



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Cathie McCallum
Editor and Publisher

July
August
September
2023

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT KEN WEAVER



Optimism! That's what I feel when things start looking up. Our good news for The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado is that things are really, truly, madly, deeply, looking up. Of course, I'm mostly always an optimist. But here's the good news.

We have journeys! Our mid-September jaunt to Lake Simcoe and Ottawa in Canada is now full.

Contact Marilyn if you wish to start a waiting list.

We have outings! LaJunta and Cañon City July 14-16. Thank you, Rocky Padden.

We are networking! Our Cornwall UK ambassadors met up with Western Colorado folks in Grand Lake and some of our members joined them. Our picnic will be in Cheyenne on Saturday, August 26th.

We have Fall programs all set, beginning September 8th with *Ordinary Nurses* in rural Guatemala. Thank you, Barbara and Dennis Miller.

We've begun planning our journeys for 2024. Thank you, Ann and Rick Lohmeyer. Outbound to Cornwall, UK and to Pecs, Hungary. Inbound from Southwest Florida and Austin, Texas. And perhaps an October 2024 regional get-together. Plus more local outings and mini-journeys.

If optimism is platinum, our record is playing platinum.

Next meeting
September 8, 2023
7:00 PM
First Christian Church
2000 N. Lincoln
Loveland



Officers elected unanimously for 2024

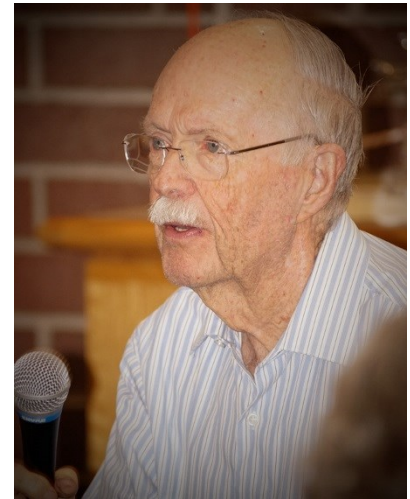
Secretary/historian: **Carol McGrath**; Treasurer: **LaDonna Palm**

Vice President: **Suzi Gossard**; President: **Susan Mathre**



APRIL 14 SPEAKER: DR. MYRON SMITH

ROAD SCHOLAR TOUR
27 OCT – 14 NOV 2011 (19 DAYS)
OF
KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN,
TAJIKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN
“MY TAKE ON THE 5 STANS”



We were treated to an informative and entertaining program by **Dr. Myron Smith** titled, “My Take on the Five Stans”. Those being Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Dr. Smith and his wife live in Greeley, Colorado and have visited 165 countries. He tries to focus on the unique and unusual aspects of a country, its culture and history, and individuals who have had a great impact on its development.

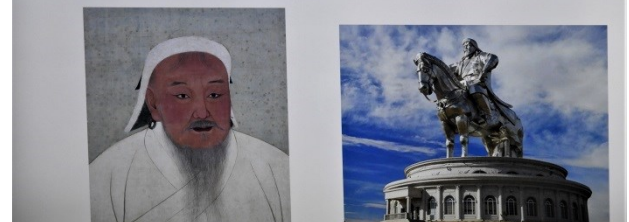


Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world and home to a population of 14 million. From 1949 to 1989 the USSR used areas of Kazakhstan as a test site for 456 nuclear blasts. The country has the world’s largest space port, which launched the Soviet’s first Cosmonaut, and is still in use today.

Kyrgyzstan includes Issyk-kul, a large lake with no outlet. It is so salty that it does not freeze in winter. America and the USSR both have had air bases in the country

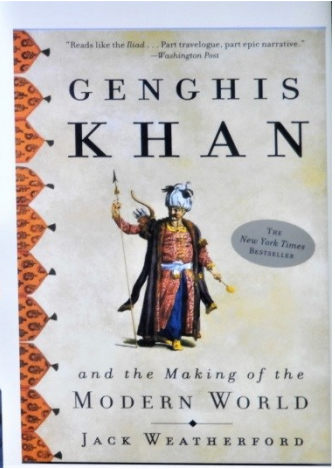
GENGHIS KHAN 1158 – 1227 Founder of the Mongol Empire – the largest empire and many experts believe the greatest superpower in history.

The “Stans” were part of the Mongol Empire created by Genghis Khan (1158-1227). His military was led by leaders who had only one criteria for promotion, winning. This could include killing thousands, or millions of people during the expansion and control of the Empire. The Mongol general who is considered by many as the greatest military strategist of all time was Subutai. The Empire lasted until the Black Plague.





Dr. Smith recommends the book, "Genghis Khan and The Making of The Modern World" by Jack Weatherford as a "must-read" for those interested in the area and the history.



Samarkand, Uzbekistan was home to Ulubhbek (1394-1449) a brilliant scientist and astronomer who calculated the length of a year at 365.____ days. Also Uzbekistan gave the world a mathematical genius, Al-Khwarizmi, known as the "Father of Algebra".

Turkmenistan has a population of 6 million, the smallest in Asia. It has a history of terrible human rights violations. It also has the most Italian-white-marble clad buildings of any city (543). A prior dictator, Saparhurat Niyazpov, was obsessed with money and power and there are hundreds of statues of him throughout the country. The book about him and his history is "Ruhnama".

DARVAZAN GAS CRATER "GATES OF HELL"

Located in the Turkmenistan desert 160 miles north of Ashgabat



The Darvazan Gas Crater, also known as "The Gates of Hell" has been burning for over 50 years and no one knows how to extinguish it.

The National drink of all the stans, VODKA



Larry Clark, reporter



JUNE PROGRAM: REPORT ON JOURNEY TO FLORIDA

Ambassador coordinators Suzi Gossard and Marcia Ross presented a slide show at the June 9th FFNC meeting showing pictorial highlights of the journey to FF SW FL in March 2023. We toured the ECHO Global Farm where we learned of their "Hope Against Hunger" mission, dedicated to teaching composting, livestock management and sustainable food growing and harvesting techniques to areas around the world experiencing food shortages and hunger. Our group made a \$75 donation to this organization.



We enjoyed a day-long trip via a Kingfisher Fleet boat to Cabbage Key, an island just outside Charlotte Harbor. On a free day some ambassadors toured the Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Meyers, some viewed damage from Hurricane Ian on Sanibel Island, some toured the Peace River Gardens in Punta Gorda, and some toured the fascinating Ringling Brothers Circus Museum in Sarasota. Our group had a good time touring the Babcock Ranch, a 73,000-acre planned community that includes a huge nature preserve where we saw a variety of wildlife including

sandhill cranes, wild turkeys, sows with piglets, white tail deer, and Cracker cattle: descendants of cattle brought by the Spaniards in 1521. We saw lots of water birds and alligators. We even petted a baby alligator and later sampled tasty, deep-fried alligator bites. A unique and unusual visit was to Koreshan State Park, settled by an eccentric cult in the 1890s that believed the universe existed on the inside of the earth. They were very inventive, and produced or started the first sawmill, general store, school, bakery, generator, power plant, symphony orchestra and performance hall in the region. Ultimately, the cult died out as they also believed in celibacy.

We all enjoyed a wonderful Journey in Southwest Florida with our generous and fun hosts, and we look forward to seeing many of them when their club comes to visit FFNC in mid-summer 2024.





CLEO: APRIL



Our CLEO April 20th featured Greeley history. We dined in the Western art room at Kenny's Steakhouse, with its photos of Kenneth Monfort, a prominent cattleman and legislator, whom Ken Weaver proudly mentioned was his high school senior year church group leader.

We then went to the City of Greeley Museum where Adrian Trujillo, Senior Museum Aide, presented the story of the current exhibit *Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program 1942-1964* including images of their life and tools. Her grandfather came from Mexico in the 1950s.



CLEO: MAY



CLEO on May 15th was at The Pepper Pod in Hudson, a Weld County restaurant popular for decades. After a more than ample lunch, the group traveled to the nearby Wild Animal Sanctuary.





CLEO: JUNE

CLEO in June to Sunrise Ranch west of Loveland, was incorporated into the Inbound Journey with FF Cornwall and Bristol. The visit included a delicious buffet, an introduction to Sunrise Ranch, and a walking tour shortened by rain. Those who next visited Masonville Mercantile were treated to a duet!



COLORADO MINI JOURNEY JULY 14-16

Fri. July 14: Two nights at Hampton Inn in LaJunta, \$150 per person, double occupancy, 2 queen beds; breakfast included; communal room for wine and crackers (7 rooms reserved)

Sat. July 15: 10:00 AM tour Old Bent's Fort [\$10 entrance fee or your own National Parks pass]

Free time in afternoon: option to hike at Pickwire Canyonlands to see dinosaur tracks

7:00 PM Koshare Indian Dancing at Koshare Museum \$12

Friday and Saturday dinners and one lunch in LaJunta. (locations to be decided)

Sun. July 16: Drive home with lunch stop at Juniper Valley Ranch \$27.50

Located on rte. 115 between Florence and Colorado Springs, north of Penrose.

Other costs: gas for driver

Plan on spending about \$250 for the weekend.

Please let Rocky Padden know ASAP because she needs to make reservations!

rockypad@yahoo.com or 970-308-5478



FALL MEETING TOPICS

September 8th: Ordinary Nurses (infant care in Guatemala)

Tabito was on the brink of starvation when his desperate mother arrived at Karlie and Jeff Ruiters' medical clinic in rural Guatemala. He was two and a half months old and weighed just 5 pounds.



Although his story was heartbreaking, it was not unique. The Ruiters soon learned that 80 percent of children in the country's rural villages suffer from malnutrition. Tabito's recovery inspired the couple to launch Ordinary Nurses, a non-profit focused on infant health care.

The Ruiters, along with their team of local health professionals, developed a comprehensive, four-pronged approach to addressing critical infant malnutrition. Through their program and the generosity of sponsors, the organization has helped save 152 babies' lives.

Guatemalan families who team with Ordinary Nurses receive a water filter and a clean-air cooking stove to prevent disease. Some babies are built a new block home to ensure every family in the program can thrive in a healthy environment. The babies receive weekly medical care through the on-site staff of pediatricians and nurses, and their mothers commit to a weekly, two-hour class focused on care and nutrition. Most babies remain in the program for one year.



Tabito is now a happy, chubby 2-year-old on the move. The organization built Casa Tabito, a 1,500-square-foot clinic and education center with an examination room, pharmacy, and two classrooms that serve eight surrounding villages.

October 13th: Arise for Rwanda

November 10th: LaDonna on volunteering in national parks

December 8th: Holiday party at Harvest Neighborhood clubhouse (same location as last year.)

ANNUAL PICNIC

This year, on **Saturday, August 26**, FF Cheyenne hosts our annual joint picnic **in Cheyenne**. Watch for details in the August president's notes. Traditionally, the host club provides the main dish and salads and sides and the visitors, FFNC this year, provide desserts.

SNACK SUPPORT

Thanks to **Rosemary Donovan** for passing around the snack sign-up sheet and then calling to remind signers that we look forward to their snack contribution at the upcoming meeting.

Thanks to **Suzi Gossard**, hospitality chair, for arranging a seasonally decorated table complete with plates, napkins and utensils plus a table for drinks, *and* for managing clean up.

Thanks to **all members** who contribute snacks, even when not on the list, and help in any way they can to make snack time a social time.



MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership list includes 55 members plus two members emeritus. Esther and Dick Johnsen joined originally in 1986 and have now renewed their membership. Mary Ann O'Neill is also new to the latest list.

Please consider inviting a friend, relative, neighbor to the next meeting or picnic as a way of introducing them to Friendship Force.

Refer to our club website, ffncolo.com, for back issues of newsletters and information on programs, journeys, leadership contacts, upcoming events and for opportunities to apply for other regional club journeys. Thanks to Rick Lohmeyer for an outstanding website that can provide up-to-the-minute information between quarterly newsletters. The recent inbound journey with FF Cornwall, England is well-represented in photographs.

Refer to www.friendshipforce.org for broad information about Friendship Force and my.friendshipforce.org for information specific to members and secure for sharing personal information needed for journey registration

The Board voted to change the due date for annual FFNC club dues to January 31 of the new year. Members who have not paid by March 1 of that year shall be suspended.

JOURNEY OPTIONS

There are several ways to take a Friendship Force journey. Check my.friendshipforce.org for specific details.

1. Travel with FFNC to visit another FF club on a domestic or international journey.
2. Travel with another FF club that has a vacancy for a specific journey that interests you.
3. Participate in a Global Journey that has a special feature and is open to all members worldwide.
4. Take an Individual Journey, a new style with an individual member hosting another individual.

2024 FFNC Outbound: Cornwall, UK (a chance to visit our recent guests)

Pecs, Hungary

FFNC Inbound: Southwest Florida

Austin, Texas

Stay tuned for additional opportunities being investigated!



FF CORNWALL ACTIVITIES



Photos shared by LaDonna depicting some of the highlights of the FF Cornwall activities including the rodeo, tour of New Belgium Brewery, and a picture of the teepees at Arapahoe Valley Ranch in Grand Lake.

July 2023

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friendship force

NORTHERN COLORADO

JOURNEYS & EVENTS

2023 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2
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2
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July 14-16
Mini Journey to Southern Colorado
Contact Rocky Padden

August 26
Picnic with/in
Cheyenne, WY

September 8
Ordinary Nurses

September 13-27
Canada Outbound Journey
Lake Simcoe 13-20
Ottawa 20-27

October 13
Arise for Rwanda

November 10
LaDonna talks about volunteering
In national parks

December 8
Holiday Party

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

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.