



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

## CALENDAR

World Friendship Day  
March 13, 6pm at Elderhaus  
Dinner and Program

CLEO March 19 11:30 at Raska  
Ethiopian Restaurant @ 1286 W.  
Walnut St., Fort Collins

April Meeting, April 10, 7pm at  
Elderhaus

CLEO April 16 at Amazon  
Distribution Center in Lafayette  
with lunch

## WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

We will celebrate WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY at our Friday, March 13, meeting starting at 6:00 PM with a potluck dinner followed by interviews with a panel of international CSU students.

If you have not already signed up at the February meeting, please contact Rocky Padden to let her know whether you will contribute a main dish or side, preferably one of your favorites from another country. Desserts will be provided. Another favorite component of our World Friendship Day is a fashion show of clothes and accessories from your world travels. Perhaps you have a special item from your travels that you would be willing to display that evening.  
– Cathie McCallum

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INFORMATION

## CLEO on March 19

We will meet at the Ethiopian restaurant Raska at 128a W. Laurel Street in Fort Collins at 11:30

<https://www.Raskasauce.Com/menu/>

RSVP to Rocky

Hello, Friends!

I want to start out by thanking everyone who rejoined Friendship Force for 2026. A very special thanks to Marcia Ross, Carol McGrath and Cathie McCallum for their hard work in facilitating this process for our club.



It is a relief and an inspiration to know that so many of you are willing to continue to invest in the Friendship Force mission. We are very aware that there is a renewed need for citizen diplomacy here at home and out in the world, and I am excited to be a part of that with you.

Our club has renewed our charter for 2026, and I have submitted our requests for Outgoing Journeys in 2027. FFI.org has 72 Individual and Special Journeys available on the website – please make sure to check those out, as well as any continuing education sessions that are coming up. The regional club leaders are going to work harder to share upcoming Journey opportunities locally with each other so that we will also have those available when there is space.

Today I checked to see if there is a March book club selection, but I didn't see one yet. I know many of you have reading suggestions, however, so please feel free to share those with our club members.

For this month, here are a few recommendations for those working **“to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people”**

- March 3-4 Colorado State University – 2026 International Symposium
- <https://international.colostate.edu/symposium/>
- March 5 – Global Village Museum – International Women's Day
- <https://globalvillagemuseum.org/product/march-5-international-womens-day-with-together-women-rise/>
- March 20 – Solas performs at the Rialto in Loveland
- <https://tickets.rialthetheatercenter.org/eventperformances.asp?evt=59>
- March 22 – Last day of “Viewfinder: Through the Lens of Time” – Greeley History Museum
- <https://greeleyco.gov/events/greeley-events/195370912>

Our World Friendship Day Celebration is March 13<sup>th</sup> – if you haven't already signed up, let me know! Until then, here's a link to see 2025 celebrations from around the world! You can also watch a movie of photos from 2024. I hope to see you there! <https://friendshipforce.org/world-friendship-day-in-pictures/>

~ Susanna Garner

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**Lynn Hogan** is in our **New Member Spotlight** this month.

A true Colorado native, Lynn grew up in Denver, but moved to Longmont upon her marriage many years ago. She and her husband decided that being just a little bit geographically separated from their parents might be best. Their two daughters, now grown, added two more Longmont residents, and Lynn now enjoys two grandsons.

Lynn is retired from her lifelong work as a public-school librarian. You may have guessed that one of her interests, even in retirement, is books. You also may not be surprised that she is now interested in travel, because she now has the time for that and thinks traveling with and to visit others seems like the best way to see the world and make friends. Her most ambitious interest is clearly gardening; she “works” at a non-profit farm, a lavender farm, and a large church garden, just because she enjoys doing so.

Thanks to Carol McGrath for introducing Lynn to Friendship Force; they met when they were on a local bus tour, and Carol made sure she knew about us. Lynn is clearly a believer in making friends, and she is hoping to join our domestic outbound journey later this year.

## JANUARY MEETING

At our first meeting of the year, Suzi Gossard passed the gavel on to new president Susanna Garner. Suzi also presented the “Most Valuable Member” award to Carol McGrath. Carol is currently our Club Treasurer. She was the Ambassador coordinator for our club’s journey to New Hampshire Seacoast and is in the process of coordinating our club journey to Indonesia!

Marcia Ross moderated our program of brainstorming ideas of activities for incoming Ambassadors. Each table came up answers to the following questions:

1. What NEW ideas or activities do you have that we might consider incorporating on our itinerary for an inbound Journey?
2. What interesting and fun activities have you experienced on another club’s itinerary that would work here that we might consider replicating?
3. If you haven’t participated on a journey committee, an outbound journey or home hosted, what broad questions do you have about being a successful inbound home host or an outbound ambassador?
4. As a seasoned journey participant, what are your best tips and pointers for being a great home host or ambassador?

The answers will be very helpful in planning our upcoming Journeys!

## FEBRUARY CLEO

After a delicious chili and cornbread lunch at Ken and Paulette's on Wednesday, February 25, we went to the LINC Library Innovation Center.

The manager, Melissa Beavers, gave us an extensive tour. The LINC library is a 62,000 square foot building built at the old Greeley Tribune site in downtown Greeley. The newly constructed state-of-the-art building features fully equipped makerspaces with 3D printers, laser engravers, die-cut machines, and a UV printer, as well as industrial spaces with woodworking equipment such as a CNC router, a table saw, a planer, a lathe, and much more. Patrons can also reserve and use the innovation classrooms, art studio, recording studio, and podcast studio.

The children's library features a hobbit door welcoming families into the Storytime room. Other kids and teens can take advantage of the gaming room. The High Plains Library District's Local History and Genealogy collection is also housed at LINC.

There is no shortage of community spaces in the building. There are study rooms, meeting rooms, collaboration spaces, computer classrooms, and general classrooms. The event space holds 193 people and contains 2 projectors & large screens. There are 60 computers available throughout the building and a materials collection with more than 100,000 items. A community catalyst for workforce development, STEM education, and future innovation, LINC is a place where creativity and possibility come to life.

What is unusual about LINC is that everything is free! There is no membership fee, no fee for the use of computers, wi-fi, or any equipment. All you need is your library card!

--Pam Morrison



Photo Studio



Projected Floor Art in Motion



Collaborative Space

# FEBRUARY MEETING

FFNC members who traveled east on the outbound journey to Seacoast New Hampshire and the extended journey to the Canadian Maritimes shared highlights of their experiences through slides and descriptions.

Four people used Caravan Tours starting September 7 in Halifax, Nova Scotia featuring a harbor tour in a Duck Boat, tour of the Maritime Museum, and a 1915 lighthouse in picturesque Peggys' Cove. In the Bay of Fundy, they experienced a 15-foot tidal bore! On to PEI (Prince Edward Island) via the Confederation Bridge to tour the Anne of Green Gables house and museum. Stops in Charlotte and Cape Breton Island included a boat ride on a large lake where the captain tossed frozen fish in the air attracting eagles.

On September 15 all ambassadors met their home hosts in Dover, founded in 1624, where cotton and woolen mills were converted to apartments. Other features of the area included "Castle in the Clouds" built in 1913 on 5300 acres and featuring a view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Wolfeboro is famed as the oldest US summer resort. They visited the Wright World War II Museum that features exhibits not only of the battlefront, but also of the home front.

They visited the New Hampshire capitol in Concord and Shaker Village featuring fine craftsmanship and music. Coastal Maine Day featured Fort McClary and York Village. The Nubble Lighthouse was built in 1879. A Portsmouth Harbor cruise provided fabulous sunsets! The visit to Lebanon, Maine, included craft activities and a classic New England Clambake complete with clams, shrimp, and lobster. Each person had a whole lobster and was taught how to crack it open.

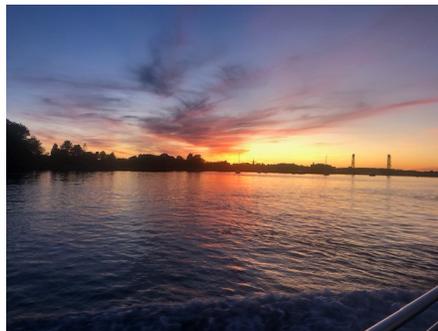
One of the favorite aspects of this outbound journey was the opportunity to meet so many of the members through daily trips with day hosts, a different carload each day. It is a feature that FFNC could try to replicate. --Cathie McCallum



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse



Concord Capitol



Portsmouth Harbor Cruise



Lobster Boil



Smallest Suspension Bridge in World



Nubble Lighthouse

# JOURNEYS

The journey to **Indonesia**, August 5th through the 20th, is well into the planning stages. There are 3 moving parts that include: a 5-night journey to the island of Borneo, a 5-night journey to the island of Java, and a 4-day Javanese Culture Festival, on the same island, in Yogyakarta. Applications will be sent to those interested, in this packed journey, in March.

Please contact Carol McGrath if you are interested and have not already done so.

It's time to start planning for our inbound journey from **New Hampshire Seacoast**; Several of you have signed up to be on the planning committee but we can use more volunteers for hosting and day hosting. Please contact Marilyn Garner if you are willing to help.

## REGIONAL RENDEZVOUS

October 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 in Estes Park, Colorado  
YMCA of the Rockies

**Share Ideas, Experiences & Stories**

Morning sessions to include: Member Recruitment, Club Development, Accessing FFI Resources & Creating Community Partnerships

Afternoons free – to visit Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park, or to join group activities

Monday evening Welcome Buffet & Wednesday Farewell Dinner with Program

Total cost for lodge room, breakfasts & shared dinners under \$425

**Deposit of \$50 Due March 31<sup>st</sup>**

GREATER DENVER    NORTHERN COLORADO    PIKES PEAK UTAH  
CHEYENNE    NEW MEXICO    WESTERN COLORADO

**PRESIDENT: Susanna Garner**

**VICE PRESIDENT: Rocky Padden**

**SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Sue Cummins**

**TREASURER: Carol McGrath**