

## 2022 August Newsletter

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

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# August 2022 Newsletter

## President's Message

I cannot believe that we are soon coming to the end of summer. I also cannot believe how busy September and October are going to be! We will be hosting our first international journey since pre-pandemic days, when our guests from Germany begin their journey here on September 14th. And then, on September 22nd, FFWM club members begin their journey to Azerbaijan and Turkey, which will also take up most of October.

I'm not complaining, it is nice to get back into hosting and traveling. We need these kind of trips if we are truly to expand friendship

throughout the world! And that, after all is what our club exists to do! I just need to harness some extra energy for the Fall.

After a very successful Game Day in June, we are planning a Picnic, Disc Golf, Hiking and Games at Oshtemo Township Park starting at 2:00pm on Tuesday, August 23rd. Bring a dish to pass and join in on whatever activity interests you! It should be a very fun afternoon.

### **Circle the Dates for Some Parties!**

September will be here soon and so will our visiting ambassadors from Germany. Please reserve on your calendar now the key dates, times, and locations for the Welcome and Farewell Parties. All club members are invited to these events:

#### **The Welcome Party: Wednesday, September 14th, at noon**

Nancy Draayer's home  
1416 Balboa Street, Portage

#### **The Farewell Party: Monday, September 19th, 6:00pm**

Walden Woods Clubhouse  
Dunns Ridge, Kalamazoo

You will hear more about these parties (and how to RSVP) and the full itinerary for the journey as we get closer to these dates.

Jerry

### **Come on Board! Or Join a Committee!**

Like every successful organization, FFWM needs active leadership. Leadership can be displayed in many ways... it can come in the form of asking for help or, sometimes, in answering that call. Due to term limits on our Board, FFWM will need to name some new leaders at the end of this year (specifically, my position as President and Lisa's position as Treasurer). I am asking each of you to consider a term on the board and, possibly, one of these positions.

If board membership is not what you desire, you can volunteer to serve on any of FFWM's three standing committees:

- Social Committee
- Communications Committee

## · Membership Committee

You can learn more about the job descriptions and responsibilities of our board and committees by reviewing our Policies and Procedures Manual, which can be found on our club website:

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/policy--procedures-bylaws.html>

You can also read the minutes of our board meetings, which are posted on the Member Resources section (password protected) of our website. Please email a board member for the password. I or any other member of our board, would be happy to talk with you about board and committee membership. Seek us out at a club gathering or just give us a call. Please think about it.

The best way to enjoy your experience with any organization is “to get engaged” and the best way to ensure our successful future as a club is “to get you engaged”. Yes, there is some work involved here, but I can say with certainty that when the board, or committees, get together we spend a good portion of our time laughing and enjoying our time together.

Our board nomination and election process will occur this fall. You can join a committee at any time.

## A Fun August Outing!

### **Don't miss Picnic, Disc Golf, Hiking and Games!**

Tuesday, August 23rd, 2:00pm

Oshtemo Township Park (behind the Township Hall, at 7275 West Main Street, Oshtemo)

Bring a dish to pass and get ready to have a fun afternoon! This park houses an 18-hole disc golf course as well as a network of walking trails. Those that want to try disc golf should bring your trusty frisbee (we should have a couple of extra's on hand), hikers some comfy shoes, and those that want to try other activities should just bring your positive attitude. A good time awaits you in Oshtemo! Please RSVP to Lyn Hargreave (269-352-1120 or [lynhargreave@gmail.com](mailto:lynhargreave@gmail.com)) by Friday, August 19th, so that picnic dishes can be coordinated.

## LEOs

August 6 at 6pm  
Zooroona Restaurant, 1710 West Main St., Kalamazoo  
RSVP to Stan Sackett at [tulikivi@msn.com](mailto:tulikivi@msn.com)

## 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!

## Journeys

As announced in last month's newsletter, our number one desired domestic journey for 2023 was to be hosted by the Friendship Force club of Eastern Washington – Northern Idaho (encompassing the Spokane area). Great news, **the board of Eastern Washington – Northern Idaho met last week and voted unanimously to host our club in 2023!**

One of our newest club members, Catherine Henze, who is still a member of the Eastern Washington – Northern Idaho club, played a critical role in our selection. Thank you, Catherine! We will need to name a Journey Coordinator for this trip (Catherine has volunteered to assist) and determine travel dates with our hosts. They can accept 12 to 15 ambassadors, so get ready to travel FFWM!

Inbound 2022

September 14-20: We welcome FF Lubeck, Germany. We will have 9 guests. Hosts have volunteered but there is still need for dinner and day hosts. Journey Coordinators: Jerry and Louise Potratz, John and Patty Richmond, and Nancy Draayer.

#### Outbound 2022

September 22- October 22: Seventeen ambassadors will visit 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

## 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](#).

## Photocluster

The topic this month was food. There are many forms that food comes in!





## Meet Our Members



Catherine Henze arrived in Kalamazoo in September of 2021, just in time to audition for the K College Philharmonia and play the cello with her 10-year-old grandson. Born in Toledo, she grew up in Iowa and Arkansas (because her father wanted to fish every day after his psychology classes). She has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago, with a focus on music in Shakespeare's plays. In between starting and finishing graduate school, she detoured to New York City, where she was a business writer for Equitable Life, and Aspen, Colorado, where she was a seamstress/secretary/community college teacher/environmentalist/cello teacher/bookseller (typically three jobs at the same time).

She had a 20-year career at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, after which she retired to Spokane, WA. There, she played the cello with the Gonzaga Symphony, and was the lead writer for the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. In Spokane, she joined Friendship Force Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho. Her spouse, Chris Larson (who died in 2021), was president of the club, and even chaired board meetings while having chemo.

In addition to playing the cello, Catherine loves to travel. With Friendship Force, she has been to Indonesia, New Zealand, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. In addition, she has taken college students to England, India, and Italy, as well as travelled to the Amazon, Greece, Croatia, and Tanzania. She is looking forward to trips this fall to Ireland (sponsored by FFI), Turkey (with FFWM), and Antarctica. She lives at Friendship Village, and recently Bentley, a cross between a Bernese Mountain Dog and a poodle, joined her home. From the day she arrived in Kalamazoo she has been grateful to FFWM for their extraordinarily warm welcome.



*FFWM Newsletter*

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

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