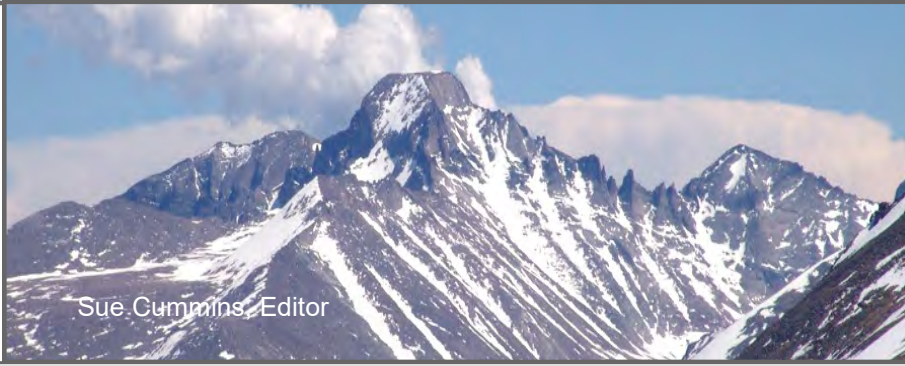




friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins, Editor

October - December
2021

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

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**November 12th
Zoom Meeting,
6:30-8 pm
Noah Bagley,
Refugee &
Asylee Service
Opportunities**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By the time you read this, we will have said goodbye to our new friends from the Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey. I hope that everyone enjoyed the different format. Many changes were necessary due to Covid-19. For example, there were no large group gatherings involving the whole club. Also, the Magic Bus isn't running, and the sculpture foundry, Art Castings, is not providing tours. Marilyn Garner and Marcia Ross did a superb job of finding alternative, safer activities. One new event added to the agenda was a two-night stay at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. We know now that for many of our guests (and for us, too), this was the highlight of this Northern Colorado journey.



Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still with us, and we have returned to Zoom meetings. We are optimistically hoping to be able to gather in person for our Christmas party. In the meantime, our program committee has an exciting new idea. They are calling it Global Northern Colorado. Since we can't travel to visit other cultures, we will learn about other cultures in our area. One example is the Germans from Russia that came to our area to work the sugar beet farms. We might have a speaker from the Historical Society of Germans from Russia or visit CSU to see the Germans from Russia collection. We might take an overnight trip to Montrose to learn more about the Indigenous People of Colorado at the Ute Indian Museum. Maybe we will work with the Lutheran Brotherhood Society and adopt a refugee family from Afghanistan. In the meantime, enjoy our gorgeous fall weather.

*In Friendship,
LaDonna*

**OCTOBER MEETING**

A group of 23 FFNC members enjoyed hearing from one another as they joined our regular monthly ZOOM meeting on Oct. 8th. The program topic was to share something particularly memorable from a journey, either in the role of host or ambassador. We were regaled with stories about up-close encounters with kicking zebras and roaming grizzly bears, unusual food choices and tasting new foods, language faux pas that led to hilarity, specially selected activities hosts had planned based on our short bio information, the amazing opportunity to make lifelong friends after just a week of being together, requests for visiting our legal Colorado pot shops, garage sale adventures, and conversations with hosts regarding major changes in their government regimes during their lifetimes, including some who had lived behind the Berlin Wall in what was then East Germany. The overall message we all came away with is that in a short amount of time we can learn to appreciate new Friendship Force friends and better understand their diverse cultures and norms, even when there are language difficulties. There is so much to appreciate and enjoy about spending time getting to know people from all around the world and sharing our stories of both commonalities and differences. A world of friends truly is a world of peace.

November Meeting; Noah Bagley, on Refugee and Asylee Programs

Please join us at 6:30 PM on Friday, November 12th, for our virtual Zoom regular meeting.

We'll first say our hello or howdy. Then we'll update our planned 2022 outbound journeys.

At 7 pm, Noah Bagley of the Refugee and Asylee Programs of Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains will introduce us to the work of Lutheran Family Services here in Northern Colorado. Noah will provide current information about how we as individuals can become involved with helping recent immigrants; for instance, those from Afghanistan.

Next, we'll do breakout room sessions to suggest 2022 programs and activities, with the theme "Global Northern Colorado." Someone from each breakout will report what opportunities were mentioned and what preferences were expressed. Thanks in advance for helping us configure a great 2022.

Watch your emails for your invitation to this ZOOM Meeting



Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey Enjoys Northern Colorado
September 24 — October 1

Marilyn Garner

What a lovely group of fellow Friendship Force members came to share our first Journey after the long quarantine time of the Pandemic! Sixteen members of the South New Jersey Club joined us for a somewhat different Journey than we have had in the past. It was touch and go as to whether to risk it, but I think both clubs felt it was worth it to make it work.

We had to make modifications in our traditional destinations. The Magic Bus is no longer in service, and Art Castings is not giving tours. We felt it was not prudent to have large gatherings such as the Welcome and Farewell dinners, either. But we tried some new twists that many said we should consider doing again in the future.

Our week proceeded in this way:

Friday, Arrival Day – Settle in with hosts

Saturday, Greeley, including a visit to the Museum with a surprise visit from some early Greeley pioneers; a walking tour of downtown, lunch at the Weaver home, and a guided walk through the UNC Campus to the Michener Library.

Sunday was a free day and each host had the opportunity to share their favorites and collaborate with their Ambassadors on ideas for excursions.

Monday found us in downtown Fort Collins, where we walked around Old Town and had the opportunity to learn a few things about the original buildings there. We had lunch and a short tour at the FoCo café and were able to give them a lovely donation from our SNJ ambassadors. Several explored Old Town while others visited the CSU Trial Gardens before meeting for a tour at the new Richardson Design Center on the CSU campus.

Tuesday, Kay Thomas was able to secure a private tour of the Carey Hosterman Fine Arts studio in Loveland. We had a picnic lunch in the shade near our former gardens in Benson Sculpture Garden, and Marcia gave us some background information on the history of the Sculpture Garden and the annual Sculpture Show. We left for Estes Park to arrive at our eight-bedroom “cabin” at the YMCA in time for dinner at the YMCA cafeteria. Our first night at the cabin found us enjoying some of the history of the area with a presentation by author Nina Kunce, who told us the unusual story of Anna Wolfram Dove, the pioneer woman who is the subject of her book. Since one of Anna’s many entrepreneurial enterprises was a the Wigwam Tea Room near Lily Lake, we followed Nina’s presentation with tea and sweets.

Wednesday was the day set aside for exploring Rocky Mountain National Park. Most of us were able to see the major sights before the rain, hail, snow (depending on location) descended. It was still a nice drive in the afternoon, although Trail Ridge was closed because of snow drifting. After dinner in the cafeteria, we were visited in our cabin

by our best singer of John Denver songs, Brad Fiske. He is a great entertainer, and he encouraged us to join him, singing along with our favorites. Soon some of us were not only singing but dancing as well!

Thursday was a free day, and after breakfast the hosts spread out in many directions to share more sights of our area.

Friday we bid our guests farewell as they headed back closer to sea level.





At the Y with New Jersey



Author Nina Kunce
Another of Marilyn Garner's
talented relatives

Isabel Strasser

New Jersey's Journey Coordinator
having a little Rocky Mountain fun



Brad Fiske

Colorado's premier singer
of John Denver songs





Kay



Barb



Susan



Kay

August CLEO

These photos were taken by Cathie McCallum on August 27, when FFNC CLEO met at La Buena Vida in Fort Collins. Those who were there were delighted to meet Pam Jordan, who was invited by Jan Rozman to check us out.

We were seated at tables for four to facilitate conversation. Our outdoor seating was on a large patio that faces south. The air was breezy and comfortable, the reasonably-priced food was delicious, and the lunch portions were just the right size. And, of course, our diligent photographer, Cathie McCallum, is again not pictured; perhaps she still hasn't mastered selfies.

October CLEO BJs in Fort Collins





In Northern Colorado

Outbound

JOURNEYS & EVENTS

2021 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Colorado Let's Eat Out

CLEO

PRESIDENT: LaDonna Palm
VICE PRESIDENT: Susan Mathre
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

Communications:

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

Ways and Means:

Rick Lohmeyer

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Watch your emails
for information
about our next CLEO

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April 25-April 30
Tentative Outbound Journey Dates
to Raleigh, North Carolina

All
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July 3-July 10
Tentative Inbound Journey
From Albuquerque, New Mexico

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September 21-28
Tentative Outbound Journey
to Hartford, Connecticut
then on to Quebec

Global Inbound Journey
"Grasslands to Glacier"
or
"High Plains to High Alpine"



From the September Board Meeting

Journey Coordinator Debby Jones reported that, from conversation with Judy Wright of the Raleigh chapter, our outbound journey to North Carolina is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 25th through Saturday, April 30th, 2022. A motion by Ken to accept that schedule was approved without objection. Debby will let Raleigh know of our decision. LaDonna suggested looking for something else to add to that trip. Ken will check with Judy Greene of the Winston-Salem chapter. Travel to the coast (Myrtle Beach) or District of Columbia are possibilities.

Debby reported conversation with Ginger with Hartford, Connecticut, about scheduling our outbound journey for Wednesday, September 21st through Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Hartford has 12 beds available to individuals or couples. The outbound journey to Quebec province would follow the Hartford visit.

Debby will be in touch with the Albuquerque chapter about when they wish to come to Northern Colorado. July 3rd through July 10th is one possibility. Debby will seek an exchange coordinator. We need to verify the number of home hosts we will have available during summer 2022.

Ideas Anyone?

Jan Rozman reports to us that the program committee is seeking ideas for possible options for meetings and activities.

Our own "International Northern Colorado" has been suggested as a continuing subject for programs, including the following nine possible presentations or activities:

The Northern Colorado origins of the idea for a Peace Corps

German-speaking immigrants to Northern Colorado

Japanese-Americans in Northern Colorado

Mexican-American culture in Northern Colorado

Settlement here of refugees from Somalia, Laos, or other strife-torn countries

Scandinavian settlement in Northern Colorado

Ancient and contemporary art of indigenous Colorado people

Speaker on how Afghanistan refugee assistance is going in Colorado.

Mini-journeys in the area

So please gather together your ideas and thoughts and call one of your program committee members with your ideas to help make our club the best it can be in this unusual time.