



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



Steve Cummins - Editor & Publisher

December  
2017

Fort Collins, Estes Park, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor, and more

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Journeys Calendar & Officers

**Holiday Social**  
6-9 p.m.  
Friday, December 8

**Adriel Hills Clubhouse**  
1900 Kedron Circle  
Fort Collins

## Happy Holidays!

**Thanksgiving** is a time of reflection and giving thanks for all we have as individuals and as citizens of the world. I am thankful for my health, my family, and my friends throughout the world—including you in FFNC.



I recently returned from Australia, where I participated in a global journey meeting FF hosts from the Southern Sydney, Blue Mountains, Newcastle, and Perth clubs and fellow ambassadors from England, Canada, the United States, and New Zealand. As we move into 2018, I encourage you to consider meeting new and renewed friends by hosting our inbound ambassadors from Detroit and St. Louis and by traveling to England and Germany next fall. At a meeting this spring I will share with you some of the highlights of my 21-day Australian journey.

The **December holidays** mark a time to celebrate the season of light, joy, and sharing. Mark your calendar for the FFNC Holiday Social Friday, December 8, 6 to 8 PM at the Adriel Hills clubhouse. Have you sent your \$20 check to Suzi Gossard?

**New Year's Eve** is just the beginning of 2018 and traditionally a time to make resolutions (promises) for personal improvements. Consider resolving to be more actively involved in FFNC, to sign on to a committee such as hospitality, newsletter reporter, Benson Garden, photographer, or any others that interest you. Contact Thelma Slocum, 2018 president, to get involved.

Come to the January 12 meeting to welcome our 2018 officers: Thelma Slocum, president; Alice Gibson, vice-president; LaDonna Palm secretary; and Debby Jones, treasurer.

*Cathie McCallum, your 2017 president*

## World Conference in Manchester, England

The program at the November meeting featured Marilyn Garner, Larry Slocum, and Thelma Slocum, our representatives to the world conference in Manchester, England. They showed slides of their many activities and shared what they had learned.

They opened with a slide show presentation of goals set forth to the 16,000 Friendship Force members:

- Strengthen membership
- Engage youth and family members
- Make journeys available to people who live too far away from existing clubs

Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friendship Force, the welcome party featured a back-to-the-70's costume contest and disco dancing. A letter from Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter was shared, along with information about the first exchange between Atlanta and Newcastle. We also saw pictures of Manchester's Pride parade, in which some FF members participated, and the gala dinner under the Concorde.

Then Larry, Thelma, and Marilyn presented summaries of workshops they attended. Larry went to one on *Innovative Programs*. According to what he learned, our club is in great shape. Things emphasized were 1) having about 100 members, 2) having social get-togethers, 3) having regular board meetings, and 4) having regular meetings.

Thelma attended a workshop called *Family to Family Journey; Creating a Network of Working Age Ambassadors*. A pilot program had 78 ambassadors from Ottawa, including school-age children, travel to Guatemala, where the children attended school with their hosts. In return, 23 ambassadors from Guatemala traveled to Ottawa where, again, the children went to school.

Marilyn was excited about the workshop she attended called *Go, Eat, Give*. An organization in Atlanta arranges gatherings in immigrant-owned ethnic restaurants. Besides ethnic food, other activities such as cultural dances are included. The idea is to have the experience of traveling to a foreign

*LaDonna Palm*

country without going there.



*Larry, Marilyn, & Thelma*



At our **January meeting on Friday, the 12th**, learn about our world from our own members, as they tell us about their recent journeys to Uganda (LaDonna Palm), Tanzania (Marcia Ross and Cindy Paulson), and Australia (Cathie McCallum).

Hoping you will be there to welcome our new officers for 2017 as they are inducted:

President: Thelma Slocum  
Secretary: LaDonna Palm

Vice President: Alice Gibson  
Treasurer: Debbie Jones

## More photos from the World Conference in Manchester, England



*Large poster colored by  
FF members attending*



*Banquet under the Concorde*



**Jeremi Snook**  
President, FFI



*Manchester Town Hall*



*Larry, Thelma, and Jimmy  
celebrate 40 years of Friendship Force*

## Fall 2018 Journey to England and Germany



Our journey to Bristol, England, and Halle (Saale), Germany, begins in only 10 months. Both host clubs have said they can accommodate at least 15 ambassadors. Bristol and Bath are naval and literary. Halle an der Saale, near Leipzig, is in the heart of what Rick Steves calls Lutherland, with Wartburg Castle and Wittenberg nearby.



*Bristol, England*

Planning has begun for a flight overnight to London that will allow us to arrive in Bristol September 26. Our departure from Bristol is scheduled for October 3.

After two days of rest and sightseeing in Berlin, the week in Halle would begin on Saturday, October 6th and continue through October 12th.

For those who are interested and care to afford it, possible pre- and post-journey options are also being considered; perhaps a brief Shakespeare tour, or a few days in Munich or Prague after Halle. With contact to both clubs now established, we'll have more details by early 2018. Journey coordinators are Ken Weaver and Cathie McCallum. See page 8 for contact information.



*Halle (Salle) Germany*



### Choose Your Own Adventure

**Ontario Outdoor Adventure:** September 5 to September 20, 2018;

contact is Heather Oliver, FF Greater Hamilton and Burlington, holiver@cogeco.ca

**Global Green and Friendship Force International Environmental Awareness Journey to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, USA:** March 24 to March 30, 2018; contact is Bob Duncan, FF Baton

Rouge, mardigrasbob@hotmail.com

**Time Travel: Wonder of World History and Culture in Turkey and Georgia:**

April 19 to May 16, 2018; contact is Jim Kerr, judgejwkerr@juno.com



# WESTERN REGIONAL SUPER CONFERENCE



## FRIENDSHIP FORCE WESTERN REGIONAL SUPER CONFERENCE



May 3 to 5, 2018

Holiday Inn Express & Suites 9175 W. Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95758  
Call 916-478-9000 for Reservations

Participating clubs from the Pacific North West, Rocky Mountain, West Coast, and Western Canada Regions including clubs in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah Washington, British Columbia and Alberta. All Friendship Force members are invited. Hosted by the Friendship Force of Sacramento.

### Schedule of Events:

- Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 1:00 pm President's Meeting  
7:00 pm Welcome Reception
- Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference  
Keynote speaker; panel discussions; workshops  
Presentations by Friendship Force International Staff
- Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 am - 4 pm Conference  
Workshops, panel discussions and wrap up  
6:00 pm Gala "Cinco de Mayo" Dinner  
Speaker and entertainment

Participate in fun, stimulating workshops for all members whether you are a new member, club leader, journey coordinator or just an enthusiastic member. Topics include Travel Insurance, New Member Q&A, Planning Global Journeys, Multi-Generational Journeys, Membership Concerns, Future Planning, Vetting Ambassadors, Websites and much more.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Registration Fee if paid by February 1, 2018</b>               | <b>\$ 125</b> |
| <b>Registration Fee if paid between Feb. 1 and April 1</b>        | <b>\$ 150</b> |
| <b>Gala "Cinco de Mayo" Dinner</b> (not included in registration) | <b>\$ 45</b>  |

Join a post conference Journey for 3 or 4 days sponsored by one of these clubs: Las Vegas, San Francisco Bay Area, Reno-Tahoe or Sacramento.

To register go to [www.thefriendshipforce.org/westernconf](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org/westernconf)  
More questions? Contact Pat Ghiglieri at [pat.ghiglieri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat.ghiglieri@sbcglobal.net) or 916-212-7111  
or Marty McKnew at [martymcknew@comcast.net](mailto:martymcknew@comcast.net) or 916-709-1347.



## Holiday Social

**6 to 9 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2017, at the Adriel Hills Clubhouse  
1900 Kedron Circle, Fort Collins**

If you want to join us for festive food, wonderful wine, and exciting entertainment, and you haven't reserved your spot yet and you'd like to join us, please call Suzi Gossard as soon as you get this. The **deadline for reservations is Monday, December 4th**. After you call her to reserve your spot, she'll also need a check written to FFNC in the amount of \$20.00 per person. You can contact Suzi at 412-0691, and send your \$20 check to her at 921 Hazel Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526.



**January 28, 1940 - November 12, 2017**

Eleanor (Elle) Louise Barr peacefully made her journey to heaven on November 12, 2017.

She left this world a better place by her unconditional selfless love for family and friends and her inspiration to always help others. She handled her life with grace and dignity whether it be triumph or trial. Her passions in life were her faith, her family, friends, traveling, cooking, hiking and gardening. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were the twinkle in her bright blue eyes.

Elle is survived by her children, Bennie (Benji) Barr Jr. (Holly) of Elgin, TX, Beverly Atkinson (Monty) of Fort Collins, CO, Brenda Moore of Olathe, CO and Becky Meyer (Michael) of Windsor, CO, ten Grandchildren and five Great Grandchildren with one on the



## Art in Her Heart

### *Painter Makes Up for Lost Time*

*What follows is a reprint of an article about our own Patti Stickler that was published in the September/October 2017 issue of Colorado Life Magazine. It was written by Ann Kasky.*



Patti Stickler recently sold her 500th painting, and she has dozens of works on display at Fort Collins' Blue Moose Gallery, where she teaches monthly art classes.

Stickler wasn't a painter a decade ago. In fact, she had no idea what to do with herself. The worsening symptoms of her multiple sclerosis forced her to retire in 2007 from her bank job in Fort Collins to live on Social Security disability benefits. She spent the next year caring for her father during his final illness.

That was a tough time in her life, and she decided she needed a cathartic hobby. She turned to painting. It was a curious choice, considering she couldn't recall ever so much as having held a paintbrush before. But something about it clicked. She showed her first painting to a co-worker, who was so taken with her vibrant use of color that she commissioned Stickler to paint a scene of Colorado wildflowers for her.

"How much do you charge for that?" her colleague asked her.

"I don't know—\$25?" Stickler replied.

"Let's make it \$20, since this is your first time."

Stickler kept painting, but she waited a few years before trying to sell any more of her whimsical portraits of people and animals. By 2011, she had a stockpile of canvases. Her daughter, Tracey, persuaded her to get a booth at a local craft fair, where she sold 27 of the 35 paintings she brought with her.

"Mom, you're a hit!" Tracey said. "You have a business!"

"I suppose my art was in my heart," Stickler said.

"And that's the name of your business!" her daughter replied.

Stickler launched *Your Art Is In Your Heart* studio. People love her paintings' bright, happy colors; Colorado is all about color, Stickler said.

"If it weren't for the MS diagnosis, I swear I would not have become who I am today," she said. "I'm all about gratitude. If I had to have MS to have gotten this gift of art, I guess I can say I'm grateful that MS gave me the gift of art."

Before she started painting, Stickler was focused on fighting her illness, but she finds her symptoms have actually gotten less severe since she became an artist. "I have something else to focus on that's a heck of a lot more fun," she said.

*Colorado Life Magazine is a glossy, bimonthly print publication that explores the people, places, wildlife, and history of Colorado. Subscriptions are \$21 a year. To subscribe or give gift subscriptions, visit [coloradolifemagazine.com](http://coloradolifemagazine.com) or call (970) 480-0148.*

Inbound

Outbound

**JOURNEYS CALENDAR****2017 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Gather your friends and  
Choose Your Own Adventure  
at  
thefriendshipforce.org**

**Detroit Inbound**  
May, specifics to follow  
Host Coordinator, Cathie McCallum  
cathiemc@gmail.com 223-0436

**St. Louis Inbound**  
September, specifics to follow  
Host Coordinator, Debby Jones  
dsj55@peoplepc.com 686-0303

**Outbound Journey  
Halle-Saale, Germany  
and Bristol, England**  
September 26-October 12  
Host Coordinators:  
Ken Weaver,  
interweaver@gmail.com 381-3611  
Cathie McCallum  
cathiemc@gmail.com 223-0436

**Super Regional Conference  
Rocky Mountain States Region  
Sacramento, May 3-6**  
See page 5 for details.

*To be sure that your friend  
is a friend,  
You must go with him  
on a journey,  
Travel with him day and night,  
Go with him near and far.*

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