



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

CALENDAR

April Meeting, April 10, 7pm at Elderhaus

CLEO April 16 at Amazon Distribution Center in Lafayette with lunch . Contact Rocky.

May CLEO will be in Greeley. Ken Weaver will be planning but we need to move the date....

APRIL PROGRAM

FFNC Member, Sarah Tarr, will be sharing her Journey last December to Japan!



FFI Book Club Interest Group

FFI Book Club: The Soviet Sisters by Anika Scott

Description:

Register using the link below. You will then receive a follow-up email with information on joining the virtual meeting.

> <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/h4cUEStaR5eobsIgQTd-Bw>

Starts: 2:00PM EDT on Apr 16, 2026
Event Pdfs/ Photos

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INFORMATION

I hope you have been outside admiring the blossoming Trees and looking for the reassuring signs of spring. May you find ways to balance the outrage and fear we experience in these difficult political times with opportunities to be of service, increase understanding, and to appreciate our beautiful and diverse planet.

This month, the Friendship Force North American Conference will be held in Memphis, TN. I am looking forward to representing our club and learning more about what FFI is planning for carrying the legacy of citizen diplomacy forward at a time when peace seems so distant.

Some of our club members are serving as ambassadors right now in Texas - committed to the mission, despite the current obstacles making traveling harder and more stressful. We can look forward to hearing about their adventures later this year when they give their report about their Journey.

Here are a few suggestions for extra activities this month:

The Art of Sencha with Patricia J. Graham

April 4: Presented by our friends at the Global Village Museum
<https://globalvillagemuseum.org/product/the-art-of-sencha/>

The annual ACT Human Rights Film Festival

April 9-12 in Fort Collins/virtual
<https://actfilmfest.colostate.edu/fest/>

High Plains Environmental Center Earth Day Clean Up

April 18th in Loveland
<https://www.centerra.com/event/hpec-earth-day-cleanup/>

*If you attended the CLEO in Greeley last month, you may also know they have a program called **Spice of the Month** to explore global flavors. This month's spice is Grains of Paradise. <https://highplains.libcal.com/event/15092808>

Please send me your recommendations to share – we all want to encourage each other in the activities that support the Friendship Force values.

If you are interested in participating in the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous in October but haven't been able to send in your deposit, please let me know – it's not too late.

See you at this month's meeting on April 10th.



MARCH MEETING

March's meeting celebrated both International Friendship Day along with Northern Colorado's Friendship Force's 40th anniversary. Susanna read a letter to us from Friendship Force International congratulating us on our achievement. (See Page 4)

We were delighted to host CSU students. Nigeria was represented by Francis and his wife Ola. Saudi Arabia was represented by Albatool. Ghana was represented by Gidphil.

Our members gave a fashion show of the clothing and Jewelry they were wearing from different countries of their travels. We dined on foods from different countries, a potluck that showcased foods from Korea, Vietnam, Nigeria, Hungary, Japan, West Africa, and Latin America to name a few.



The highlight of our evening was our guests. Each shared their stories of what brought them to CSU in Colorado. All had a similar story to tell coming from a hot climate, to getting off the bus in Fort Collins and nearly freezing !

They have found our weather the best challenge so far. We heard of cultural differences between their countries and ours, along with stories of the foods from their homeland. Interestingly they had found small markets here, where they could find familiar foods from their country.

They were delightful and we hope that they enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed them.

--Lynn Hogan



Wayne Smith
Founder
Jeremi Snook
President and CEO

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March 1, 2026

Friendship Force of Northern Colorado
Suzi Gossard, Club President

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Friendship Force International and our global community, I am delighted to mark the celebration of your club's **40th anniversary** and the many friendships your members have helped create over the years.

Each year your club has been part of the global Friendship Force movement is meaningful, but this milestone is a special opportunity to reflect on the experiences, friendships, and cultural connections you've built over the years. It's a chance to look back at the unforgettable moments you've shared and to recognize how these relationships have shaped your understanding of the world.

Through the years, your club has played a vital role in bringing people together across borders, fostering mutual understanding, and quietly transforming countless lives. **Your dedication and passion exemplify the true power of friendship in action.**

As you celebrate this incredible journey, I encourage you not only to reflect on the past but also to look ahead. With clubs like the **Friendship Force of Northern Colorado** leading the way, I have no doubt that Friendship Force International will continue to grow, inspire, and advance our shared mission of building global unity through friendship, bringing people closer together across cultures, one journey at a time.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremi Snook".

Jeremi Snook
President and CEO

MARCH CLEO

Thursday, March 18, we met at Raska Ethiopian restaurant for a delicious lunch! Many of us had never had Ethiopian food before and were pleasantly surprised. The Teff Indera bread was freshly made as were all of the entrees! Since we were such a large group, the owner, Hanna Selassie, had asked a long-time friend to help out. We learned that she and Hanna had met some 20 years ago at CSU and had been friends since. We shared info about FF and hope to connect again!

After eating there, I looked the restaurant up online and found a fascinating writeup that I thought you might like to read: <https://www.raskasauce.com/about>



Monthly Meeting Raffle



The board has decided to continue to hold the raffle at our monthly meetings this year. This means we need donations of interesting prizes! Puzzles, travel books, travel accessories, and seasonal decorations are all examples of things we've seen in the past. This is a good way to declutter and help our club! We will store future prizes in our cupboard at Elderhaus, so please make sure they are relatively small.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE HAS A NEW LOGO



Friendship Force
INTERNATIONAL

Friendship Force is defined by the words we use, the actions we take, and the commitments we all make every day to advocate for peace through friendship. The brand standards and marketing materials are simply tools to help us more clearly and consistently share that mission with the world." --Jeremy Snook

JOURNEYS

The journey **to Indonesia**, August 5th through the 20th, is well into the planning stages. There are 3 moving parts that include: a 5-night journey to the island of Borneo, a 5-night journey to the island of Java, and a 4-day Javanese Culture Festival, on the same island, in Yogyakarta. Applications will be sent to those interested, in this packed journey, in March.

Please contact Carol McGrath if you are interested and have not already done so.

WE WILL BE WELCOMING **New Hampshire Seacoast** October 7-14th. We can still use more volunteers for hosting and day hosting. Please contact Marilyn Garner if you are willing to help.

REGIONAL RENDEZVOUS

October 19th – 22nd 2026 in Estes Park, Colorado
YMCA of the Rockies

Share Ideas, Experiences & Stories

Morning sessions to include: Member Recruitment, Club Development, Accessing FFI Resources & Creating Community Partnerships

Afternoons free – to visit Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park, or to join group activities

Monday evening Welcome Buffet & Wednesday Farewell Dinner with Program

Total cost for lodge room, breakfasts & shared dinners under \$425

Deposit of \$50 Due March 31st --Call Susanna if you missed this date

GREATER DENVER NORTHERN COLORADO PIKES PEAK UTAH
CHEYENNE NEW MEXICO WESTERN COLORADO

PRESIDENT: Susanna Garner

VICE PRESIDENT: Rocky Padden

SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Sue Cummins

TREASURER: Carol McGrath