



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Martlyn Garner,
Editor

November
December
2025

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

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President's Notes

Dear FFNC Members,

Happy Fall! The cooler weather is refreshing, and the leaves are almost all gone. I hope you had a chance to enjoy the autumn colors in the mountains; they were spectacular! It's hard to believe that 2025 is nearly over and the holidays are upon us.



As Ken Weaver has been informing us, Jeremi Snook and the FFI Board have been hard at work developing a three-year strategic plan to take Friendship Force forward into the future. The club has been struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic, and they have worked hard on a plan to move us forward, continuing our mission of building a world of peace, one friendship at a time.

We have already seen some of the changes. Last month, we were able to share an introduction to the plan at our meeting as Ken shared a video from Jeremi Snook. We also took part in a pre and post journey survey for our most recent journey to New Hampshire as FFI tries to quantify the impact our journeys make. We also participated in the first module being developed by FFI in Citizen Diplomacy, presented by Caid Law. As president, I have seen a lot more support from FFI to the local clubs. FFI is making a serious effort to revitalize the organization. We will be sharing the plan with you at our next meeting on November 14, followed by a fun game night. Don't forget to bring your favorite game!

On the local scene, don't forget our Holiday Social coming up on December 12. The committee, led by Susanna Garner, is hard at work to make it special. It's sure to be a fun event and a great opportunity to get to know other club members better. Look for details in this newsletter. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

Look for other happenings in this newsletter. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on November 14, 7:00 PM, at the ElderHaus!

In friendship,
Suzi Gossard

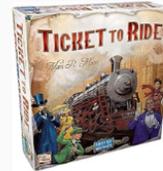
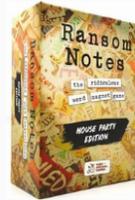
Next Meeting

November 14,
2025
Elderhaus
6813 S. College
7pm

November 14 Meeting

At our November Meeting we will learn about how FFI engaged an international marketing firm to help us articulate our mission as a movement for peace and understanding—focusing on why we exist, not just how we operate. Changes in 2026 will help Friendship Force not just to survive, but to thrive and expand our impact.

Following this discussion will be a game night! Bring your favorite game and we'll play!.



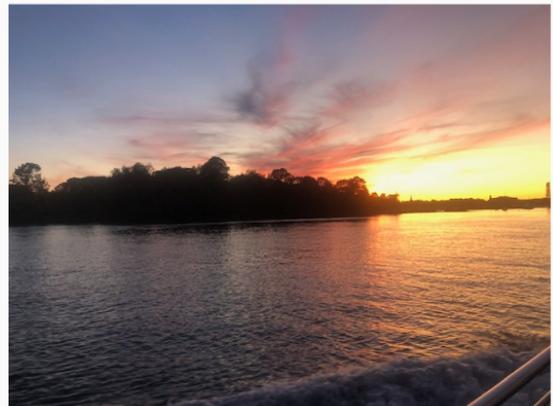
December 12 Holiday Party



This year's Holiday Party will be on Friday, December 12th at Elderhaus in Fort Collins.

**Please RSVP if you plan to attend.
Susanna Garner (970) 581-7776 or satiada@gmail.com**

January Meeting



Join us in January as our Ambassadors share the amazing time we had in New Hampshire in September!



September Program



Nancy was employed by a high school district in California for 35 years. During that time she did fund raisers by having fashion shows and since she has an interest in fashion and costumes from the early 1900's, she started collecting hats and dresses from that Era. Her interest in hats began in 2nd grade when her grandmother bought her a dressing table. She started collecting hats when her grandmother gave her a hat and her grandfather had a collapsible black top hat that she added to her collection. She also has a cute black riding hat that belonged to Audrey Hepburn.

When she retired from the school district and the middle school was studying the Civil War; they decided to have a Civil War Ball and all 200 8th graders were required to go in costume or else write a report. Most wanted to go to the Ball and therefore needed a costume. Nancy started collecting 1980's dresses, adding lace and big petticoats to look like the Civil War era. A little cape that women wore around their shoulders was called Bertha Lace since it had lace on the edges. It could be worn with any dress and changed from one to another.

Halloween was an especially busy time of year because the students and adults wanted costumes for the parties they were attending. Nancy rented out her costumes and says *The Great Gatsby* was the most popular.

She did fund raisers with fashion shows and it took two months to arrange and put it all together with the models to be fitted for their sizes and have everything run smoothly.

In the early 1920's women got rid of corsets, big heavy skirts, big hairdos, and hat pins, and cut their hair short. They wore short skirts—The Flapper Era. Next came the shift dress and who could forget the Poodle skirt! That all started when someone needed a new skirt, couldn't sew; so bought some felt and cut a hole in the middle and put a dog applique on the skirt and started a new fashion. Everyone wanted one and the Beverly Hills shop that put one in the window sold out all their skirts.

The 1970's brought in the Gunne Sax dress which was a favorite of many teens and ladies. These dresses were perfect to use for costumes so Nancy started adding them to her collection.

When Nancy retired she donated all her costume collection to a Christian school in her neighborhood. The high schoolers run the costume rental program which is connected to the Art and Theatre Program at the school. They are getting practical experience in running a business and continuing Nancy's legacy.

Submitted by Rosemary Donovan

October Program



Caid Law, a Communications Assistant for Friendship Force International, graciously presented an Introduction to Global Citizenship & Citizen Diplomacy at our most recent club meeting. He shared the timely [video message](#) (Click on the link to watch) received from FFI CEO Jeremi Snook, and helped us understand both the urgency and opportunity we have as members to engage and participate going forward with these ideas. Caid is developing comprehensive training modules, including Conflict & Peace Making, Global Citizenship as both a traveler and a host, as well as many other areas that will educate members as we incorporate our Friendship Force values to travel and to our communication with others. Our local club members are extremely interested in supporting Caid and his project, and we are energized and ready to move forward to use our journey experiences, both past and future, to make a difference in the movement for peace.

Why Your Membership Matters

When you renew your membership with Friendship Force, you're doing more than putting your name on our list- you're helping sustain a movement that has connected tens of thousands of people across borders for nearly 50 years.

From the very beginning, our membership dues have existed to sustain the mission - to keep Friendship Force strong and active, and able to change peoples' lives through cultural understanding. Yet over time, as we and the world have evolved, it's understandable that some of our members began to think of dues in more transactional terms; in other words, wondering what their fees get them directly. That's a natural question, especially when so many aspects of life today are framed as services or subscriptions. But in truth, Friendship Force's dues are something more enduring: a shared investment in a mission that benefits us all.

Your membership dues are what fuel this work: nurturing new clubs, supporting volunteers and leaders, igniting new initiatives, and ensuring that our global network remains vibrant and effective for future generations.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION



The newest members of Friendship Force Northern Colorado and their member mentors participated in a New Member orientation on October 27, 2026. Attendees Alice Austin/mentor Susan Mathre, Jamie Gales/mentor Elizabeth McCoy, Ginger Bible/mentor Nancy Benson, Karen Danbom/mentor LaDonna Palm (represented by Rocky Padden), Lynn Hogan/mentor Carol McGrath, and former Membership Chairperson Cathie McCallum all participated in the meeting facilitated by Marcia Ross. Participants watched a short video overview of the mission and overarching concept of Friendship Force International. They then received more detailed information regarding Friendship jargon, participation in inbound/outbound journeys, how to get signed up for a journey, various ways to support and participate in FFNC, home hosting responsibilities and the importance of the health and mobility check sheets. Everyone seemed to enjoy the chance to learn more general information about FFI and FFNC, how to get involved in our local and in FFI journeys, and the chance to converse with each other in an informal setting. We welcome our newest members and are excited with their enthusiasm and energy!

CLEO

Cleo in January will be at Rocky's house. There will be pizza and a discussion on Travel Savvy--Tips on buying tickets, packing, being a good ambassador, etc.

Journeys & Events

Austin/Dallas Outbound

March 22 - 29 &
March 29- April 3, 2026

Contact Susan Mathre

Banjarmasin and
Surabaya, Indonesia
July/August??, 2026

Contact Carol McGrath

Inbound 2026

New Hampshire Seacoast

CLEO

TRAVEL SAVVY
January 21, 2026
at Rocky's house

2025 Officers & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT: Suzi Gossard
VICE PRESIDENT: Susanna Garner
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Cinda Clark
TREASURER: Carol McGrath

Journey Director: Marilyn Garner
Meeting Greeters: Gerry and Ann Loader
Meeting Hospitality: Elizabeth McCoy
Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan
Membership: Marcia Ross
Membership Booklet: Suzi Gossard
Newsletter Reporters Coordinator: Suzi Gossard
Newsletter Editors/Publishers:

Sue Cummins
Marilyn Garner
Cathie McCallum

Programs/CLEO: Rocky Padden
Social Activities: Rocky Padden, Pam Morrison
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: Nancy Benson
Website: Rick Lohmeyer

If you are willing to help with any position, please contact Suzi Gossard, 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

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 for broad information about Friendship Force and to my.friendshipforce.org for information specific to members and secure for sharing personal information needed for journey registration.