



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



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Editor & Publisher

2021

April-June

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

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE

January Program How I handled 2020	2
February program Allison Lindsey FFI updates	3
March Program World Friendship Day Cultural observance	4 5
Anne Brown Celebrates 90	6
Rocky Mountain Regional News	7
In Memorium Patti Stickler	8
In Memorium Bette Younger	9
* Spring programs * Trivia winners; * LaDonna to Ken	10
* April days to note * FFI translations	11
* Reminders * Officer list	12

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LADONNA PALM



When this pandemic started, did you dream that one year later we would still be sitting here, watching our passports expire, and dreaming of places we want to visit? We thought all the horrors of 2020 were behind us, and then the March snowpocalypse arrived. Will locusts be next?

Now, as most of us are getting our vaccines, we can start looking forward. FFI's Festival at Sea is still scheduled to leave Amsterdam on August 28 before traveling to Norway, Iceland, and Scotland. Check the FFI website for details.

FF Southern New Jersey originally planned to postpone all journeys this year but currently has 18 members "considering" coming here in late September or early October. FFNC **2022** journey plans include outbound to Raleigh, North Carolina in the spring and to Connecticut and the Quebec, Canada region in the fall. Inbound, we plan to host New Mexico and design and host a global journey Grasslands to Glaciers.

FF Cheyenne and FFNC mutually agreed to move the traditional picnic from Sunday to Saturday, August 14, 2021. It is our turn to host. Covid restrictions prevent us from making reservations yet, so the location is undetermined.

FFI has introduced a second website for members only, while updating the old site primarily to attract new members. Soon, all members will be required to register on the new site and be given an ID number. [Those without email addresses will be handled separately.] You can access the member site at **my.friendshipforce.org**. When you first sign on you will be asked for your name and email, asked if you are president of your club, and then asked to create a password.

I understand that FFI will contact me, as current president, to *confirm* that you are a member, after which you will be able to access the entire site. You will have the *option* to upload a photo and biographical sketch that can be used for future journeys and input data regarding past journeys, conferences, etc. Future events will be automatically retained. In the future, all financial transactions such as dues, journey fees, travel insurance, etc. will be handled through the website. Only your name and email are required; other information is your choice. Processing membership approval is slow at this early stage. As the bugs get worked out, the members only website will be an extremely useful tool.

Zoom Meeting
Friday April 9,
6:30 PM

Trivia Night
Thursday,
April 22



FFNC VIRTUAL PROGRAM JANUARY 8, 2021

In a variation on the traditional theme of making resolutions for the coming year, this January members looked back on the *past year* when we were sheltering in place at home and shared something positive that came out of 2020. LaDonna, our featured presenter, told us about taking up painting using photos from her travels as inspiration and model. She shared several of her photos side-by-side with her paintings to demonstrate her progress. Included here are her photos (l) and corresponding paintings (r) of Russia, Iceland, and Tallin. *See page 10 for another painting.*



Other members mentioned activities, or wishful thinking, that helped them make the best of 2020!

Paulette, Rosemary, Debby, and Sue and Gary connected with family viz Zoom or Facetime.

Thelma served as online teacher to her grandchildren.

Debby and **Rosemary** welcomed new great grandchildren.

Cindy and **Larry** invested in at-home learning courses.

Susan, Marcia, and Rona hiked, walked, biked, walked their dogs, and/or golfed.

Marcia remodeled; **Debby** deep cleaned her basement; and **Rosemary** gardened during 2020.

Rick and **Ann** played cribbage; **Dot** did cross stitch.

Ken kept up with changes as FFI regrouped.

Rick did genealogy online and on What's App found a cousin in Germany.

Doris learned patience when her move was delayed and she is ½ boxed up and ½ moved.

Barbara Klein is working to sell her 15 acres and horses so she can move into town.

Submitted by Thelma Slocum and LaDonna Palm



FFNC VIRTUAL PROGRAM FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Friendship Force International Updates



Allison Lindsey, FFI Vice President of Membership Engagement, was the featured speaker at our Feb. 12th zoom meeting. She said the home office in Atlanta made a change two years ago and now there are only three full time employees and seven part-time. FFI has been using Regional Support Managers who work from home.

When COVID-19 started spreading throughout the country and the world last year, FFI did not have any income coming into the home office to support the International club. Therefore, they started an online giving campaign to bring in needed funding to keep FFI in operation. The home office appreciates everyone's support and thanks members for their generosity. Because of Zoom we can now stay connected. Last year there were 51 virtual experiences.

FFI uses the tagline *Faces and Places* for a series featuring members from around the globe showcasing their countries. These webinar-style events provide an opportunity to learn firsthand about another club and their culture. You will be able to interact with hosts, ask questions, and gain more knowledge about travel options for the future. As soon as possible after the Zoom webinar, a recording of the program is available on the FFI Virtual Experiences webpage.

FFI has also started a new coffee chat platform to bring language into the mix and starting next week with the French language event and another event in English will translate into Spanish.

A new website is coming. Online Membership Registration is being tested. The brand refresh includes a slightly different Logo and a renewal of the tagline "A world of friends is a world of peace" that is more easily translated into other languages.

Journeys coming up will be virtual experiences and will be on the home page. You will be able to print an I.D. card with your name, edit a profile and can even change the language. There will be some webinars to show how to use the new website. This will be a very secure platform and safe to use.

FEES: Journey fees provide 85% of the FFI budget How will this be sustained for the future? This will be guided by the clubs. Options are: Annual fees or higher fees. More work needs to be done to figure out how to handle fees in the future.

In closing her presentation, Allison stated that FFI needs people to participate in all aspects of Club operations.

Submitted by Rosemary Donovan



FFNC PROGRAM MARCH 12, 2021



World Friendship Day



Alan Milne of **New Zealand**, described the observance of **Wangarei Day**, February 6th, the day that everyone in New Zealand annually observes the contributions of the Maori to the success of their country. Alan was the mayor of Kapiti Coast, and served on the FFI international Board as President. He now lives near Lake Taupo, NZ. Quick-witted Alan, who joined us for the program, is the one who picked up his script when the program connection was lost, and finished just before the video came back! Perfect timing!



Cecilia Bouchet of **Belgium** told us about the derivation of their **Sinter Klaas**, from a priest who donated funds to dowries so young women could marry, to being a kindly old fellow who brings sweets to children at Christmas. Cecilia has been an active member in her FF club, and served on the board of Friendship Force International.



Rick Trivino from **Colombia**, described the yearly "**Parade of Flowers**". The photo he held was to show how they are carried. They are mounted on "seats" and carried on strong men's backs. The arrangements weigh around 100 pounds each. Rick is an ambassador who, with his wife, has traveled with our club several times on journeys.



CULTURAL OBSERVANCES IN FIVE COUNTRIES

Cicek Sensan (from [Turkey](#)), spoke about Turkey's **World Children's Day** celebrations each year. Children from around the world are invited to perform their region's dances, and they stay with Turkish children of the same age. Cicek is a former Friendship Force International Board member, and was a teacher before retirement. (She was not able to record audio, so Cinda Clark dubbed it for her.)



Russell Veitch, from [Australia](#), gave us the history of the only king the US ever had (**Elvis Presley** - although some do not claim him), and how they celebrate that king every year in Parkes, Australia. Russell was the Exchange Director in 2006 when his club came from Lugano, NSW. He also led an Australian Pubs and Gardens World Journey a few years ago.



Edward Perez has been our energized and able technician to make the Cultural Sampler Program work. He is the [Field Rep. for the SW region](#), recommended to me by FFI. He added all the graphics, and put the recordings from various sources together. He is a magician!



Thanks, also, to **Ken Weaver** who learned how to run the program remotely, and did so from Washington state!

Thanks to **Cinda** for recruiting speakers.



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY ANNE!

Mild weather cooperated and a dozen delighted FFNC members gathered in Anne Brown's driveway to celebrate, catch up after a year's absence from one another and cheer a long-awaited opportunity to actually meet face to face. Anne was glad to have a chance to see so many friends. We were all thrilled to see her and have an opportunity to see each other as well.



Barbara brought balloons on her drive-by.



Anne enjoyed the cards, gifts, and social connections. Marcia and Marilyn baked muffins for all.

...and drop our masks for a photo with smiles!

BJ made Anne a lap quilt with 90 blocks.





ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL NEWS SUE PALMER



Friendship Force International Redesigned web site:

What people currently see at <https://www.friendshipforce.org> is NOT the redesigned site nor is it displaying the new FFI branding. Historically, our web site has served a dual purpose holding all member/club leader-relevant information providing information to any prospective member.

ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF ----

my.friendshipforce.org (member online access tool)

This new website allows for the separation of these two information sources. Staff, volunteers and programmers have been pouring over the web site deciding the migration schedule for moving member/club leader-relevant content from the web site to my.friendshipforce.org.

AFTER member/club leader-relevant information is moved from the web site to my.friendshipforce.org, the new branding designs will be changed on the web site which will become FFI's marketing tool.

my.friendshipforce.org (MEMBER ONLINE ACCESS SITE)

First announcement that site is 'live' and registrations can begin went out on March 3 to English, French and German-speaking members; release on March 12 to all other members.

As of March 18, my.ff.org has almost 1000 registrations, primarily from the March 3 release group.

Some timeline goals for my.ff.org:

- ◆ Content of *Member Resources* moved from web site to my.ff.org **(May 1 or sooner)**
- ◆ Ability to view and apply for journeys **(middle of May)**.
- ◆ Global directory of members **(September-December 2021)**
- ◆ Complete global member registrations **(12/31/21)**
- ◆ Separate myfriendshipforce.org FAQs, instructions and Code of Conduct See attached .html file (double-click to open any of these files) which provides links to relevant FFI announcements.



IN MEMORIUM Bette Younger



ELIZABETH VERONICA YOUNGER

Bette Feldt Younger died January 22, 2021, at Good Samaritan in Fort Collins at the age of 90. Bette was born at home on the family farm in Park, Kansas to Anton George and Anna Catherine Feldt. One of nine children, three girls and six boys, she learned to play cards with her family and enjoyed cards and other games all her life. She would have loved hosting FFNC game nights!

Bette's sense of wanderlust began with her first flight with her oldest brother Jerome, a military pilot, and continued throughout her life of world travels with Friendship Force and other groups. She traveled widely as an ambassador of FFNC, served as secretary in 2000, and attended her last FFNC meeting as recently as May 2018. Bette was also active in Toastmasters and was a member of St. Jude's for more than 50 years. She was a devout Catholic and attended St. Joseph's Catholic church and later St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Bette was a rural route mail carrier for many years and after retirement worked at King Soopers and the Budweiser Event Center. She volunteered at the Colorado Welcome Center and the Lincoln Center. Bette was a neighborhood "grandma" who liked to play in the pool with the children and took homemade cookies to new neighbors.

She married LeRoy Younger in 1951; LeRoy died in 2001. She is survived by their five children Audrey, Glenn, Wayne, Denise, and Ann, their spouses, 12 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Anthony, three sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews and friends.

Bette's body was donated to science and her ashes will later be buried in Sacred Heart cemetery in Park, Kansas. Due to COVID-19, a memorial mass will be held at a later date.

For further details see the Greeley Tribune obituaries January 31, 2021.



IN MEMORIUM Patti Stickler



PATRICIA KATHLEEN STICKLER

Patti Stickler, age 70, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 12, 2021 after her long and courageous battle with ALS.

Patti was born April 3, 1950 to Charles and Evelyn Stone in Michigan. Her family moved to Colorado where Patti attended school and graduated from Arvada High School in 1968. Upon graduation Patti worked at Rocky Flats alongside her dad. She met Chuck Hill while at Rocky Flats; they eventually married and had a son, Brian Hill.

Later in life Patti became involved in real estate and property management. She then married Dave Stickler and they started a property management company together. Patti was a long-time member of the Rotary and had the opportunity of participating in the honor flight for several years.

Patti was a member of FFNC and often served as a dinner host for incoming exchanges. She loved to travel and was among the 12 ambassadors whose March 2020 journey to New Zealand and Australia was cut short by COVID-19 closures. But she and five others did enjoy a week of pre-journey travel on the South Island.

Patti enjoyed spending time with her family, grandkids, friends, and dog Roxi. She loved the theater and all kinds of art. Patti was an amazing artist herself and loved to paint. Patti is survived by her son Brian Hill, family and many friends from all over the world near and far.

For further details see the Reporter Herald, Sunday, February 21, 2021



April, May, and June program plans

APRIL 9: Our next Zoom meeting will start with a social time at 6:30 and business meeting at 7:00. **David Jessup**, our program speaker, is owner of **Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch** and author of three historical novels about **Medina Mariano**. LaDonna just finished *Mariano's Crossing* and is looking forward to reading the others. Hope to see you there!

May 14: **Stacy King**, an advocate/activist for the native people of the Pacific island of Banaba, will share the story of the displacement of the native Banabans by the British mining of phosphate. Her mother spent her childhood on Banaba. Stacy's mother and father were members of the gold Coast FF club in Queensland, Australia.

June 11: We hope to have a professional **trivia master** at the helm of our June 11 meeting.

TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 23 AND APRIL 22

Did you know that Doc Holliday died in Glenwood Springs? No?? Neither did any of the Trivia players on March 23. But-- that's trivia. They did much better on the other questions and, working in teams, they came up with most of the answers. **Marilyn Garner and Marcia Ross** proved to be the **Trivia champs**, but everyone agreed it was a fun time.

The next scheduled Trivia night is Thursday, April 22. If you stayed away from the last game because you think you haven't traveled enough or aren't smart enough, think again! The answers to most questions are guesses – like “Which country has the most lakes?” or “Where is the longest border between two countries?” Your guess is as good as anybody's. And you might learn something that will help you in a future Trivia challenge. Plus you have the fun of joining a small group in a 'breakout room,' with a chance to chat a bit. I hope you will try to join us. Watch email for details !

LADONNA THANKS KEN WITH PAINTING



I didn't know Ken and Paulette very well until Ken was named Ambassador Coordinator for the trip to Bristol and Halle in 2018 and I signed up to join them. He also arranged a pre-journey trip to Stratford on the Avon for five of us. While there, we struggled to stay awake through Romeo and Juliet after our overnight flight. We ate fish and chips together; we shared a couple of beers; we walked where William Shakespeare walked; and Ken, Paulette, and I even shared a bedroom. So it seemed only fitting that the gift to Ken should be a painting of Anne Hathaway's house. Thanks, Ken, for all your efforts to keep our club together in a very trying year.



SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL

April Fools' Day, also called All Fools' Day, in most countries **the first day of April**. It received its name from the custom of playing practical jokes on this day—for example, telling friends that their shoelaces are untied or sending them on so-called fools' errands.

National Beer Day, April 7, celebrates the day in 1933 that the Cullen-Harrison act was signed into law, reversing the prohibition on selling beer in the United States. In 2009, a Virginian man named Justin Smith decided to commemorate this historic day, and created his own unofficial National Beer Day. Since then, it has been recognized by the state of Virginia, and unofficially by millions of brew aficionados nationwide.

Earth Day, April 22 every year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Arbor Day is always observed on **the last Friday in April**. Arbor Day is a national holiday created to recognize the importance of **trees**. The most common way people celebrate Arbor Day is to get together in groups to plant trees.

MAKE FRIENDS ACROSS THE WORLD

FAITES-VOUS DES AMIS À TRAVERS LE MONDE

FINDE FREUNDE AUF DER GANZEN WELT

世界中で友達を作る

ЗАВОДИТЕ ДРУЗЕЙ ПО ВСЕМУ МИРУ

*On the FFI website, at the top choose a language then
scroll down to the heading:*

MAKE FRIENDS ACROSS THE WORLD.

Have fun !



JOURNEYS & EVENTS

**2021 OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

2
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2
1

FFI Virtual Journeys

Check the FFI
website to register
for *upcoming*
Faces and Places

and watch *recorded*
programs that you
missed.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Annual picnic
SATURDAY
August 14**

<https://www.friendshipforce.org>

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Social Committee: Marilyn Garner

Meeting Greeters: Willie Westdorp

Meeting Hospitality: Suzi Gossard

Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan

FFNC Store: Debby Jones