



Cathie McCallum—Editor

January -
 March
 2023

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Looking Forward to 2023 and Beyond



The future of The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado looks bright. The future of Friendship Force International looks bright. FFI is reinventing itself. We have fifty 2022 members. Several others already plan to join or rejoin in 2023. We're on the move!

Thanks to Susan Mathre and your current Board, we have coordinators in place for each of our 2023 journeys. It's great that our September outbound journey to Canada will enable us to see the Lake Simcoe area north of Toronto through the eyes of our guests who were here last May. Then we'll be able to greet again our friends from Ottawa who visited us in 2017.

Looking to 2024, in early January each member will receive a survey asking what outbound journey destinations we desire. Please respond promptly so your Board can reply to FFI before February 12th.

The Board meets monthly via Zoom at 4pm the second Thursday. Our Standing Rules say that Board meetings are open to all members who, upon request, may participate, without voting privileges. Let me know at 970-381-3611 or interweaver@gmail.com if you have a suggestion or if something needs attention.

In this newsletter is a 2023 Events Calendar of programs and activities. Our monthly meetings will be in person the second Friday at 7pm at First Christian, 2000 N Lincoln Ave, Loveland. Elizabeth Stanley will speak in January. For February, with Paulette's help, my Journeys, Journeys, Journeys will give highlights of what's been and what's become possible through Friendship Force. For March's World Friendship Day Potluck, find a favorite international food recipe to share. We visit the 'Stans of Asia in April. To be announced in May. The January survey will ask for suggestions. June is our annual meeting with election of officers.

Please RSVP to the host of each monthly CLEO lunch. We still need host volunteers for March, May, and June. The camaraderie has been great. We're thinking about combining our Colorado Let's Eat Out lunches with a quick outing to a nearby attraction. And there's talk of an overnight visit to downtown Denver and longer mini-journeys. The future has riches to offer.

Next Meeting
 January 13, 2023
 7:00 PM
 First Christian Church
 2000 N. Lincoln
 Loveland



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

January

1/12 - 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
 1/13 - 7pm Elizabeth Stanley
100 Countries in 80 Years
 1/19 - 11:30 am CLEO in Windsor
Howlers and Growlers Eatery
 1246 Automation Drive
 RSVP to Debby Jones
 970-686-0303

February

2/9 - 4pm Board Meeting via Zoom
 2/10 - 7pm Ken Weaver
Journeys, Journeys, Journeys
 2/16 - 11:30am CLEO in Loveland
Palomino Mexican Restaurant
 6190 Crossroads Blvd
 RSVP to Rocky Padden
 970-308-5478
 2/23 -outing to *Bookcliff Vineyards*
 Boulder Winery and Tasting Room
 2/28 - 7pm *Travel Trivia*
 with LaDonna Palm via Zoom

March

3/9 - 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
 3/10 - 7pm **World Friendship Potluck**
bring an international food
 3/15-22 - **Southwest Florida**
Outbound Journey
 3/16 - 11:30am CLEO in _____
 location to be chosen
 RSVP to _____
consider volunteering

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
 RSVP to Ken Weaver
 970-381-3611
 4/27-28 - downtown Denver mini-journey

May

5/11 - 4pm Board meeting via Zoom
 5/12 - 7pm in-person regular meeting
 program to be announced
 5/18 - 11:30am CLEO in _____
 location to be chosen
 RSVP to _____
consider volunteering
 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
 6/15 - 11:30am CLEO in _____
 location to be chosen
 RSVP to _____
consider volunteering
 6/21-29 - **Cornwall/Durham UK**
Inbound Journey
contact LaDonna to volunteer



JANUARY SPEAKER: ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES?



Elizabeth Stanley is a retired university administrator and has lived in Fort Collins since 2010. Prior to that, she was employed by universities in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and the UAE) for about eleven years and enjoyed many travel opportunities while living in that part of the world. Motivated by her curiosity about new places, her sense of adventure, and her love of nature and travel photography, she has continued to travel since her retirement. She achieved a goal of travel in 70 countries by her 70th birthday, and at the time of her 2018 Friendship Force presentation had visited 85 countries and all 50 U.S. states.

Elizabeth soon set a new, and seemingly ambitious, goal: 100 countries by her 80th birthday. By the end of 2019, she had visited 93, and had plans for the remaining seven countries. But then, as we all know so well, came the shutdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, and an abrupt stop of all international travel. This was discouraging, but she didn't completely give up on her goal. In November 2021, she ventured out, despite ongoing COVID restrictions, to continue her study of the Italian language, in Venice, and added one new country – Slovenia. Six to go, and that 80th birthday approaching in March 2022. What to do? Change the goal? Add in the six or seven “Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty” that she had visited and that are identified, along with the 195 “Independent States of the World” in U.S. State Department lists

(<https://www.state.gov/independent-states-in-the-world/> ,
<https://www.state.gov/dependencies-and-areas-of-special-sovereignty/>)?

Come to the Friendship Force meeting on January 13, 2023 to learn the answers and hear about some of Elizabeth's travels since 2018!

MARCH JOURNEY TO SW FLORIDA

A full contingent of 15 FFNC Ambassadors will participate in our outbound Journey to FF Southwest Florida March 15-22, 2023. Journey Ambassador Co-Coordinator Suzi Gossard and Marcia Ross have been in contact with the Journey Host Coordinator from FF SW FL. Although some venues the club often includes on a journey were extensively damaged by Hurricane Ian, many other places are being repaired or were spared heavy damage. Pending updates on touring availability, possible Journey adventures may include an Eco tour, a visit to a bird sanctuary, a pontoon boat ride, botanical gardens, beach time, and visits to Fort Meyers and Punta Gorda. Their club sounds very upbeat and they are eager to show us some highlights of their region. Our participating members are really looking forward to a great adventure and to forming new friendships in SW Florida!



OCTOBER SPEAKER



Our October 13th monthly meeting presented us with an amazing story about a current resident of Fort Collins, Qudratullah Hamidzai, nicknamed 'Q', who was able to escape Afghanistan as our U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan. U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Cory Fale joined on WhatsApp to tell us about Q and how he helped Q and his 5.5 children finally board a flight to safety. They are so grateful to be here in Colorado and that their new born daughter is a US citizen.



Qudratullah
Hamidzai

2023 DUES !

Dues for the 2023 year are \$35 payable to FFNC by March 1, Of that amount, \$25 goes to FFI (Friendship Force International) and \$10 stays with our club. You may bring a check or cash to the January or February meeting or mail a check to the treasurer, La-Donna Palm.



NOVEMBER SPEAKER

On November 11, 2022, our speaker was **Jim Willard**, a Loveland resident since 1967, retired from Hewlett-Packard after 33 years, and now focusing on “trivial things”. The meeting was on Veterans Day and Jim, a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps, shared details of WWII from the HOME FRONT perspective.

The Home Front theme started with the “Day of Infamy”, December 7, 1941. Jim tied history information to the songs of the day. Army life during the war had lots of Big Band music, including USO shows with Glen Miller, Bing Crosby, and Bob Hope. In 1942 sugar and gasoline rationing started and the Women's Army Corp was introduced.

In 1943 meat, fat, and cheese were rationed and prices and wages were frozen. In 1944 the Allies invaded Normandy, and the country united in collecting rags, steel, paper, and tin cans for the war effort. 1945 brought the death of FDR, and Harry Truman became president. The end of the war came with Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. The #1 song of the year was Rum & Coca Cola! The hard times of WWII and the effort to beat the Axis united the people of America. Movies and major sports were a significant diversion and Jim shared the championship scores of the teams in baseball and basketball.

Jim closed his presentation by sharing his personal experience doing a top-secret courier run!



INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA

The Global Village Museum is hosting international trivia!

What very large island is located 200 miles northwest of Iceland? Beirut and Tripoli both lie on the coast of which body of water? Do you know the answers or want to find out? John Roberts, Fort Collins native and traveler extraordinaire, will host an International Trivia Night from 6-7:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Museum. The fun and friendly event will feature some 50 questions, with teams of six competing for prizes. Light refreshments will be served.

Admission for both Museum members and non-members is \$10 per person, and advance reservations are required via the link below. Partial teams or full six-person teams are welcome with a two-step process. First, team members should make individual reservations. Second, an email with the names of team members must be sent to the Museum's Outreach Coordinator at outreach@globalvillagemuseum.org. Individuals who register without a team will be joined with others on the night of the event. Registration will close at 5 pm Friday, Jan. 27.



HOLIDAY PARTY



Juliette Welch, granddaughter of member Jan Rozman, and her friend Karmyne Vecchio served as kitchen crew keeping the serving platters filled and washing the dishes, so Suzi, Susan, and Cathie, party planners, could participate in the party activities. Many thanks to members who helped with setup and cleanup at the Harvest Neighborhood Clubhouse.

Long-time and new members enjoyed a wonderful evening of good food, good friends, laughter, singing, and playing "Find Someone Who" to win a poinsettia from the table decorations.



FRAUD AND SCAM WARNING!

Fraud and scams have become so common and so dangerous. A suggestion: **WHENEVER** you receive an email, even when the name is known to you, hold the cursor over that name and make certain the email address is the one familiar to you. Within a few days I received fraudulent emails that *seemed* legitimate because the names were well-known to me and the subject seemed reasonable from that "person". They were from a cousin, a high school classmate, and one of our own FFNC members. A few years ago a member friend asked me to go to the bank with her to help her wire money to her granddaughter who was in trouble but did not want her parents to know. Scammers use FFNC members' names to seem to request your help. *Cathie*



MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

Membership Manual Information Request

Thanks to those who have completed and returned the information form for our soon-to-be-updated membership manual. For those who have not done so, PLEASE do so SOON. We need 100% participation! So, please have the form completed and forwarded by January 20, one week following our January meeting.

I shall transcribe your data into your pre-formatted personal page. Do not forget to provide a recent picture. If you need help with a picture, please let one of us know; we can take your picture or copy a photo.

With your information, I shall input, print, cut and hole-punch these new updates for delivery at the February meeting.

Your forms may be (1) forwarded to me or any committee member (Marcia, Susan, Cathie, Marilyn), (2) given to me at the January meeting, or (3) sent to me electronically as a Word, Publisher, .pdf or .jpg file

If you currently have, and have paid for, a membership manual, there will be no additional charge. To purchase a manual, there is a one-time charge of \$20.00 which includes free updates thereafter .

To protect member information, the manual and its information will NOT be available online.

Ed Brigden

Information Request for Updated FFNC Membership Manual

This information will NOT be shared elsewhere; it will be used ONLY for the editing and production of our Member Manual and available only to FFNC members.

Please share with us—it matters NOT what you have done or how you have contributed.

And please provide recent picture(s) that will aid in recognition.

Full Name(s): _____

Preferred first name(s): _____

Address: _____
Street
Town/City State Zip

Phone(s): _____ H _____ C

E-mail(s): _____

Year joined FFNC: _____

Where born, raised: _____

Personal Background

Education: _____

Work: _____

Hobbies, passions, interests: _____

FFNC Activities: _____



**JOURNEYS & EVENTS
SEE PAGE 2 ALSO**

**2023 OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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CLEO

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

January 19: Howlers and Growlers

1246 Automation Drive, Windsor
RSVP by January 17 to Debby Jones

**February 16: Palomino Mexican
Restaurant**

6190 Crossroads Blvd.
RSVP by February 14 to Rocky Padden

**MARCH: YOUR TURN TO
CHOOSE AND HOST?**

April 20: Kenny's Steak House

3502 W 10th St, Greeley
RSVP to Ken Weaver

Watch for updates
on mini journeys
and other social
activities.

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
Newsletter reporters Coordinator:
Suzi Gossard

Newsletter Editors/Publishers:
Sue Cummins
Marilyn Garner
Cathie McCallum

Photographers:
Cindy Paulson
Cathie McCallum

Publicity: Anne Brown
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: Rick Lohmeyer
Website: Ed Brigden

World Friendship Day: Thelma Slocum

PROGRAMS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are willing to help with any of the committees or would like to fill one of the open slots, 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!