

2024 January FFWM Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Thu 2/1/2024 7:05 AM

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

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



friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

Presidents' Message

Greetings FFWM Members,

You won't want to miss the February 10th activity. We are celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year at Chenery Auditorium at 6:00. Last year they put on a great show with a variety of acts. This included both local and professional talent. See below for link to buy tickets. Also, contact Jerry Potratz if you would like to join the preshow dinner at Hunan Gardens at 3:30.

We will be hosting a couple of clubs this year, so save the following dates: **June 20-26 hosting Xalapa, Mexico and October 20-27 Limburg, Belgium.** You will definitely want to volunteer to help and join in the fun for hosting these clubs.

Many of us are escaping winter for a few weeks or months. I will be going to New Zealand with Friendship Force to enjoy e-biking and other activities. If you are doing an adventure, enjoy and consider

sharing with us. Send your pictures to ellism@wmich.edu.

Nancy Draayer

LEO

In February we again hope you will join us to celebrate the **Chinese Lunar New Year Gala**.

(Because this is happening on the 10th, we will not be meeting again on February 12th). The Gala will be at Chenery Auditorium, 714 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo at 6:00 pm. During past years this event has been well attended. Therefore we recommend you get your tickets soon.

You can do this on-line (\$10) at: <https://cagk.org/list-of-events>.

For those who would like to join us for a late lunch / early dinner, we are planning to meet at 3:30 prior to the performance at Hunan Gardens, 5059 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo.

RSVP to lynhargreave@gmail.com.

New Board Officers

Our 2024 board:

President: Nancy Draayer

Vice President: Susan Andress

Secretary: Jerry Potratz

Treasurer: Pam Sackett

At large members: Cathy Dopp, Paul Franklin, Stan Sackett, Loie Dye Gustafson, Jackie Howlett

Thanks to these people for keeping our club healthy!

Dues Are Due!

If you have not yet paid your dues please do so! It is very easy to pay them through our website:

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/annual-dues.html>

The end of the calendar year is when our annual dues (currently

\$35/pp) are to be paid. Only \$10 of this stays with our club, the other \$25 pp must be sent to FF International in January. For those of you who joined during 2023, your dues are paid until the end of 2024.



2024 Journeys

International Outbound:

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

Journey coordinators are Louise and Jerry Potratz. Current tentative dates are: August 14th - September 5th (with possible extension to September 9th).

Domestic Outbound:

FF Western North Carolina

Journey Coordinators: Shirley Wiersma and Arleigh Smyrnios. Date: April 2.

There are 7 ambassadors so far. They are still taking applications.

International Inbound:

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

Journey Coordinators: Jackie Howlett and Lisa Fisher. Date: October 20-27.

2. FF Xalapa, Mexico with FF Northern Illinois.

Journey Coordinators: Marcia Ellis and Loie Dye-Gustafson with Dave and Teresa Barnes. Date is June 20-27, 2024.

Please consider volunteering to help these journey coordinators!! You don't need to have experience as a coordinator. You will work with someone experienced. This is a great way to get involved!

Save the Date! FF Xalapa, Mexico

We are looking for **hosts and dinner hosts** for our visitors from Xalapa, Mexico. Our guests will arrive on June 20 from Chicago and they depart on June 26. Please email Marcia Ellis at ellism@wmich.edu if you are available to host or provide a dinner. We have begun planning an itinerary for this journey. We would love to hear your suggestions!

Marcia Ellis, Loie Dye, Teresa and Dave Barnes

Board Meeting

Due to board members traveling, the next board meeting is Thursday, March 28 at 7pm. Typically board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. We will announce the dates and times through this newsletter.

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!

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/>

This email was sent to ellism@wmich.edu

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Friendship Force of Western Michigan · 302 Sabin · Kalamazoo, MI 49006 · USA

