



# PASSPORT

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

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## Ambassadors Visit Omaha Beach in Normandy, France



*Our group of FF Ambassadors listening to guide, Michael Phillips at Omaha Beach.*

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## Greetings from the President



by *Larry Kluck*

**T**his will be my last newsletter as president. I want to thank the board and all the members who have volunteered over the last two years. Your help has provided for great exchanges and activities. Joanna Rogers will take on the president's role and responsibilities in 2016.

We have several exchanges that I hope you will become

involved in during 2016. We will start the year with an exchange to Guadeloupe in February. The exchange has a full complement of 18 ambassadors. In May, we will have the opportunity to host an exchange from Brazil. At this time we do not have the exact date they will be coming as they will visit another US club so it is taking some coordination to get all the dates worked out. Our last exchange to Brazil was in 2008 and we have many new members since then so hopefully we will have the opportunity to enjoy an outbound Brazil exchange sometime in the next few years. Please consider being a home host or day host. I will

be the incoming exchange director so please let me know of your interest in home hosting or small group dinner hosting. Our last 2016 international outgoing exchange will be to Niagara, Canada. They came to visit us in 2012 and we had such a great time with them that we decided to schedule a visit to their area. I went on an outgoing exchange to Niagara in 2002 and we had a wonderful time. I am sure the 2016 exchange will be as great as ours was in 2002. Contact Pat Novak for more information regarding the exchange. Be sure and sign up for the December 6 Holiday party. Details are in this newsletter. Have a joyous holiday season.

## Friendship Force International Welcomes New Chief Executive Officer



*Cécile Latour,*  
*Chairperson of the FFI*  
*Board of Directors*

**I**t gives me great pleasure as Chairperson of the Friendship Force International board to announce the appointment of Jeremi Snook as FFI's sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015.

Jeremi has a Master's degree in Business Administration and brings with him

both the experience of working as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies' award. He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioral challenges. Jeremi's desire to relocate to

Georgia played in FFI's favour and those on the Search Committee who have met him believe that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability we want for the organization. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us. Executives who have worked with Jeremi Snook have all described him as a caring, can-do person who connects well with people from all walks of life, someone who values diversity and works

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**“I’m In” FFI Campaign**

collaboratively to achieve consensus. “Friendship Force is much in alignment with who Jeremi is as a person”, commented a former boss and CEO. Jeremi concurs: “I have loved all my previous jobs but the mission of this one resonates with my soul. I tell my friends and family that I will work for peace by bringing people from around the world together.”

I know that you will join me in welcoming Jeremi Snook to Friendship Force and give him the support he will need to grow our mission and our membership. You will have the pleasure of meeting Jeremi soon after his start up date of November 9, 2015 as he plans to introduce himself to club members around the world in a short message and video that you can watch on your screen. Before I close, allow me to acknowledge the considerable work carried out by the CEO Search Committee led by the Board Vice-Chair, Bob Duncan, who reviewed 180 applications and worked tirelessly over the last three months to bring us to this day where I am able to make this happy announcement.

Again, I welcome Jeremi to the FFI family and I know you welcome him too!



**F**FI is changing.....from the Friendship Force World Conference in Vancouver we learned our organization is in dire financial trouble. Why? Because overall membership has dropped and members who are aging are not traveling, thus less monies to FFI headquarters in Atlanta.

Another source of revenue was the hugely popular Enrichment Voyage cruises, which have been discontinued by the operator; that alone was a loss of \$100,000. FFI will lose about \$25,000 in 2015 and 2016. They are moving again to try to reduce their rent costs.

Those attending the conference had a call to action to join a campaign titled “Are You In?” Attendees were asked to go back to their clubs and ask members to join in the fundraising.

What will the funds be used for? It is a one-time investment for a new website and data management system. Monies must be raised because exchanges have not generated enough revenue to pay for this goal; FFI needs \$40,000 before the end of 2015, and they do not want to borrow. FFI is moving again to reduce their rental costs.



The Friendship Force of Lincoln Board made a commitment at our November 5 Board Meeting to donate

\$1,000 by year-end. Would you like to be a part of this challenge? Remember that your donation is tax deductible. Our club Treasurer, Wendy Horacek, will mail you a receipt.

Make checks payable to FF International and the club will forward the checks to FFI along with the \$1000 FFI check. We want FFI to be able to identify our members’ contributions. Bring your check to the Nov 15 meeting at NET or to the December 6 Holiday Party or mail by Dec 6 to: Friendship Force Lincoln, PO Box 30334, Lincoln NE 68503.

“I’m In” campaign reports \$17,500 raised so far, will you join in the progress?

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**

# Don't Miss the Holiday Party



*by Jan Sibal*

It's that time of year again, so let the festivities begin! The FFL Holiday Party is Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 PM at the First Lutheran Church on 70th and A (just south of the Clock Tower shops). We will start the festivities with punch, cheese and crackers followed at 6:30 with a dinner buffet catered by Chances "R" of York. The entertainment will be provided by the Southeast High School Swing Choir. The cost is \$18.00 per person.

**Buffet Menu:**

- Chances "R's" Famous Pan Fried Chicken
- Virginia Baked Ham
- Homemade Mashed Potatoes with Chicken Gravy
- Buttered Corn
- California Blend of Vegetables (Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Carrots)
- Tossed Salad with selection of Homemade Dressings
- Sweet Fruit Fluff Salad
- Fresh Vegetable Relish Tray with Dip
- Dinner Rolls with Butter
- Iced Tea and Coffee

**Take Note:**

Yummy desserts prepared by the Social Committee

## Holiday Party Registration

Please send your reservation and payment to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln NE 68510. The cost is \$18.00 per person. Please RSVP by November 30.

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

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

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

# FFL Upcoming Exchanges



*by Pat Novak,  
Exchange Director*

**T**he perfect opportunity to view Niagara Falls from the and make new friends. The Friendship Force of Lincoln will be traveling to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada August 24 through August 31, 2016. We will fly from Omaha into Buffalo, NY, then shuttled

to Niagara where we will be greeted by the Friendship Force of Niagara. Highlights of the exchange will include a visit to Horseshoe Falls and the American Falls, a Garden City Tour of the St. Catharine's area and a visit to the Shaw Day Festival celebrating the works of GB Shaw. We will also visit Crawford Lake which includes a walk around the lake and

viewing Native Indian long houses, as well as The Welland Canal and Lock 3 museum. A welcome dinner, small group dinners and a farewell dinner round out this exchange. At this time, the estimated cost will be \$1,200, which includes round trip airfare from Omaha to Buffalo, all connecting shuttles and admission costs and Friendship Force fees. If you are interested in participating in this exchange, please contact Pat Novak at 402.613.6269 or email at mutanu123@yahoo.com. If you are interested in extending this exchange with a bus tour of the local area, please let me know and I will research those possibilities.



*Guadeloupe is approximately 300 miles southeast of Puerto Rico.*

## February 2016 Guadeloupe Exchange

**W**e wanted to let you know that the exchange to Guadeloupe Feb. 4-11 is full. We

have 13 ambassadors from Lincoln, three from Canada, and two from The Friendship Force of Milwaukee.

The Canadians kindly offered to help us with our French if they could join our exchange. We are having a workshop soon to go over exchange details and perhaps learn a little French ourselves. (It's hard to teach old dogs new tricks!) We will also get a chance to try out our high school Spanish after the exchange as we will be spending four nights on the beach in San Juan.

This should be an interesting and exciting exchange because it will be during Carnival in Guadeloupe. In addition to seeing the sights and visiting with the people, we may have an opportunity to participate in the Carnival activities.

## Be Sure to Welcome These New Members!



by *Mary Bryant*

**P**lease WELCOME the following new members: Joyce and Craig Urbauer, Joan Hudson, Lora Black, Rosemary (Rosie) Swanson, Jo Brown, Joe and Tanna Kinnaman, Ann Quinlan, and Tami Wellmann. Thanks to the following individuals who referred them to our organization: Laurie Ann Scott (3), Kathryn Neyens, Pat King (2), Leona Braziel, and Carolyn Harp.

It is that time of year when we ask that you renew your membership for 2016. It would be appreciated if dues are received by December 10, 2015. Dues remain the same as for 2015: \$35 for Individual and \$48 for Family Memberships. This year we request that you include your cell phone; occasionally, we need to reach you without delay.

We would like to invite all interested individuals to attend a gathering where we will present an overview of three new documents we have developed recently. These items are intended to explain all aspects of membership including a review of the various social & business activities we have

throughout the year. We'll talk about what's involved in being a good host plus ideas involved with preparing for a Domestic (within the U.S.) and International Outbound Exchanges. We'll review the expenses that are involved with hosting and traveling with The Friendship Force of Lincoln.

Mark your calendars for this event that will take place on Saturday, January 16, 2016 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Forest Lake Clubhouse, 6834 Summerset Court, 68516. A special e-invitation will be sent to new and prospective members after the Christmas holidays. A reminder email to all interested members will be sent as well.

## FFL Events Breakfast & Conversation



by *De Tonack*

**S**eptember 12, 2015  
 "When you go on a trip, what would you like to bring back?" The answers varied from what someone usually brings back, did bring back, or wished she or he would have brought back.

De Tonack, Hope Partridge, Nancy Comer, Mary Bryant and Georgia Raecke all like to bring back books and informational fliers from

where they have traveled. Nancy especially likes them if they are in the native tongue. Mary uses the information in her Christmas letters. She added that there was nothing she wanted that she hadn't brought back. De likes to bring back earrings from the place. (They take little room in the luggage.) Larry Kluck likes bringing back pictures and his camera.

Robert Pribil and Amy Birky like to carry home maps of where they have been. Robert shared a story of his far and wide travels on a Greyhound bus trip in 1974, around

14,000 miles total. Lauri Ann Scott actually brought an item she had carried back from a 1982 trip, a wood coal box. Joan Hudson loves music and so would bring a CD from some group she had listened to on her trip.

Some thoughts were wishful thinking. Linda Kistler is going to England soon to celebrate her granddaughter's first birthday and, of course, would love to bring the granddaughter back to Lincoln. Milt Bayer once stayed with a wealthy family with many expensive cars on a Friendship Force trip.

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**conversation**

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He would have liked to have brought back their Audi. Several members described missed opportunities. Lois Pasco traveled to Russia in 1990, just three months after a major coupe there, at a time when the monetary system was in disarray. She missed her chance to buy a full Russian uniform for \$3. Diane Conley saw a wooden watch while in London and noted it was made in Scotland. She planned to purchase such a watch in Scotland, but could not find it again. Claire Ehernberger would have liked to have brought back a weaving from a special place in Norway, but missed her chance.

Ann Holloway, cousin and guest of Mary Bryant, has a plan for the upcoming Friendship Force trip to Seattle and Portland: bring back smoked salmon.



*The 2016 FFL Executive Committee from left: Arlene Rae, Secretary. De Tonack, Treasurer; Larry Kluck, Past President; Barb Ridder, Vice-President; and Joanna Rogers, President.*

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## **The 2016 Executive Committee**

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### *Joanna Rogers, President-elect*

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**A**lso new in 2016, your FFL e-mails will come from the friendshipforce lincoln rather than from the Membership Chairperson. We hope to cut down on the number of e-mails you receive from FFL by posting ongoing exchanges and pictures directly to our Facebook page and making more use of the FFL website. You will be notified when items are posted in these areas.

Another change will be an additional Board position of Exchange Coordinator. This person will help recruit and train Exchange Directors as well as keep a record of all members who have served as ED's along with past successful tips for use on exchanges.

If you are interested in serving on any committee or taking a more active part in the club in the coming year, please contact one of the above officers. We are currently recruiting committee members and ambassadors for the 2016 exchanges.

We hope to have an interesting and vibrant program in the coming year.

## Discover France Exchange



*by Laurie-Ann Scott,  
Exchange Director*

**N**ormandy, France was a poor agricultural back quarter in 1944 with narrow muddy cart tracks connecting farm communities. The fate of the first “modern” war, a war of men, equipment, supplies, and vehicles depended on this area...how could the Allies keep tens of thousands of soldiers resupplied with no port town and inadequate roads? Ambassadors were spellbound as noted guide, Michael Phillips, described the logis-



tics and planning essential for the success of D-Day. No one survived between the hours of 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. on Omaha Beach, we are told, but by 4:30 that afternoon, the battle was over. Not only did we visit several military sites and the American Cemetery but also a German Cemetery where war dead are buried two or three to a single plot.

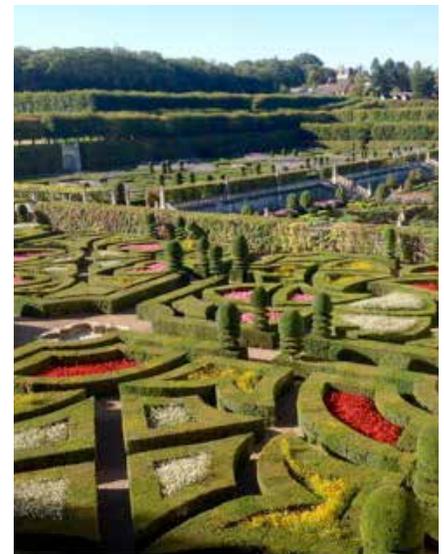
Individuals from Georgia, California, Florida, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Iowa, Arizona, and Canada joined thirteen from Lincoln to “Discover France” visiting Paris, Normandy, Mont St. Michel, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Monet’s Garden at Giverny. And all the while our group made friendships with each other!

Lora Black has created a program with photos set to French music which our group will share with FFL next year.

Others from Lincoln were, Dorothy Anderson, Phyllis Arth, Phyllis Haley, Eloise Hiatt, Karen Kuhn, Vicki McDonald and Larry Harnisch, Larry and Laurie Ann Scott, Rosie Swanson and Craig and Joyce Urbauer.

The Chateau at Villandry has the biggest gardens of the Loire valley, nearly 13 acres irrigated by a handy spring. In addition to the flower garden (pictured) which has the theme of “Love”, there is a water garden, an ornamental flower garden including a maze out of boxwood, and an organic vegetable garden which is planted twice a year. All of the vegetables are given away.

Chinon, the French village pictured, was once in the middle of the estates of the Plantagenet dynasty. A mighty fortress castle looms over the town, so this area was once English, home to Richard the Lionhearted, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and Henry II.



## September 2015 Exchange to Seattle and Columbia Cascade



*Welcome to Kelso, Washington by a woman who had been hosted in Lincoln as viewed from the train.*

**By Barbara Ridder,  
Exchange Director**

**S**eashores, mountains, cruises, and mansions - the variety the two host clubs provided was great. The group of 15 ambassadors left Lincoln for Seattle on September 14. On September 20 we traveled by Amtrak to Vancouver, Washington and on September 26 we returned to Lincoln having completed a most successful journey.

Our first morning in Seattle began with a brunch. A big banner and delicious food by hosts and other members of The Friendship Force of Seattle made us feel welcome and gave

us time to get to know one another. After brunch we walked to the Space Needle, built for the 1962 World's Fair. Views from the observation deck had us yearning to explore the city and waterways. At the base of the needle is the Chihuly Garden and Glass Exhibit. Dale Chihuly is a Northwest artist of world-wide fame. The fascinating shapes and glowing colors of the museum are breath-taking.

A second especially interesting element of the Seattle portion of the exchange was the visit to the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field. We toured the original Air Force One, the Concorde and the first Boeing 747. The full scale

Space Shuttle in which the astronauts trained impressed us with the small area in which they work.

A tour of the Issaquah Fish Hatchery was a favorite of the group. We were fortunate to be there at the time the salmon were running. One of the facts our informative guide gave us was that the salmon return to their original spawning area by smell.

On our last day in Seattle we cruised to Blake Island for the Tillicum Village salmon bake. We had beautiful views of the Seattle skyline and the harbor. Upon arrival on the island people dressed in native costume greeted us with bowls of clams. We followed tradition and dropped the shells on the ground and crushed them. Before having lunch, we saw fire pits with salmon roasting on stakes. That salmon tasted as good as it looked!

One aspect of the Seattle stay was lots of time left open for the hosts to take the ambassadors to places of their choice.

We traveled by train to our next exchange with The Friendship Force of Columbia Cascade. The activities began immediately upon arrival. We toured Fort Vancouver followed by a catered dinner at a hostess whose yard is edged by the Columbia River. This was a lovely start to the busy week. One day we toured by bus part of the rugged Oregon coast

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and the Tillamook Quilt Trail.

We watched oyster shucking at the Pacific Oyster Company. The tour included a stop at the Tillamook Creamery where we had giant ice cream cones in delicious flavors like huckleberry. One day we made our way around Portland's downtown. We used the varied public transportation system including a tram that took us to an area for an overview of the city. There was time to wander through Powell Book Store, the largest independently owned bookstore west of the Mississippi.

A special tour through Guide Dogs for the Blind was a highlight for Ambassadors. The guide walked us through the process of training the dogs and explained how the new owners live at the site for two weeks while they take care of their dogs 24/7.

We were given time to admire and smell the roses at the International Rose Garden, a sensory delight. Row after row of roses greeted us with enticing scents and blazing color. Pittock Mansion is a 16,000 square foot home situated above Portland with a view of Mount Hood. The Pittocks founded the annual Portland Rose Festival and the rose gardens along with being dedicated to civic improvements. We ended our Portland days with a drive along the Columbia River and a sternwheeler



*Learning about Guide Dogs for the Blind*  
cruise through the Columbia Gorge .

Eating is always an important part of an exchange. Besides enjoying small group dinners, eating at pubs and restaurants, we had two opportunities to eat at the food trucks for which Portland is known. One collection of these food carts is called Cartlandia which has about 30 food trucks. Each truck is independently owned. Lots of ethnic food and even a sweet specialty truck called Voodoo Donuts provided us with many gastric options.

Both exchanges were so well organized that we saw a wonderful variety of interesting places. Although we were busy, the ED's managed to schedule sufficient free time with hosts so we were able to relax and enjoy our new surroundings. It will be a challenge to reciprocate their thoughtfulness and organization.



*by Marilyn Watson,  
Merchandise Chair*

**Are you interested in ordering a Friendship Force shirt?**

**C**ost of short sleeve \$15.00, long sleeve \$20.00 and sweatshirt is \$25.00. Shirts come in S, M, L, XL, and 2XX (\$2.00 extra). Sweatshirts are NOT available in 2XX. Tax has been included; there is no shipping charge because Kathryn Neyens will pick them up since she goes to Omaha frequently.

Several shirts will be available to look at and you can place your order at the FFL meeting at NET on Sunday, November 15th from 2 - 4 p.m. You may pay that night or mail a check made payable to Friendship Force Lincoln. Along with the check, indicate the size(s) you want to order. I will need payment before I place the order. Shirts will be picked up at Marilyn's house.

## 2016 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2016 calendar year are \$35 for an Individual Membership and \$48 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.

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 10, 2015.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Name Badge \$9.00/\$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Replacement name badges cost \$9.00 each for a pin-on type or \$11.00 each for magnetic style**

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

Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY:  Individual-\$35  Family-\$48  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:** \_\_\_\_\_