

Newsletter, January-February 2026



Dear Members of FFNC,

As 2025 draws to a close, I hope you had a wonderful season of family, friends and festivities, and are looking forward to a bright 2026!

With the changes implemented by the Board of FFI, the future of the organization looks bright! Our own club has welcomed several new members, and we look forward to some exciting journeys and other activities this year. You can find more information about these in this newsletter.

Thanks to **Susanna Garner** and her crew of volunteers for a terrific holiday party! The appetizers, soups, breads, hot cider and desserts brought by everyone were so tasty. We all enjoyed the festive decorations, trivia game, white elephant gift exchange, and sing-along, as well as time to chat with each other. It's something we all look forward to each year! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate \$100 and some canned goods to the Food Bank!

In early 2026, we will be taking a poll to determine what outbound journeys we desire so your Board can respond to FFI with our request in early February. **Ken Weaver** is putting this together.

At our January 9th meeting, I will be turning leadership over to our 2026 officers: **Susanna Garner**, President; **Rocky Padden**, VP; **Sue Cummins**, Secretary; and **Carol McGrath**, Treasurer. Great leaders to take us into the new year!

Our January meeting will be all about Journeys, thanks to **Marcia Ross, Marilyn Garner, and Cathie McCallum**. Learn what to expect on a journey, both outgoing and incoming. We will be discussing ways to be involved in an incoming journey, even if you are unable to host ambassadors in your home. Also, members are not only able to sign up for journeys with our club but can possibly join journeys with other clubs in our region, nationally, or even internationally, on a space-available basis. There are even independent journeys available on the FFI website!

The Board meets monthly via Zoom at 4:30 on the Wednesday preceding our in-person member meetings. This date and time may change at the discretion of the current Board. According to our standing rules, Board meetings are open to all members who would like to participate (without voting privileges); you just need to request an invitation from **Susanna Garner**.

Remember our annual dues are due in January. Information on how to pay the \$100 directly to FFI is in this newsletter. I paid mine in December and it was easy-peasy! Your local dues of \$20 can be paid by check or Zelle, as outlined in the same article.

I look forward to seeing you at our January 12th meeting!

In Friendship,
Suzi Gossard

Apologies for this newsletter being late due to editor having to learn new system while not being tech-savvy. Please refer to your membership list for member contact information. Sue Cummins

Programs

At our **January meeting**, we will discuss possibilities for refreshing our inbound journeys. Please share what daily activities and formats you have enjoyed during outbound journeys and what ideas you have for great activities for our inbound journeys, whether you have already enjoyed them or have new possibilities. Please note that we typically try not to encroach on places our neighboring clubs (Cheyenne and Denver) might take their ambassadors.

You seasoned FFNC members will have the opportunity to share a few of your best tips on home-hosting, both as hosts and as ambassadors.

Newer members will be able to learn the process of designing, planning, recruiting, and managing an incoming Friendship Force Journey. Even if you can't host during an inbound journey, learn about ways you can contribute for just a day, or a dinner, or in other ways.

See you at 7 p.m., Friday, January 9

The Elderhaus

6813 South College Ave., Fort Collins

Our **February meeting** will be based on a booklet Ken Weaver made about our outbound journey to New Hampshire.

November Featured Game Night



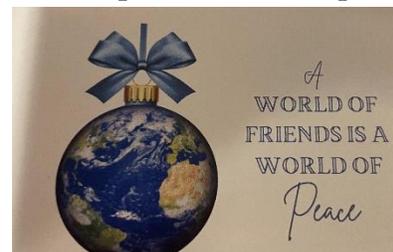
Surely each of us would have done better if there were prizes. That's my excuse. But the snacks you brought?

Scrumptious!



December Celebration

Good food, as always, but made more special by those who brought four delicious soups (Alice Austin, Rosemary Donovan, Marilyn Garner, Suzi Gossard) and all who brought delicious finger foods. We enjoyed passing around white elephant gifts, but most were just too nice to be called that. Don't forget to thank our willing and flexible pianist, Larry Clark, who not only volunteers to play the piano for our Christmas carols, but also has to figure out that computerized piano. Let's keep him.



Dues Please

Friendship Force International:

\$100.00 per person

Two options for payment:

Pay online at <https://friendshipforce.org/pay-member-dues-new/>

Write a check for \$100 to Friendship Force International and bring to January meeting or mail as soon as possible to Carol McGrath at 1141 Miramont Drive

Fort Collins, CO 80524

and

Friendship Force of Northern Colorado:

\$20.00 per person

Options for payment:

Separate check made out to Friendship Force Northern Colorado, bring to January meeting **or** mail to Carol McGrath at 1141 Miramont Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Pay by Zelle to ffnocotreasurer@gmail.com.

Please make sure your payments are submitted this month to maintain active membership and support our ongoing programs, both international and local.

As an example:

Gary and I will need to pay \$200 to Friendship Force International

and \$40.00 to Friendship Force of Northern Colorado.

Upcoming Journeys

Austin and Dallas, Texas

March Outbound

Susan Mathre is coordinating this journey and reports that she has one space open for Dallas and two for Austin. If you are interested in visiting our friends there, who visited us not so long ago, please contact Susan. You may even want to sign up as a backup in case illness or injury keeps someone from traveling.

Indonesia Outbound

August, 2026

Carol McGrath is jumping right in to her first time as an Outbound Journey Coordinator. She and her Indonesian co-leader are planning quite a trip. She has eight interested ambassadors so far, and four are signed up. You will be hosted by the Subaya and Banjarmasin clubs; Subaya is on the island of Java, and Banjarmasin is on the island of Borneo. Between your hosted stops, you will have the opportunity to attend the Javanese Cultural Festival in Jogjakarta, which is on the island of Java (see Javanese Festival #26016 on your MyFF portal).

Carol says the cost of this journey may be a bit more than most journeys, but she thinks the education and new friendships will be worth it. Please contact her for more detailed information as the plans go forward.



You can find here lots of opportunities for **you** to help our cause of making friends around the world and in our community.

We have an inbound journey from the New Hampshire club coming up, and we'll need a host coordinator here for that. Could it be **you**?

If **you** volunteer, **you** can join the committee that will help plan the special World Friendship Day celebration at our March meeting.

We have three “mature” women doing the newsletter right now, and we all suffer from various degrees of techie weakness. We'd sure love to have at least one person on our team who is more talented to either teach or do this kind of work, especially since we need to change the way we produce the newsletter. Are **you** our more talented and knowledgeable teacher/substitute?

CLEOs



January 15: We will not be eating out at this “Colorado Eating Out.” We will meet at Rocky’s home because she and her husband did such a fantastic job finishing their basement during COVID, and because it’s cheap. One of our gracious members will be furnishing sandwiches for us, and we may put some money in the pot for her costs. We haven’t decided for sure which non-profit to donate the excess to. At any rate, this should make CLEOs more affordable.

We will be discussing with and learning travel tips from each other.

See you at 11 a.m., January 15,
at **616 Bald Eagle Way, Loveland.**

February 12: This lunch will take place at the home of Ken and Paulette Weaver in Greeley. And chili is on the menu. Stay tuned for more information on this and the neighborhood walk of Habitat for Humanity homes that they have planned. Watch your emails for the exact time. Their address is: **1725 12th Avenue, Greeley, CO.**

