



# PASSPORT

A Publication of The Friendship Force of Lincoln  
[www.friendshipforcelincn.org](http://www.friendshipforcelincn.org)

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NOVEMBER 2012



**Canadian Ambassadors visit the State Capitol  
and other sites in Nebraska**

## Greetings from the President



*by Nancy Comer*

If you have been participating in recent FFL activities, you know the club is engaged in building global understanding one friendship at a time. At the annual meeting Kay Rockwell shared information on the BICE project in Uganda and a silent auction was held with items donated from FFL exchanges from around the world to support it. One thing leads to another, and the club is now thinking about ways to help start a new club or be part of a humanitarian project with BICE or another organization in Uganda.

The Canadians on the inbound Niagara Exchange arrived back home ahead of the storm that struck the Northeast. They are the only foreign exchange to travel to Lincoln in their own cars. And some for good reason, as I found out when Keith, the tallest man in the group couldn't get into my car.

The Canadian ambassadors were very enthusiastic

about their time in Nebraska, and for that, thanks are due EDs Sue Imig and Barbara Ridder and the committee. There was an equal number of men and women in the group. The men enjoyed visiting the Museum of American Speed, the Tractor Museum on East Campus, and the athletic complex at Memorial Stadium. The women were impressed with the International Quilt Museum. First time stops at Yesterday's Lady and the Gage County Museum were enjoyed by club members as well as ambassadors.

Again, none of this would be possible without the willingness of club members to host and be involved in exchange activities. A special thank you to Jeanne Zwiebel and Richard Spencer for the lovely Saturday brunch. Following a week of early morning starts, ambassadors could take their time, perhaps sleep in, and drop by Jeanne's on what was a beautiful fall day for a midmorning brunch and lots of conversation. This kind of activity, and the small group dinners held in the warmth and comfort of members' homes, do more to develop friendships than anything else we do.

This is also true of our diversity dinners. I have just finished reading *World Class Learners* by Yong Zhao. Although the book's focus is elementary, secondary, and

college education in the US and China, I found many connections to the goals and objectives of Friendship Force. To quote the author, "the world our children will live in is global, not local as before. Given the interconnectedness and interdependence of economies, the rise of global challenges such as climate change, and the ease of movement across national borders, and ability with the click of a mouse to communicate with people anywhere in the world, one's birthplace no longer determines his or her future living space or whom he or she may be working for or with. To be able to live in this global world requires knowledge and abilities to interact with people who are not born and raised in the same local community." Not just our children and young people, but all of us need to prepare to live and interact with people from different cultures. It's interesting and fun to learn about other cultures and traditions; it also helps us appreciate and respect our own heritage and traditions. At diversity dinners, FFL members have hosted guests from China, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran, Ukraine, Morocco, Puerto Rico, as well as people of color from Lincoln. The club will continue with this program and hope you will help. If you would like to host or attend one of these dinners, let me know.

## October Exchange with FF of Niagara

by Sue Imig, Co-ED



**T**he FFL hosted ambassadors from St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, not far from Niagara Falls October 14th to October 21st. Twenty-one ambassadors arrived on a Sunday, all by car, to be greeted in eleven homes of FFL members.

The Lincoln Exchange Committee headed by Sue Imig and Barb Ridder had planned a full week of activities. The weather cooperated the first two days of the exchange but turned extremely cool and windy for the third and fourth days.

On Monday, the Capitol tour and lunch at the Governor's residence, where the group enjoyed being greeted by First Lady Sally Ganem, was a highlight for the group. The welcome, planned by Diane Conley, was at the Van Dorn Legacy. Wine and finger foods and lots of conversation allowed FFL members to get to know the ambassadors a bit better.

Tuesday began at Bagels & Joe with a talk by the owner of the Canyon Coffee Co. The group then toured the Bedient Organ Company south of Lincoln. The afternoon found the ladies at the International Quilt Museum enjoying a tour lead by our own Carolyn Kitterer. The men went to the UNL Tractor Testing Facility and Tractor Museum. Of course, being on East Campus required a trip to the Dairy Store!

Wednesday morning the group boarded a Windstar bus to head west. At Rowe Sanctuary, the group walked to a nearby blind where in spring they would have been greeted by thousands of cranes. Due to the high winds, no cranes were in the area, alas, a disappointment for the Canadians. However, Ambassadors were provided an informational presentation on the annual crane migration. The Kearney Arch with an interesting talk in the Indian lodge was another highlight mentioned by

ambassadors. The group then headed to MONA (Museum of Nebraska Art) in downtown Kearney. MONA is housed in the beautiful old post office with a great new addition on the east side of the building. Evening dinner was enjoyed on the return trip at Chances R in York.

On Thursday, the group "blew" to the north end of the UNL stadium and enjoyed the tour of the athletic facility and football complex. In the afternoon, Duane Starr led a tour of the truly amazing Speedway Motor Museum.

Friday the group drove to Beatrice to see the Gage County Museum. A short trip east of Beatrice to Cedar Creek Pottery housed in an old country church was nice. Lunch at Yesterday's Lady, an old house that looks like a cuckoo clock, was very enjoyable. The group then drove to Homestead Monument to see the site that commemorates the Homestead Act, enacted 150 years ago.

Due to the cold, windy weather, the hayrack ride and outside cookout were cancelled. We moved to the Seward Civic Center for our meal, and thoroughly enjoyed our entertainment by a young cowboy poet and a husband and wife team who played guitars and sang western songs.

**continued on page 6**

# WANTED

Physically  
Active,  
Friendly,  
English-  
Speaking  
Ambassadors



For an FFI  
Global  
Exchange  
of Nebraska,  
Kansas &  
Oklahoma

## TAMING A HARSH LAND: PIONEERS, COWBOYS, INDIANS AND CULTURE OF AMERICA'S GREAT PLAINS - APRIL 8 — 24, 2013

### BIG REWARDS



Join The Friendship Force in Nebraska, Kansas, & Oklahoma for an Adventure in America's Heartland. Discover the Great Plains, the vast open prairie of the Central United States and experience the life and times of its people, past and present.



The Pioneer Spirit was born in the midst of the prairie grasses and hills of our states. It is where men and women conquered the unknown and settled new lands. Where they built country churches, one-room schoolhouses, and attempted to find the American dream. Wander back to our roots.



The Great Plains are not "Just Prairie," but also large productive cities with special roots and connections with our pioneers as they settled the West. Come, join our 4 clubs, and look at the Great Plains in a way you never realized or understood before. You will receive special experiences, wonderful home hosting, and our famous Midwestern Hospitality.



Discover Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, the Heartland of America's Great Plains, USA.

## Taming a Harsh Land Exchange



by *Betty Starr, Exchange Director*

**F**rom the Covered Wagon to the City High Rise,

- Spend 17 days April 8 – 24, 2013 on an exchange focusing on America's Great Plains. Experience its unspoiled natural beauty, historic past and unbound-ed future.
- Explore the "Homestead Act of 1862" at the "Homestead National Monument" which provided "Free Land" to anyone who was willing to settle and work the land.
- Visit the "Pioneer Courage Sculpture Park" and see one of the largest outdoor installations of bronze and stainless steel works of art in the world.
- Stand beneath "Nebraska's Tower of the Plains," a uniquely built state capitol as it stretches across the landscape. Marvel at the

murals and artwork telling the story of the harsh land, its people, and their struggles.

- Explore some of America's Native past with Indian tribes in Oklahoma, today the home of over 37 tribes. You will visit the "Indian Chickasaw Cultural Center" and bring the vision, resilience, and spirit of the Chickasaw people to life. Watch them as they express their native dance, traditions, and tribal honor in an "American Indian Pow-Wow!" Participate in the '89er's Day Parade" in Guthrie, OK celebrating "Oklahoma's Territorial Land Run" of April 22, 1889, opening the land to the first non-Indian settlements. Visit Oklahoma's first territorial capitol, and be amazed at its look and use today.

- Explore the history of the "American Cowboy." With the demand for beef in the East, envision this rugged, lonely lifestyle, as they drove cattle across the prairie to reach the railroads. Sit by the edge of vast grasslands at the "Kansas Tall Grass National Prairie Reserve," which presents the last 4% of this land remaining in the USA. Imagine a herd of buffalo thundering across the open range. You have the opportunity to be "up close and personal" with the animals native to the plains. Experience what prairie life was like as you participate in a Chuck Wagon cookout.
- View the dramatization of "As Far as the Eye Can See" presented on the "Spring Creek Prairie." Walk the



## Taming a Harsh Land continued



“Tall Grass Prairie,” a complex eco-system with wildflowers, trees, grass, birds, and native animals. Understand the people struggling to build the Railroad through America’s Heartland.



This is Midwest hospitality at its best! Join this 4-Club Exchange on April 8, 2013. Fly into Eppley Airport (OMA) in Omaha, NE for an overnight stay, and travel to Lincoln, Nebraska. There will be five days of home hosting in each of these states. Travel to Wichita, Kansas, by bus, through tall grass prairie and Cowboy Country and on again, further South, through Indian Country to Oklahoma City. Ambassadors will depart from Will Rogers World Airport (OKC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the end of the exchange on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Information: Facebook, FFI, & “World of Friends Catalog.”



To obtain Custom Application, go to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org) Click on “World of Friends Catalog; then on map of USA. Locate exchange: “Pioneers, Cowboys, Indians, & Culture of America’s Great Plains.”

Betty Starr, Exchange Director: [TrailBoss2013@gmail.com](mailto:TrailBoss2013@gmail.com)  
402.486.4006 (H)

Cost: \$995.00 USD – Payment made to FFI upon notification of acceptance. Includes FFI & all host fees, most meals, plus transportation between the 4 clubs. Does not include international or domestic airfare.

Find us on Facebook – Like – “TAMING A HARSH LAND”  
“The Great Plains Wagon West” is Ready to Roll ... Come Along!



### Niagara continued from page 3

Jeannie Zweibel hosted a wonderful Saturday morning brunch for the ambassadors and their home hosts. Afterwards, many visited the SAC Museum but were back in plenty of time to see the Husker fourth quarter come-from-behind victory on TV. That evening FFL members and ambassadors gathered at The Knolls for the farewell dinner.

Thanks to Nancy and John Comer, Kathryn Neyens, Hope Partridge, Jan and Bob Sibal, Marilyn Watson, Rosalee and John Vondracek, Sharon and Larry Kluck, Diane and Dave Spomer, Betty and Duane Starr, Barb Ridder and Marilue Becker for being such great home hosts! Also, thanks to small group dinner hosts, Erna Rethmeier and Marilyn Armogost, Sara Stephenson,

Mary Bryant and Linda Kistler, Caroln Kitterer, Sara and Robert Friedman, Cece and Bill Hunt, Pat Henry and Amy Birky

Thanks also to other FFL members who day hosted and provided food and transportation. Marilyn Watson served as treasurer for the exchange. Many thanks for making this a wonderful experience for all involved.

# Romania Exchange – June 2013



**F**ringed by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania. Founded by the Teutonic Knights in 1211 on an ancient Dacian site and settled by the Saxons as one of the seven walled citadels, Brasov exudes a distinct me-

dieval ambiance. The city is at the intersection of trade routes that linked the Ottoman Empire and western Europe. Bran (Dracula’s) Castle in Bran is 16 miles southwest of Brasov.

Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, Bran Castle owes

its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker’s Dracula. Built on the site of a Teutonic Knights stronghold dating from 1212, the castle was first documented in an act issued by Louis I of Hungary on November 19, 1377, giving the Saxons of Kronstadt (Brasov) the privilege to build the Citadel.

The outbound exchange to Romania has changed to June 2013 due to the Brasov club outbound exchange in September. We are working with the Brasov club for the exchange to occur in mid to late June. An additional trip to Turkey is being considered with the Niagara Foundation (June 20-30, 2013).

Contact Julie Albrecht, 402-464-2702 or jalbrecht1@unl.edu for more information.



## Holiday Party Registration

Come join Friendship Force Lincoln for “Sounds of the Season” Friday, November 30 at West Gate Bank (lower level meeting room) 6003 Old Cheney Road. Appetizers 5:30 with dinner to follow. Entertainment: Bells of Holy Trinity Choir. Meat and beverage will be provided.

Please indicate the side dish you will bring and the number of persons attending. Please send your reservation to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln NE 68510. Questions to Jeanne 489-1247 or jz82924@windstream.net Please RSVP by November 24

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring a/an

\_\_\_\_\_ Appetizer, \_\_\_\_\_ Potato (including sweet potatoes), \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable, \_\_\_\_\_ Salad, \_\_\_\_\_ Rolls & butter, \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert

# Lincoln Friendship Force is Seeking Scholarship Applicants

by Larry Kluck, Scholarship Chair,

**T**he Lincoln Friendship Force has a scholarship fund available to help people financially who may not be able to travel on an exchange. We are seeking to find an individual/individuals who would be great Friendship Force ambassadors. We are asking all members to please help us. If you know of someone of limited financial status who you think would be a great ambassador, please urge them to apply. Specifics of the scholarship and the application website are listed below. Applications should be sent to Larry Kluck, Scholarship Chair, 6800 Rexford Drive, Lincoln, NE 68506.

## Policies Specific to Travel Scholarships

Travel scholarships shall be used to financially support individuals to travel on FFL exchanges.

A. The amount of the scholarship is limited to 2/3rds of the total cost of coach airfare, exchange, and additional tour expenses; but, shall not exceed \$2,000. It does not cover optional and personal expenses such as passport, visa fees, and insurance.

- B. A scholarship is limited to one award per individual.
- C. A scholarship must be used within a 3-year period or it will go back into FFL's scholarship fund.
- D. A scholarship must be applied to an FFL outbound exchange.
- E. Scholarship recipients shall receive a one-year complimentary FFL membership.

## Qualification Criteria – Applicants must...

- support the goals and objectives of Friendship Force.
- demonstrate openness to other cultures and people.
- be willing to share exchange experiences with others upon return.
- be physically able to participate in all exchange activities.
- not have previously traveled outside of North America; however, the Board may waive this requirement in special circumstances.
- demonstrate financial need.
- travel with an adult if under 18 years of age.

## Application – Applicants must...

1. Complete the application form: [www.friendshipforcelincoln.org](http://www.friendshipforcelincoln.org) and click on scholarship to access the form located in the application section of the document.
2. Answer the following questions in 1500 words or less.
  - a. Why are you interested in participating in a Friendship Force exchange?
  - b. How would you be a good international representative?
  - c. What benefits do you anticipate for you, your community, and FFL by your participation in an exchange?
  - d. What skills can you contribute to FFL to further its mission and encourage others to participate in the club's activities?
3. Provide evidence of financial need. The preferred way to do this is provide a copy of one's latest Federal Income Tax Return to be reviewed only by the Scholarship Committee Chair prior to the committee interview.

## 2013 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2013 calendar year are \$30 for an Individual Membership and \$40 for a Family Membership. Dues are for the calendar year from January 1st through December 31st and are not prorated. Prompt payment of dues ensures that you will continue to receive mailings from The Friendship Force of Lincoln. If you are a prospective member, we hope that you decide to join FFL at this time. Note: New members who join now will be credited as paid thru 12/31/13.

Mail to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503. Make check payable to: "The Friendship Force of Lincoln." Please mail no later than December 1, 2012.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Name Badge \$9.00/\$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY:  Individual-\$30  Family-\$40

NOTE: New members each receive a complimentary name badge;

Replacement Name Badge  \$9.00 each for a pin-on type  \$11.00 for magnetic style

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT**

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**The Friendship Force of Lincoln  
PO Box 30334  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503**

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