



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

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**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



President's Note

Feels like we are on a weather roller coaster, hot and hotter then rain and more rain and now pretty cool. Fall in Colorado, ya gotta love it!

We have our monthly meeting coming up Oct. 14th at 7 pm at the First Christian Church, 2000 N Lincoln Ave, Loveland. Hope you can make it.

We are looking for a location for our Holiday Gathering in December and someone who would be interested in coordinating the event. If you have a club house or know of a venue we might use or would like to help with organizing this, please let Susan Mathre know.

We will have CLEO on Thurs. Oct. 20th at DC Oakes Brewhouse and Eatery, 3581 Harmony Rd #110 Ft Collins, hosted by Jan Rozman. Please RSVP on or before Oct. 19th by phone or email, 970 988-7499 . Our Nov. and Dec. CLEO's will be announced later.

After a long haul with COVID, it looks like we are headed back to doing some fun traveling. FFNC 2023 is turning out to be filled with both in-bound and out-bound journeys, along with mini-journeys strewn in there somewhere. Keep your eyes out for information for a journey to SW Florida in March, possible in-bound from Albuquerque and UK in July, and September a journey to Canada, Lake Simcoe and Ottawa. I hope you can join in on some of these excursions. We will need journey coordinators for each of these journeys. Please contact Debby Jones, 970 420-8395, if you are interested. Training will be provided in early 2023.

In Friendship,  
Susan Mathre

**Next Meeting  
October 14, 2022  
7:00 PM  
First Christian  
Church  
2000 N. Lincoln  
Loveland**

**GET A FIRST IMPRESSION OF OUR NEXT WORLD  
CONFERENCE VENUE OCTOBER 3-5, 2023**  
*The sparkling blue of the Adriatic Sea, beautiful wines and waterfalls,  
Roman ruins, a culture steeped in history, thousand islands stretching  
along Croatia's coastline..*  
  
*Croatia is an enchanting place. There's so much to see, do, eat and enjoy,  
and we are excited to present its southernmost city, Dubrovnik,  
as our 2023 Friendship Force World Conference host!*



## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM REPORT



### Balkans Rail Adventure

Our September 9th meeting was held in person at the First Christian Church in Loveland. Our speaker was Gerald Forney, President of the Denver Friendship Force Club. Gerry had a very interesting talk with pictures from his 16-day rail tour of the former Yugoslavia. Gerry

traveled with Irene Ludwig and Dave Bentzin. The majority of travelers were British as it was organized by a British travel company called Explore UK! The company runs the trip several times each month during the summer months, and costs approximately \$2,700.

Dave learned of the trip from reading articles in the International Travel News publication. This is an amateur magazine where the subscribers (rather than professional travel writers) are the contributors.

Former Yugoslavia is about the size of Colorado, and it forms the western third of the Balkan Peninsula. Yugoslavia was formed in 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference that ended World War I. Two of the defeated empires, Austro-Hungarian, and the Ottoman (Turks) gave up the land that formed much of modern Yugoslavia. It lasted for about 70 years and then broke up in a series of wars in the decade between 1991 and 2001. Today it comprises of 7 separate countries.

The rail tour started in the north, and gradually moved to the south. Yugoslavia had a single railway company, but after the break up there were eight different railroad companies. During the wars, many of the railroad connections between the new countries were broken. This meant the tour was a combined rail and bus tour. Gerry spoke of the different places they visited and the different conditions of the trains depending on the country. He ended with a time for questions.

—Ann Lohmeyer, reporter

A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE



## UPCOMING FFNC PROGRAM OCTOBER 14, 2022

### Meet the Afghan Pilot Who Escaped Afghanistan

Many of us saw the chaos that was Afghanistan as our U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan. One of those who managed to escape eventually (and with his wife and 5.5 children) is happy and proud Fort Collins resident Qudratullah Hamidzai, who will be speaking to us at our meeting on October 14th. Don't worry about pronouncing his name; he's very content to be called Q; he understands us and loves us.

The former Afghan lieutenant colonel was the commander of MD530 SQ, Kandahar, and he also served as an interpreter for our forces there. He will tell you about those who helped him and his family escape, including U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Cory Fale, and he may be accompanied by some of the people who have helped him settle in Fort Collins, including someone from "his church" (I love that). I'm pretty sure he thinks of the United States as "his country" now, too. Some of us may remember that Lutheran Family Services is at the forefront of resettling such refugees, and Ken Weaver tells me that Friendship Force Denver is sponsoring an Afghan family. Another reason for us to grow?

You may have guessed that the Hamidzai family has a mama and a daddy and five children who hope to be citizens of the United States someday, but Q is proud to say that their baby daughter is an American citizen. They all LOVE Fort Collins and don't ever want to leave our part of the world.

—Sue Cummins

## NOVEMBER 11, 2022 PROGRAM PREVIEW

Jim Willard, Loveland Reporter Herald Columnist, is our guest on November 11, 2022 — Veteran's Day. Many of you may remember the entertaining program he presented a few years ago.

Jim's program is called "Home Front" and he shared the following with us:

*"I am a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. From June 1962 through November 1964 I served as Assistant (then acting) Nuclear Weapons Officer for the XVIII Airborne Corps in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In that capacity I made two Top Secret classified courier runs during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Another role was as the Operations Officer in the Corps Technical Assessment of units able to deploy (and store) nuclear weapons. I was also the most junior officer in the Corps HQ Building at the time, a second then first lieutenant." He added "no one ever shot at me nor was I deployed to a combat unit."*

Jim also offered to share a story or two after the main presentation about his experience as a junior officer with a Top Secret/Cryptological clearance.





Annual August Picnic with Cheyenne







CLEO



In July we had a delicious Asian meal, met up with old and new friends and even had Peace Corp guests.







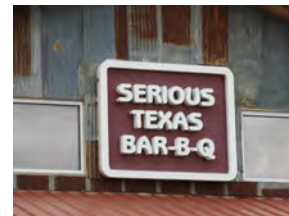
CLEO, CONTINUED



In August we ate at Biaggi's for exquisite Italian food. It was worth the drive.

September we met in Loveland for a good ole fashioned BBQ

Join us for **CLEO on Thurs. Oct. 20th** at **DC Oakes Brewhouse and Eatery, 3581 Harmony Rd #110 Ft Collins**, hosted by **Jan Rozman**. Please **RSVP on or before Oct. 19th** by phone or email, **970 988-7499** .





## Outbound Journey March 2023 to Southwest Florida

Planning has begun for a mid-March 2023 outbound journey to The Friendship Force of Southwest Florida. Please consider being our Journey Ambassador Coordinator. For a copy of the application form, contact Ken Weaver, [interweaver@gmail.com](mailto:interweaver@gmail.com).

Events the Southwest Florida club, <http://friendshipforceswfl.org/>, can include are:  
Pontoon ride on the Charlotte Harbor at sunset. Then eat at a local tiki hut in Punta Gorda.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K48UozQn\\_Jo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K48UozQn_Jo)

Visit the Edison and Ford winter estate in Fort Myers.  
<https://www.edisonfordwinterstates.org/>

Visit the Ding Darling Nature Center on Sanibel.  
<https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/>

## JOURNEY COORDINATOR CORNER

Let's start talking about 2023: we have some wonderful Friendship Force Journey opportunities coming up next year and we need some of you to help them come alive by volunteering to be an Ambassador Host Coordinator. It's fun and a terrific way to really be part of what Friendship Force is all about: meeting and interacting with your local club members and members of other club and their culture.

### OUTBOUND JOURNEYS:

**SW Florida Club**-March 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 15 ambassadors

**Ottawa Canada and Lake Simcoe**- Back to back journeys September 20<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
20 ambassadors for Ottawa and 15 for Lake Simcoe. Need (2) Coordinators to assist

If being an Ambassador Coordinator for these sounds like something you would like to do, please complete an application and return it to Journey Coordinator Debby Jones at [dsj55@aol.com](mailto:dsj55@aol.com) or President Susan Mathre at [smath3@hotmail.com](mailto:smath3@hotmail.com) or Vice President Ken Weaver at [interweaver@gmail.com](mailto:interweaver@gmail.com). Applications can be found on the Friendship Force website at [Myfriendshipforce.org](http://Myfriendshipforce.org). Applications will also be available at our next Friendship Force meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Just call Debby Jones at (970)686-0303 for any further information.



In Northern Colorado

Outbound

**JOURNEYS & EVENTS**

**2022 OFFICERS &  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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**CLEO**  
**Thursday, October 20th**  
**Host: Jan Rozman**  
**DC Oakes Brewhouse and Eatery —RSVP**

**TBA CLEO**  
**November**  
**Host: Karen Cox**

**Holiday Get together in**  
**December TBA**

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**Outbound Journey March**  
**15-22, 2023 to Southwest**  
**Florida**  
**Ambassador Coordinator**  
**Needed!**

**Outbound Journey**  
**September 20-Oct. 3, 2023**  
**Ambassador Coordinator**  
**Needed!**

**PRESIDENT:** Susan Mathre  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ken Weaver  
**SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:** Marcia Ross  
**TREASURER:** Ann Lohmeyer

**Programs:** Ken Weaver  
**Journey Coordinator:** Debby Jones  
**Newsletter Editors/Publishers:**

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Marilyn Garner  
Cathie McCallum

**Newsletter Reporters Coordinator:**  
Suzi Gossard

**Photographers:**  
Cindy Paulson  
Ed Brigden  
Cathie McCallum

**Website & Member Directory:**

**Facebook:** Sue Cummins **Publicity:**  
Anne Brown

**Promotion:** Thelma Slocum  
**CLEO & Game Nights**

**Membership:** Cathie McCallum

**Meeting Greeters:** Willie Westdorp

**Meeting Hospitality:** Suzi Gossard

**Meeting Music:** Rosemary Donovan

**FFNC Store:** Debby Jones