



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

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT SUSAN MATHRE

#### October 2024 President's Note Susan Mathre

**Our next monthly meeting will be October 11, at 7 PM at First Christian Church, 2000 N Lincoln Ave. Loveland, CO.**



**Our Inbound Journey from Austin, TX** on Sept. 13-18 had a good start with our Welcome Party, then the Benson Park picnic and tour with Marcia telling about the sculpture park's history and artists. Unfortunately, as the week went on, several people became sick with COVID and the Denver Club made the decision to cancel their part of the journey. Carol McGrath helped Austin ambassadors get to the airport and head home. An unfortunate situation for everyone involved.

**CLEO on September 19**, lunch at Lucilles Creole Cafes was canceled with too few people showing an interest in attending.

**October CLEO** is at CJ's then to Osborn Farm in Loveland to pick pumpkins. You will find detailed information on page 2.

**November 9th CLEO**, is on a Saturday. We will plan to go to Fiske Planetarium in Boulder.

*Our search for a new home for our monthly meetings beginning in January, appears to have been successful. Carol McGrath had a contact with an individual from the Elderhaus Adult Day Program facility. Suzi Gossard met with them and viewed the site. She felt it met all of our needs with space, tables and chairs, storage, and kitchen. We will present this information at the October Board meeting and confirm our decision. Thank you to everyone who came up with other thoughts and locations for meeting.*

**Please check out the inbound and outbound journeys** listed on the last page in the left hand column of this newsletter.

Ann and Rick Lohmeyer have stepped down from the Journey Coordinator position. We have several people who have volunteered for the position. This will be discussed at our next Board meeting.

Our next Board meeting on October 9th, by zoom at 4:30 pm.

FALL 2024

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friendship force

## FFNC-Cheyenne FF PICNIC



Good Friends + Good Food = Good Times!

On Saturday, August 17 FFNC hosted the annual picnic with FF of Cheyenne at Spring Park in Fort Collins. Twenty one friends had fun reconnecting and catching up. The picnic featured fried chicken, lots of salads & sides, and delightful desserts provided by the Cheyenne friends.

There was sharing of experiences of recent journeys, and excitement about upcoming Friendship Force activities and journeys. Everyone enjoyed the sunny day with premier seating in the shade! It was a great day to be friendly and happy----notice the smiles on everyone's faces.

## CLEOs to come...RSVP to Rocky Padden!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 11:30 AM lunch at **CJ's Patio Grill**, 1332 Eagle Dr., Loveland  
After lunch we will go to **Osborn Farm to pick pumpkins**. At Osborn your only cost is your pumpkin.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, we plan to go to **Fiske Planetarium in Boulder**. *More info to come...*





## AUSTIN FF INBOUND



The Austin Texas Ambassadors arrived in northern CO without a hitch. What a delightful group! We spent Friday evening getting acquainted at a Welcome Party for our while club., FFNC brought side salads, beans, and desserts to accompany pulled pork. We all left the clubhouse full, acquainted and tired.

We spent Saturday in Loveland. Marcia Ross gave the ambassadors a tour of the Benson Sculpture Gardens before enjoying a lovely Subway picnic. A serendipity was provided in downtown Loveland when the city scheduled "Pastels on Fifth Street." What a nice addition to see more of the town just across the street from the Loveland Museum that we visited. Rocky Padden, Marilyn Garner, and Cathie McCallum hosted small group dinners in their homes that evening.

After a free day on Sunday everyone headed to Rocky Mountain National Park on Monday. They took in Estes Park and the Stanley Hotel.

Fort Collins day, Tuesday, included the Gardens on Spring Creek with the butterfly sanctuary. The garden featured Origami Art sculptures by Kevin Box. After having pizza downstairs at Slyce Pizza we headed to Global Village Museum to hear about the Losel Dolls and tour the galleries of miniatures and international artifacts.

That evening we were to have our farewell at the Fort Collins Food Truck Rally at City Park. However, that was not to happen as the weather and circumstances prevailed. We switched to Plan B, which was dinner at the Rio Grande. The food was yummy, and the company wonderful. The bad news was that the Denver FF understandably cancelled the journey to their fair city due to the Covid outbreak amongst members at large, hosts, and an ambassador. The good news is flights were able to be rescheduled on short notice and Wednesday and Thursday the ambassadors flew home.

Carol McGrath, Host Coordinator



## OCTOBER 11 : Pecs, Hungary; Cornwall, UK

On May 23, 14 of us met up in Budapest, Hungary and were bussed to Pecs, Hungary to meet up with our host families. After visiting approximately 22 museums in 7 days we departed Hungary. We had a five day layover before meeting up again in Cornwall, UK. We stayed with folks we already knew since their club was here a year ago. We visited several historical sites Cornwall has, but my best day was visiting Port Issac, the home of Doc Martin. Three weeks later we returned home, exhausted and several with Covid. Overall it was a wonderful experience.

Rocky Padden

## NOVEMBER 8: Snapshots of Poland



Joan Waldoch will talk about her travels to Poland. Highlights included visits to the cities of Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw, and Krakow, and points in between. She will describe some of Poland's history as well as the Poland of today, its people and culture.

In every part of Poland, visitors can see the evidence of brutal dictators and oppressive regimes. You can also see how the country was rebuilt after massive destruction, much of it renovated to resemble its beautiful medieval architecture. More recently, Warsaw and other Polish cities have added modern skyscrapers to their skylines. Poland is the birthplace of famous generals, scientists, composers, a beloved pope, and many ordinary people who accomplished extraordinary things. It is a land with a rich and complex history, and resilient and generous people.

Joan is a retired writer-editor who has lived in Loveland for the past 26 years. Prior to that, she lived and worked in Washington DC, Minnesota, and Iowa. A native of North Dakota, Joan grew up on a farm-ranch and greatly values her rural heritage. Her paternal great-grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Poland in the late 19th century. Joan enjoys traveling, reading and writing, food, and being outdoors.

## DECEMBER: 13: **Holiday Party**

To be held at Harvest Neighborhood Clubhouse, 5303 Corbett Dr., Fort Collins, as in past two Decembers and in September for Welcome Party. Details later....



## JOURNEYS 2025

**OUTBOUND**  
Austin, Texas, May

**INBOUND**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August

**OUTBOUND**  
Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada  
and  
New Hampshire Seacoast  
September

*Specific dates and details to be shared as plans develop.*

### WHAT DOES FF MEAN TO US?

What does the Friendship Force experience mean to us? Is it getting to know our host people as individuals? Is it seeing the area, people and sites through the eyes of our hosts? Is it learning more about the culture firsthand? Is it an opportunity to get answers to our variety of questions about culture, country, history and people?

THE ANSWER IS **YES!**

## 2024 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**PRESIDENT:** Susan Mathre  
**VICE PRES:** Suzi Gossard  
**SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:** Carol McGrath  
**TREASURER:** LaDonna Palm

**Journey Directors:** Ann and Rick Lohmeyer  
**Meeting Greeter:** Cathie McCallum  
**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  
**Social Activities:** Rocky Padden  
**Store Manager:** Debby Jones  
**Ways and Means:** Nancy Benson  
**Website:** Rick Lohmeyer

***If you are willing to help with any position, please contact Susan Mathre, 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.***

Refer to our club website, [ffncolo.com](http://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 newsletters. Refer to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org) for broad information about Friendship Force and [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org) for information specific to members and secure for sharing personal information needed for journey registration