



# PASSPORT

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

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JANUARY 2013



**Retracing the steps of the prairie pioneers.  
Coming in April: Taming a Harsh Land.**

## Greetings and Happy New Year from the President



*by Nancy Comer*

**T**he FFL is looking forward to making this a very special year for you. The Board has listened to your ideas and dialogued with other Friendship Force clubs in an effort to expand our program. As a result, there are many exciting opportunities for you to get involved.

For starters, there will be a club meeting for members, friends and prospective members every quarter. Here you can meet and get to know one another better. There will be programs to help you learn more about who we are as a Friendship Force club, refreshments, a short meeting, and a review of upcoming events. You can interact with the board and committee members involved in planning and executing outbound and inbound exchanges.

The first such meeting is "extra special". We will be celebrating International Friendship Day at Hillcrest Country Club Sunday, Febru-

ary 17 beginning at 5:30 p.m. FFI President George Brown will share his experiences working with FF clubs around the world and bring you up to date on how Friendship Force will continue to be relevant in bridging barriers that separate people of different cultures, ethnicities, and religions in the future.

At the same time, you will meet young legislators from Russia in Lincoln participating in Open World. FFL is looking for home hosts and day hosts to make this a memorable week for them.

FFL will also continue with its diversity dinners, monthly breakfasts, LEO's and other social activities.

The International Service Committee, now chaired by Kathy Mueller, is looking for members to serve on the committee and help in planning and organizing events that involve FFL and Lincoln's international ethnic communities. Last year the club picnicked with the Sudanese from both North and South Sudan, and attended events organized by the Niagara Foundation, a non-profit group that promotes intercultural and inter-faith dialogue.

Our goal is to involve each of you in something. Remember, you don't have to travel to be a part of Friendship Force. You just need to have an interest in meeting and making friends with peo-

ple from diverse backgrounds. One way you can do this is by participating in dinners and programs when FFL is hosting guests from other countries or ambassadors from FF clubs in the US. Betty Starr, trail boss for the April exchange: Taming a Harsh Land: Pioneers, Cowboys, Indians and Culture of America's Great Plains and her committee have been meeting regularly to put together a wonderful program. The committee needs your help. Call Betty to see where you can be of service.

Hope this has you excited about the New Year. Mark your calendar of upcoming events and get involved.

See you soon.

Nancy Comer

friendship force  
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LINCOLN

## Don't Miss the Celebration of International Friendship Day Sunday, February 17, 2013

**I**nternational Friendship Day; FFI President George Brown; Open World Delegation - All of this and more at Hillcrest Country Club, 9401 "O" Street. Begin the evening at 5:30 with social time and cash bar. Meet the Open World Russian delegates, George Brown and his wife Jill, and recent new members of FFL. Dinner in the grand ballroom, choice of three entrees, is at 6:15. At 7:00, George will talk on Visions for the Future, following which the Open World delegates will

be introduced. To top off the evening, the Fine Wine ensemble will provide music for dancing or easy listening. Total cost: \$22.

Please indicate below your choice of entrée and number of persons.

On Friday February 22, you will want to bid our Russians guests good-bye at the Open World Farewell. This is at Lee's Restaurant, 1940 West Van Dorn. Arrive at 5:30 for social time and cash bar, dinner (chicken, potatoes, vegetable, salad, dessert and

beverage) at 6:15, cost \$12. Comments from the Open World delegates at 7. American folk music provided by Gwen Meister and Bill Behmer courtesy of the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Indicate below the number of persons and return the form and a check, payable to the Lincoln Friendship Force to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Ln, Lincoln, NE 68510.

### Party Registration for the Celebration at Hillcrest and the Farewell Dinner at Lee's Chicken

Please send your reservation and check to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln NE 68510 by February 8. Questions to Jeanne 489-1247 or jz82924@windstream.net.

Name(s) _____	Phone _____
Address _____	Email _____
Guest's Name _____	Total _____

I, We will attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ the Celebration at Hillcrest (\$22 each), \_\_\_\_\_ the Farewell Dinner at Lee's (\$12 each)

Celebration Dinner Entrée Choices (if responding for more than one person, please specify the number for each entry)

\_\_\_\_\_ Beef Medallions, \_\_\_\_\_ Coq au Vin, \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon

# Taming A Harsh Land:

## PIONEERS, COWBOYS, INDIANS AND CULTURE OF AMERICA'S GREAT PLAINS - APRIL 8 – 24, 2013



**A**s you know this exchange is a cooperative effort with clubs in Omaha, Wichita, and Oklahoma City. The theme of FFL's portion of the program is Nebraska Territory: New Land, New People, New Life. We want to showcase Nebraska, the land and its people from the early days to the present and the challenges the land posed for all those who have inhabited it. The exchange opens April 8 with Ambassadors arriving in Omaha. Picked up by host families, ambassadors travel to Lincoln on the 9th where they will be hosted for five nights. During their stay, we will need all of you to assist in making the exchange a success.

Many of you may wish to participate in several of the activities in Omaha on the 9th. There will be a tour of the Pioneer Courage Sculptures, a discussion "The Building of Omaha" at Clark Library, lunch in the Union Pacific Cafeteria, and a stop at the Durham Museum. Although some of you have seen these exhibits before, you will want to visit them anew with guests from the East and West Coasts, Canada, Australia and Japan. Take pride in your state and show our guests something of the indomitable spirit that helped early Nebraskans turn what was once called the Great American Desert into a productive and wonderful place to live.

Lincoln activities on the 10th begin with a brunch at Spring Creek Prairie. UNL expert on the Great Plains, Dave Wishart will open with a talk on early settlements. Pippa White will provide a dramatic presentation, Far as the Eye Can See. The afternoon will find us at the Capital with a tour featuring aspects of pioneer life depicted in mosaic murals. We will finish the day with small-group dinners.

The 11th will feature a trip to Homestead National Monument – I know you have been there, done that – but

have you seen the film "Land of Dreams: Homesteading America" or thought of how tempting the idea of free land was to those who didn't own much of anything. Learn again from Park personnel what the Homestead Act meant for the development of the United States. In the afternoon visit a 19th century school house and participate in a genuine spelling bee if you think you have what it takes and learn more about early pioneer education.

We are heading West on the 12th and a stop at Wessel's 1920 farm. See how it was done when farmers had to do most things by hand relying more on man than machine power. In the afternoon it is lunch and tour at the Stuhr Museum for more pioneer history. Dinner is at Chances R in York.

Plan on attending the farewell potluck dinner at the Auld Recreation Center on the 13th to say goodbye and bring your dancing slippers and cowboy boots for some square dancing fun.

Where did the week go. Sunday, the 14th, some will want to ride the bus from Lincoln to Manhattan and back with a stop at the Flint Hills Discovery Center on the way.

# Discover Uganda

by Kay Rockwell, Exchange Director

**A** unique and exciting opportunity awaits you in East Africa. Be home hosted by my good friends, Betty Mutebi and the women at Baja Initiative for Community Empowerment (BICE). Meet their families, share food they prepare (it's a gourmet treat!), and make lifelong friends. Participate in their classes in English, numeracy and handicrafts and enjoy the life style of rural Uganda.

Experience life in Kampala City where your host, Paul Seki will introduce you to Reach Young People of Uganda. RYPU is concerned with the protection, development, and survival rights of children and young people who are living with or recovering from the effects of HIV, war and human abuse ([www.reachyoung-people.org](http://www.reachyoung-people.org)).

Spend time in both Kalungu and Kampala working on humanitarian projects directed by Betty and Paul. In Kalungu, assist teachers or children at BICE in craft making, vocational work, farming, and teaching. Meet children with HIV/AIDS and see how they are coping and enjoying life. In Kampala, join the local community in a Clean-Up and Tree Planting Campaign on the Seguku Entebbe Road, or help build a foundation of a school for disadvantaged chil-

dren under RYPU's care.

You can also be involved in training and guiding the officers of their FF clubs to develop FF policies and activities which will lead to officially chartering a club so they can become models for establishing FF clubs in other places in East Africa.

Can there be anything else. Indeed there is! Extend your visit to further your cultural experience with your new friends (\$1,064). Or spend four days on a Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls Safari: cross the equator, discover incredible biodiversity, enjoy a game drive, and take a boat ride among the hippos (≤ \$2,354). Or splurge on a Serengeti Safari in Kenya (≤ \$4,839).

Additional costs: VISA \$50; Malaria pills if desired; Round trip air fare from your home to Entebbe International Airport, Kampala, Uganda. We will meet at the Fairway Hotel in Kampala on June 13, 2013.

Submit your application via e-mail to Kay Rockwell at [krockwell1@unl.edu](mailto:krockwell1@unl.edu). Please verify your submission by calling Kay at 402-484-5431.

## Membership News

**A**s of late December 77% of FFL members have renewed for 2013. Please renew by sending a check to Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503.

FFL extends a hearty welcome to the following new members: Linda Kistler, Jim & Arlene Rea, Nancy Brown, Linda Ashelford, and Marilyn Russell.

## News from the Social Committee

**H**ere are two dates to mark on your calendar:

Sunday, March 17th – St. Patrick's Day. Come to Tabitha (4720 Randolph) 5 P.M. for a fun evening of snacks, drinks, and to try your luck at Bunco. You might win a prize so "be a wear'n of the green for a bit of leprechaun good fortune." Bunco is a simple, easy game – no skill involved.

Saturday, April 13th – Taming a Harsh Land Farewell. Auld Recreation Center (3140 Sumner) 6:00 P.M. for a potluck dinner, meat provided. We plan on some serious square dancing so wear your dancing shoes!

## 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. Mail to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503. Make check payable to: "The Friendship Force of Lincoln."

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2012 Board of Directors

President: Nancy Comer  
Vice President: Larry Kluck  
Secretary: Joanna Rogers  
Treasurer: Wendy Horacek  
Membership: Mary Bryant, chair; Gayle Bayer, Amy Birky  
Newsletter: Jim Ecklund, chair  
Website: Richard Spencer  
Publicity: Pat King  
Activities: Kathryn Neyens, chair  
LEO: Diane Conley  
International Service Projects: Kathy Mueller, chair  
New Exchanges: Betty Starr, chair  
FFI Field Coordinator: Laurie Ann Scott  
Communication: Jim Ecklund, chair  
Breakfast & Conversation: Milt Bayer  
Merchandise: Mary Lou Reeves, Amy Birky  
Historian: Jeanne Zwiebel  
Diversity Dinners: Nancy Comer

# The FF World Conference

by Laurie Ann Scott

**C**reating a World of Friends That Becomes a World of Peace. This was the theme of the Friendship Force World Conference held in Japan October 31 to November 2, 2012. 370 attended from 22 countries to celebrate peace and friendship. Delegates were deeply moved when Takaaki “James” Morikawa, president of the Hiroshima club, shared his story of how he, his parents and siblings survived the atomic bomb in 1945, when he was only six.

Delegates toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum and hung strands of origami cranes made by Friendship Force members from all over the world as a symbol of peace. Messages of love and hope were written on paper lanterns and released into the river after dark.

The Hiroshima club provided opportunities to experience aspects of Japanese culture as delegates tried their hand at calligraphy, dressed up in kimonos, attended a Japanese tea ceremony, and more.

As the Friendship Force celebrated its 35th anniversary, President George Brown presented a new video reviewing the organization’s remarkable history and reflecting on its bright future. See [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org) and click on “Photos and Videos.”

At the Conference, I represented FFL and, led panel discussions on “The Best Exchange Group We’ve Ever Had” and “Filling Your Exchange – Every Time.” I also promoted FFL’s upcoming themed exchange Taming A Harsh Land by wearing a promotional tee shirt and distributing colorful invitations to all the delegates.

Following the exchange, many delegates were home-hosted by 15 Japanese clubs. I stayed with the Seiichi Watanabe family in Tokyo, which was especially enjoyable in that the Watanabes have three generations in their home just like the Scotts!

It was also my pleasure to lead a preconference exchange October 24-30. It included ambassadors from Canada, Brazil, Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Colorado, Florida, and California.

The Friendship Force of Tokyo welcomed the group and conducted a very informative tour of the city. The group took “bullet train” to Kyoto and Nara, two of Japan’s beautiful ancient cities.

In Nagoya, the group visited FFL’s dear friends in the Aichi Friendship Force, which hosted Lincoln in 2004, had a wonderful lunch and a tour of the Nagoya Castle. Ambassadors then enjoyed a private time with their host families,

enjoying a number of activities together. Even though it was a short stay, the parting was emotional.

I will share a video and more stories from my experiences in Japan with FFL on May 2, 2013.

## Taming a Harsh Land continued

Some of you may wish to continue and participate in the full exchange, 17 days with hosting for you in Wichita and Oklahoma City. There is still room. If you wish to see the full program, contact Betty Star at 402-486-4006 -- [bettystarr@inebraska.com](mailto:bettystarr@inebraska.com) or check out information at the FF World Catalogue page at [http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/catalog\\_northamerica.aspx#11557](http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/catalog_northamerica.aspx#11557).

We also need people to home host, day host, provide transportation, and help with numerous other activities. If you would like to help, contact Betty or Marilyn Armagost – 402.488.6823 [marmagost@earthlink.net](mailto:marmagost@earthlink.net) or Cheri Beery – 402.730.4730 [cherylbeery@hotmail.com](mailto:cherylbeery@hotmail.com)

More information via email regarding times, places, and costs will be forthcoming around March 1, along with a sign up sheet. But you do not have to wait to volunteer your services. Call now!



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

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