



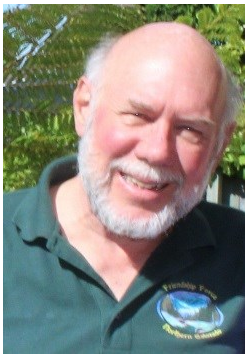
Marilyn Garner, Editor

April
May
June
2023

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



After a lingering winter and those two-plus pandemic years, it feels like Spring is finally here. Thank you to all whose extraordinary efforts made our World Friendship dinner so celebratory. Welcome back to our March ambassadors to Southwest Florida. Thank you, coordinators Suzi Gossard and Marcia Ross. As we advocate friendship and world peace, we have much to look forward to. Each CLEO (Colorado Let's Eat Out) in the next three months is paired with an outing. Our second-Friday program April 14th is "We Visit the Five 'Stans". **May 12th no meeting is scheduled.** June 9th is a report from Southwest Florida. We'll share both local outings and far journeys this summer and Fall. Activities, Communications, Journeys, Membership, Programs, and Ways & Means are our six Standing Committees. I hope each of us will find a chosen way to play a club role. Let me know how you'd like to help. In that spirit, I'll ask the Board, at our April 13th meeting, to confirm Cinda Clark, Marilyn Garner, and Ann Lohmeyer as our Nominating Committee. As President-elect, Susan Mathre is in line to be President in 2024. With Treasurer a two-year term, LaDonna Palm can continue. For Vice President (and thus 2025 President-Elect), or for 2024 Secretary, please contact Marilyn, Ann, or Cinda if you are willing to be considered. The clocks have sprung forward. Energy levels are surely rising. Thanks for all your help!
—Ken

CLEO FOR APRIL

Next Meeting
April 14, 2023
7:00 PM
First Christian Church
2000 N. Lincoln
Loveland

Come meet at 11:30am, Thursday, April 20th, at Kenny's Steak House, 3502 W 10th St, Greeley. We'll be in the banquet room filled with Western art. RSVP to Ken Weaver, 970-381-3611, interweaver@gmail.com.
At 1pm we'll depart for Greeley History Museum to see the superb exhibit, *Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964*, with curator Adriana Trujillo as our guide and presenter.



INBOUND JOURNEY FROM CORNWALL, UK

Plans are well underway to host the nine members of the Friendship Force of Cornwall and three members from the now defunct Bristol club in June. They will be visiting the Friendship Force of the Pikes Peak Region from June 14-28, here from June 21-28, and then going on to Western Colorado until July 1.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, June 22 – Meet at 9:00 at the Benson Sculpture Gardens for a walk-around the park. Following that, we will drive to Sunrise Ranch for a tour and lunch. This will be in place of our June CLEO. On the way back to town we will stop at the Masonville Mercantile, and, for those interested, Marcia will lead a hike at Devil's Backbone. That evening everyone is invited to join us for a Mexican dinner at Palominos in Loveland.

On Friday we will start the day at 9:30 with a visit to the Trial Gardens at CSU and a visit to the campus. Lunch will be at the FOCO Café, followed by a tour at the New Belgium Brewery.

All the above activities are open to everyone in the club and can be paid for at the event, but please call (651-302-2024) or email (dnlpalm@aol.com) LaDonna Palm to make reservations.

On Saturday the ambassadors and hosts will be attending the Greeley Stampede Rodeo in the afternoon. The Weavers have offered to host a wine and cheese party afterwards. Admission to that will be a bottle of wine.

Sunday will be the traditional free day, and Rocky Mountain National Park is scheduled for Monday. Instead of returning home, hosts and ambassadors will continue to Grand Lake for a two-day stay at the Arapahoe Ranch. Events planned during our stay there include attending the play *Pirates of Penzance*, the Hot Sulphur Springs pools, the history museum at Hot Sulphur Springs, the Cozens Ranch Museum in Fraser, canoeing or hiking at the Arapahoe Ranch, and the farewell party. Again, everyone is invited to join us, but you will have to make your own reservations for lodging and the play tickets. We have reserved the three available cabins at Arapahoe Ranch, but the beds there are already taken. There are RV sites and “glamping” tents and teepees available (complete with beds and cots, but bathroom facilities are in the nearby bathhouse). The Western Colorado club will be arriving on Tuesday and staying at the Spirit Lake Lodge in Grand Lake. Call LaDonna Palm for more information or to be put on a waiting list for the cabins.

WE VISIT THE FIVE 'STANS

We Visit the Five 'Stans with Dr. Myron Smith at 7pm Friday, April 14th. Dr. Myron Smith and his wife Marguerite enjoy international travel. They have visited over 165 countries, including the five 'stans of Central Asia. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan rank among the world's least visited and least-known destinations. Myron's presentation is unique and insightful. Myron was born in Baltimore, MD. His father was a career Army officer, so they lived in China, Japan, Germany, New Jersey, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, and California. Myron graduated from high school in Arizona, attended CU Boulder, then CU Medical School in Denver. Interning at Cincinnati General Hospital, he returned to Denver's St. Luke's Hospital. After two Viet-Nam-era years at the Naval Hospital in Pensacola, FL, Myron joined the pathology group at North Colorado Medical Center where he worked for the next 25 years



JANUARY PROGRAM

Even for us non goal setters, Elizabeth Stanley and her goals, were a delight. We had the opportunity to follow her on her journeys through beautiful photos and wonderful stories, always hanging on the question, “Did she make her goal of 100 countries in 80 years?” Yes, I know the goal was 100 countries by her 80th birthday, but with Covid thrown into the mix surely we need to extend a little grace. The way she drew out the suspense was a cliff hanger and kept us listening intently. Her tenacity to keep looking for ways to fit more travel into life was inspiring and gave this non goal setter inspiration to book the next adventure.

Test your knowledge:

How many of the “Stan” countries can you name without looking them up?

What country built all white marble buildings?

Where did Elizabeth see the Howler Monkeys?

Where is Lake Bliss?

How many, “Independent States of the World”, are listed in the U.S. State Department lists?

How many of those states are on your bucket list?

Reporter, Carol McGrath

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Heidi McKelrath, of the Denver Friendship Force shared her incredible experience from her recent journey to Australia . They started with a walking tour in Sydney, where they got to see so much beautiful artwork. The Angel Place Bird Cages...over 200 empty birdcages, in particular left a lasting impression, with their intricate design and the way they blend in so perfectly with the surrounding buildings. From Sydney they took a bus tour to the Blue Mountains, with their blue haze. This haze is a result of the eucalyptus trees emitting oils. The trees in the Eucalypti Gum Tree Forest lose their bark seasonally rather than their leaves. Unfortunately these trees have been blackened due to the recent fires. Another highlight was her visit to the Hydro Majestic Hotel, which has a rich history and so much character. She was also lucky enough to see some kangaroos, which if you fed them carrots they were friends for life. She pointed out that their tails are like a fifth limb. The Three Sisters Rock formations were also breathtaking. Australians are the first to point out that they had penal colonies before the British used them as such. The Aboriginal flag flies next to the Australian flag atop the Sydney Bridge and is a powerful symbol of the country's rich cultural heritage. From Brisbane, the group traveled to Bundaberg, where once again they visited one of the many zoos. They learned about the local rum industry and took a visit to a macadamia nut farm. The macadamia nut is actually a fruit. Finally, a favorite activity of the trip: lawn bowling. This may sound like a small thing, but it was a great way to spend more time with their hosts.

Reporter, Rocky Padden

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**



WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY



We gathered,
we ate, we
watched, we
danced!





JANUARY CLEO AT HOWLERS & GROWLERS



February CLEO at Palomino Mexican Restaurant





FLORIDA JOURNEY

Thirteen fortunate ambassadors from FFNC were treated to a fun and interesting week on our recent Journey to FF SW FL. We enjoyed lots of delicious food, sight-seeing rides on pontoon boats, a city mural tour and delightful camaraderie at small group dinners. Our tours included a day at Echo Global Farms, where their mission is to train participants from countries around the globe to create or adapt techniques and technologies, typically for growing crops or for other types of farming needs, that will strengthen and improve their communities. We learned about the amazing and varied beneficial qualities of both the Moringa and Neem plants. Our club made a \$75 donation in support of the efforts of this organization.

On a swamp buggy eco tour at Babcock Ranch, we saw a variety of plants and animals and learned about hardy cypress trees which seemed to be one of the few variety of trees that can withstand hurricanes. At the 305 acre Koreshan State Park, we learned about the first colonists who developed a utopian community that believed the entire universe existed within a giant, hollow sphere. Members of this self-sufficient cult were generally very well educated, however their belief in celibacy eventually lead to the demise of the group.

We had a wonderful time with our new Floridian friends and have extended an invitation for them to participate in a reciprocal journey to FFNC sometime in the near future. The ambassadors will present a pictorial overview of our journey at the June FFNC meeting.

FROM SUE PALMER

Rocky Mountain Region Field Representative Sue Palmer's recap of Jeremi Snook's message to all members all over the world:

The pandemic is in our rear-view mirror. Members can look forward to a year filling quickly with journey activity, building excitement for our first world conference in years, and new ways to fulfill our mission. It's a year for something far more personal as we re-acquaint ourselves with why we do this Friendship Force thing anyway!

Promoting global understanding across the barriers that separate people takes time, intentional effort, and the ability to see what's possible when everyday people like you and me come together in peace and friendship. His hope --- that this year will be more than we ever imagined!

Friendship Force is excited to offer our clubs grant opportunities to help support club development. Funding for this initiative was made possible by those who donated to our 2022 Giving Tuesday campaign. Finance Committee review of applications and funding will be coordinated by FFI Staff.

Individual Journeys – In addition to our club-to-club and special journeys – FFI is introducing a new program called “Individual Journeys”. This new program will give our members more opportunities to form friendships in between in-and-outbound group hostings! The interest has risen during the past few years when group travel wasn't always possible.

Individual journeys also serve our mission of meeting new people around the globe; doing our part to make this world a more peaceful place – one friendship at a time. You can find out more on the web-



FFNC 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Monthly in-person meeting 2nd Friday, First Christian Church,
2000 N Lincoln Ave, Loveland**

**CLEO (Colorado Let's Eat Out) 3rd Thursday, monthly Board meeting 2nd Thursday
Travel Trivia 4th Tuesday second month of each quarter, occasional mini-journeys**

April

4/13 – 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
4/14 – 7pm Dr. Myron Smith
We Visit the Five 'Stans
4/20 – 11:30am CLEO in Greeley
Kenny's Steak House banquet room
3502 W 10th St
1:30pm visit to the Greeley Museum
Bracero exhibit.

May

5/11 – 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
5/12- NO REGULAR MEETING
5/18 – 10:a.m CLEO —Brunch at the Pepper
Pot in Hudson, then visit the Wild Animal
Sanctuary
5/23 – 7pm Travel Trivia
with LaDonna Palm via Zoom

June

6/8 – 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
6/9 – 7pm in-person Annual Meeting
election of officers Program: Marcia and
Suzi will reprise the SW FL journey.
6/22- 11:30am CLEO at Sunrise Ranch as part of
the Cornwall inbound journey
location to be chosen
6/21-29 – Cornwall/Durham UK
Inbound Journey
Let Ken know if you want rodeo tickets for Sat-
urday, June 24th. The Behind the Shutes tour is
11am, the rodeo 1pm, total costs \$40 per person.
I'll be checking later this week whether I can get
more at that price in the same location as our
other seats.

Contact LaDonna to volunteer



Arapahoe Ranch map — venue for the two day stay at the end of the Cornwall/Durham UK journey. Located near Grand Lake, there are many activities available.



JOURNEYS & EVENTS

2
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2
3



CLEO
Colorado Let's Eat Out
11:30 unless otherwise noted

April 20: **Kenny's Steak House 11 a.m.**
3502 W 10th St, Greeley
RSVP to Ken Weaver
1:30pm visit to the Greeley Museum
Bracero exhibit.

May 18: 10:a.m CLEO —Brunch at the
Pepper Pot in Hudson, then visit the
Wild Animal Sanctuary
Call Rocky Padden

INBOUND FROM CORNWALL
June 6-29 Contact LaDonna Palm
See Page 2 for more details

OUTBOUND TO Lake Simco and Ottawa
September 13-27, 2023 We still have a few
openings for Ambassadors! Call Marilyn
or Susanna Garner for more details ASAP.

2023 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Ken Weaver
VICE-PRESIDENT: Susan Mathre
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Marcia Ross
TREASURER: LaDonna Palm

Journey Directors: Ann and Rick Lohmeyer
Meeting Greeter: Willie Westdorp
Meeting Hospitality: Suzi Gossard
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

Photographers:
Cindy Paulson
Cathie McCallum

Programs: Barbara and Dennis Miller
Publicity: Anne Brown
Social Activities: Rocky Padden
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: Rick Lohmeyer
Website: Rick Lohmeyer
World Friendship Day: Thelma Slocum

If you are willing to help with any of the committees, please contact Ken Weaver, 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!