



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



Marilyn Garner  
Editor & Publisher

2021

January-March

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

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**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



**Notes from the President-elect**

Goodbye 2020! Is anyone sorry to see it go? A global pandemic, horrendous forest fires, riots, a contentious election – it was definitely a year to go down in history. Now, in 2021, the fires are out, the election is over, and there’s hope that the new vaccines will end the pandemic. Maybe we’ll be able to take our suitcases out of mothballs before the end of the year. Currently, all inbound and outbound journeys are in a “wait and see” mode, so we will just have to wait and see ---

In the beginning of the pandemic there were concerns about Friendship Force being able to survive. It will survive and, perhaps, be better than ever. Donations from clubs and individuals from around the world gave Friendship Force International the funds to continue, and they have provided webinars, a pen pal program, virtual journeys, and a multitude of other programs to keep us connected. They also took the time to look at ways Friendship Force could be updated and improved. In November Jeremi Snook presented a video “A Stronger Way Forward” which left viewers with questions and concerns. He followed up with two questions and answers seminars which helped alleviate those concerns. These presentations are all available on the FFI website and are worth watching. The first change we will see is an updated website with a “portal,” a members-only site to handle all Friendship Force transactions. Our February meeting will be devoted to a discussion of these changes, and, hopefully, a representative from FFI will be able to Zoom in to answer questions.

As bad as the pandemic has been, there have been positive things to come out of it. An updated Friendship Force is one. Closer to home, my daughter, unemployed for six months, was able to complete most of the online courses required to become a teacher; my son, working from home, was able to spend most of the time at their cabin and enjoying family time; and I spent many hours on a totally new hobby, oil painting. Our January meeting will be focused on something positive from the pandemic. Bring crafts you made, pictures to share (I had a friend share pictures of her organized cupboards on Facebook), or stories to tell. I’m looking forward to seeing you all on Friday, January 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

LaDonna

**Zoom Meeting  
January 8, 2021  
6:30 pm**

**Game Night  
YAHTZEE  
Zoom Online  
January 14  
7:00 p.m.**



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL NEWS FROM SUE PALMER

Greetings – I hope this finds you and your family well and safe.

Jeremi Snook, CEO conducted this month's Field Rep meeting. He shared some information about Friendship Force International's future plans to "A Stronger Way Forward" has an organization. Even though FFI has been hampered by restrictions through this pandemic the staff has embraced this opportunity to examine our mission and direction for a stronger, brighter future for friendship-building around the world.

Plans are underway to create a New Member Portal for all club members. The staff has been working on this year in the absence of our regular scheduled journeys. You can find Jeremi's video on the Friendship Force website under "News and Updates" at the top of the home page. On the video you'll learn what plans the staff are making to keep us all better connected and about our vision for a post-pandemic Friendship Force.

Please click on the link below or retype it in your browser to see the video:

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/a-stronger-way-forward-qas-and-faqs/>

**MORE RESOURCES COMING.....**

**Friendship Force Faces and Places** - In the "Faces and Places" series, you will have the opportunity to meet Friendship Force members from around the globe as they showcase their countries. These webinar-style events will give you a chance to learn firsthand about another person's culture, community, and experience - all without leaving your home. Participants will be able to interact with hosts, ask questions, and gain more knowledge about destinations and travel options for the future.

**Friendship Force Pen Pals** - FFI Pen Pals is a new way to "experience different views and discover common ground". Get matched up with another FFI member based on your interests – shared hobbies, common interests, a specific region or city, or a foreign language you'd like to practice. Or simply be surprised and get matched randomly! Then sit down and start writing – all you need is a pen, a piece of paper, an envelope and a stamp.

**PASSING THE GAVEL BY KEN WEAVER**

"Throughout 2020, I've taken to heart the advice of Jacqueline Winspear, author of the Maisie Dobbs mysteries. Winspear's memoir, which I gave to Paulette for Christmas and we're reading right now, is titled with her father's hard times saying, This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing.



Congratulations to LaDonna and each of our 2021 Friendship Force of Northern Colorado officers. As the gavel is passed, symbolically, if not in person, continued best wishes to all, throughout 2021, and beyond. Hopefully, this time next year, we'll be back traveling."



FFNC PROGRAM OCTOBER 9, 2020

OCEAN WAVES, Guest speaker Gerry Forney, FF Greater Denver

Gerry introduced us to the Kalmar Nyckel Tall Ship, a Dutch-built armed merchant ship that was famed for carrying Swedish settlers to North America in 1638 to establish the colony of New Sweden. It was sold to the Swedish navy in 1644, decommissioned in 1651, and sold into merchant service. It was sunk in 1652 by the British Navy while protecting Dutch fishing vessels in English territorial waters. A monument depicting the ship was erected in 1938 commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swedish settlement.

Under the guidance and financial support of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, which was established in 1986, a replica of the Kalmar Nyckel was built and finally commissioned in 1998. Measuring 141' long, 25' wide and 105' tall, it is moored on the Christina River near the original 1638 Swedish settlers' landing site at Fort Christina near Wilmington, Delaware. Following a history of multiple prior ownerships, the ship sports the flags of the Dutch, Swedish, Finnish, USA and the state of Delaware. From May to October, the captains, mates, and volunteer crew host public sails throughout the Atlantic Seaboard.

Additionally, the ship is used as an educational resource to engage area 5<sup>th</sup> graders in "hands-on" learning about the fascinating colonial and maritime history of the area. After training in the Education Center, the kids can move on-deck cannons, and help to haul lines. They learn about 17<sup>th</sup> century navigation tools and how they compare to today's methods. During the sailing season, the Kalmar Nyckel utilizes over 200 volunteers who all participate in multiple mandatory sessions on safety: firefighting, man overboard and abandon ship. Because it is a wooden ship, before each sail there's a fire drill. Every crew member gets an assignment on each sail: trainees, deckhands, climbers, and they learn about 12 different types of knot tying. Because

there are 4 masts and 2 cross pieces, there are 180 points where a line is tied to the ship. Crew members need to know which rope to loosen, haul on and tie down. The ship is operated and maintained by a volunteer staff, under the leadership of a paid captain, boatswain and chief mate. Generally, they sail with 15-20 crew members and around 45 guests. Gerry joined the sailing crew several years ago and goes to Delaware to volunteer annually. Additionally, in 2015 he became a member on the Foundation to help raise funds for the 1-million-dollar annual budget. Funding is provided by the state of Delaware, government grants, fundraisers, school programs and admissions on the sailing adventures.

Gerry shared that his parents, Bob and Marilyn Forney, were prolific model ship collectors, acquiring a wide variety of styles of model crafts on their trips around the world. The entire stunning collection of 72 ship models "Watercraft of the World" was donated to the Copeland Maritime Center at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard in Wilmington, Delaware and is available for public viewing.

Gerry is a Foundation Director and volunteer sailor on the ship. Gerry is a Foundation Director and volunteer sailor on the ship. Gerry is a Foundation Director and volunteer sailor on the ship. We were very appreciative of Gerry's time to share his interesting and educational program with us!

Submitted by Marcia Ross



- [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)
- File:Kalamar Nycel bow figurehead.jpg
- Created: 8 July 2007





## FFNC PROGRAM NOVEMBER 13, 2020



Cathie McCallum had the program and presented a very informative and well-planned power point presentation about her early travels to conferences and experiences in the **Peace Corps** that created a desire to travel and learn about other cultures. She grew up in upstate New York, Saratoga Springs. Her first encounter to travel came when she left Long Island with its multiple driving lanes and railway tracks and went to Indiana and saw endless flat plains and hogs which was an eye opener to seeing a new landscape. This was followed by a conference in Miami Beach and student teaching in Montreal, Canada. She saw palm trees and long ocean beaches in Miami.

She headed to Quebec and found schools that were segregated by religion and language based which broadened her perspective of the world.

Cathie spent her college years in 1964-66 and graduate school 1966-67. She applied for the **Peace Corps** to serve in the Philippines and received an invitation to serve in Jamaica, West Indies in a new Ministry of Education program introducing Guidance Concepts in schools. Cathie had 3 friends who had a strong influence on her to continue in exploring experiences in Tanganyika 1962-64, Philippines 1965-67 and University of Denver and Morocco 1968. She lived with a family in Mexico to experience family life in another country.

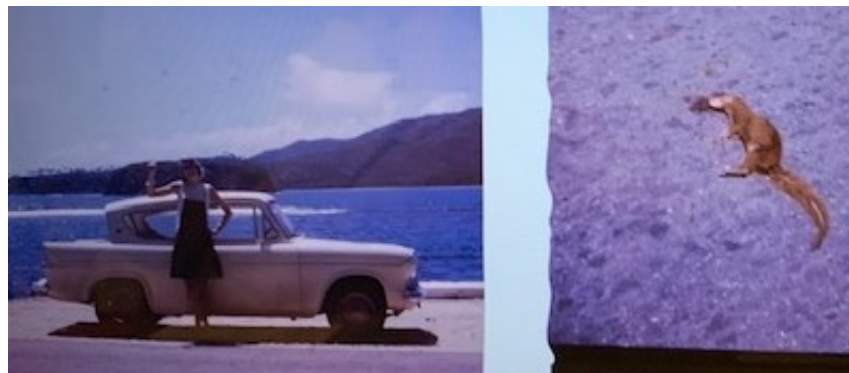




She then went to Jamaica 90 miles south of Cuba and lived with two different Jamaican families the Dias and Genius Families. Jim McCallum and Cathie Schneider met during the orientation for Group 1X and were married 10 months later, June 1969, in Santa Cruz. Cathie's American and Jamaican parents came but Jim's parents were not able to be there.



Cathie was the counselor for all schools in St Elizabeth— 75 elementary schools, 1 coed High School, 1 boys boarding HS, 1 girls boarding HS, and 1 teacher's college. There were 120 students per classroom. Recess was time to use the outhouse and get a drink of water from a common holding tank. Housing ranged from wooden houses on stilts to wood slapped together with grass roofs to traditional looking ranch style homes. Once while driving she hit a mongoose.



Cathie and Jim adopted Cindy, the sixth child of the Dillion family, born in Jamaica in 1969. Eric was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1970 and they were living in Guilderland Center, New York where daughter Heather was born in 1971 and in 1972-76, they moved across the country to Los Altos, California, then to Loveland, Colorado in 1976-86. When they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1986, they traveled back to Jamaica so Cindy could meet her biological family.

It was back in Fort Collins when a friend invited her to a FFNC meeting where she heard about an upcoming exchange to New Zealand and she joined FFNC that very night. She now has friends on 6 different continents. Cathie invites us all to share how we got involved in travel.

Submitted by Recorder  
Thelma Slocum FFNC

2021



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NORTHERN COLORADO

### NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

FF of NC had a very good turnout for our Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting via ZOOM set up by Ken Weaver. There were 22 of us in attendance with Friendship Force members from Cheyenne, Albuquerque, Denver, and Colorado Springs clubs.

Debby Jones has **Aspen Leaf tree ornaments** for sale in the FFNC store for sale for Christmas. Ken proposed also the possibility of a FFNC Book club if anyone was interested.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021

Local 2021 dues are reduced to \$25, since few in-person activities were held in 2020. We will fully support FFI, at the usual \$20 per person, and use \$5 per person plus chapter reserves to within our budget. Send your dues to Ann Lohmeyer, our new treasurer. Look up her address in your membership book. As always, feel free to send journey and program ideas to any officer. Be in touch with other members and former journey hosts and guests. Be well. Stay safe.

LaDonna Palm , [ffnocopresident@gmail.com](mailto:ffnocopresident@gmail.com)

### FFNC PROGRAM DECEMBER 2020

#### Holiday Party, 2020 Style

On Friday, December 12, twenty-five Friendship Force members met virtually to celebrate the holidays. Thanks to this new style of meeting, we were able to welcome Sue Palmer, our regional representative from Grand Junction, and Dave Bentzin from Cheyenne. No need to venture out on wintry roads, we sat in the comfort of our homes (lower half comfortably clothed in sweats or pj's if we wished), sipping on wine or beverage of choice. Thanks to modern technology, Zoom brought us all face to face for an evening of camaraderie. Christmas tree ornaments from around the world were shared, along with the stories that went with them. Many special memories were remembered, along with the special relationships formed with hosts or those we hosted. We also learned how many of our members learned about Friendship Force. It seems a chance encounter often leads to big changes in our lives.

Yes, it was a different kind of holiday party, but it proved that it takes more than a pandemic to keep us from gathering with our Friendship Force friends to wish each other Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa.

### FRIENDSHIP FORCE PLEDGE

As a member of the Friendship **Force**, I recognize that **I can make a difference**. I recognize that I have a mission. That mission is to be a friend to the people of the World. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens



In Northern Colorado

Outbound

## JOURNEYS & EVENTS

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**ONLINE GAME NIGHT**  
January 14, 2020  
**HOST: Marilyn Garner**  
**WATCH FOR EMAIL**

## 2021 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**PRESIDENT:** LaDonna Palm  
**SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:**  
Paulette Weaver  
**TREASURER:** Ann Lohmeyer

**Programs:** Ken Weaver  
**Journey Coordinator:** Debby Jones  
**Newsletter Editors/Publishers:**  
Sue Cummins  
Marilyn Garner  
Cathie McCallum  
**Newsletter Reporters Coordinator:**  
Marcia Ross,  
**Photographers:**  
Cindy Paulson  
Ed Brigden  
Cathie McCallum  
**Website & Member Directory:**  
Ed Brigden  
**Facebook:** Sue Cummins  
**Publicity:** Anne Brown  
**Promotion:** Thelma Slocum  
**Membership:** Cathie McCallum  
**Social Committee:** Marilyn Garner  
**Meeting Greeters:** Willie Westdorp  
**Meeting Hospitality:** Suzi Gossard  
**Meeting Music:** Rosemary Donovan  
**FFNC Store:** Debby Jones