

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

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President's Notes

Greetings, Friendship Force of Northern Colorado Members, Happy spring! It's wonderful to see all the trees with their colorful blossoms and budding leaves. Cheerful daffodils & tulips brighten the garden, and now the fragrance of lilacs is filling the air. This is my favorite time of year!

Our next Friendship Force meeting will be held at the ElderHaus, 6813 S. College Ave, Fort Collins, on Friday, May 9. Our program will be by Michael English. (See Page 2) Then, in June, we will have another informative program, shared by Karen Barton. (pg. 2) Thanks, Ken Weaver, for finding both speakers for us!

See information about our upcoming CLEO's on Page 6 . Thanks, Rocky Padden and LaDonna Palm, for planning these.

In late June, we will be hosting at least 9 members of FF Phoenix. LaDonna Palm, host coordinator, has a full agenda of fun activities planned! (pg.5) Elizabeth McCoy continues to coordinate the incoming Journey from Baton Rouge in August. Let these ladies know how you can help/participate. Carol McGrath is busy coordinating our outbound Journey to FF Seacoast New Hampshire.

Speaking of Journeys, FFI has sent us our 2027 Journey assignments. I'm excited for our international Journey, tentatively set for August, to Indonesia! Clubs of Benjarmasin on Borneo and Surabaya on Java will be hosting us. Preliminary research into airfare showed a tentative cost (2025 prices) of around \$2000. We also have two reciprocal Journeys planned: outbound to Dallas and Austin (rescheduled from this year) in March, and inbound from New Hampshire in November. All dates are tentative, pending contact with the other clubs. We are looking for volunteers to be Ambassador Coordinators for these opportunities! Let me or Marilyn Garner know if you are interested!

I wish you a wonderful spring and hope to see you at this month's meeting!

In friendship,
Suzi Gossard
President

Next Meetings

May 9, 2025
June 13, 2025
Elderhaus

6813 S. College
7pm

May Program

Michael English is a specialist in conflict analysis and resolution and currently teaches for and directs the Peace, Conflict, and Security Program at the University of Colorado Boulder. Michael will lead us in a discussion of FFI's vision for the next ten years. How do we, as a club, adapt to this changing world? It's sure to be an interesting topic! He has worked in various positions in higher education over the past fifteen years, including international education, and he is the author of *The U.S. Institute of Peace: A Critical History* and the former editor of *Unrest Magazine*. His research explores the challenges related to contemporary violence and building peace. Michael was introduced to Friendship Force at the 2019 world conference in Boulder and was inspired by the organization's mission and committed members. Here's Michael's brief bio from the FFI website, <https://friendshipforce.org/leadership-governance/>, which has a photo.

(Click on the previous line's link to access.)

--Ken Weaver

June Program

Karen Barton, Professor of Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Sustainability at the University of Northern Colorado, will speak about the Rotary International Peace Centers program. She just returned from West Africa. She begins as a Rotary Peace Fellow in September at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

As you can read online, Karen travels the world (click on the underlined link) : [UNCO.EDU](https://unco.edu) . A UNC interview tells of Karen's Fulbright awards to Senegal, Mexico, Myanmar, Kuwait, Nepal, and Bangladesh: [Unco.edu/news](https://unco.edu/news) .

You learn that she's been part of an Australian-based leadership program called Homeward Bound Women in Science. It's a yearlong program about women in leadership. It culminates in a trip to Antarctica with 108 women. Her project: a book, a story map, and a podcast, *Geographies of Hope and Resilience*: [Podcasters.spotify.com](https://podcasters.spotify.com).

You learn that Karen led a group of students on a trip to the Mississippi River where they cleaned up trash on a garbage barge with the nonprofit Living, Lands, and Waters.

We can expect to learn about a planned Social Change Initiative through the Uganda Rotary Peace Center

--Ken Weaver

March Program World Friendship Day



FFNC celebrated World Friendship Day with a potluck dinner featuring ethnic food from around the world. Members also brought items to display and share from their travels abroad and dressed in clothing from various places they have traveled. The room was beautifully decorated with colorful international theme table cloths and place settings.

Ken Weaver, as a member of the FFI Board of Directors, gave a short report and spoke about how the board wanted to approach our vision as “A More Friendly World.” He also presented a new display depicting “Change the Way You See the World” which defines our purpose in our changing world.

Our club was treated to a presentation by three high school students who are part of the ASSE International Student Exchange Program.

Exchange Program. ASSE is a nonprofit organization that connects students from around the world with host families in the United States, fostering cultural exchange and global understanding. This program fit right in with our Friendship Force vision.

These students have earned prestigious scholarships through two highly competitive programs:

- * **The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)** - A program jointly funded by the US Congress and the German Bundestag, which promotes mutual understand between Germany and the United States through academic and cultural immersion.
- * **The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program.** - A US State Dept. initiative that provides scholarships for students from countries with significant Muslim populations, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and leadership development.

Pictures and more about these outstanding students on Page 5



World Friendship Day, continued



Heidi Albin, regional coordinator, introduced the students who shared with us many aspects of their lives from their homes and compared it to how it differed from being in our country. They spoke about their expectations on arriving here, how things differed between here and their home land, and how school differed between the two worlds.

Divine is 18 years old and from Liberia in a city with a population of one million. He is currently studying at Fossil Ridge High school. He said his country has two season, rainy and dry. School is easier here with an easier routine. At home he takes 16-18 courses and has to study a lot. He also likes to play soccer and hang out with friends.

Enya is only 16 years old and from a small town about the size Fossil Ridge High School. She was involved in music and theater in her home town but not through school. Clubs are available to join beyond the realm of the schools. She has joined the art and theater group at her school here in Fort Collins.

Sophia is 17 years old from a large city in Germany, studying at Mountain View High School in Loveland. In her country, she gets out of school at 1:30 in the afternoon and has a lot of free time to play club volleyball and socialize with friends and to study a little bit. She also noted our public transportation is very limited, where as, they can go anywhere by bus in her town. Life is more structured here than in Germany.

April Meeting

Kat Bertram from Global Village Museum spoke to us about Japanese Art. Kat is the perfect person to share this information. She has a master's degree in Japanese art and is half Japanese.

Art was first done on scrolls with few colors. Early art was only for the elite. It wasn't until later that art was released to the masses. This art was primarily large-scale installations in temples and shrines. Kat also spoke about Japanese time periods and how art changed through time. The time periods span from early Japan (until 710) through the Reiwa period (2019 – now). During the Edo period, woodblock prints revolutionized accessibility to art, depicting everyday life. Currently Manga and Anime are popular all over the world. I thought it was interesting that the term Anime comes from the English term animation.

--Elizabeth McCoy



UPCOMING JOURNEYS

The New Hampshire Seacoast journey is set for September 15th through the 22nd. It's always fun to make new friends and enjoy time together! A few members are extending the journey with a week exploring the Canadian Maritimes and seeing the setting of Anne of Green Gables through an optional pre-journey Canadian Maritime motor coach tour, with Caravan Tours which starts September 7th and ends on the 15th and is available to anyone who is interested. Contact Carol McGrath, Ambassador Coordinator.

Inbound Journey from Greater Phoenix

The Friendship Force club from Greater Phoenix will be visiting us from Monday, June 23, to Sunday, June 29. There are many events that all members of our club are welcome to attend. They are as follows:

- **Monday**, June 23 - Welcome Party at Elderhaus (our new meeting place) at 5:00 pm. Cost to be determined.
- **Tuesday**, June 24 - Pontoon trip on Horsetooth Reservoir 10:00 am. Cost \$37.50. (Note: Arizona is hoping for two additional people to join the trip. In that case, there are no available tickets.) New Belgium Brewery
- **Thursday**, June 26 - Tour of Art Casting Foundry 9:30 am. Cost \$5.00
Picnic at Benson Park Sculpture Garden 11:30.
Cost to be determined.
- **Saturday**, June 28 Greeley Stampede 1:00
Farewell party - Pizza party at Weaver's 5:00 pm

Please contact LaDonna Palm (651) 302-2024 or dnlpalm@aol.com if you would like to attend any of these. Final plans for many of these events will depend on how many people will be attending, so please let us know as soon as possible. If you aren't sure now.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

**Please beware of imposter scams claiming to be me or some other club member asking for emergency purchase of gift cards. They are getting more sophisticated in mentioning names of other club members and officers and creative in their reasons why these are needed.
Know that our club never operates this way!**

--Suzi Gossard

MAY CLEO AT CHILI THAI

Make plans to join us at Chili Thai in Windsor on May 15. Their address is 1215 MAIN ST, UNIT D, WINDSOR, CO 80550

MINI JOURNEY OPPORTUNITY

Mini-journey to Denver – June 5-8 **Denver Fringe Festival**

Fringe Festivals, set up to support independent artists, are held in major cities worldwide. It's theater – but on the fringes. It's their chance to be seen, and, hopefully, discovered. Performances are original and last between 45 and 60 minutes. They may be: cabaret, circus, comedy, dance, theater, improvisation, magic/illusionism, musical, puppetry, or storytelling. In other words, almost any form of entertainment. Each performance costs \$15. The 2025 schedule will be published sometime in May, but the 2024 schedule had performances starting at 5:00 pm on Thursday and Friday and at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. There is a choice of 10 to 12 performances at each time slot. With a little planning, it is possible to see three performances in an evening. Performances are held at various sites in the RiNo and Five Points area. They may be in small theaters, hotel conference rooms, lounges, or anywhere there is room.

We will check into our hotel/Airbnb Thursday afternoon in time for Thursday's performances. Friday there will be time to see museums, art galleries, shopping, or whatever you want to do before the Friday performances. We will check out of our room Saturday morning. The cost of six performances would be \$90, or a Festival Pass (good for all performances) costs \$85. Hotel rooms in the RiNo area are expensive (minimum of about \$175 per night for two), so we may find something further out. We can carpool to keep expenses down or take the Bustang to Union Station and Uber (or walk) from there. You may also join us for one day only, driving home that evening, or stay over only one night instead of two. There are lots of choices and should be lots of fun!

For more information or to sign up, call LaDonna at (651) 302-2024 or email her at dnlpalm@aol.com.



Journeys & Events

INBOUND 2025

Phoenix, AZ: June 23-28
Baton Rouge : August 19-25

OUTBOUND 2025

New Hampshire Seacoast: September
15-22, 2025

Outbound 2026

Indonesia! Clubs of Benjarmasin
on Borneo and Surabaya on
Java

CLEO

Chili Thai, Windsor--May 15

Fringe theatre, Denver
June 5-8
Airbnb stay

2025 Officers & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT: Suzi Gossard
VICE PRESIDENT: Susanna Garner
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Cinda Clark
TREASURER: Carol McGrath

Journey Director: Marilyn Garner
Meeting Greeters: Gerry and Ann Loader
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
Cathie McCallum

Programs: Cathie McCallum
Social Activities: Rocky Padden, Pam Morrison
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: Nancy Benson
Website: Rick Lohmeyer

*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 about Friendship Force and to my.friendshipforce.org for information specific to members and secure for sharing personal information needed for journey registration.