



# PASSPORT

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

NUMBER 133

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

FEBRUARY 2014



**Sangre Azteca Mexican Dancers perform at November's Diversity Festival**

## Greetings from the President



by *Larry Kluck*

**T**he Friendship Force of Lincoln is starting 2014 with an electronic Passport. The Passport will arrive to you faster as we can cut the time for printing, assembling and mailing. In addition we now will be able to include color pictures in the electronic versions. We do not want to forget our members who do not have computers so they will continue to receive the black and white copy by mail.

For 2014 I have requested we have LEO's (Let's eat out!) that will give club members an opportunity to try some of the ethnic restaurants in Lincoln. We will try and have the restaurant managers tell us a little about their food and its preparation.

As indicated elsewhere in the Passport, please make plans to attend the February activity which will include a report on the FFI trip to England, Scotland, and Wales in which a number of our members participated.

Kathryn Neyens and Marilyn Watson have put together a wonderful exchange to New Zealand and it is full. We

will look forward to hearing about their adventures. The New Zealand clubs always do a great job in hosting so those of you who are taking part in the exchange will be in for a wonderful time.

Also in March our club will host an Open World exchange. Julie Albrecht, Gloria Van Ackeren and Joanna Rogers are in charge of the planning. If you would like to help, please contact one of them.

The Friendship Force of Milwaukee is hosting the regional conference this year between May 1 and 4. Several members are planning to attend and if you are interested in attending please let me know.

Our incoming group for 2014 from Russia has decided they will not be coming to Lincoln. Instead we have two domestic exchanges coming to visit us on Wednesday, May 28. They are the FF of Los Angeles, California, and Charlotte, North Carolina. They both wanted to come in late May or early June. Rather than doing two incoming exchanges almost back to back, we are planning on one large exchange with around 30 ambassadors. The evening of May 29 we will be hosting a meal for them followed by Nebraska Humanities speaker Cherrie Beam Clarke's presentation "The Courage to Continue". Please plan to get

involved as hosts, day hosts or hosts for the small group dinners.



**Midwest Regional Conference May 1-4**

by *Larry Kluck*

**M**ark your calendar now for the Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year's conference will focus on keeping our clubs vital and strong. It's our opportunity to come together for fellowship, exploring new ideas, celebrating our organization, and renewing our dedication to changing the way we see the world. Joy DiBenedetto, FFI's new President/CEO, will join us on Saturday, May 3. ALL members of Midwest Friendship Force Clubs are welcome at the regional conference. Whether you've just joined a FF club, are considering joining, or are a charter member, this conference is for you.

Watch your inbox for registration materials.

## Congratulations to the Friendship Force of Lincoln!



Members from all Taming a Harsh Land clubs

### We Did It!

**C**ongratulations to the FF of Greater Omaha, Lincoln, Kansas, Oklahoma & Betty Starr, Trail Boss, for winning the 2013 USA Club of the Year award. Their efforts in promoting, inspiring and marketing the program “Taming a Harsh Land Pioneers, Cowboys, Indians and Culture of America’s Great Plains” met with success.

The award was given to the group by FFI Program Coordinator, Kathy Thomas, in the morning plenary session of the 36th World Conference, November 23, 2013



Betty Starr (Trail Boss) and Nancy Comer (President)

in New Orleans, LA. This is the first time the award was given to multiple clubs for one theme designed program. All club representatives were at the conference to receive their awards.

This achievement could NOT have been realized without the dedication of the seven volunteers on the theme committee who worked for 18 months to make the exchange happen. Also, special thanks needs to go to the club members who assisted by hosting an ambassador, providing a group dinner, or participating in our specialized program. Every time our members step up to participate in these experiences the success of our club multiplies.

The trophy will be displayed at the board meetings and socials, and will spend time with each of the FFL 7 committee members on a rotating schedule throughout the coming year.

Thank You!!! FF Lincoln for this club group effort!

### News from the Social Committee

by Carolyn Kitterer

**Y**ou are invited to “A Taste of the British Isles” as the winter social event. This will be held on Sunday, February 16 at The Legacy on 72nd and Van Dorn at 5:30pm. The ambassadors from last summer’s exchange to England, Scotland and Wales will share highlights of their trip. You will have the opportunity to partake of typical British sandwiches and desserts with a special dessert being prepared for sampling. Donations will be collected to offset the cost of this event. For easiest access to the room, park on the west side of the building and enter the door on that side. If you have to park on the east side, there will be signs posting the way to the room.

Please RSVP to Jeanne Zwiebel, 402-489-1247 or [jz82924@windstream.net](mailto:jz82924@windstream.net) by February 10.

### 2014 Friendship Force of Lincoln Officers

President . . . . . Larry Kluck  
 Vice-President Kathryn Neyens  
 Secretary . . . . . Joanna Rogers  
 Treasurer . . . Wendy Horacek

## Upcoming Exchanges

### Uniquely Nebraska Exchange May 28-June 3

by Joanna Rogers

**W**hat can you see and do in Nebraska that you can't do in Charlotte, NC or Los Angeles, CA? Everyone knows about the Unicameral and our unique State Capitol; but have you been to a windmill factory? Have you seen Nebraska's 1920 farm complete with the house, tools and machinery that our ancestors used? Have you had lunch at the Governor's Mansion? And there is certainly not another collection like the Speedway Motors Museum. We also plan to spend a day in Nebraska City.

Thirty ambassadors will arrive on May 28th. The exchange ends on June 2nd for those from Los Angeles and June 3rd for the Charlotte group. Our committee includes ED's Jolene Schauer and Joanna Rogers, Hosting Chairs-Janice Jones and Jeanne Zwiebel; York & Seward activities-Sue Imig; Small group dinner chair-Mary Bryant; Party chairs-Erna Rethmeier and Marilyn Armagost; and Treasurer-Larry Kluck.

If you can participate as a home host, day host, dinner host, or party helper, you are invited to call any of the above members. We will have an activity sign-up sheet in the next issue of the Passport for those of you who may just want to

meet some new members of these other Friendship Force clubs. If you have already indicated an interest in hosting, we will be calling you in the near future.

Help us make a list of all the things unique about Nebraska and celebrate them with our guests. We know that Nebraska is known for being a friendly, happy place to live—now let's prove it!

Call Jolene at 402-326-1059; or Joanna at 402-484-8678.

### Exchange Director Needed for Domestic Exchange

**W**e need an ED to lead the domestic exchange to visit The Friendship Force of Southwest Florida. Travel would be to the Fort Myers/Naples area in the month of November 2014. We also have inquired about an exchange visit to Charlotte, NC for a second week.

Requirements for serving as an ED are having traveled on a FF Lincoln outgoing exchange either to another US club or an international exchange. Please contact Larry Kluck (larrykluck@hotmail.com) or Kathryn Neyens (tomnka@yahoo.com) if you are interested in serving in this capacity.



### Kenya Exchange August 2-16

by Cathy Lund

**A** unique and exciting opportunity awaits you in East Africa, the home of future FF Ambassadors. Flying in and out of Nairobi, you will be welcomed in Kitui by Matuku Musyoka (Shadrack) and his wife Judy. Visit with Shadrack's colleagues about life in rural Kenya. Meet their families, stay with them in their homes, and enjoy fresh vegetables and fruits harvested daily. Experience life in Nakuru City where your host will introduce you to Menengai Crater at the precipice of the Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru which is the home of large flamingo families.

Spend time working on humanitarian projects like distributing goats to families and purchasing desks for a street children rehabilitation program. Extend your visit with a few days on a Safari!

Submit your application to Cathy Lund at clund1@unl.edu. Please verify your submission by calling Cathy at 402-310-1118

## Diversity Festival Success

by Kathy Mueller

**H**ave you ever eaten Dolma? How about Biryani, Matzo Balls in Chicken Soup or Eggplant Salad? Almost 150 people tasted all these foods and many more at the Friendship Force's Diversity Festival in November.

What started as an event designed to facilitate the meeting of Russian Open World delegates and the Lincoln refugee population, blossomed into a festival that included music, dance performances, and food from many corners of the world. The entertainment kicked off with a song from the Russian delegates, followed by colorful performances from the Lion King Dancers and Sangre Azteca Mexican Dancers. A newly formed group of young children with a few adults from the Nuba Mountain region in Sudan showed us a recently learned tribal dance. The evening ended with a performance by a group of International folk dancers. Afterwards they invited everyone to join them to learn a dance together.

The food was as delicious and varied as the entertainment. There were samples prepared and served by people from many regions of the world that now make their homes in Lincoln. Our own



FFL members joined in by sharing foods that represented their cultures. These wonderful offerings filled two large "melting pot" tables.

Komi, a former Nuba Mountain resident and now a Lincoln artist, gave us all a look at life in his homeland with a nearly 200' long display of his photographs. The display wrapped around most of the First Lutheran Church fellowship hall.

The festival provided all participants an opportunity to take a peek into other cultures without packing a suitcase and boarding a plane. The entire evening was a delightful journey for our eyes, ears, and palates.



## Need a Gift for an Upcoming Exchange or a Friend?

by Amy Birky

**T**here are great deals available from the Friendship Force Store

### Examples:

- Friendship Force pin \$3
- Friendship Force pen \$5
- Pencils w/logo \$0.25 - \$0.50
- Aprons, w/logo \$10
- Luggage Tags w/logo \$3

Contact: Merchandise Sales Agent Mary Lou Reeves, 402-464-1803 reevesmary34@gmail.com

## Join us for Open World 2014

by Julie Albrecht and Joanna Rogers

**T**he FFL will host six young Ukrainian leaders for the Open World Leadership Program March 21-29. The group will learn about accountable governance and will visit the Nebraska legislature and various local agencies. Julie Albrecht, Pat King, and Joanna Rogers are planning activities for the week-long program.

Watch for announcements highlighting social events during the visit.

## Scholarship Financial Assistance for Outbound Exchanges

by Kathryn Neyens

**H**ave you have wanted to travel with our club on an outbound exchange, but felt your financial situation prevented you from doing so? Be aware our club offers monetary assistance. Carolyn Kitterer is the most recent recipient. The amount of the scholarship is limited to 2/3rds of the total cost of the trip, not to exceed \$2,500, but does not cover personal expenses.

### Criteria for applicants:

1. Support the goals and objectives of Friendship Force.
2. Demonstrate openness to other cultures and people.
3. Be physically able to participate in all exchange activities.
4. Not have previously traveled outside of North America; however, the Board may waive this requirement in certain circumstances.
5. Demonstrate financial need (provide a copy of your most recent 1040 tax form (only the Vice President of

- our club will see this form)
6. Compose an essay in 1500 words or less stating why you would be a worthy exchange Ambassador.
7. Fill out the Scholarship Application form and submit it to our club's Vice President (who is the Scholarship Committee Chairman.)

If you have questions or interest, please contact Kathryn Neyens, Vice President, Scholarship Committee Chairman, tomnka@yahoo.com, 402-890-0077



## Membership News

by Mary Bryant

**T**he last few months have been devoted to membership renewals for 2014. We're still waiting for the last two renewals to appear in our mailbox. As of late January we have 155 paid memberships for 2014. This consists of 108 Individual and 47 Family Memberships that represent 202 members. Since our last newsletter we are pleased to welcome the following new members: Megan Charko, Cinde Westmiller, Ann Hoffman, Maryjo Engelhard Shibata, Lois Katt, Doris Pile Visser, Marie Hitz, Thelma Simpson, Lana Novak, and Lana Chistopolskayha. Thanks

to the following members who were responsible for referring these individuals to FFL: Barb Boettcher, Joanna Rogers, Sylvia Olson, Amy Birky, Barb Ridder, Earl Visser, De Tonack, and Marie Hitz. We were fortunate to have 38 individuals join our membership in 2013. We truly value each and every one of you. Thanks to each member who sang the praises of our unique organization to these new members. We wouldn't have had this surge in membership without you.

A Dessert and Coffee gathering for new and prospective members was held the evening of November 3, 2013. Invitations had been extended

to 36 new and 21 prospective members. The event, held at Forest Lake Estates Clubhouse, was attended by 12 new and 2 prospective members along with 6 Board Members. Please continue to send me, via email (ab62359@windstream.net) contact information of prospective members. Gayle Bayer and Amy Birky will follow-up with these individuals and remind them of upcoming club activities and answer their questions.

## Meet some Members of the Friendship Force of Lincoln

by *De Tonack  
& Mary Bryant*

**W**e are adding a new feature to the FFL Passport. Mary Bryant was looking for someone to interview new members as a way of introducing newcomers to our membership. The intent was to include the write up in issues of the FFL newsletter. De Tonack volunteered to record comments in connection with the Discussion Topic at the monthly “Breakfast and Conversation.” Sounded like a good idea since we would hear from new, experienced, and prospective members. Let Mary and De know what you think about this feature.

On the second Saturday morning of every month, FFL members have an opportunity to eat breakfast together and to share little stories about themselves. There is always a topic for discussion whereby we learn something about one another. The discussion question in January was “What is your earliest memory and at what approximate age?” Milt Bayer came up with the earliest “earliest” in which a memory of mom holding him and saying “Here come daddy and Georgie down the road” must have been said when Milt was only two weeks old, according to his mom. Gayle Bayer also remembered being held up to a window to look outside to see a rainbow.

Many of us replied with memories couched in family events at about age 3 or 4. Betty Starr thought sneaking with cousins around to grandma’s bedroom to jump on the bed was okay when grandma wasn’t at home. Grandma set her straight. Marilyn Watson remembered not jumping on a bed but sitting on a bar stool in her dad’s bar. Kathryn Neyens remembered sleeping in a crib with a medal on a chain around her neck. Turning over, she thought the medal was a mouse and of course screamed. Larry Kluck didn’t remember mice but instead his dog Sparky. There were other stories involving grandparents, but one member summed it up by just saying “I remember being special at grandma’s house.”

Sometimes the earliest memories came from just doing something. Lana Novak remembers whistling because her dad did when they lived above his store. Our newest member, Marie Hitz, remembers going down a trap door in the floor of the kitchen to get coal for the stove and visiting her pet box turtle in the basement. Bruce Keim told of riding down rutted roads in an old car on the way to country school and Carlene Keim had memories of building forts with her sisters using old wood planks. Barb Ridder said her older sister always sat Barb in an overstuffed chair to read

to her, whether Barb wanted to be read to or not. Linda Ashelford remembered eating ice cream after a tonsillectomy; Mary Bryant had a memory in which the question “Do you want to see my pennies” got changed to another question. See Mary for the details.

Some memories stretched back to depression days when Georgia Raecke remembered burning her feet on the blazing hot grass and Dick Raecke remembered being read to, sometimes in German and sometimes in English, by his father. Amy Birky remembered the victory gardens of World War II days.

There were more stories told, but perhaps one that made perfect sense in being stored in permanent, long term memory was Chuck Godwin’s recounting of his mother’s last Christmas while suffering from tuberculosis. Another Christmas memory was from Claire Ehernberger. Did you know pink sky at that time of year means Mrs. Santa Claus is baking cookies? And finally, Buddy Sizemore remembered a holiday picture of him in a superman costume, a photo that many years later purposely disappeared!

## 2014 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2014 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 12/31/14.

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: \_\_\_\_\_