

April Monthly President's Note

Hello Friendship Force of Northern Colorado!

It appears that the Colorado spring weather is behaving in its usual fickle fashion – from beautiful, warm and sunny, to cold and dreary with snow squalls in just a few days' time! But it's fun to see the flowering trees starting to bloom and leaves budding out all over. I even see crocuses and other tiny flowers peaking up in my garden.

We had a wonderful celebration of World Friendship Day last month at the ElderHaus, thanks to the efforts of **Debby Jones** and **Rocky Padden**. We had a terrific assortment of internationally inspired dishes, from lasagna to kielbasa with sauerkraut followed by some sweet treats and a cupcake cake! Our program introduced us to 3 international exchange students attending local high schools for the year. It was so interesting to hear about their lives in their home countries and their impressions of ours. Thanks to all who helped make this a special evening!

Another big thank you to **Ann and Gerry Loader** who have graciously volunteered to be our meeting greeters each month. Their smiling faces will welcome you as you arrive at our monthly meetings and keep us apprised of guests.

Cathie McCallum has been hard at work on our 2025 membership directory. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership and sent your dues to our Treasurer, **Carol McGrath**.

Unfortunately, we have to bid farewell to a few of our long-term members: **Barb and Dennis Miller, Ed and Nancy Brigden, Dick and Esther Johnsen and Kay Sheehan**. The Millers and Brigdens are pursuing other priorities this year. Esther mentioned she would love to keep in touch by attending an occasional CLEO. We will miss all these individuals who contributed so much to FFNC over the years. We wish them all the best!

A little update on **Kay Sheehan**. She reluctantly decided not to renew her membership. Because of several falls and other health issues, she has moved to *Hillcrest of Loveland*, 535 Douglas Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537. After a rugged last six months of 2024, she reports doing MUCH better with no falls in seven months and requested that we pass this information to her friends in FF. You can contact her through voice or text on her cell phone – 970-405-1752.

Willie (Wilhelmina) Westdorp is still a member, but her contact information has changed with her move to *Seven Lakes Memory Care*, 1990 Pikes Peak Drive, Loveland, CO 80538. She is in a period of adjustment to her new residence after moving in on March 31, so should not receive visitors for at least two weeks. If you wish to talk with her, you may call the front desk at Seven Lakes (970-461-5918) and ask to talk with Wilhelmina. We hope to see her smiling face at our meetings soon!

A big thank you to **Ken Weaver** and **Rick Lohmeyer** for a new video link on our FFNC website homepage. It links you to a very informative video that concisely and clearly explains what Friendship Force is all about. We hope to share the video with everyone at an upcoming meeting, but you should check it out! Go to our webpage (ffncoloro.com); the link is about halfway down the page under the heading "What is Friendship Force?"

Marilyn Garner will be the editor for our newsletter coming out around May 1. Please get any information for the newsletter to her by April 25.

Don't miss our upcoming CLEO! It's a Pizza and game afternoon at **Rocky Padden's** house on April 17, from 11:30 - ? Please RSVP to Rocky 970-308-5478, so she knows how much pizza to order. Thanks for hosting this fun event, Rocky!

I hope to see you all at our next meeting coming up next Friday, April 11 at 7:00 PM. Don't forget our new location at ElderHaus, 6813 S. College Ave. We look forward to a great presentation by Kat Yoshie Bertram, from the Global Village Museum. Her topic is "Mass Appeal: The Transformation of Japanese Art for the Public" and will explore the evolution of Japanese Art from temples and shrines to anime and manga. Having just returned from Japan, I really look forward to Kat's presentation!

Stay well and enjoy spring!

In Friendship,

Suzi Gossard