

It's time for our plain text newsletter since I know that sometimes our newsletter templates ends up in people's junk folder.

If this is the first newsletter you received in a while, please let us know. That probably means you missed the last month's newsletter, so I'll share it [here](#).

Dear Friends,

One of the main goals for Steppin' Out Adventures has been to form bonds through our love for adventure. If you have ever been on a trip with me, you understand this has always been my passion as an organizer. I always try to create a sense of community with my trips and continue the connections even when we return home.

Over this weekend, I was reminded of why I have this passion. I am so lucky to have a fantastic group of supportive and loving friends. I attended a wedding this weekend. My friend Fern's daughter had a beautiful ceremony. Fern and I were neighbors when I was one year old, and we have been friends for almost 59 years. It has been incredible to have a person who isn't family but has been there for me my entire life. I was so happy to celebrate her daughter's special day and be there with Fern.

While in the area, I visited another friend I have known since first grade through high school and college! We have been there for each other through fifty-five years of friendship and support. After visiting with her and Fern, it reminded me how lucky I am to also have the Steppin' Out family.

One of my newer friends from our Steppin' Out family also met up with me in Florida, we've only known each other for eight years, but I'm so excited that she'll be joining me in Bhutan in November. Another long time Steppin' Out friend picked me up for a day. We reminisced about how we met on the first Steppin' Out ski trip in 1995! We were both astonished that 1995 was almost thirty years ago because it felt like yesterday. I realized that I shared so many memories and bonds with him that it reminded me of my relationships with my lifelong friends that I visited in the area.

After I returned from my Florida trip, I felt renewed. I felt whole again because I was with people I loved, people with whom I shared experiences, and people who made me laugh. I see bonds created on every trip, and I love to hear about mini-reunions with our Steppin' Out family. I love it when you share stories about the lifelong friendships you have made through Steppin' Out. When you share these stories, I realize everything it takes to produce these trips is worth it.

As I flew home from Florida, I was thinking of our group. I wanted to take a second to remind everyone how much I appreciate traveling with you and creating memories that last a lifetime together.

With much gratitude,

Robin

And now for a few announcements:

- The one friend from above who I went through elementary school, highschool and college with is the aunt of one of the Israeli hostages believed to held in captivity in Gaza. Yesterday, April 3rd marked the 180th day the hostages are still there. I know there are different political views on Israel, but no one should forget about these innocent civilians-- young women who are being raped, elderly whose medicine was sent but never delivered, babies who turned one in captivity, or Hersh, a young 23 year old man, who got his arm shot off when a grenade went off next to him and killed his best friend-- who want to leave the hell they are living through and go home. Please continue to make people aware that there are innocent kids, dads, moms, grandpas, grandmas still being held in captivity. No

one deserves that. If you want to know what you can do, please send me a separate [email](#). There are a few rallies March to Free the Hostages around the United States on Sunday- April 7. In New York at noon in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, and in DC at 2:30 at Washington Monument. If you want me to check for your city, let me know.

- Wondering what our [June Belize](#) trip is all about? The one where we snorkel in pristine reefs, hike in the jungle, explore caves and meet with locals such as musicians, scientists and chefs? Yes, that [one](#). Join our live Zoom question and answer on April 10th at 8 pm EST, 7 pm CST, 6 pm MST, and 5 pm PST. Register [here](#)
- Don't forget about our [Book Club](#) -- a whole different way to get immersed in another country and/or culture. Our first meeting is April 15 at 7:45pm central as we discuss the Caliph House and wonderful Morocco. Head to our [website](#) to find out more about the book and get the zoom link. Please register even if you are just thinking about it, so we can keep you updated.
- Did you know that Niagara Falls and Buffalo fall into the path of the total eclipse on April 8th? To honor the occasion and the fact that the next one will not be until 2045, we are offering an **Eclipse Sale** on our [Niagara Falls/Buffalo getaway](#), July 25-28. We have an action-packed, fun filled weekend in store for you, so if you want to join us, do it now and take advantage of the eclipse sale. The eclipse will take place at 3:18 pm, so from now until then, you can take off \$31.80 off the current price. Sign up [here](#).
- In case you didn't hear about our generous installment plan for [Telluride 2025](#) (Feb. 22- March 1) - we are offering people a 12 month installment plan for whoever signs up this month. Telluride is one of our favorite ski resort and by contracting early - we received the 2024 rates. And we're passing them on to you. [Contact us](#) if you'd like us to write up an installment plan for you.
- Also, if you are still considering [Bhutan](#) (and Nepal) in November, please let us know now as the time period is very popular and there is only one flight a day and we want to make sure we get everyone who wants to go on the same flight.

Contact us: [website](#), [email](#) or [phone](#)