

2024 March FFWM Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@send.mailchimpapp.com>

Fri 3/1/2024 7:16 PM

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

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friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

FFWM Newsletter March 2024

Today is World Friendship Day!

President's Message

Greetings from New Zealand,

By the time you read this, I will be on a global journey call Great Bike Trails of New Zealand. You can check out upcoming journeys including global journeys in the Journey Catalog. The link is listed below in this newsletter.

Have you ever been in a quandary about travel insurance when you travel internationally? You will want to read Allison Lindsey's article on the FFI website (my.friendshipforce.org) She gives some good advice and below is a synopsis. I recommend reading the whole article.

1. Accidents can (and do) happen.
2. It's important to have a smartphone that has an international data and calling plan activated when traveling.
3. The "24/7 Travel Assistance Services" is a benefit that is often overlooked and could be the most important benefit there is.
4. Always ask for receipts, proof of payment, and medical or accident reports.
5. Never travel without travel insurance!

The name of the article is Navigating an Unexpected Journey by Allison Lindsey published on December 05, 2023. Type the title into the search bar to find it. Hope you get a chance to read this worthwhile blog post.

See you soon,

Nancy

LEO

March LEO

We are having a potluck on March 12 at noon at Waldon Woods clubhouse. Bring a dish to pass. . . anything you want!

Members celebrated the **Chinese Lunar New Year Gala** at Chenery Auditorium on February 10th. Several members met at Hunan Gardens for a meal before the show.



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 2-8.

Full journey!

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

Traveling





Pam, Stan, Louise and Jerry are on a grand adventure in Indochina! You can follow their adventures on WhatsApp "Asia with Stan, Pam & friends".

Board Meeting

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

FFI Regional Conference

FF North American Regional Conference

Registration is now open to all of our members in Canada, Mexico, and the USA. This is your chance to join us for an inspiring event celebrating cultural exchange and friendship while discussing the issues that



matter in your region.

Date: October 7-10, 2024

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

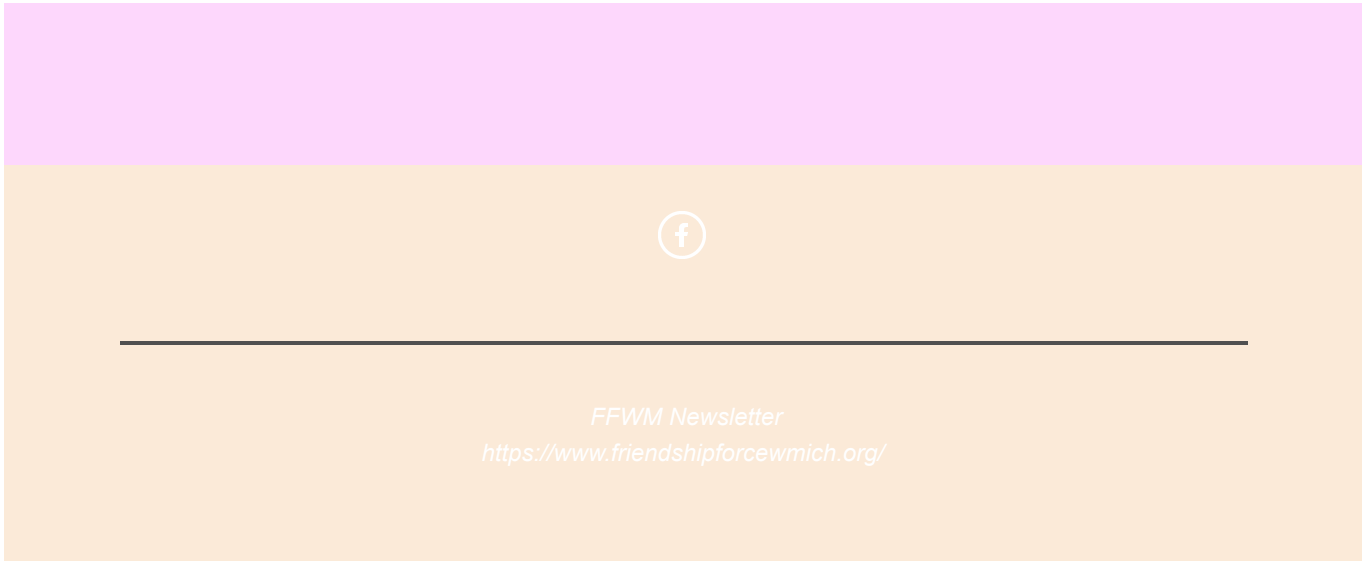
Visit the [conference website](#) for more information about the conference and how to book your hotel room with our conference discount code. [Register now](#) to secure your place!

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.



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