



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Editor
Cathie McCallum

June
2026

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

CALENDAR

June 10, 4 PM FFNC Board meeting via Zoom

June 12, 5:30 at Elderhaus: October Inbound journey planning meeting

June 12, 7pm at Elderhaus Please contribute to snacks; invite a friend!

June 18, 11:30 CLEO at Rocky's

No picnic with Cheyenne planned. Check President's page for additional activities

JUNE PROGRAM

Election of officers for 2027

FFI report from Ken and Susanna

Journey report: NH Seacoast

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.

THE NEWSLETTER

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and volunteers needed for October inbound from NH Seacoast

3-CLEO

4-May program/Red Cross

5-6 Seacoast NH journey report

6-Election of officers

7 Journeys; regional rendezvous; current officers

2027 JOURNEY ASSIGNMENTS

Inbound (June):
Kern County, CA, USA

Outbound Domestic (October):
Columbia Cascade, WA, USA

Outbound International (August)
Volta Lake, Ghana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2026

Greetings, Friends

June is always such a busy month – it's a chance to spend time outdoors, celebrating how lucky we are to live in Colorado. There seem to be infinite summer festivals as well as music, theatre and art events available to us, which allow us to be out in the community meeting new people and seeing old acquaintances. I am reminding you to be on the lookout for people you know who would be interested in joining Friendship Force. This is also a great time to invite friends from our club to go with you if you have a fun summer activity planned.

The new FFI vision statement is:

“Connecting members from across the globe, with a shared vision of a more peaceful world”.

At the upcoming June meeting, we will be talking about what that looks like for us in Northern Colorado, and what ideas we can implement to develop connections within our local communities to strengthen our club. Many of you already participate in organizations that have similar values so you will be able to share your experiences to help the club grow.



Friendship Force Book Club

June 24th - Burial Rites by Hannah Kent

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/N4agOALdSR0cmoc5cTdqSg>

To access the following links, re-type, *not paste*, them into your browser.

Journey Marketplace

<https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/collections/private?ls=xMeG32a1BbObNWSb-kwUv>

Below are some additional recommendations for Friendship Force-adjacent activities:

June 2nd: To Climb a Gold Mountain @ the Rialto in Loveland

<https://www.lov.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/114250/20?curdate=442026&curm=6&cury=2026&widgetId=50>

June 10th – Author talk: Albania Through Desiderium @ Global Village Museum

<https://globalvillagemuseum.org/product/june-10-the-making-of-a-novel-albania-through-desiderium/>

June 25th – Sama in the Forest @ The Lyric in Fort Collins

<https://globalvillagemuseum.org/product/global-screening-sama-in-the-forest-qa-coralynn-davis/>

I look forward to seeing you on June 12th for our regular meeting. Don't forget to bring a snack to share with everyone.

In Friendship,

Susanna Garner

Volunteers needed for the **NH Seacoast Journey – October 7-14**. Planning is underway for the upcoming inbound Journey in October, and we are hoping that some of you who haven't already signed up will help our incoming ambassadors feel welcome and appreciated. We need some more day hosts to drive to the different activities, some help setting up the welcome dinner, some soups or salads for the game night at Elderhaus, attending a potluck for a whole group dinner in Greeley, and hosting a small group dinner at your house or your favorite restaurant, etc. Please contact Marilyn Garner if you are interested.

CLEO

June CLEO will be at Rocky's house at 11:30 June 18. Pizza and games will be the feature. Each participant will contribute \$10
Please **RSVP to Rocky at 970-308-5478 by June 17.**



May CLEO featured Weld County Habitat for Humanity

Seeing a groundbreaking Habitat for Humanity project after CLEO (Colorado Let's Eat Out)

After delicious lunch at Lafayette's Creperie, eight of us from The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado visited the Greeley's Habitat for Humanity ReStore for a briefing by CEO Cheri Witt-Brown, then drove with COO Emily Tilton to visit the marvelous Hope Springs Project, credited worldwide in the April 2026 **habitat** magazine:

<https://www.habitat.org/our-work/impact/habitat-magazine/2026/04/hope-springs-and-lasting-affordability>

Greeley Habitat will build over 176 Habitat Homes and 300+ multi-family apartments with the help of teams of volunteers. Perhaps our club will find a way to pitch in, maybe during an inbound journey.

Ken Weaver



MAY PROGRAM LORRAINE JANSON

Suzi Gossard, reporter

At our May meeting, member Lorraine Janson, a longtime Red Cross volunteer, gave an informative presentation about the organization. In her current role, she identifies shelter locations across 10 counties in Wyoming and Colorado to help communities during disasters.

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, based on a model first developed in Europe in 1863, and was chartered by Congress in 1900. The local chapter has 180 volunteers and just 1.5 paid staff members. The organization is committed to directing donations to the people it serves: 90% of its workforce is made up of volunteers, and 90% of donations go toward care.



Its services include support for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families; assistance for people affected by house fires; global vaccination efforts; training in lifesaving skills; and blood collection. The Red Cross is especially well known for its disaster response work.

In 2023, 2.5 million people in the United States were displaced from their homes by disasters, and 88% of U.S. counties have been affected by a disaster within the past 10 years. Vulnerable communities often face the greatest hardships and the most obstacles to recovery. The Red Cross responds by providing meals, essential relief supplies, health and mental health support, safe shelter for families and pets, and financial assistance.

Lorraine also encouraged us to learn more about the Red Cross and consider ways to help, such as donating, giving blood, sponsoring a blood drive, volunteering, or becoming trained and certified.



FFNC Journey to FFAustin & FFDallas
March 23- April 3, 2026

Nine Ambassadors took this Journey to Austin and eight Ambassadors journeyed on to Dallas. The weather was perfect, no rain and not overly hot in either of these interesting cities.

Austin spent time showing us their history as the state capital and home to U of TX. This city has become the 13th largest city in the U.S. It has a wealth of musicians, techies, film pros, athletes and foodies. Historically, it was a buffalo hunting ground favored by the Tonkawa Indians and was permanently settled in 1838 as a trading post. Lady Bird Lake bisects the center of downtown and is bordered by 10+ miles of hike & bike trails.



Austin hosts toured us through the Capital and the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum. This library was very impressive and is said to be the most visited of the nation's presidential libraries. We climbed the 102 steps to reach the top of Mt. Bonnell/Mayfield Park to see the gorgeous views of Lake Austin and the Austin skyline. We visited Zilker Botanical Garden and Barton Springs, which is filled entirely by natural springs and open year round for swimming.



A favorite of all was a visit to Community 1st. This is a master-planned neighborhood located near Austin that provides permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women who are coming out of chronic homelessness.



It provides affordable housing (tiny homes), \$300-\$600/mo. rent and jobs in the village for residents who do not hold jobs outside of the community. It was such a powerful statement about the dignity of people and how communal spaces and

resources can help form relationships and build community. The Austin Public Library is one of the most modern & architecturally impressive libraries in the U.S. It is 200,000 sq ft and 6 stories tall. It was amazing with its zig-zagging staircases and bridges connecting floors and its rooftop garden, reading porches and lake views.



Later we got a little time to snuggle with the baby goats at a host's home near Lockhart, TX. The day ended for most with a tour and a delicious dinner at Terry Black's Barbecue. Austin insisted that Esther's Follies was a must for us to attend and they were right. This was a comedy parody about any and everything we are experiencing in our country or have experienced that could be made fun of. It was hysterical and we all had a wonderful evening of laughter.



In **Dallas**, we were shown some of their history, culture and beauty during our short stay. History tells of Dallas-Fort Worth's progression from being a Spanish Empire to becoming a sovereign nation in 1836 then joining the United States in 1842. After the hostile Native tribes



moved away from the area, it was given the name Fort Worth. It became a gathering point for cattle from all over Texas, held in stockyards waiting to be shipped north. We visited the Stockyards and experienced what a cattle drive of long horned steers may have looked like. We ate dinner outdoors in the lush exterior space of the renowned Joe T. Garcia's Mexican restaurant. We visited Pioneer Park with its massive bronze sculpture of a cattle drive, featuring 49 larger-than-life longhorns being driven across a creek. The 4 acre park also has the Pioneer Park cemetery where some of the city's earliest founders are buried. We explored the beautiful grounds of the Dallas Arboretum and had lunch together. We had an opportunity to tour the Windspear Opera House and



Performing Arts Center. This facility hosts 5 operas each year along with other performances such as Broadway shows, concerts TED Talks and the Texas Ballet, seating 2300 guests. The Sixth Floor museum was also a must see for those that remember the fateful day of November 22, 1963. This is where the fatal shot was fired from a second story window that killed President Kennedy. The museum takes visitors through the assassination, the departure of the coffin and the swearing in of Lyndon B. Johnson. It was a very moving history.

We had a very informative and pleasant visit with both Austin and Dallas. They were wonderful hosts. We hope to see them here in Northern Colorado in the near future.

Election of officers for 2027

Nominees named by the Nominating Committee and agreed to by these nominees include:

President: Susanna Garner
Vice President: Rocky Padden
Secretary: Susan Mathre
Treasurer: Carol McGrath

At the June 12 meeting to elect officers, the President shall receive further nominations from the floor with the consent of any nominee.

JOURNEYS

- The journey to **Indonesia**, August 5th through the 20th, is well into the planning stages. There are three 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 culturally packed journey. We currently have 7 signed up: 5 ambassadors from our FFI club and 2 from Japan are joining us. We would love to have 12 ambassadors on this lovely journey. Please spread the word!

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

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