



friendship force
WESTERN COLORADO



www.ffwcolo.com

April 2021

Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Board Meeting: April 6, 2021 9:00am via Zoom. Contact Ellen Bradley at meb712002@yahoo.com for link to join meeting.
- Look for details about our first in-person event in the May Newsletter.

Inside These Pages

- Leader's Message
- Jokes & Laughter
- Verna Bunn shares of her years with FF
- Visual Travel trip
- Sue Palmer—FFI
- Leadership Info



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colorado

April Fools' Day Around the World

1. April is celebrated throughout the world with jokes, pranks and some interesting local traditions. International eCommerce shipper MyUS salutes its members around the globe – and their sense of humor – on one of the most light-hearted days of the year.

Italy, France & Belgium
A popular April Fools' tradition in these countries involves taping a paper fish to someone's back. This 'April fish' symbolizes a young, gullible person, or easily caught fish.

Denmark
On 1 April 1965, a Danish newspaper reported in jest on a proposed new law that would require all black dogs to be painted white. Why? To increase road safety by making the dogs easier to see at night.

Germany
German automaker BMW has a history of fake April Fools' ads promoting everything from road warmers and a self-cleaning car to the Postnatal Royal Auto Mobile (PRAM).

Greece
In Thraki, a region in Northern Greece, rain that falls on 1 April is believed to be therapeutic. It is collected in bottles and saved to drink when someone is sick.

Poland
In Poland, people don't take anything that happens on 1 April seriously. This conviction is so strong that the anti-Turkish alliance with Leopold I, signed on 1 April 1683, was backdated to 31 March.

Portugal
Portuguese revelers celebrate a two-day version of April Fools' on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. The prank of choice? Throwing flour on one another.

Scotland
The Scottish two-day celebration includes Hunt the Gowk day, where friends are sent on 'fool's errands'. On the following Taily Day, 'kick me' signs abound, as well as other posterior jokes.

India
On 1 April 2015, Indian taxi cab company Ola got in on the fun by tweeting out its revolutionary new concept, OlaAir – a helicopter cab service.

United Kingdom
In the UK, joking ends at noon, and the victims of pranks are called 'noodles'. Anyone playing a prank after midday is considered an April Fool.

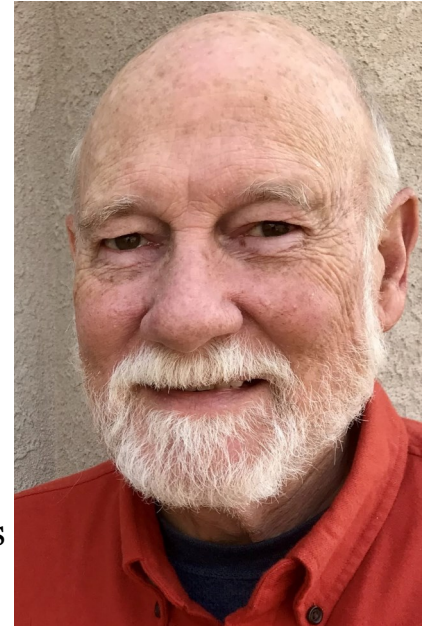
MyUS.com

April Birthdays

6 Claudia Kellar
22 Verna Bunn
30 Jennifer Swayne



Council Leader's Message



Hello Western Colorado members,

We've made it to Springtime! The days are longer, green growth is coming up through the soil, and Covid-19 vaccinations for many people are completed. The past two general meetings on Zoom were lightly attended, so it was decided at the March general membership meeting that there will not be a general meeting in April. We will discuss at the next council meeting the possibility of having an in-person general meeting in May. Hopefully by then, we should have a good idea of what the schedule of events will be for the rest of 2021. I expect we will have a summer picnic and ice cream social since these are outside events and members should feel safe meeting outside.

Friendship Force International is continuing to enhance their website with online activities and for club news. They have developed a simple tool that will eventually house all member resources and exclusive member-only content. The minimum information you need to sign up is your name, club name and your email address. All club members should do this.

Even though we have not had a regular year of club activities in 2020, our club is strong. And FFI and clubs around the country and the world are strong. We are all rebounding with vaccinations and pointing toward a great 2022.

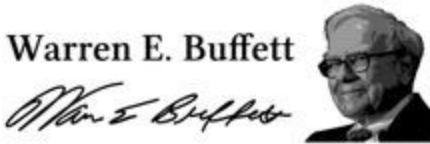
Stay safe,

Dan

Laughter is Good Medicine!

"I could end the deficit in 5 minutes. You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for re-election."

Warren E. Buffett



When you're at the checkout line and they ask you if you found everything, say, "Why, are you hiding stuff?"

How to frighten the new generation:

Put them in a room with a rotary phone, an analog watch, and a TV with no remote. Then leave directions on how to use in cursive.



ONE DAY, TWITTER, YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK WILL JOIN TOGETHER, AND BE CALLED YOUTWITFACE.

At our age, we can hide our own Easter Eggs, wait half hour, and have no clue where we put them



Until further notice, the days of the week are now called, thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, yesterday, today & nextday.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.



Laughter is an instant vacation.

- Milton Berle

WOMEN WORKING

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Co-Chairs: Rebekah McDermott &
Claudia Kellar

Hello Fellow Members. As we are beginning the 2nd quarter of 2021, we can put behind us a year of “being in suspense”. Suspended from gathering, from eating out, from visiting with family, etc.

Many of you have already begun enjoying the freedoms of restriction lifting, plus the beautiful spring weather.

Claudia Kellar and her family spent Spring Break in Denver where the gals shopped and the boys had fun at various play Areas.

Some of our members have traveled across state borders to be with family—Sue Moyer was so thankful to see her grandchildren (and other family members also) in Texas.

Still others of us have “enjoyed” visiting with medical personnel as we get checkups, our vaccines and keep ourselves healthy.

Whatever you are doing, remember to share about FFI. If you need handouts, let me know and I will mail them to you.

So until we meet in person (hopefully in May) **Plant a garden of new acquaintances and reap a harvest of FRIENDS!!!**





Memories from a long time member of FFI. "It's the best kept secret in Mesa County!"

Verna Bunn, 30+ year member, enjoying a FF Coffee with some of the new members.

My name is Verna Bunn and I joined Friendship Force in the late eighties. I had met a man in McDonald's talking about a group coming in from Germany and I thought it sounds like fun to be able to host and meet someone from another country.

I hosted a wonderful lady who even later invited me to Germany to visit right after the wall came down because her family's property edged the wall. Unfortunately, I was unable to go at that time but it would have been a life changing experience I'm sure. I continued being a member and hosted several people from different countries.

One couple enjoyed riding in the back of my Cadillac "to be like the rich folks" (his words, not mine). My husband and I hosted several other couples, some from Germany and other countries, and a young girl from Italy. We also enjoyed hosting and participating in exchanges within the US.

When I first joined I didn't think I would ever get to travel to any of these exciting places, but one time we had an exchange to the Netherlands and I got permission from work for a two week vacation. It was an eye opening experience; from biking to the ocean and seeing the beaches (didn't notice no tops on suits until I looked at pictures) to the tiny washing machine I used just prior to us leaving.

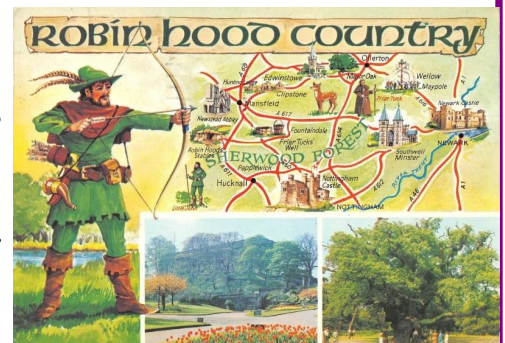
When leaving the Netherlands we went to England and stayed with a couple that we had hosted in GJ. We saw Sherwood Forest, were escorted through a special building by a prior Sheriff of Nottingham to view numerous items of the Queens. Then into the court area where we got to set in the big chair in front of the court.

Our hosts took me to an area where I found some of my ancestor's graves, one being my great, great grandmother's grave which was wonderful to find.

I have been able to go on several exchanges since, including Costa Rica, 2 trips to Australia, 3 to New Zealand, Orlando, Jacksonville, and Memphis, TN. I have hosted too many times to remember but enjoyed each and every one of them. I look forward to more exchanges both outgoing and incoming.

When ask what positions I have held in Friendship Force: I was president, treasurer, newsletter editor all for several years each. I have been both incoming and outgoing exchange director. I was on a by-laws committee for 3 different revisions, helped getting the website started and went through some lean years with Friendship Force. **It's the best kept secret in Mesa County, so let's tell everyone.**

I enjoy the friendships I have developed, and the exchanges are the best way to travel. It's always safe being with someone from that area, and you see how they live while making friends for life.



Friendship Force of Western Colorado

General Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021

Seven members attended this meeting using the Zoom platform.

Dan raised the question about whether we should continue to hold General Meetings monthly. It was agreed that we should skip April and plan to have an outdoor meeting on May 20, 2021. It was decided that a public park would be the best location. By then most members will have been vaccinated and will perhaps feel more comfortable meeting outside. Dan will discuss this decision with Rebecca.

Dan also said that it is likely we will be able to hold our summer picnic and ice cream social this year.

Ron had no updates regarding journeys. Dan brought up the idea of organizing a day trip to somewhere local in May or June. We could send out a questionnaire to find out how many people would be comfortable car-pooling for such an event.

Dan mentioned that FFI is getting more done on the website. There is a link called *MyFriendshipForce.org* with a form to fill out in order for members to sign up. He encouraged members to log on and fill out the questionnaire as soon as possible. Members should have received this invitation about two weeks ago.

Ken Weaver attended the meeting briefly to report that the club from southern New Jersey is still planning on visiting northern Colorado in late September or early October 2021. He again mentioned the possibility of Western Colorado members joining in.

Those present then shared activities they enjoy during the spring season. Most agreed that watching flowers and shrubs bloom is one of the many joys of the new season.

Dan showed a video called "The Frenchy", about an 82-year-old Frenchman living in Colorado who skis and mountain bikes. His optimistic outlook on life was an inspiration for all.

Dan concluded the meeting by reminding members to send material to Rebekah for the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

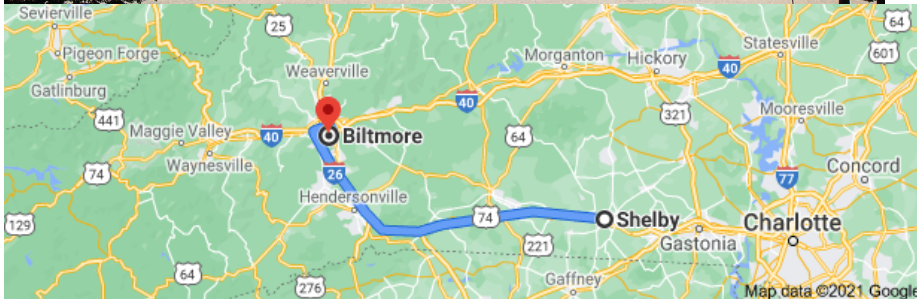
Ellen Bradley, Secretary



Visually preparing for travel (cont)

Shelby NC to Knoxville, TN.

Biltmore Estate , Ashville, NC.



When we visit the Shelby, NC club, if they do not plan on a trip to the Biltmore Estate, we owe it to ourselves to make that a priority.

From the below map, you can see it is on our way to Knoxville. The trip is a 90 minute drive from Shelby, NC

It takes a full day to properly see the Estate and grounds.



Gatlinburg, a mountain town in eastern Tennessee, is known as a gateway to the roughly 520,000-acre Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Many of its key attractions offer sweeping views of the neighboring park, including the 407-ft. Space Needle observation tower and the Sky Lift, a 2.1-mile aerial cable car that journeys from

Downtown to the popular amusement park and ski resort Ober Gatlinburg.



Visually preparing for travel

Continuing our Visual Journey from Shelby NC to Knoxville, TN



View from
the Space
Needle

While in Gatlinburg we'll take a trip to the Space Needle. My but the sights are breathtaking.....

Then a stop in

Pigeon Forge Christmas Village



and let's not forget



Knoxville, TN. Our final destination on this trip.

Knoxville, Tennessee, is proud to claim Daniel Boone, and has evolved into a multicultural community that embraces an array of interesting pastimes. Downtown Knoxville is full of interesting shops like the independent Union Ave Books and the old-time Mast General Store.



Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which are both within a 90-minute drive, are beautiful places to go for a hike, as is Ijams Nature Center, which is closer to downtown along the Tennessee River.



Sports enthusiasts will enjoy cheering on the minor league baseball Tennessee Smokies, the Knoxville Ice Bears professional hockey team and the much-hyped SEC-affiliated University of Tennessee Volunteers football and basketball teams. Knoxville even has a female roller derby team, the Hard Knox Roller Girls.



Our visual trip is over. Hope you enjoyed the journey
and are eager to see all of this in person!!

Thanks for joining me. Rebekah

Rocky Mountain Regional News --- March 28, 2021



Friendship Force International Redesigned web site:

What people currently see at <https://www.friendshipforce.org> is NOT the redesigned site nor is it displaying the new FFI branding. Historically, our web site has served a dual purpose holding all member/club leader-relevant information providing information to any prospective member.



ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF ---

my.friendshipforce.org (member online access tool)

This new website allows for the separation of these two information sources. Staff, volunteers and programmers have been pouring over the web site deciding the migration schedule for moving member/club leader-relevant content from the web site to my.friendshipforce.org.

AFTER member/club leader-relevant information is moved from the web site to my.friendshipforce.org, the new branding designs will be changed on the web site which will become FFI's marketing tool.

my.friendshipforce.org (MEMBER ONLINE ACCESS SITE)

First announcement that site is 'live' and registrations can begin went out was on March 3 to English, French and German-speaking members; release on 3/12 to all other members.

As of March 18, my.ff.org has almost 1000 registrations, primarily from the March 3 release group.

Some timeline goals for my.ff.org:

- ❖ Content of *Member Resources* moved from web site to my.ff.org **(May 1 or sooner)**
- ❖ Ability to view and apply for journeys **(middle of May).**
- ❖ Global directory of members **(September-December 2021)**
- ❖ Complete global member registrations **(12/31/21)**
- ❖ Separate myfriendshipforce.org FAQs, instructions and Code of ConductSee attached .html file (double-click to open any of these files) which provides links to relevant FFI announcements.



my.ff.org FAQs.pdf

Thank you ----- Sue Palmer, Field Rep for Rocky Mountain Region



friendship force
WESTERN COLORADO

FFWC Leadership Council

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Claudia Kellar
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Journey Coordinator

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Club Websites

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cheyenne | friendshipforcecheyenne.org |
| Denver | friendshipforcedenver.org |
| Northern Colorado | ffncolo.com |
| New Mexico | friendship-force-new-mexico.org |
| Pikes Peak | friendshipforcepikespeak.com |
| Utah/Salt Lake City | friendshipforceofutah.org |

Have a friend who likes to travel?

Share with them the FFI website and let them see all the great places they can go.

Be sure to invite them to our activities so they can see what we do and decide if it is for them.



Find us on:
facebook®



NEEDED: ideas for virtual events, book suggestions, local merchants to support, stories of your past travels, pictures of what you do during the year, jokes, etc.

Send to ffwnewsletter@gmail.com.

Deadline for your submissions is the 25th of each month.
The Newsletter is sent to you via email the 1st of the month.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Leadership Council holds a Zoom Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.
Any member of the Club is welcome to attend this Council Meeting.

Ellen Bradley, Secretary, can set you up to attend a Zoom Leadership Meeting.

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.

I know that through my example to my own fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love, and peace will be furthered.

I can make a difference.

ABOUT THE CLUB

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

General meetings are currently ZOOM.

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.

www.ffwcolo.com

A World of Friends is a World of Peace!

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