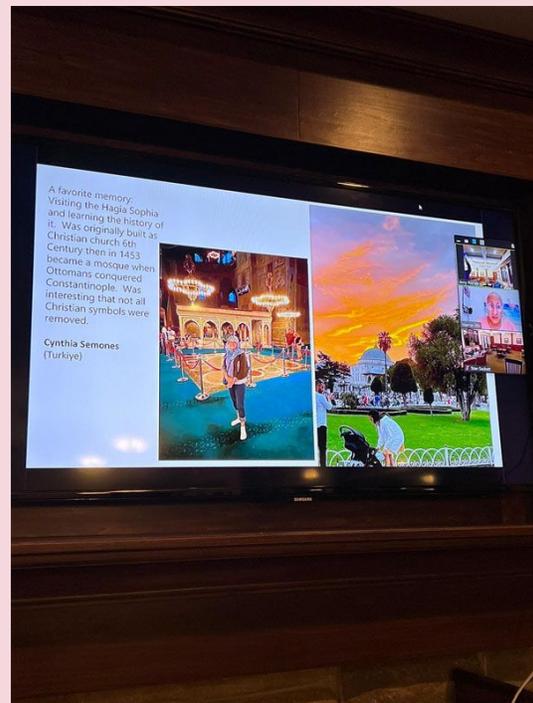
Lantern Festival Gala
4:00pm on Saturday, February 4th
Chenery Auditorium
714 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, 49007

The Lantern Festival is sponsored by The Asian Studies Initiatives of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (Western Michigan University). Aiming to promote reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness, the Lantern Festival marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and the end of the Lunar New Year celebration. The program includes

performances from the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Community Voice (Crescendo Academy of Music), an award-winning Peking Opera actress, lion dance, dragon dance, martial arts, and more.

Tickets are \$5 for seniors and can be purchased at Pacific Rim Foods (Kalamazoo) or online at Ludus - Asian Initiatives, WMU. **If you are interested in attending, please purchase your ticket and let Jerry Potratz know of your interest (call 269-569-3259, or email at jerrypotratz@hotmail.com).** We will attend the gala and then proceed as a group to a local Chinese restaurant for dinner. Jerry will make a reservation based upon the number of members attending the gala. If we have too many attendees to get a reservation, we will order takeout and go to Jerry and Louise's house for dinner, conversation, and maybe some games!

Memories of Baku and Bursa





Those who traveled to FF Bursa, Turkey and to FF Baku, Azerbaijan last October shared their favorite memories of their journey in a Zoom presentation. Some members of FFWM attending the presentation together were joined by several members of the Russian Cultural Association.

There were 14 people in attendance in person and another 36 on the Zoom call including Khalida Rustova (our journey coordinator in Baku) and Sait Tosun (from Bursa)!

Several of our journey ambassadors related their favorite moments of the journey. Photos and videos were shared in a PowerPoint.

Upcoming Journeys

Domestic Outbound Journey:

In May we will be visiting two different clubs!

- Eastern Washington / Northern Idaho: arrive on Monday, May 15th, depart on Monday, May 22nd
- Lower Columbia: arrive on Monday, May 22nd, depart on Sunday, May 28th

If you are interested in going on this journey email Nancy Draayer at ncdraayer@gmail.com.

International Outbound Journey:

We have recently heard from Friendship Force of Metropole Ruhr (Germany) that they are looking forward to hosting us and we are working with them to finalize a date soon. Louise and Jerry Potratz have volunteered to be co-coordinators for this trip, with Inge Luciano as a helpful translator, so if you might be interested in this journey, please send an email to Louise at LPL4@hotmail.com.

Domestic Inbound Journey:

Friendship Force of Orlando, Florida, will be visiting FFWM from Monday, July 24th to Monday, July 31st. Pam Sackett and Mary Giddings have volunteered to be Journey Coordinators, so please email Pam at tulikivi@msn.com, or Mary at fgidrow@gmail.com, if you are interested in home hosting or day hosting our visiting ambassadors.

Join Our Membership Committee!

Our last membership-drive event was the highly-successful Taste of Friendship Force in the fall of 2019. Over the last three years, because of the pandemic, we put our efforts to recruit new members "on hold". For 2023, we are organizing a Membership Committee to help FFWM:

- Develop and initiate ideas to retain current members and to increase membership.
- Develop an annual recruitment action plan, and funding requirements, and present to the Board for approval.
- Match new members with an experienced club member for orientation and engagement.
- Collaborate with the Social Committee and the Communications Committee on membership efforts.

Loie Dye Gustafson has volunteered to chair this committee. If you would like to help Loie in this vital effort, please email her at wordpictures@gmail.com. Join this committee and have some fun positioning our club for the future!

Last Chance to Respond to the Outbound Journey Survey!

FFI is currently gathering Outbound Journey Requests for 2024 from all clubs worldwide. Where would YOU like to travel internationally next year? Brazil? New Zealand? Canada? We emailed a survey to you on January 26th, which asked you to rank your three top destinations. Included in that email was a link to all possible 2024 destination countries. Survey responses are due TOMORROW, February 2nd, so, if you have not yet responded, please take a moment and do it NOW!

Looking for Contributors

Would you like to contribute something or share a travel experience in this newsletter? If you are willing to share your adventures, a photo, or anything related to travel, cultures, places you've visited, please email your article to Marcia Ellis at ellism@wmich.edu.

Fairy Chimneys in Cappadocia



Cappadocia, at the heart of the Central Anatolia Plateau in Turkey, is famous for its unusual volcanic landscape and rock

dwellings. The evolution of the most unique landscape features in Cappadocia, the mushroom-like, cone-shaped structures known locally as "Fairy Chimneys", started with the erosion of gently sloping plateaus underlain by the volcanic ash-rich strata. Surface erosion in layers of variable resistance to weathering processes continued in response to persistent geological uplift of the Central Anatolia Plateau. The persistent erosional dissection of the plateaus often started within fractures in the volcanic strata, formed during cooling, and in accordance with differential erosion due to the distinctive material properties of successive volcanic ash and welded ignimbrite layers. These processes resulted in the Fairy Chimney formations.

Dave Barnes

PhotoCluster

Because several of our group members are visiting warmer climates, the PhotoCluster group will be taking a 3 month pause. Below are a couple of pictures from our permanent gallery.

If you are interested in photography, or just like taking photos and might want to get more out of that experience, **please consider joining our PhotoCluster group!** We focus on a number of photo "themes" throughout the year and, when we meet (all meetings are virtual), we share and discuss our photos. We learn how to take better photos and how to edit the photos for improved results. Our permanent gallery houses what we consider to be our best photos.



Are You On Facebook?

Stan Sackett has been working very hard on updating our Facebook page. He has posted some amazing videos and pictures from the Azerbaijan & Turkey journey. Please check it out [HERE](#) ! Be sure to "Like" our page and "Follow" FFWM!

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!

[2023 Journey Catalog](#)

[2023 Club to Club Journeys](#)



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