



friendship force
WESTERN COLORADO

Facebook: Friendship Force Western Colorado
Web: ffwcolo.com



February 2023

EDITOR: REBEKAH McDERMOTT


Inside the Cover:

- **Monthly Council Meeting:**
February 7, 2023 9:00am
Karen Taylor's Home
- **Sat, Feb 18th 12:00noon**
"The Icicle Twist"
Murder Mystery Lunch—\$5/person
+ bring your favorite winter dish
- **Day Trip. Fri., Feb 24th**
"Let's Walk" (p6)

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL
AN AMAZON RIVER ADVENTURE

6:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 6
Central Library (443 N. 6th St.)

This month Mike Perry, former Executive Director of the Museums of Western Colorado, will share highlights of his 5-day adventure down the Amazon from Iquitos, Peru as an invited guest of the Peruvian government.

 **Mesa County LIBRARIES**
visit mesacountylibraries.org

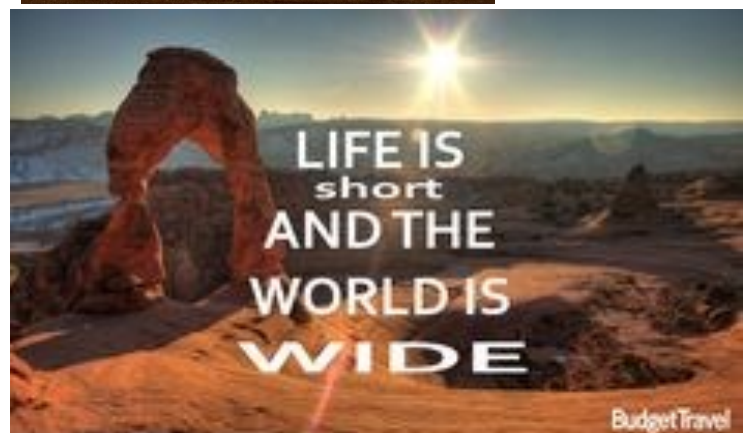
Dan & DJ have attended some of these "Armchair Travel" presentations and highly recommend them.

The Library is providing a wonderful opportunity for you to "travel".

Why not attend this free event?

February Birthdays

8 Sue Palmer
18 Judy Eddins
10 Colleen Anderson
25 Rhonda Conradson
25 Georgia Ray



COUNCIL LEADER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Adventurers.

2023 has begun and our calendar reveals a delightful mix of day trips, journeys and events.

If you missed the January meeting make note of these three items:

1) With so many activities in the works I passed out a member survey to be filled out by everyone. As they say, many hands make for light work. Your participation and ideas are most welcome. See the sign up table at the February meeting to fill yours out.

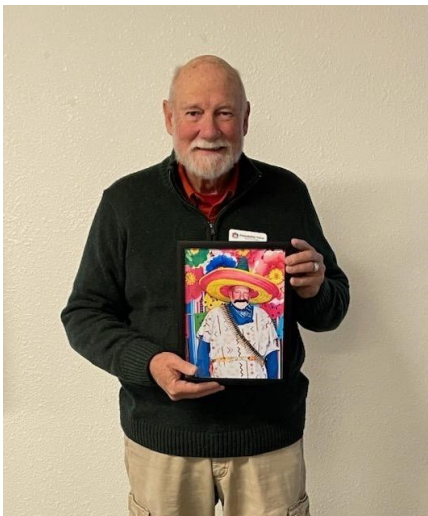
2) Many thanks to Dan who showed us how to navigate my.friendship.org. FFI has been working hard to make this portal a true resource for members. And if you're ready to travel be sure to check out the journeys with open slots.

3) We welcomed five visitors with three joining our group. Look for more info by email. Welcome to Susan, Jeanette, and Susan!

Ah, February. A time for murder...mystery that is. If you haven't signed up yet to attend our February event contact Rebekah. It's going to require all our wits to figure out "who done it" And note the time change for this event. The lunch and detective work begin precisely at noon.

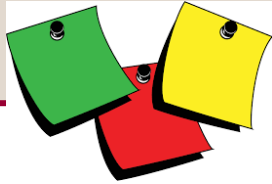
In this month that celebrates lovers allow me to celebrate you. Life here on the Western Slope is delightful because you're along for the journey. Let me be the first to tell you today, You are loved.

In Friendship,
Nancy



Bob Zaha presented these memory photos to Dan, Nancy and Rebekah after the Jan 21st meeting. Dan's photo represents all the "hat's" he wore during his 3 year term as Council Leader. Nancy's is to welcome her as she steps into the role from Dan. And Bob captured the perfect picture of Rebekah at one of the events—talking, directing, etc.

Thank you Bob for beginning 2023 with this fond look back, forward look and fun look.



Council Notes

Karen Taylor, Publicity, was able once again to get pictures in the newspaper. This picture of Dan passing the leadership gavel to Nancy was in the “You Saw It” section of the local paper.

The New York Times published its “52 Places to Go” list for 2023, highlighting cities and regions from around the world that travelers should consider visiting this year. Grand Junction placed 45th right between Madrid, Spain and La Guajira, Columbia. This is an honor.



Rebekah McDermott, Membership: The January 2023 Council voted to revise the membership dues time period.

- New time period for dues—January 1—December 31 of each year.
- Preferred final dues payment date is Dec 15th.
- Any dues paid after December 31 will incur a \$5.00 penalty.
- Dues cost in 2024 will increase from \$45 to \$50 per person due to FFI's increase.

The 2022 members who did not renew are: Sandy Nesbitt, Gertraud Jones, Jennifer Swayne, Jim & Barb Gardner, Judy Simon and Alan & Lea Rothberg. Reasons were varied and none were dissatisfied with the club.

We enjoyed 5 visitors at the January 21st meeting. And all 5 joined FFWC. Look for a separate email with their bios and pictures.

Membership Directories will be ready for pick up at the February 18th event

Dan Clancy/Rebekah McDermott, Events Coordinators: 25 members and 5 visitors were present for the Jan 21st meeting. Nancy presided over her first meeting with grace, humor, right-to-the-point details and the reaction was lots of smiles and laughter. Dan's presentation on how to navigate my.friendshipforce.org was spot on. By using a projector, everyone could easily see the entire program and follow his instructions. The room set up enhanced visibility and note taking. A BIG THANKS to Judy Eddins for her clever savory snack presentation.

Come to the **“Icicle Twist Murder Mystery”** lunch Sat. Feb 18th, 12 noon. Bringing your favorite winter dish to share and \$5 gets you a delicious meal, lots of fellowship, plenty of laughs and your own opportunity to say “WHO DONE IT”. If you haven't already signed up for the Day Trip Feb 24th, you can do that at the lunch also.

The first day trip of 2023 was to Reynolds Polymer Technology and The Atomic Legacy Cabin. After enjoying a hearty breakfast at First Watch on 1st & Patterson, the group made their way to the first stop. Comments made after touring were “WOW”, “AWESOME”, “PERFECT”, “HOW CAN THEY CREATE SOMETHING SO MAGNIFICENT”, ‘CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS”.

Reynolds Polymer Technology: Make The Impossible Possible

Through advanced casting, bonding, design and engineering, **Reynolds Polymer** Technology sets the standards in acrylic technology worldwide.



This fish tank is one small example of their production capabilities.

This is a site worth visiting again and sharing with inbound journeys.



The Atomic Legacy Cabin presents the history of uranium mining and processing on the Colorado Plateau, as well as Grand Junction's unique contribution to the Manhattan Project and the Cold War. Exhibits also detail environmental cleanup and the continuing management of legacy sites by the U.S. Department of Energy.



Sugar Beet Factory, Uranium Mill + Warehouse

Grand Junction's sugar beet factory has been lots of things over the last 122 years. First a sugar beet factory, then a uranium mill, and now it's a warehouse for the City of Grand Junction.



And all said the day was Terrific!

Proposed FFWC 2023 Events Calendar

Changes in Red
Updated: 1/21/2023

<p>January</p> <p>1/03 - Council Meeting – New and Old members attend 1/21 - General Meeting – MY.FRIENDSHIPFORCE.ORG presentation, see how to navigate our site.</p> <p>1/26(Thurs) - Day Trip – Breakfast, Reynolds Polymer plastic fabrication company, Atomic Legacy Cabin</p>	<p>February</p> <p>2/07 - Council Meeting 2/18 – Murder Mystery Party Luncheon– The Icicle Twist Murder at a ski resort.</p> <p>2/24(Fri) –Day Trip– “Let’s Walk”: Fruita Paleo Trail and Lunch</p>
<p>March</p> <p>3/07 - Council Meeting 3/18(Sat) - General Meeting – 10am Breakfast, Presentation – “My Trip to somewhere” by someone.</p> <p>3/24(Fri) – Day Trip– Dinosaur National Monument and Vernal, UT.</p>	<p>April</p> <p>4/04 - Council Meeting 4/14(Fri) – Day Trip – Local Tours: Leitner-Poma chairlifts and cable systems, Lunch, Suncrest Orchard Alpaca Farm 4/23 – 5/06 – OUTBOUND JOURNEY: KNOXVILLE, TN & SHELBY, NC</p>
<p>May</p> <p>5/09 – Council Meeting (moved a week because of members who may be on outbound journey) 5/13 (Sat) – BookFair @ Barnes & Noble, 9am–7pm</p> <p>5/20(Sat) - General Meeting – “Summer” Picnic at a local Park Shelter 5/25(Thurs) – Day Trip – Rifle Falls & Fish Hatchery Lunch at Lazy Bear, New Castle</p>	<p>June</p> <p>6/06 - Council Meeting 6/11 – 6/17 - INBOUND – KNOXVILLE, TN</p> <p>6/28 (Thurs) – Day Trip – Grand Mesa drive, Cedaredge lunch, downtown shopping, and Appleshed Gallery</p>
<p>July</p> <p>7/4-8 – PROPOSED: 3 night Inbound from Cornwall, England. Drive to Grand Lake to pick them up. 7/11 - Council Meeting (Moved due to Holiday) 7/15(Sat) - General Meeting / Program OPEN 7/27 (Thurs) to 7/28 (Fri) – 1-night Overnight Trip – Aspen Music Festival, John Denver Sanctuary, Stay in Snowmass; Marble & BBQ lunch</p>	<p>August</p> <p>8/01 - Council Meeting 8/3-7 - PROPOSED: Northern CO 4 night Outbound. Includes joining Cheyenne and FFNC club summer picnic. 8/19(Sunday) - Ice Cream Social – inside at Church 8/24 (Thurs.) - Day Trip – Telluride, Gondola to top, Lunch in Mountain Village</p>
<p>September</p> <p>9/05 - Council Meeting 9/12(Tuesday) – Grand Mesa Road Cleanup</p> <p>9/10 – 9/16 - INBOUND – SHELBY, NC (Welcome or Farewell Party includes “My Favorite Casserole”.) 9/16 - General Meeting – Program OPEN No Day Trip</p>	<p>October</p> <p>10/2 – 10/5 – World Conference in Croatia</p> <p>10/10 - Council Meeting (Moved a week due to members being at World Conference) 10/27(Fri) – Day Trip – To be determined</p>
<p>November</p> <p>11/07 - Council Meeting 11/18 - General Meeting – Election of 2024 Officers, Review of World Conference activities. No Day Trip</p>	<p>December</p> <p>12/02(Saturday) - Christmas Party, 4pm 12/05 - Council Meeting 12/17 (Sun) - Book Fair Fundraiser, Barnes & Noble No Day Trip</p>

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WESTERN COLORADO DAY TRIP



Paleo Loop Trail



Skinner Cabin

ACTIVITY: **Walking Tour:** Paleo Loop Trail, Skinner Cabin, Lunch in Fruita
Leave 9:30am - Return 3:00pm

DATE: **FRIDAY**, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

TIMES: _____ **DESTINATION / ACTIVITY:** _____

9:30am	Meet at the Dinosaur Museum parking lot in Fruita, I-70 exit #19. Park at the east side near the street.	
9:45am-10:00am	Drive to Paleo Loop Trail, McInnes Canyon Nature Preserve	(15 min)
10:00a – 12:00a	Leisurely Walk on the Paleo Trail	(2.0 HRS)
12:00p – 12:15pm	Drive to Lunch location	(15 min)
12:30p – 2:30pm	Lunch	(2.0 HR)
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Drive back to the Dinosaur Museum parking lot.	(15 min)

CONTACT: For more information or to sign up for this Day Trip, please contact:

Dan Clancy	dpcx2@outlook.com	Phone – 404-414-0642
Rebekah McDermott	rebekahmcdermott@gmail.com	Phone - 214-536-2250

- COVID-19 allowances:
 - > Participants must be fully vaccinated.
 - > Bring your mask.
 - > Masks optional inside car and may be required at some stops along the way.
- Cars will hold maximum of 4 people.

JOURNEYS NEWS: STATUS and UPDATES

Updated: **1/27/23**

Updates in RED

2023

INBOUND from Knoxville, TN - #23192

- Ambassador Coordinators: **Rebekah McDermott and Nancy Wood**
- Status: Dates: June 11 - 17
- Update: This is a reciprocal journey after having hosted FFWC in May.

INBOUND from Shelby, NC - #23227

- Ambassador Coordinator: **OPEN**
- Status: Dates: **September 10 - 16.**
- Update: **Date has been changed since it was too close to the World Conference date.**

OUTBOUND to Knoxville, TN / Shelby, NC - #23166

- Ambassador Coordinator: **Nancy Wood and Sue Moyer**
- Status: Dates: From 4/23 to 5/6.
- Update: Arrive Knoxville 4/23, to Shelby on 4/29-30, depart Shelby 5/6. Itinerary completed.
Journey is FULL.

OUTBOUND to Napa/Sonoma, CA - #22511

- Ambassador Coordinator: **Sue Moyer**
- Status: Dates to be determined
- Update: **We may be invited to join a Napa Journey with a club in NW Ohio. This journey may be combined with a journey to Oregon as well. This journey is in the beginning planning stages.**

2024

INBOUND from Tokyo, Japan - #22501

- Host Coordinator: **Ron Bradley**
- Status: Postponed to June 2024 from June, 2020.

INBOUND from New Hampshire Seacoast - #23203

- Ambassador Coordinator: **OPEN**
- Status: Dates: September 8-15, 2024.
- Update: Assigned by FFI in "It's A Match" program. Communication with NH is being picked up by Dan.

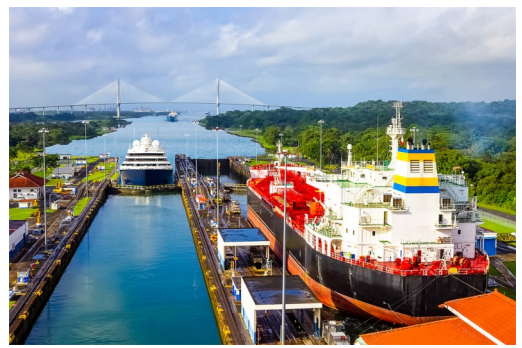
OUTBOUND - Being decided by FFI Matching process. We will be notified in April what we are assigned.

The club Vote on outbound destinations, one domestic and one international, at the January General Meeting on 1/21/23, resulted in an international outbound request for the United Kingdom, first choice, and Germany, second choice. The domestic request awarded will be somewhere in the mainland United States.

Future Journey Plans

Received invitation from Lake Simcoe, Ontario to come visit their club.

After the inbound Western Kentucky journey, received invites for future outbound journeys to Western Kentucky and Tucson clubs.



Panama City Adventure (after the Costa Rica Exchange) – Shirley Schultz and Sue Palmer

After the Alajuela FF Farewell Party, Shirley and I headed for our last week of adventure to see the Panama Canal. February 28, 2013 at 11 pm, we boarded the Tica Bus in San Jose'. The bus ride was definitely an experience – long trip (14 hours)! The bus did have its advantages; a bus attendant (similar to an airline attendant) was on the bus to serve cold drinks; hot tea or coffee; cookies and 2 meals. We stopped at a small town by a MacDonald's; I saw a guy carrying a big box heading towards our bus. Our attendant brought the box on board and served each passenger a **BIG MAC** and orange pop. (I can't remember the last time I had a Big Mac). We were also served a breakfast which consisted of a sandwich; cookies; chips. The driving time on the Panama Highway was approximately 10 hours.

The remainder of the 4 hours was spent in customs when crossing from Costa Rica to Panama City. It was a long process with several hours of showing passports and handling your luggage for a security check. We arrived at the border at 4:30 am and waited for the Customs Office to open at 6 or 6:30 am (Costa Rica time)? Along the highway we were stopped several times by the border patrol coming on board and checking passports. Shirley and I were the only Americans on the bus, we were pleasantly surprised by how respectful they were to Shirley. The other passengers would let Shirley and I go first in line to the custom offices.

We arrived in Panama City on March 1, 2013 at 3 pm; we stayed in a good location downtown in a 2 bedroom apartment.

The 6 days in Panama included a fascinating tour of the Panama Canal on a local tour bus. We boarded the Pacific Queen Tour boat; we were able to see the entire process of how the Canal operates, as we traveled through the locks and entered the Pacific Ocean. It took 10 years to complete the canal and it was in full operation by 1914. Today it still operates on the same system since its completion in 1914. It's a marvel and all Americans should be proud of the job accomplished by the US.

Panama Canal employs over 10,000 employees and its 76% of the Panama City's revenue.

We toured the museum and saw a presentation on the history of the canal. Each day we took the "On & Off" City Tour bus, so we could enjoy seeing the city of Panama is a BIG CITY with skyscrapers and exclusive shopping centers. Panama City is a very prosperous and beautiful city.

March 6, we boarded the Tica Bus to return to Costa Rica (another 14 hours of fun and adventure)! We returned to our US home on March 8 – glad to be home but savoring all the memories.

P.S. After you read this article – next time you see Shirley Shultz or Sue Palmer ask them About the bathroom facilities on the Tica Bus and the late night walk!!!!!!!!!!

Panama City Adventure (cont)



Panama City Skyscrapers



On the Tour boat



Sue with Shirley at a wonderful restaurant in Panama City



Shirley on the last night in Panama!

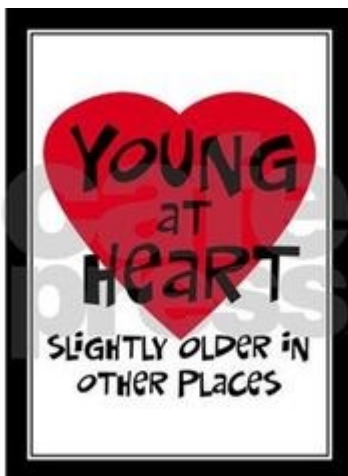
THANK YOU SUE PALMER FOR SHARING WITH US THIS TRIP!!!!



If you throw your hands in the air like you just don't care, make sure you put your coffee cup down first.



Never do anything that you wouldn't want to have to explain to the paramedics.



Doing crunches twice a day now. Captain in the morning, Nestle in the afternoon

I know I shouldn't have done this, but I am 83 years old and I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning and the young lady behind me leaned on her horn and started mouthing something because I was taking too long to place my order. So when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own. The cashier must have told her what I'd done, because as we moved up she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed "Thank you.", obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with kindness. When I got to the second window I showed them both receipts and took her food too. Now she has to go back to the end of the queue and start all over again, Don't blow your horn at old people, they have been around a long time. 🤔😅🙄👴🍔🍟☕



And this one about McDonald's is from Karen Taylor.



Share your interests with other members.

What types of stories would you like to see featured in the newsletter? Are you interested in interviewing our members for a featured article.? Do you have a story to share with us?

Send to rebekahmcdermott@gmail.com.

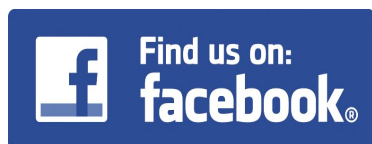
Deadline for your submissions is the 25th of each month.

Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force I recognize that I can make a difference.

I recognize that I have a mission; that mission is to be a friend to the people of the world.

As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me.



**Friendship Force International
Western Colorado Chapter
P.O. Box 3665
Grand Junction, CO 81502
www.ffwcolo.com**

ABOUT THE CLUB

Friendship Force Western Colorado, located in Grand Junction, CO., was formed in 1982.

General meetings are held at New Covenant Baptist Church, 3196 F Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81504 . 2:00pm, 3rd Saturday on odd months.

Membership is open to all who are interested in the goals and purposes of the Friendship Force program.

Check our website or the newsletter for updates.