

FFWM Newsletter Sept 2019

Friendship Force of

Wed 9/4/2019 10:58 PM

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



September 2019 Newsletter

A sad passing. . .



Celebrate the life of our friend, Linda McGarry. As you all know from emails, Linda passed away August 31.

Linda was an active member of our club, hosting many of our Friendship Force guests and welcome parties. She was a world traveler and an avid educator. She will be remembered for her welcoming smile and her quiet, kind manner. We send our sincere sympathy to Tom, Erin, Lyndsay and other family members.

Journeys

June 23-29, 2019

Friendship Force of Hiroshima Visit

This journey was truly an exchange as we were able to reconnect with our friends in the Hiroshima club who we visited in 2018! During the journey we visited the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery, Kalamazoo Institute of Art,

KalSEC (spice and herb flavor extracts), and the Ford Museum. We had a wonderful sail on the Friends Goodwill tall ship and an exciting dune buggy ride! The weather was great and a good time was had by all!

Thanks to Lyn Hargreave and her assistant, Dave Barnes for planning this awesome journey.

Check our web page for pictures and memories: <https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/past-inbound-journeys.html>



August 13-19, 2019 Friendship Force of Tokyo, English Language Exchange

This journey focused on English language practice. Classes were followed by afternoon activities designed for vocabulary practice. Some activities included volunteering at Loaves and Fishes, picking blueberries, a tall ship sail, visiting St. Julien winery, and a dune buggy ride. We were treated to a tea ceremony

by our new friends at the farewell party.

Thanks to Fred Giddings, Jerry Potratz and Teresa Barnes for a fantastic journey! <https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/past-inbound-journeys.html>



Next Inbound. . . Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

We are expecting 10 guests October 1-8. Host Coordinators are Marcia Ellis and Shirley Wiersma. Please help us welcome the club who hosted us in February 2018! We hope there is a big turnout at the welcome party and the farewell party. A fun, new, hands-on program is planned at the Air Zoo, including a special event to honor the donor (Kevin Janiak) of one of their planes. MARK YOUR CALENDARS to save the dates!!

Oct. 2: 9:30am Welcome brunch, 12 pm Air Zoo

Oct. 3: 10am Meyer May house, 1:15pm Meijer Garden, Project 1

Oct. 4: 11:45am Amish lunch, 3pm Menno-Hof Museum, Shipsewana

Oct 5: Free day

Oct 6: 11:45am lunch & wine tasting at Fenn Valley Winery, 2:30pm Saugatuck Dune Ride

Oct 7: 11 am Kellogg Manor tour and farewell lunch

Membership Drive

Save the Date!

From Jerry Potratz, President

We need the active participation of all of our members to make our Membership Drive a success! The potential member names that you have submitted are going to be invited to:

A Taste of Friendship Force

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, 16 October

Walden Woods Clubhouse, Kalamazoo

This event will feature finger food and beverages from around the world... samples from the countries we have visited, and hosted, as a club, like Japan, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Indonesia and Turkey. **We need you to go through your favorite recipes and contribute to the hors d'oeuvres for this event .** Watch for emails from our food coordinator.

If you have not sent me potential member names and addresses, please do so in the next few days.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

jerrypotratz@hotmail.com or cell 269-569-325

Welcome To Our Newest Members!



Carolyn Cammenga

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I am a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church. I have previously been a member of FF while serving churches in Allegan and Grand Rapids. My late husband who is now deceased did not enjoy travel as much as I did which is why I dropped out of FF for about six years. I am now retired and concentrating on Arabic-related ministry, teaching in ESL classes and conducting Islam and Christianity seminars. I have traveled to 62 countries at least once, guiding groups to many of them. I have led mission trips to Kenya, Uganda, Egypt (where I also taught) Turkey and Mexico. I live in a retirement community where I actively preach and lead a bridge group. I am not able to host individuals here but I would love to be a day host. I joined an exchange group from Boston visiting Peru several years ago and it was great. Carolyn Wharton

Cammenga



Inge Luciano

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Inge Luciano is a snowbird, enjoying the winter months in sunny Florida and the winter/fall seasons in beautiful Michigan. She owned and managed four sewing machine and fabric stores in Connecticut for 20+ years before retiring in Michigan. She loves classical music, opera, traveling, walking her dog, Gavriche, playing games, spending time with friends and meeting new people. She is also active in several international nonprofit organizations, giving her wonderful opportunities to make new friends from around the world. Her native language is German.



Marilyn Justus

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Three years ago I moved to Michigan after retiring from teaching at Northern Illinois University (College of Ed.). I live by the Kalamazoo River with my daughter, son-in-law and 15-year old granddaughter, I begin bird watching first thing every morning and often hike with them in the nearby Saugatuck dunes. This spring I hiked in the Grand Canyon and Sedona with my son and daughter-in-law, who live in Denver.

I love classical music and have returned to studying the piano. Other favorite activities include yoga, gardening, and taking adult education classes about almost anything (but especially history).

I'm glad to have time now to do some traveling. Last year I took a very special trip with my cousin to the former Volga German area in Russia, where our families lived for generations. We also visited Sicily. This year I traveled to Greece. I'm really looking forward to my first FF trip to Spain and Portugal this Fall.



Gayle and Paul Franklin

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Gayle:

I am a retired media secretary with Portage Public Schools. I grew up in Mark Twain's hometown of Hannibal, MO, moved to Boulder, CO where I met and married my husband Paul and moved with him to Midland, MI and then to Kalamazoo/Portage. Paul and I have two daughters, Amy and Laura, two grandchildren, Joel and Clara and two wonderful son-in laws, C.J. and Mark. I am an avid genealogist who enjoys traveling and researching in archives and courthouses. Quilting is another of my favorite hobbies, which has included traveling to major shows for lessons and many quilt retreats. I also enjoy planning and going on trips with our Model A, spending time with family and grandchildren, horseback riding, hosting for Colleague's International and

traveling. My father was most happy behind the wheel of a car, so with my parents I saw a large part of the western US on our yearly vacations. I have not been to Washington (state) or North Dakota but have gone through or vacationed in the other 48 states. I feel fortunate to have traveled in many places in Europe, Canada, and South America either on our own or with small tour groups.

Paul:

I am a Viet Nam era vet doing a 2 year tour of duty in Norfolk, Virginia as a Navy weather man from 1966 to 1968. After getting my Bachelor's degree in 1970, I started my professional carrier. I worked for Dow Corning in Midland, Michigan for 10 years and then Upjohn/ Pharmacia and Upjohn for 25 years before retiring in 2004. My three main hobbies are music, (playing in bluegrass bands and recently a Swing music band called Somewhere in Time). My main instrument is the violin but I also play the guitar and sing a little, plus mandolin. I recently started taking piano lessons. Maintaining and driving our 1930 Model A ford is another way of having fun. Of course, another of my passions is travel. My wife and I will have been married for 50 years next year.

I believe citizen diplomacy is how to represent our country in a more personal and positive way. We have hosted many people from Europe, Russia, and the Middle East as members of Colleagues International over the past 10 years or so. We hosted a Spanish girl from Barcelona Spain for a school year years ago when our daughters were in high school.

FFWM Newsletter

Contact us: FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com

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