



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



MATTYn Garner
Editor

January
February
2025

Estes Park, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Surrounding Areas

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Outgoing President's Notes

HAPPY NEW YEARS 2025

A New Year and a new beginning!! I will be moving out of the role as President and turning it over to Suzi Gossard. I have learned a lot about Friendship Force and its responsibilities during my year as President, thanks to the many mentors who have helped guide me. Thank you all for your kind words and graciousness when I flubbed up. Let's have a great 2025!



On January 10, 2025, we will meet at the Elderhaus Adult Day Program facility at 6813 S College Ave., Ft. Collins. Coming from Ft Collins, this is located just south of Trilby Road on the west (right) side of 287, or if coming from Loveland, just north of the Fossil Creek Nursery on the west (left) side of 287. The driveway has two large white stone entry posts, one on each side of the drive, which helps to locate the small driveway. ElderHaus has increased their lighting on the posts to improve night time visibility. There will not be a scheduled program during this meeting. We felt we might need some time to explore our new abode and catch up with each other following the holidays.

We have built and installed two cabinets to store our belongings. Thank you to Carol and Randy McGrath, Elizabeth McCoy, Suzi Gossard, Marcia Ross and me, Susan Mathre for the group effort of building the shelves. They look very nice. Elizabeth McCoy and Suzi Gossard are going to determine what size plastic bins may be needed to fit into the shelving and where everything should be stored. We are in need of a Club Secretary. Our elected secretary had to step back due to other pressing commitments. If you would be able to handle this position or possibly share this duty, please let Suzi Gossard know.

Our next Board meeting is on January 8, 2025, by zoom at 4:30 pm.

In Friendship,
Susan

**Next Meeting
January 10
Elderhaus
6813 S. College Ave
7pm**

Ideas for Programs

Cathie McCallum has volunteered as Program Director and would like to work with a committee to plan the programs for our monthly meetings. If you have any ideas for programs from great presenters you've heard elsewhere, please let Cathie or our new president, Suzi Gossard, know.

Journey Updates

Inbound and Outbound Journeys

Baton Rouge to FFNC. August 19-26, 2025 is the approximate window. Elizabeth McCoy will be Host Ambassador Coordinator. She will be looking for a committee to assist in planning this journey. Please think about your ability to home host. Let Elizabeth (970-980-5112) know if you can home host, host a small group dinner, or day host.

Central Phoenix would like an inbound Journey to FFNC. We have offered the date of June 23-27, 2025. We need our members to step up and let us know if you would be available to host for this inbound journey. We do not have a Host Ambassador Coordinator yet. Please help us out if you can. Marilyn Garner will accept all Host Coordinator Applications.

Outbound FFNC to FFAustin and extend on to FFDallas. The dates for Austin are March 25-31 and the dates for Dallas are March 31-April 5, 2025. Austin has offered 11 spaces with the possibility of a few more, so they asked us to make a wait list. Dallas has mentioned the possible number of ambassadors as being 12. Prospective ambassadors need to fill out an Ambassador Application. Susan Mathre is the Ambassador Journey Coordinator.

FFSeacoast New Hampshire Outbound Journey, Sept. 17-23, 2025. We would love to extend this journey with a 9 day Caravan Tour into Nova Scotia & Maritimes Provinces. Unfortunately, Caravan tours has not listed the dates for their 2025 tours to the Maritimes. Carol McGrath has volunteered as Ambassador Journey Coordinator with the assistance of Ken Weaver.

Hosting Opportunity

There is an international high school student who is in need of a host family. Enya Ohlenrth is from Northern Germany. She is currently a student at Fossil Ridge High School. I have had the pleasure of hosting Enya over the Christmas holiday. She is a lovely girl who is very easy to get along with. I'm sure she would be an asset to any home she is a part of. If you have questions, Enya will be at our January meeting.

Thanks for considering becoming Enya's host family... Elizabeth McCoy

FFI Updates

IMPORTANT UPDATE: FFI Statement Regarding President Carter Honoring President Jimmy Carter

It is with profound sadness that FFI announces the death of President Carter. President Carter passed away December 29th, surrounded by his family.

On March 1st, 1977, the newly inaugurated President Carter in support of his long-time friend, Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, took the monumental step of formally introducing Friendship Force at a White House gathering of State Governors. The two men could not have known how much this decision and the vision behind it would impact world communities in the next 45 years. What began as an experiment has become a global phenomenon, with thousands of people from more than 80 countries having participated as hosts or citizen ambassadors to date.

Post-presidency, Carter continued with his gracious support of the organization for many, many years and the late First Lady Rosalynn Carter served as its Honorary Chairperson until 2002. The Carters attended the International Friendship Force Conference in 2000, in Wisconsin, USA, to celebrate the retirement of Friendship Force's then-president, founder Wayne Smith. President and Rosalynn Carter visited the offices of Friendship Force several times to show their support for the staff who were headquartered there. Despite the Carters officially parting ways with the organization in 2003, their championing of human rights and their core message of peace continues to be upheld by Friendship Force to this day.

Our own Ken Weaver is now serving on the FFI Board.

Ken's FFI Board of Directors Report

It's official. Donna Simek of FF Boston will continue as 2025 FFI Board of Directors Chair in 2025. Andy Kelly of FF Manchester, UK, is Vice Chair. Some of our club might have met Andy at our 2009 journey, or at the 40th Anniversary World Conference there in August 2017. Robert Wagner of FF Bavaria is Treasurer and I'm to be Secretary. Our two new members are Stephanie Freier of FF Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Tavia Sorrell of FF Birmingham, Alabama. Continuing are eight other current members.

For 2025, the FFI Board will continue moving the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, Our Path Forward, into action. A Volunteer Task Force has developed an improved approach to new member orientation, which, combined with new marketing, will emphasize our vision and expand our reach. We could resolve to reach out to those who care to respond to our sense of purpose. In 1915 Frank Laubach taught Muslims in the Philippines. He considered poverty, injustice, and illiteracy to be barriers to peace in the world. My parents knew his reading program begun in 1955 that reached over two million people worldwide by 2000. He's the only missionary on a U.S. postage stamp, a Great Americans series 30¢ stamp in 1984.

We might paraphrase Frank Laubach: "Each One Reach One."

FFI World Conference in Milwaukee Oct. 2024

FFI Workshops - October 8

(Click on the underlined titles to view the presentations)

Be A Better Global Citizen - Explore practical strategies to enhance cultural awareness and embrace social responsibility. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to make a positive impact on global challenges.

Climate Change and Why It Matters to Friendship Force - Learn how climate change and emerging socio-environmental challenges impact travel, conflict, and peacebuilding.

Diversity Locally: The Globe At Your Doorstep Curious about the refugee experience in a new country? This session unpacks the complex journey of resettlement, exploring how refugees are welcomed, integrated, and supported.

International Assembly of Leaders - Engage in a hands-on discussion with the FFI Board, as we discuss plans to create a new global communications framework to ensure that all clubs and members have a voice in FFI's future.
Presented by Jon Wagner and Ken Weaver, FFI Board of Directors

The Open World Program - Discover how U.S. clubs can participate in hosting nine-day professional exchange experiences for overseas delegates. Learn how these delegates explore American federalism, culture, and leadership through immersive, hands-on experiences.

Trending To The Future: Six Things to Know About FFI's Evolution
- Discover key trends shaping FFI's future. Learn about innovative programs, digital transformations, and strategic initiatives driving our mission forward in a changing world.

USA:Midwest,RockyMountain States, PacificNorthwest and Northern Rockies, West Coast

NAC 24 Region B How to Improve Member Participation.pdf
NAC 24 - Region B How to Improve Member Participation Tom Best
NAC 24 - Region B Host Coordinator Training_V1 Marty McKnew.pdf
NAC 24 - Region B Ambassador Coord. Training Marty McKnew.pdf



November Program

The program for our November meeting took us on a delightful armchair journey through Poland with Joan Waldoch, descendant of Polish immigrants. Her recent visit to explore her roots took her from Warsaw, to Gdansk, to Wroclaw and Krakow.

During much of her history, this small country (the size of New Mexico), known in the past as Prussia, was often invaded from all sides and changed hands a number of times. Invaded by Hitler, it was the most destroyed country in Europe during WWII. It is now mostly reborn with architecture that honors its past.

The country is proud of its famous sons and daughters, including Chopin, Marie Curie, Copernicus and Pope John Paul II. As a safe haven for Jewish people prior to WWII, Poland had a very large Jewish population. Oskar Schindler (of Schindler's List) was a Polish factory owner who saved the lives of over 1000 Jewish factory workers in his employ in Krakow. Auschwitz-Birkenau, near Krakow, was the largest and most notorious of Hitler's concentration camps. Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, was instrumental in ending Communism in Poland by leading worker strikes in 1989.

Joan shared many photos highlighting the architecture, major cities, artwork, castles and countryside seen along the way. She told us of Poland's support of the people of the Ukraine and that many refugees have passed through Poland to escape the ravages of the current war. About 960,000 Ukrainians have stayed to make Poland their new home. It was a delightful journey enjoyed by all of us. Thank you, Joan!



HOLIDAY PARTY

Happy Holiday Party

Jan Rozman and Cathie McCallum hosted the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado annual holiday party Friday, December 13th, at the Harvest Park Clubhouse on Corbett Drive in Fort Collins.

Twenty-five of us dined on an Italian-buffet style meal from Oregano's, dessert macarones, melt-in-the-mouth candies, and dollops of ice cream. Jan's son, John Fredlund was recruited to make the meal go smoothly. Her daughter, Anna Rozman, was responsible behind the scenes for arranging the recorded background music. Barbara Miller was our photographer. Thanks to all who helped in various ways to make it such an enjoyable evening.

All three tables had good conversation, with sign-up sheets for outbound journeys to Texas and New Hampshire Seacoast navigating the room. Then we circled the chairs for a novel White Elephant gift pass-along game emceed by La Donna Palm. Our year closed singing along spritely recordings of holiday carols, thanks to Suzi Gossard, President for 2025.



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HOLIDAY PARTY PICS



UPCOMING JOURNEYS

Seacoast NH Journey, September 2025

The New Hampshire Seacoast Club is in and around Dover, the oldest permanent settlement in New Hampshire. Our journey will be from Wednesday, September 17th, through Tuesday, September 23rd, for twelve or perhaps a few more ambassadors. The cost for six nights, seven days, will be \$300 plus special outing costs.

The main event may be a New England Clambake for about \$35 per person, depending on the prevailing price of lobsters. Journey Host Coordinator (JHC) Rick Merrill has provided this Clambake video: https://youtu.be/_5KlYoAlPoU?si=Emk6XGeAtgWHnbwI. It's a hoot to watch.

The journey will include a free day with hosts. Other choices from the menu are a Portsmouth walkabout, NH and Maine coast tour, train to Boston, visit to the capitol Concord and nearby Shaker village, or a peaks and mountains day that includes Castle in the Clouds:

- <https://www.visitportland.com/>
- <https://www.castleinthecLOUDS.org/>
- <https://www.marginalwayfund.org/>
- <https://www.shakers.org/>

Perhaps take a look at the Seacoast NH page on myFF (sign in at the portal, click Clubs and Groups on the left, All Clubs, and search for New Hampshire Seacoast). Or go to www.ffnh.org, Local Resources. You can also follow Friendship Force New Hampshire Seacoast on Facebook.

Our travel there and home is pay as you go. The bus from Boston Logan airport is a good choice. Several likely ambassadors are considering an extension on Caravan Tours to the Maritime Provinces of Eastern Canada.

Within the myFF portal HELP, you have three ways to fill out the FFI ambassador application:

<https://helpcenter.friendshipforce.org/help/where-can-i-find-an-ambassador-application-and-agreement-form/>.

Send the completed form to Ken Weaver, interweaver@gmail.com, before Friday, February 28th. The Journey# is 25176

You'll need to send a refundable deposit of \$100.00 to LaDonna Palm (1) by Zelle (ffnocotreasurer@gmail.com), or (2) at 4605 Hahns Peak Dr., #201, Loveland 80538.

Journeys & Events

INBOUND 2025

Phoenix, AZ: June 23-27
Baton Rouge : August 19-25

OUTBOUND 2025

Austin, TX : March 25-31, 2025
Dallas. TX: March 31 - April 5, 2025

CLEO

January 16th , Thurs. at 11:30 am,
AKA Kitchen, 414 E 6th St., Loveland

CLEO

February 20th, Thurs. at 11:30 am,
Ted's Sweetwater Grill, 2191
Covered Wagon Bridge Parkway,
Windsor.

2025 Officers & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT: Suzi Gossard
VICE PRESIDENT: Susanna Garner
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: VOLUNTEER NEEDED
TREASURER: Carol McGrath

Journey Directors: Marilyn Garner
Meeting Greeter: Cathie McCallum
Meeting Hospitality: Elizabeth McCoy
Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan
Membership: Cathie McCallum
Membership Booklet: Ed Brigden
Newsletter Reporters Coordinator: Suzi Gossard
Newsletter Editors/Publishers:
Sue Cummins
Marilyn Garner
CathieMcCallum

Programs: Cathie McCallum, **COMMITTEE NEEDED**
Social Activities: Rocky Padden, Pam Morrison
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: Nancy Benson
Website: Rick Lohmeyer
World Friendship Day: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

If you are willing to help with any position, please contact Suzi Gossard, president, or the chair of the committee that interests you.

*Committee chairs, invite someone to work with you!
It feels good to be needed and wanted, --an active member.*

Refer to our club website:

ffncolo.com

For back issues of newsletters and information on programs, journeys, leadership contacts, upcoming events and for opportunities to apply for other regional club journeys. Thanks to Rick Lohmeyer for an outstanding website that can provide up-to-the-minute information between newsletters. Refer to www.friendshipforce.org for broad information specific to member and for sharing personal information needed for journey registration.