



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins, Editor

October - December
2020

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

September meeting,
Author Anna Stewart 2

October Meeting 3

Volunteer of the Year 4
Cheyenne Picnic

Board Meeting
Discussions 5

Officers and
Scheduled Events 6

We Need You! 7



October 9th
Zoom Meeting,
6:30-8 pm
Gerald Forney,
Volunteer Sailor

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Pivotal



Our writer friend Anna Stewart told me the story of a mother and young boy out walking. When someone approached, the mother would say “pivot.” They’d step aside a few feet, wait for the hiker or jogger to pass, then continue along together.

We’ve all had to pivot more than a few times this past six months. To avoid exposure to SARS-CoV-2. To avoid financial duress. To avoid psychological stress. To keep our spirits up. To keep on keeping on. To keep allegiances strong, as ours to Friendship Force.

We’ve now come to another pivotal time. What about outbound and inbound journeys in 2021 and 2022? How long do we just “wait and see”?

I propose that together we pivot. So, I’ve written to the folks in Bristol, UK, and also Stratford, Ontario, Canada, suggesting we design a joint inbound journey for the second or third week in September 2021. That’s a year from now. Let’s form and Zoom our usual committees. Let’s decide to make it happen, if at all possible. If it turns out not to be in the cards, we can always postpone.

I’ve also been in touch with Raleigh, North Carolina, about going outbound in October 2021. Also, Southern New Jersey, our U.S. “It’s a Match” to come inbound late in 2021. We’ll see what response we get.

Thank you to the more than half our members who joined on Zoom September 11th. We hope to see you again for Gerry Forney’s presentation on Friday, October 9th.

Ken Weaver



SEPTEMBER ZOOM MEETING ANNA STEWART, AUTHOR & WRITING MENTOR



The first virtual meeting of Friendship Force of Northern Colorado convened at 6:30 PM on Friday, September 11th. More than 25 members participated, over half our membership.

Ken Weaver introduced Anna Stewart, author of several books, who has written more than 400 articles, essays, and reviews—many of them about travel. She also teaches non-fiction adult writing classes, and you may want to contact her about a course she is offering. Her main work in Boulder is with parents of children with special challenges. Anna, now a member of Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, has just finished a young adult novel about two siblings who get lost and found in tropical Australia. She based her newest novel on her travels there.

Anna emphasized that sensory details and feelings make stories from our travels come alive, even when we are writing descriptions of photos. Using readings from travel writers Bruce Chatwin and Paul Theroux as examples, Anna led us through two exercises—how to describe especially memorable experiences more fully, and how to make a postcard you write to someone tell more about what matters in your life now. If you couldn't attend the meeting, try writing about a memorable meal you've experienced during your travels, or write about a person you met that you can't forget. Consider sending a newsy postcard to one of your past hosts or ambassadors.

Anna teaches non-fiction adult writing classes that apply the "hero's journey arc" to life experience, and she offers small group writing workshops. Anna plans to facilitate a travel journey writing workshop later this Fall. Our members are welcome to join that class. The total cost for two sessions of two hours each is \$50. Contact Anna at annastewartwhowrites@gmail.com if you'd like to reserve a space for her classes or if you'd like more information.

*Ken Weaver & Sue Cummins
photo by Cathie McCallum*



October Zoom Meeting: 6:30-8 pm, Friday, October 9
Tall Ship Time Machine: Two Years Before the Mast
Gerald Forney

Our Zoom Meeting speaker this Friday will be Gerry Forney, and the tall ship pictured here is close to his heart. He calls it a time machine, because above the waterline, it is an exact replica of a ship built in 1625 in Holland. Gerry serves as a foundation director and a volunteer sailor on this ship, which is based in Delaware. He will share with us the history of the ship as well as his adventures as a crew member.

He and his wife, Irene Ludwig, have been members of the Denver Friendship Force club since 1982. They have hosted many guests from afar with Friendship Force and other groups, and they more recently traveled to Japan with the Denver FF club in 2016. Gerry and Irene are both retired and have traveled extensively in the United States and overseas but can be found most often now traveling to visit grandchildren in Orlando and in Washington, D.C.

The Kalmar Nyckel



Photo courtesy of The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation



Volunteer of the Year



During our Zoom Friendship Force Meeting on 9-11-2020, I had the pleasure of presenting the Volunteer of the Year award to Sue Cummins. As the past president, it was my duty and honor to choose the member who contributed the most to the club during the 2019 calendar year. I actually was prepared with a small gift and a short announcement at the February 2019 meeting, but Sue was out of town. That was the last meeting we had, or it was the last meeting I attended, and I had not been able to complete my pleasurable obligation until our Zoom gathering

Sue was always available to assist me, and she frequently attended board meetings, CLEO luncheons, game nights, and the general meetings, always helping with the organization, snack supplies, newsletter duties, and music leadership. When I asked Sue to organize and take over the annual picnic, she graciously agreed and did a terrific job. She actually did the entire job on her own, and it was wildly successful with wonderful food, games, and notable attendance by both the Northern Colorado and the Wyoming clubs. (p.s. from Sue: Alice has lots of very FF-appropriate tablecloths for use on picnic tables, and I greatly appreciated them, as well as the help of all who stepped up to set up and clean up).

Thank you Sue for all time you devoted to our club.

Alice Gibson

Picnic in Cheyenne

And speaking of picnics, Gary and Sue (me) Cummins were (understandably) the only members from our club who ventured up to Cheyenne for our joint picnic in August. We were late, because our church had just started back up in person with two socially distanced services, and we needed to be there through the late service. Anyway, as we arrived, the group of about 20 Cheyenne members were laughing delightedly while playing some kind of a social-distancing game with what I call "swimming pool noodles." They were finished before we figured out the object of the game. However, we had arrived just in time for the delicious food and fellowship.

They seemed very happy to see us, and they made us feel special for showing up, because we are, after all, the Friendship Force.





This and That, from Board Meeting Discussions

Continuing Our Journey” fundraising: Your Board decided to contribute \$1500 from chapter savings to be a part of keeping the international organization financially stable during this strange time. The members of our local chapter have so far donated \$1060, and you are of course still welcome to donate at <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/ways-to-give/>.

November Zoom: Friday, November 13th. The program will be announced.

Holiday Party, Friday, December 11th. It may be virtual, it may be in person (with limitations). Perhaps a virtual show-and-tell about crafts or ornaments collected from around the world. Larry said Cinda had suggested charades to guess which Holiday song or carol is being acted out. LaDonna suggested finding a nearby outdoor venue decorated for the holidays. Larry noted that Centerra has Christmas activities. LaDonna will check for possibilities in Northern Colorado. Members can send any other ideas to Paulette (paulette.weaver@gmail.com).

Possible Journeys in 2021 and 2022: Alice suggested that we continue to reach out to the “It’s a Match” designees, even though the post-pandemic consensus is still wait-and-see.

The Board consensus was for Ken to form a small hosting committee and confirm the invitation to Bristol, England, and Stratford, Ontario, for a joint September 12-20, 2021, inbound journey.

Ken has also been in touch with Southern New Jersey, but that inbound journey may need to wait until 2022.

Ken expects to hear back from Raleigh, North Carolina, about the possibility of our outbound journey mid-October 2021

The Board consensus is to defer the proposed inbound Grassland to Glacier global themed journey to July 2022, but perhaps form a committee to help with design.

The Board consensus was to respond to FFI that our inbound journey hosting capacity for 2022 will be about the same as estimated for this year. Cathie pointed out that finding new households to host can help recruit new members. Susan noted that the determining factor for an inbound journey is hosting. Cathie and Marcia led discussion of how to gauge our members willingness to host in 2021 and 2022. Cathie is willing to move from program chair to helping with membership retention and recruiting. Susan Mathre volunteered to lead an effort to contact members directly by telephone. Marcia also volunteered to help.



In Northern Colorado

Outbound

JOURNEYS & EVENTS

2020 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Colorado Let's Eat Out

CLEO

PRESIDENT: Ken Weaver

970-381-3611 ffnocopresident@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: LaDonna Palm

651-302-2024 dnlpalm@aol.com

SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Paulette Weaver

970-381-8898 paulette.weaver@gmail.com

TREASURER: Marilyn Garner

970-493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

Programs: Cathie McCallum

223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Journey Coordinator: Debby Jones

686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Newsletter Editors/Publishers:

Cindy Paulson 581-6801 cdp225@msn.com

Sue Cummins 682-2266 sue@gscummins.com

Marilyn Garner 493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Newsletter Reporters Coordinator:

Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com

Photographers:

Cindy Paulson 581-6801 cdp225@msn.com

Ed Brigden 381-5809 brigden@comcast.net

Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Communications:

Website & Member Directory:

Ed Brigden 381-5809 brigden@comcast.net

Facebook:

Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

Publicity:

Anne Brown 663-3727 abby144@aol.com

Membership:

Kay Sheahan 667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

Social Committee:

Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net

Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

Meeting Setup: Larry Slocum

223-9855

Meeting Greeters: Willie Westdorp

667-6525

Meeting Hospitality: Suzi Gossard

412-0691

Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan

669-8818

FFNC Store: Debby Jones

686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

CLEOS and Game Nights will resume after social distancing is no longer required

Stay tuned for our second-Friday Zoom Meetings and Holiday Party

Hoped-for Reschedule of Outbound Journey to Australia & New Zealand

September Joint Inbound Journey from Bristol, England and Stratford, Ontario

October Outbound Journey to Raleigh North Carolina

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

2
0
2
0

2
0
2
1

All
T
B
D

2
0
2
2



Please tell us by email a story about your Friendship Force experiences that has been most memorable to you. Some ideas?

- Funny
- Crazy
- Touching
- Educational
- Sad
- Aha! Revelatory
- Language
- Scary
- Animals
- Scenery
- Uncomfortable

Please contribute at least one story that has stuck with you about your experiences, your hosts, your ambassadors... Don't use names if you think you might embarrass someone, and don't write it down if you don't want it published.

We hope to share our individual experiences in a virtual meeting during this time of social-distancing, and also to get another article about Friendship Force published in our local papers. Really good photos would be good, too.

Please email your stories to Ken Weaver at ffnocopresident@gmail.com
Questions? Call Sue Cummins at 682-2266 or Ken at 381-3611