

2023 FFWM Oct newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Sun 10/1/2023 5:59 AM

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

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friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

Presidents' Message

Hi FF Members,

I'm excited to report that we have several new members. They are Julie Cain-Derouin

Shirley Wise, Stan McGrew, Janice Lakers, Larry Ellison and Arleigh Smyrnios. Their contact info is available on our website. Please make them feel welcome.

I hope you saw my email concerning the 2024 journeys. There wasn't a huge response. Remember your response lets us know you are interested, not that you are signing up. Please let Shirley Wiersma (shirley_wiersma@yahoo.com) know if you are interested in going FF of Western North Carolina April 2-9. This includes the Asheville area. Also, let us know if you have an interest in going to Australia/ New Zealand. More details to follow. You can contact Jerry Potratz at jerrypotratz@hotmail.com or Louise Potratz at lpl4@hotmail.com. They would welcome a coordinator trainee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Also, don't forget to check out our FB page. There are some great

travel articles as well as well photos of our fun activities. Just search for Friendship Force of Western Michigan on FB.

Nancy Draayer
Co-President

Save the dates!

Our **holiday party** will be on December 10th. We will be attending a Holiday Jazz performance at Miller Auditorium, then dining at Martell's afterwards.

Our **LEO** for November 6th will be a potluck at Walden Woods Clubhouse. We will have a presentation on the journey to Germany and Belgium.

Board Elections

Think about serving on the FFWM board! Terms are two years. Our organization needs fresh ideas and energy to keep it moving forward. And work with a fun group of people!! If you are interested in serving on the board please notify Nancy Draayer at ncdraayer@gmail.com.

Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be October 18 at 7pm. Any member interested in attending please notify Nancy Draayer at ncdraayer@gmail.com. You will receive an invitation to the meeting which is held via Zoom. You don't even have to leave your house!

Social Committee Plans

We will be trying something a bit different going forward. As we have several newer members it would be nice to get to know them better. This is difficult to do when we are sitting at a long table and can only talk with those adjacent to us. Therefore we are hoping to correct this by switching to a potluck EVERY OTHER month. This will start in **November, date (6th of the month)** and time (6:00) will be the same.

In addition to eating we will plan to have a program and attempt to coordinate this with the potluck. In November the program will be a recap of the recent Germany and Belgium journey in which seven of our members participated. It will be held at Walden Woods clubhouse. We will ask that you bring a German or Belgian dish if possible.

(Though please don't let this keep you from coming!). A reminder will be sent prior to this event.

Our **holiday gathering** this year will be on **Sunday December 10**. We will attend the "Jazz for the Holidays" which will be held at the 3:00 pm at the Dalton Center Recital Hall on the WMU campus. Tickets will be \$15 for adults or \$12 for seniors. You will need to purchase your own tickets IN ADVANCE: <https://wmumusic.ludus.com>. This will be followed by dinner at Martell's (as we have done the past two years).

Dinner reservations are for 6:00 and there will be a \$24.95 (plus tax and tip) menu option. More information on this to come. Mark your calendars now.

Dues

The end of the calendar year is when our annual dues (currently \$35/pp) are to be paid. The holiday gathering is a last chance option to pay in person. Only \$10 of this stays with our club, the other \$25 pp must be sent to International in January. For those of you who joined during 2023, your dues are paid until the end of 2024.

LEOs

20 members met for dinner at Casa Real in Otsego on the 6th of September for a LEO!





Our **next LEO** will be October 6 at 6pm at Saffron at Tiffanys Mall, 1710 W Main St, Kalamazoo. Please RSVP to Lyn Hargreave so there will be room for everyone!

A Thank You

This was the money gifted to us by FF of Greater Orlando which we donated to the Ladies' Library.

Sept 22, 2023

To Friendship Force of Western Michigan

Thank you for your donation of **\$150.00** on Sept 21, 2023 to the Ladies' Library Association. This gift is in honor of Friendship Force Greater Orlando and a card has been sent to Roger Gatlin to let him know of your generous donation.

This letter is your tax receipt. The LLA is a charitable organization under IRS Section 501(c)3.

The Ladies' Library Association has provided no goods or services in return for any part of this donation. The entire amount of your contribution may be used as a deduction in accordance with IRS regulations and guidance from your tax adviser.

Jan Symons

LLA President



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2024 Journeys

International Outbound:

Wairarapa, New Zealand and Newcastle, Australia with FF
Cheyenne, WY

Journey is still in process of negotiations. A journey coordinator is needed.

Domestic Outbound:

Western North Carolina

Journey Coordinators: Shirley Wiersma and Arleigh Smyrnios. This journey will take place April 2.

International Inbound:

1. FF of Limburg, Belgium with FF Sarasota, FL

Journey Coordinators: Jackie Howlett and . . . **Looking for an experienced volunteer!!**

2. FF Xalapa, Mexico with FF Northern Illinois.

Journey Coordinators: Marcia Ellis and Loie Dye-Gustafson.

Please consider volunteering to be a journey coordinator!! Our goal is to have 2 coordinators for each journey. You don't need to have experience as a coordinator. We will have you work with someone experienced. This is a great way to get involved!

Opportunity to Join the Lansing FF Club Journey to Solothurn, Switzerland

The Lansing Friendship Force Club is planning a journey to visit the Solothurn, Switzerland Friendship Force Club from June 16 to 22, 2024 and has invited members from our club to join them on the journey. The club in Solothurn is the only Swiss club. They are located a half an hour from their capitol, Berne, and one hour from Zurich in the German-speaking area of Switzerland. You can find more information on their club on <https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/clubs/501>.

If you are interested in this journey please email July Olsen, the Lansing Club President, at olsenj@msu.edu or call her at 517-515-9373.

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](#)

Contribute to the Newsletter

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.

My FFI

The members-only portal, my.friendshipforce.org, is the go-to place for news, journey opportunities, payments, virtual experiences and all other member-relevant information. If you have not yet signed up, click [Word](#) or [PDF](#) for detailed instructions.



FFWM Newsletter

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

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