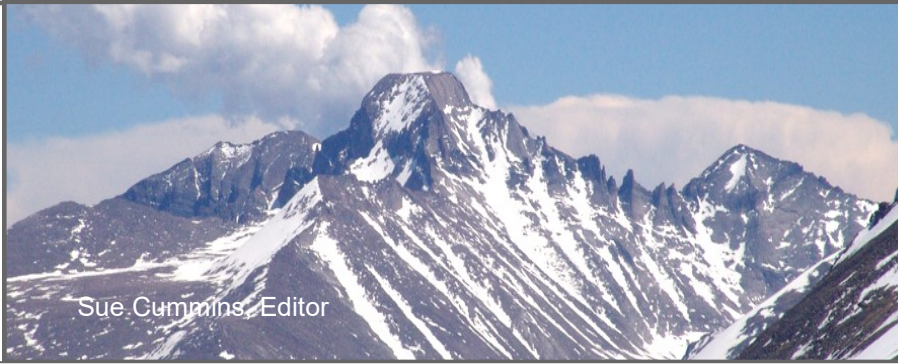




friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins, Editor

July/August
2024

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

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**Picnic, Saturday,
August 17, 11:30 a.m.
Spring Park
Fort Collins**

**Welcome Austin
Potluck
6 p.m.
Friday, September 13
5303 Corbett Drive
Fort Collins**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The sale of 1st Christian Church will be final in January 2025, so our last use of it as our meeting place will be for the November meeting. *Please think about any places you may be involved with or know about that might be open to sharing their space with us once a month. This could be another church, community building, libraries, office space not being used by a company; who knows how creative we can be?*



Our Inbound Southwest Florida Journey has come and gone. Everyone had a good time; those who were able to get re-acquainted with old friends and also all who were able to get to know new friends. We enjoyed hearing the highlights of their journey from each of our ambassadors at the Farewell Dinner so graciously hosted by Marcia Ross.

Our picnic with the **Cheyenne Friendship Force Club is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th at 11:30 am.** As the host club, we will provide the main dish and drinks. We FFNC members will bring side dishes, and Cheyenne will provide desserts. Our venue has changed to closer to Midtown Fort Collins. Please bring yourselves and your sides to **Spring Park, 2100 Mathews St.,** which is not far east/southeast of the intersection of College (287) and Stuart.

Our **inbound Journey from Austin, Texas** is scheduled for Sept. 13-18. Carol McGrath is our Journey Host Coordinator, with assistance from Cathie McCallum. We will be having a **Welcoming Party and Potluck for the Austin Ambassadors at our usual formal meeting date on Friday, September 13th, starting at 6 pm at Harvest Park Clubhouse, 5303 Corbett Drive, Fort Collins.** This is open to the entire membership and is a good way to meet new people. This location is where we have held our holiday party for the past two years.

There are no CLEOs scheduled in June or July.

Check your 2025 calendars to see what outbound journeys may catch your attention and how you can be involved with inbound journeys.

Inbound: Baton Rouge, Louisiana to FFNC, August
Outbound: Northern Colorado to Austin, Texas, May
Outbound: Northern Colorado to Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada and New Hampshire Seacoast, September

Susan Mathre



MAY PROGRAM

Our own LaDonna Palm shared her experiences volunteering at two national parks.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin, is at the southern tip of Lake Superior, which is the world's largest freshwater lake. In 1996, LaDonna and her husband, Dick, started volunteering at one of these islands, Sand Island. Now LaDonna volunteers there as a caretaker/host for three weeks every summer. Visitors have a choice of four individual campsites and three group campsites. Two caretakers are there during the season, because one needs to be at the campsite while the other is available to take visitors on the two-mile hike to the unusual Sand Island Lighthouse to give them tours. The cabin that is available to the caretakers is very small, has solar power, and hot (and cold) showers. The stove and refrigerator are powered by gas, but the electricity is solar-powered. She is happy it now has an indoor bathroom.



LaDonna and Dick also applied and were accepted to volunteer at Big Bend National Park in West Texas. They stayed in their camper at that hot and desolate location, where temperatures can reach 100+ degrees by late morning and remain at dangerous levels until long after sunset. They were 100 miles from the closest grocery stores. Even though Dick and LaDonna were experienced hikers, they had the unfortunate experience of leaving the trail and getting lost. Fortunately, LaDonna had told a friend where they planned to hike. When they had not returned by the first night, rescuers were sent out to look for them. Only after being missing for two nights and three days were the confused and dehydrated pair rescued by helicopter.

Pam Morrison





June Meeting Votes, Food, Games, and, of course Friendship

Our meeting on June 14th 2024 started at 7 pm with an announcement that we will need to find a new meeting place for next year. Please get your thinking caps on and let Susan Mathre know if you have some possibilities.

We had election of officers for 2025 and voted in favor of those nominated.

They are: President-- Suzi Gossard

Vice Pres.--Susanna Garner

Secretary—Sylvia Miller

Treasurer-- Carol McGrath

After the break for refreshments, we had a game night. Members brought board games and cards. We had an evening of fun playing many different games, including Scrabble, 3-D Scrabble, Rummikub, card games, and more. Some of us learned new games! A good time was had by all.

Rosemary Donovan





Stay tuned for future program about Hungary & Cornwall Journeys

Journeys to Pecs, Hungary, and Cornwall, UK

May 22 – June 10, 2024

Our journeys to Pecs and Cornwall are memories now—lots of them! Our hosts crammed much into those two weeks. We toured castles and cathedrals. We visited crypts from the 4th century and a modern biosphere. We saw ocean beaches, underground caves, and flowers everywhere. We tasted different versions of Hungarian goulash (with spicy paprika served on the side), homemade venison and wild boar sausages, beef wellington at the Royal Cornish show, and learned how to make Cornish pasties. The list goes on and on. The photos below are just a teaser for the full presentation scheduled for a fall meeting.



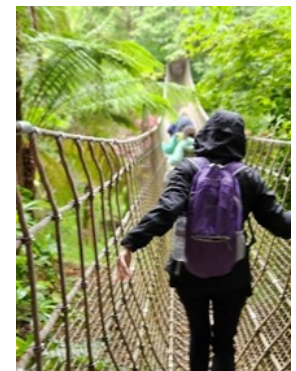
Oh, those Cornwall roads!



Eden Project Eco-friendly rainforest and Mediterranean biomes



Land's End



Heligan Hidden Garden



Egg Museum



St. Stephens Cathedral



Just another use for a bandana



Andrew Parker, host extraordinaire, bakes our creations in his pizza oven



Buso Festival in Mohacs World Heritage



Minnack Theatre One woman's dream carved out of granite.



Wine tasting in wine cellar

LaDonna Palm



St. Michael's Mount



We visited baby goats after May's CLEO



Anne loves cuddling the baby goats.



Barb, Rocky, and Suzi listen intently to goat guidance.



Rocky's sleeve tastes good!



Carol is a natural!

Photos by Cathie McCallum

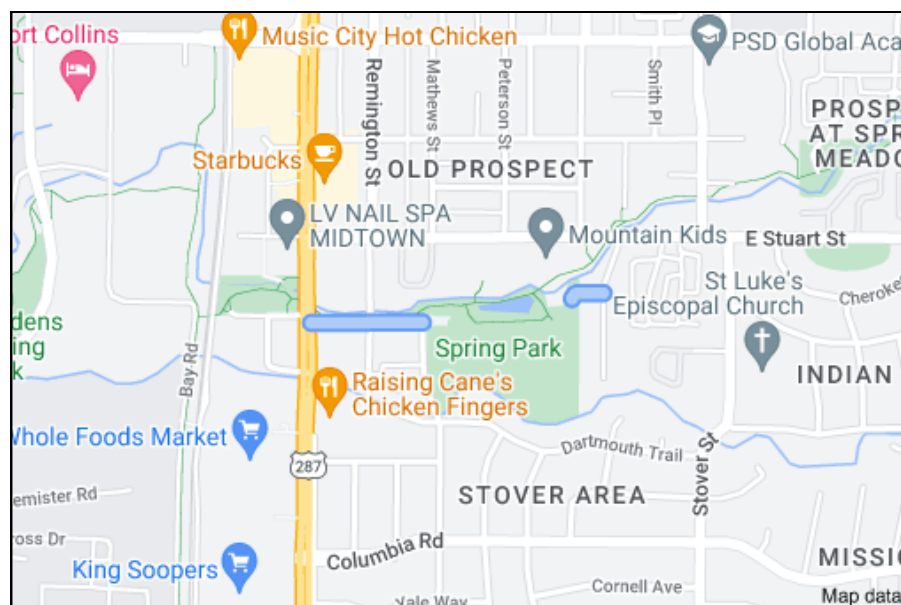


**FFNC/Cheyenne
Joint Picnic
11:30 a.m., Saturday,
August 17
Spring Park
2100 Mathews Street
Fort Collins**

Don't miss our joint picnic with the Cheyenne FF Club on Saturday, August 17th, at 11:30 a.m. Our club will supply the meat and the drinks. You FFNC members can bring your favorite side dishes, and the Cheyenne club members will bring desserts.

Bring yourselves and your delicious side dishes to Spring Park (new location) at 2100 Mathews Street in Fort Collins. The street that goes directly to the park is called Spring Park and is at a stoplight on College Ave. (287). Turn east (away from the mountains) at that light and you will find your way into the parking lot in two blocks. Fire Station No. 3 is on the north side of the parking lot.

Thanks to Jan Rozman and Elizabeth McCoy for taking charge of the picnic.





How Will Our Friendship Force International Grow and Change?

by our own FFI board member, Ken Weaver

It's a great question, at this time in our global economy of intercultural renaissance. Yes, renaissance! Look it up: *a revival of or renewed interest*. Now more than ever is a time for the citizen diplomacy mission and vision of Wayne Smith and President and Mrs. Carter. Through foresight and the good fortune of wide support, Friendship Force International has revived after the pandemic travel lull. And we're expanding from club-to-club journeys to more and more special journeys and the new independent journeys. Log into your account at my.friendshipforce.org and click on "Journeys" in the lower left. You'll see how much is there.

The challenge, articulated so well in Our Path Forward, the 2024-2026 Strategic plan, is first to *Reignite the Urgency of Our Mission*. Our core belief is that building friendship across cultural differences is a path to peace. That's how Friendship Force International came into being, and that's why we exist and why we will persist. It's a priority for each of us, for all our clubs, and all across this worldwide organization as a whole.

From my six months on the International Board of Directors, I can vouchsafe the dedication of your leadership. That each of us leads, that's what's worthy, as we carry on.

In friendship. Ken Weaver, past President of Friendship Force of Northern Colorado and proud new member of the Friendship Force International Board of Directors, carrying on as best I can the proud tradition of our founding member and past FFI Board member Cinda Clark.

Opportunities

Don't miss the potluck for all members to welcome our visitors from Austin, Texas
6 p.m., Friday, September 13
Harvest Park Clubhouse
5303 Corbett Drive
Fort Collins

This is our regular meeting date. Note earlier time.
Carol McGrath & Cathie McCallum

Please consider participating in and/or helping to lead the following 2025 FFNC journeys:
Inbound: From Baton Rouge, Louisiana; August
Outbound: To Austin, Texas; May
Outbound: To Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada and the New Hampshire Seacoast; September

It takes a village

President: Susan Mathre
Vice President: Suzi Gossard
Secretary: Carol McGrath
Treasurer: LaDonna Palm
Journey Directors: Anne & Rick Lohmeyer
Meeting greeter: Cathie McCallum
Meeting hospitality: Suzi Gossard
Meeting music: Rosemary Donovan
Membership: Cathie McCallum
Newsletter editors: Sue Cummins, Cathie McCallum,
Marilyn Garner
Programs: Barbara & Dennis Miller
Social Activities: Rocky Padden
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways & Means: Nancy Benson
Membership booklet: Ed Brigden

You may have noticed that we are trying not to give actual contact information for our members in our newsletters. We have had some interference by scammers that makes this wise. You should have been emailed a copy of our latest membership list. If not, please tell any member you know. Cathie McCallum is our membership chair.