



friendship force
DENVER



www.friendshipforcedenver.org

NOVEMBER, 2022

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**join us on
facebook!**

Friendship Force of Denver
<https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceofdenver>

ABOUT THE CLUB

We are resuming in-person meetings at our usual meeting place, Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver 80224 at 6:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of most months. Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. See up-to-date information on our website: www.friendshipforcedenver.org

***Guests are always welcome.
Come visit and bring your friends!***

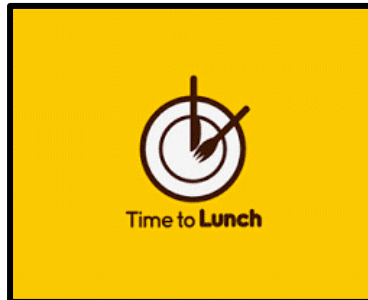
CLUB OFFICERS

President Gerry Forney
Vice President Ilene Americus
Secretary Heidi McKelrath
Treasurer Irene Ludwig
Newsletter Editor. Carol Coriell
Newsletter submissions are welcome and are due on the 24th of the month.

To contact us, please send an email to ffdboard@gmail.com

OUR NOVEMBER PROGRAM IS CANCELED DUE TO THE CONFLICT WITH ELECTION DAY

But fear not!



We have an alternative activity for the day before the election – lunch and a time of catching up with each other at a fun food court that touts “eclectic collective” dining and shopping.

DATE – Monday, November 7th, at 11:30 a.m.

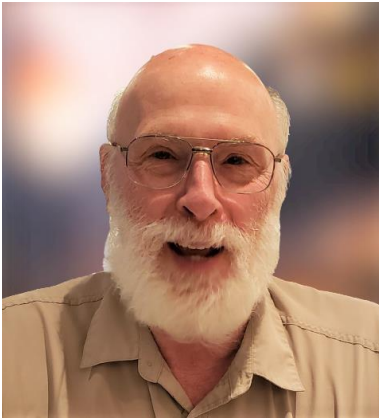
**PLACE -- Edgewater Public Market
5505 W. 20th Avenue, Edgewater CO
(a few blocks west of Sheridan Blvd.)
<https://www.edgewaterpublicmarket.com/>**

PARKING --Plenty of free parking right there

OTHER INFORMATION –

- You can choose your lunch and beverages from the various kiosks in the food court
- We'll gather together at one or more of the tables
- Bring your friendship smiles and any updates on your own life you would like to share – this is an informal, let's-spend-this-Monday-afternoon-together gathering
- Bring friends to join us – the more the merrier
- No need to RSVP...just show up
- Questions? Call Luree Miller at 415-215-3770 or email her at lureemiller@mac.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT, GERRY FORNEY



LOOK RIGHT, THEN LOOK LEFT IN AUSTRALIA!

By the time you read this, I will be on my way to Australia with nine other Friendship Force Ambassadors. Australia is an English-speaking country with a standard of living comparable to the United States. For me, the most dramatic difference between the two countries is that we drive on the right in the US, while Australians drive on the left.

There are 165 countries where people drive on the right side of the road, and 75 countries (including Australia) where the traffic keeps to the left. Left-hand traffic (LHT) is a topic that has fascinated me for years, so I would like to share some of my knowledge and near-death experiences.

More than 90% of the people in the world are right-handed, so left-hand traffic must have a biological origin. Medieval knights rode their horses on the left side of the road so they could keep their swords in their dominant right hand. Coachmen and teamsters could whip their horses and oxen more easily with their right hand. In the year 1300, Pope Boniface VIII invited 200,000 people to come to Rome and decreed that everyone should walk to and from Rome on the left side of the roads.

Horses are mounted from the left because swordsmen wear blades on their left hip. Postilion is the name for a horseman who controls a wagon by riding on the left rear horse in a team of horses. Napoleon was a former artilleryman who conquered most of Europe between 1803 and 1815. His supply wagons and artillery wagons had postilions. Therefore, Napoleon imposed right-hand traffic on the countries that he conquered. Countries that resisted France (Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Great Britain, Portugal, and Spain) kept their more traditional left-hand traffic.

The United States did not have a consistent traffic preference until the era of the American Revolution. The Conestoga wagon had a postilion on the left rear horse. So, the Conestoga wagon had to travel in the right lane. The first Pennsylvania turnpike (1792) specified that traffic should move on the right side. By the start of the Civil War, all twenty-five states had adopted right-hand traffic.

The railroad was invented in England, and the railroads built by Englishmen in other countries had left-hand traffic. In some countries like Japan, the left-hand traffic on the railroad carried over to left-hand traffic on the roads. In other countries (Belgium, China, France, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland), cars drive on the right, but trains run on the left. Many years ago, I stepped in front of a train in France after looking left and I was lucky not to be killed. One of my companions grabbed me and pulled me back.

Henry Ford's Model T, introduced in 1908, had the steering wheel on the left so passengers could get in and out of the car on the mud-free curbside. The United States produced most of the cars in the world until the end of World War II, and many countries changed from LHT to RHT as American cars arrived. Nine Canadian provinces changed to RHT in the Roaring Twenties. Spain switched sides in 1924, Greece in 1926, and Portugal in 1928. Germany annexed Austria in 1938, and traffic moved from the left side to the right side. Germany forced Czechoslovakia and Hungary to change from left to right during World War II.

Sweden switched from left-hand traffic to right-hand traffic on September 3, 1967. Government employees spent the summer of 1967 installing 350,000 new signs and lights. The new signs were covered with canvas bags, and on one Sunday night, workers moved the bags from the new signs to the old signs. Ordinary Swedes were encouraged to stay home that day to avoid the confusion!

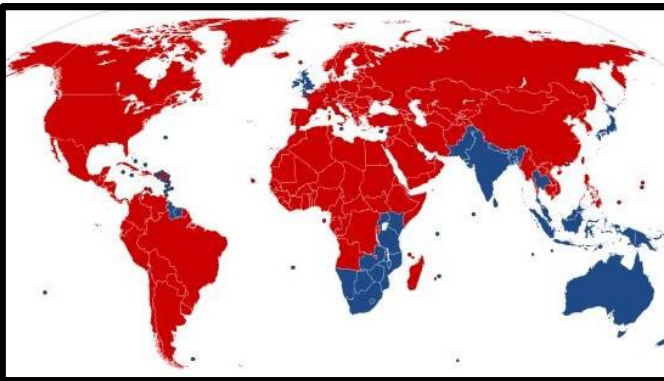
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FROM THE PRESIDENT, GERRY FORNEY *continued*

The U.S. Virgin Islands is the only place in the United States that has left-hand traffic. When the U.S. bought the U.S.V.I. from Denmark in 1917 most of the cars on the islands had been imported from England. The other British Caribbean islands (Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad) still have LHT.

It is unusual for a country with right-hand traffic to share a border with a country that has left-hand traffic. Thailand is an exception to this rule because traffic moves on the left, while the countries that border Thailand (Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar) drive on the right. Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan were formerly a single British colony, so they also still have LHT. Many of the other large left-driving countries (Australia, Britain, and Japan) are islands.

Right-hand drive (RHD) cars are strange for someone who grew up driving left-hand drive (LHD) cars. When I visited Japan with Friendship Force in 2016, I was impressed at how new the cars seemed. Japanese cars are fully depreciated after six years, and many used cars are exported. These used Japanese RHD cars often go to RHT countries like Palau, the Philippines, Russia, and United Arab Emirates. Driving a RHD car in a RHT country can be confusing. Of course, U.S. Postal Service workers drive RHD trucks every day when delivering mail, so it can't be that hard.



Now that we are on our way to Australia, I know that traffic accidents are by far the greatest danger that Irene and I face. About 43,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. in 2021. That number included about 6,000 pedestrians. Australia has about one-twelfth as many people as the U.S. but only had 1,123 traffic deaths in 2021 (144 pedestrians). So Australian roads are much safer than American roads.

In 1931, Winston Churchill nearly became a pedestrian fatality in New York City. He was crossing a busy street, looked the wrong way, and was struck by a car. Churchill suffered several broken ribs and a serious scalp wound but was lucky not to be killed. If Churchill had died in 1931, the outcome of World War II and the entire history of the twentieth century could have been very different. I might be writing this column in German!

My own brush with pedestrian death occurred in Oxford, England in 1973. The street was narrow, and I stepped in front of a truck after looking the wrong way (left). The driver saw me, swerved, and his side mirror struck my right elbow, spun me around, and drew blood. I am lucky to be here today.

Since then, I have driven cars in Australia, Great Britain, and South Africa with more than a few close calls. Everything about driving on the left side of the road seems wrong to me. The traffic circles are crazy and seem so unnatural. I have problems making left turns onto busy roads and often end up facing the oncoming traffic. To me, it feels like I am dancing the woman's part in a waltz (backward and in high heels).

I am looking forward to making new friends in Australia and seeing new places. But I must remember that Australia is a foreign country and I need to constantly remember to look right first, then look left, look right again, and only then step off the curb. I want to come back alive for more adventures with Friendship Force!

Gerry Forney

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WELCOME TO THE 2023 BOARD

Voting for the 2023 term took place at the Annual Meeting on October 11th.

The following people were elected and have agreed to serve as Directors & Officers of the club for the 2023 term:

Gerry Forney- President
Ilene Americus- Vice President
Irene Ludwig- Treasurer
Luree Miller - Secretary
Jeannette Armbrustmacher- Director
Carol Coriell- Director
Steve Crocker- Director
Heidi McKelrath - Director
Vacant - Director

We all look forward to working together to make Friendship Force Denver a strong, viable club.

Please note that there is a director position open. A volunteer is needed – the board functions best with an odd number of members. The board meets via Zoom at 1:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. If you would like to be involved, send an email to ffdboard@gmail.com, or contact Ilene Americus.

JOURNEYS

OUTBOUND

Our club will be visiting **Bundaberg and the Blue Mountain clubs of Australia** November 8-24, 2022. Nancy Crocker and Heidi McKelrath are the Coordinators for this Journey.

UPCOMING FFI TRIPS

There are several exciting upcoming FFI Journeys in 2023. You can find them listed here https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXxoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.gc6f90357f_0_5

2023 JOURNEYS

INBOUND

Denver will host **Shizuoka Japan**. Shizuoka is scheduled for June 2023 and is a club we visited in 2016. This Journey was postponed due to COVID-19 and we look forward to seeing our friends again.

OUTBOUND

Denver will be visiting **Mid-Willamette Valley Oregon** in July or August.

The Friendship Force International Conference will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia October 2 – 5, 2023. Check the FFI website for more information.



a world of friends is a world of peace

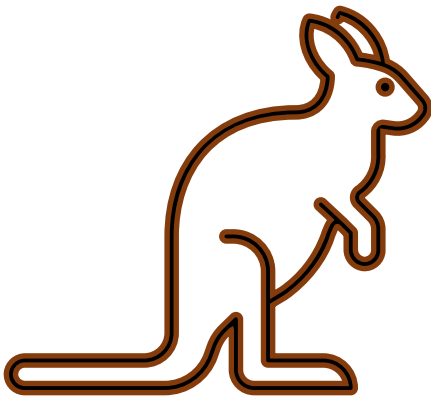
FF Denver is heading to the land down under...Australia!

After almost a year of planning, we are ready to go. We will be hosted by the Blue Mountains club November 8-15. We will then spend two days in Sydney November 15-16, and then it's off to Bundaberg on November 17-24.

There will be five ambassadors from Denver: Nancy Crocker (co-coordinator), Steve Crocker, Gerry Forney, Irene Ludwig, and Heidi McKelrath (co-coordinator), three ambassadors from Northern Colorado: Janice Rozman, Ken Weaver, and Paulette Weaver, one ambassador from Western Colorado: Sue Moyer, and two ambassadors from Wisconsin: Margret Anundson and Patrick Fleming.

As co-coordinators, Nancy and Heidi have done something akin to planning a (friendly) invasion of Australia. We have our travel documents in order, decided what to pack, and have been introduced, via email, to our hosts. Now we must prepare ourselves for the 19+ hours we will be on planes!

We will bring back stories of the beautiful land down under, meeting new people, and learning about Australia's culture. You can look forward to our Journey presentation in early 2023.



DECEMBER HOLIDAY SOCIAL EVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 2:30 PM



Who: **MEMBERS AND FRIENDS** of Friendship Force Club of Denver

What: **"DOT"** by Colman Domingo

Where: **VINTAGE THEATRE**, 1468 Dayton Street, Aurora, Colorado 80010

When: **SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th AT 2:30 PM**

WE WILL SHARE NIBBLES AND A CASH BAR AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.

Here is a summary of the play:

"The holidays are always a wild family affair at the Shealy house. But this year, Dotty and her three grown children gather with more than exchanging presents on their minds. As Dotty struggles to hold on to her memory, her children must fight to balance care for their mother and care for themselves. This twisted and hilarious new play grapples unflinchingly with aging parents, midlife crises, and the heart of a West Philly neighborhood."

Here is a preview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_rNDgCMdIE

Friendship Force Denver has a block of 20 tickets for the 2:30 afternoon performance on Sunday, December 11th. The cost will be \$20 per ticket. Mail a check payable to "Friendship Force of Denver" to

Irene Ludwig, Treasurer
Friendship Force of Denver
1290 High Street Unit D, Denver, CO 80218

If more than 20 people want to attend the play, we will buy additional tickets until the performance sells out. But please respond no later than December 1st. If you have questions, please email ffdboard@gmail.com .



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF DENVER

www.FriendshipForceDenver.org

Date: _____

Membership \$35 per person \$ _____

Replacement Badge \$12 each \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Payable to *Friendship Force Denver*

Members: _____

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Email Address
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Email Address
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please list additional household members on the back of this form and check this box

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

I agree to have my personal information published in our club directory, newsletter and/or website. Please circle one: Yes No

Please bring your completed form and check made out to FFD to a meeting, or mail them to:

Irene Ludwig, 1290 High Street, Unit D, Denver, CO 80128 ffdboard@gmail.com

NAME BADGES: One free for each New Member. All others are \$12 each.

The name on your FFD name badge will appear exactly as you PRINT is below:

_____	_____	Magnet Back <input type="checkbox"/>	or Pin Back <input type="checkbox"/>
First Name or Nickname	Last Name		

_____	_____	Magnet Back <input type="checkbox"/>	or Pin Back <input type="checkbox"/>
First Name or Nickname	Last Name		

Please list additional name badge request on the back of this form and check this box

Listing of Additional Family Members _____ Badge Name _____

In order for FFD to be successful, we need many volunteers. Please check all the areas below where you are willing to participate.

__ Inbound Journey Coordinator	__ Outbound Journey Coordinator	__ Journey Home Host
__ FFD Board Member	__ Journey Day Host	__ Social Committee
__ Membership Committee	__ Newsletter Committee	__ Program Committee
__ Refreshments Committee	__ Facilities & A/V Committee	__ Website Committee
__ Marketing Committee	__ Journey Committee	__ Journey Dinner Host

A social event that I would like our club to have _____

Hobbies or talents that I would be willing to share are _____

Second Languages that I speak are _____

Facilities that could accommodate Journey events _____

I am on Facebook. I am aware of the FFD Website.

Organizations that might want to invite FFD to come to speak are _____

A speaker that I would recommend for our FFD meetings is _____

Ideas that would help market our club _____

An activity that I would like our club to start having _____

Suggestions I have for our club are _____

I heard about Friendship Force Denver from _____

Someone I recommend that might be interested in FFD is _____

Thank You for Your Information

CALENDAR 2022

BOARD MEETING via Zoom **NOV 1**
Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

OUTBOUND JOURNEY **NOV 8 – 24**
DENVER – AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER LUNCH EVENT **NOV 7**
Monday 11:30 a.m.
Englewood Public Market
Details on page 1

NOVEMBER PROGRAM **NOV 8**
Canceled due to conflict with
election day

BOARD MEETING via Zoom **DEC 6**
Tuesday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

DECEMBER PROGRAM **DEC 11**
Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Vintage Theatre, Aurora
DOT - A Holiday Comedy
Details on page 6

CALENDAR 2023

BOARD MEETING via Zoom **JAN 3**
Tuesday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

JANUARY PROGRAM **JAN 10**
Tuesday, 6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Program TBD

BOARD MEETING via Zoom **FEB 7**
Tuesday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM **FEB 14**
Tuesday, 6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Program TBD



*Remember to fall back one hour on
November 13.*



UPDATED MEMBERSHIP

DIRECTORY is now available on our
website www.friendshipfordenver.org

Log in using your email address, and a
password you have saved. Click on
Members. The drop down list shows
Membership Directory Online. If you wish to
print, select Membership List in PDF format.
If you want a printed directory and do not
have access to a printer, contact Carol
Coriell.