



PASSPORT

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Join us For Game Night Sunday, June 14

We'll have board and dice games, cards and dominoes. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Mary Bryant (402)488-7781 or ab62359@windstream.net if you can come.

We need the number of participants so we can plan accordingly. Join us Sunday evening June 14th from 6:30-9:00 at Forest Lake Club-house at 6834 Summerset Court, in Lincoln.

Greetings from the President



by *Larry Kluck*

Thanks to those members who helped and took part in the Open World welcome party and club social event. The Open World organization was pleased to hear of the support our club gave to the participants. The group of young people from the Ukraine was outstanding.

Next we look forward to the "Taming America's Great Plains" global exchange. Thank you to committee members and to those of you who have stepped up to host. Included in this newsletter is a sign-up sheet for the activities the committee is planning. The farewell party is at the Prairie Creek Inn. This is a new venue for our club so be sure and sign up to join in this activity by the due date as we may not be able to handle late registrations.

Carolyn Kitterer was unable to lead the exchange to Taiwan. Since we did not have any other Lincoln members who

could fill in, I contacted FFI and suggested that someone on the exchange from another club might step up and lead the exchange. We did not want to cancel it as there were enough ambassadors already committed to hold the exchange. Fortunately, FFI assisted and the exchange is now being led by a FF member from Sacramento.

These are the places and tentative dates for our 2016 exchanges.

- Outgoing to Guadeloupe (Caribbean Island, overseas region of France), March 2016
- Outgoing to Niagara, Canada, October 2016 - We hosted Niagara in 2012 so this will present an opportunity for those who were involved in the 2012 exchange to renew the wonderful friendships that developed during their visit to Lincoln.
- Incoming from Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 2016
- Incoming from Huntsville, Alabama and Seattle, Washington, late August to early September 2016 - We will host both of these domestic exchanges together.

The Audit Committee needs a volunteer

We need one additional person for our auditing committee. Every year we have a group of three members who audit the prior year's financial records. Normally, this takes 1 or 2 afternoons in May or June so a report from the audit committee can be given at the annual meeting.

If you are a person who is detail oriented and enjoys working with figures, please let me know. The two members who have agreed to serve and with whom you will work are Robert Raymond who will lead the committee and Arlene Rea.

Please email me if you can help--LarryKluck@hotmail.com.

Breakfast and Conversation Discussion

by De Tonack

February 14th Breakfast & Conversation Question: If you could be anyone in the world for a week, who would it be and why?

Five of the twenty-eight guests mentioned wanting to be Warren Buffet, although for various reasons. Someone wanted to see how Mr. Buffet makes his financial decisions; someone wanted to see the numbers like an accountant would; another person liked how Warren Buffet played bridge. However, perhaps the most unusual reason for wanting to be Warren Buffet was John Vondracek's noting that many people have said he looks like Warren, even one of Mr. Buffet's employees. So John would like to send a letter and photo to Mr. Buffet to see if Warren Buffet has ever been asked if he were John Vondracek! Another member was just going after the money directly and wishing he were one of the current Power Ball winners.

Pope Francis was another popular choice, some just wanting to see how he made his decisions or have his experiences and another wanting a chance for a woman to have that job.

Other members were

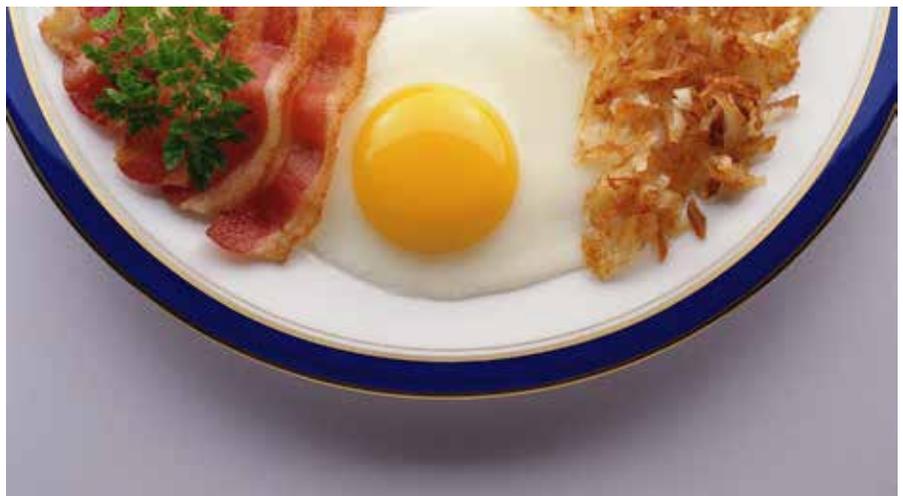
lured by the skills and experiences of others. One member would like to be one of the very bright ladies on the Supreme Court. One person wanted to experience the skill of an award winning tennis player and another that of a figure skater and another that of a professional golfer. Another wanted to be a Grand Ole Opry star and enjoy singing while another would like to be Barbara Streisand for her singing talent. Another member would like to stay herself but have the power to speak and understand any language in order to understand others better.

Some members reached back into history to be Thomas Jefferson, Susan B. Anthony, or a past King of England to enjoy the pomp and circumstance. Two picked Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, enjoying the wearing of hats and more of that

pomp and circumstance. Another member picked reaching back in time to be a distant relative and another to be her younger self.

Being a leader of a nation caught the attention of others, with two wanting to be Vladimir Putin in order to figure out what he is doing and why. Another wanted to be the President of the United States to get a sense of how all of the work and decisions can fit into any one day. Another wanted to be President Obama's wife. Another wanted to be Bill Gates wife because she could then help with many causes and get any computer problem fixed quickly.

Another response that fit into no other category was John Comer's request to be his wife for a week so she would realize how great a guy she had married!



Meet Newer Members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln

by Lois Poppe

Lylaine and Bill Abbott have a passion for travel and enjoy meeting people. When Friendship Force members Milt and Gayle Bayer and Amy Birky suggested the Abbotts consider joining Friendship Force, it seemed like a good idea.

Bill came to Lincoln to attend UNL and Lylaine grew up in Grand Island. They met at Bryan Medical where Bill worked as a pharmacist and Lylaine worked as a nurse. (Bill became a financial advisor as a second career). Lylaine enjoys doing cross-stitch and participation in church-related activities. Bill enjoys golf and volunteering with SCORE and Catholic Social Service and church activities. Through the OLLI program they continue to learn and meet new people. As a family, the Abbotts camped with their children and Bill also camped with Boy Scout troops.

Although they have traveled to many places (South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, England, Austria, Peru, Costa Rica, Australia and New Zealand) to name a few, they plan future travel to China, Greece and perhaps even Antarctica.

The Abbotts look forward to day hosting through Friendship Force in May and meeting new people traveling with Friendship Force. Welcome the Abbotts when you see them!

Bob Cardwell learned about Friendship Force through member, Gene Van Ackeren, who he worked with at the telephone company. Bob worked for the telephone company for 40 years. Bob and his wife Myna enjoyed travel to many areas of the world until Myna's death in 2012. They were married for 62 years. Some of their trip destinations included China, Argentina, Brazil, Scandinavian countries, Moscow, Germany and Poland.

Bob loves playing golf, photography and family history. Bob and Myna camped with their three boys. Bob was active with the Boy Scouts – two of their sons became Eagle Scouts. Bob enjoys family gatherings with his three sons, their spouses, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bob bought 22 boxes of Girl Scout cookies this year from family members. He gave most of them away to those who might not otherwise be able to enjoy them.

Membership News

by Mary Bryant

The newest members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln are: Stephen Beer, Cherrie and Richard Callaway, Pam Freudenburg, plus Doha Toma and her husband, Hussein Alkulabi. Please welcome them to our organization when you meet them. A word of "thanks" goes to the following individuals who were responsible for referring the new members: Ruth Beer, Marilyn Paolini, Larry Kluck, Jolene and John Schauer, Diane Conley, plus Buddy Sizemore and Chuck Godwin.

As of the end of March we have received paid 2015 FFL memberships from 106 individuals and 49 families that represent 204 members. We'd appreciate it if you would continue to send us the names of individuals who have expressed interest in learning more about FFL.

👉 TAMING AMERICA'S GREAT PLAINS EXCHANGE 👈

By *Linda Kistler,*
Exchange Director

From May 1-5 Friendship Force Lincoln will be welcoming 21 ambassadors from across the country and around the world to the Lincoln segment of the Taming America's Great Plains exchange and we hope YOU can join us!

On Saturday, May 2nd, we will gather at Spring Creek Prairie (11700 SW 100th St., Denton) at 9:15. The program includes a talk by David Wishart and dramatic Presentation by Karen Wyatt-Drevo, "Maria Rodaway, 1867 Pioneer Woman from Otoe County, Nebraska." Karen will give a first person presentation about life as a wife on the frontier. Brunch is at 10:30 and a guided walk along the prairie trail begins at 12:30.

Sunday, May 3rd, will find us at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice (8523 NE-4). Be there by 11:30 and enjoy a catered lunch. Afternoon activities include the film "Land of Dreams-Homesteading America", a Park Ranger presentation "How the Homestead Act Affected the West" and time to tour the museum and explore the grounds. Ambassadors will participate

in an old-fashioned spelling bee at the one-room schoolhouse with our own "school marm", Nancy Comer. We will be done by 5:00.

A tour of our beautiful and unique Capitol is planned for Monday, May 4th, followed by lunch at the governor's residence. Meet at 10:00 at the north doors for the tour. Lunch begins at 11:30. After an agriculture related activity on East Campus we will head to the Dairy Store for a refreshing treat.

Our farewell dinner will be at a NEW venue for Friendship Force - Prairie Creek Inn (2400 So. 148th St., Walton). Dinner, catered by Greta's Gourmet, will be in the restored 100-year old barn adjacent to the historic Leavitt House. Many of you will remember when that magnificent stone house was moved from 70th and "O" Street to its present location. Join us for a fun evening as we wish our guests a safe journey on the final leg of this exchange.

Please select your activities and complete the registration form below. We will need a count by April 24th so we can order food. Any Questions? Call Linda Kistler (402-489-3712) or email lkistler@hotmail.com



Homestead National Monument of America in Nebraska

One of the more significant events in the westward expansion, the Homestead Act of 1862, granted 160 acres of free land to claimants. The Monument commemorates this act & the impact it had on the landscape & the people. The design for the quarter features three fundamentals of survival common to homesteaders: food, shelter, & water represented by corn, a cabin, and a water pump. Forty-five percent of Nebraska was settled under the Homestead Act.

TAMING AMERICA'S GREAT PLAINS EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

Please mark the activities you wish to participate in and mail your check to Brian Ridenour, 7520 Cross Creek Court, Lincoln, NE 68516., made out to Friendship Force of Lincoln. by April 24, 2015, so we can order the food. Mail to: If you have questions contact Linda Kistler (402-489-3712 or 402-580-3448) or ljkestler@hotmail.com

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Saturday, May 2	Spring Creek Prairie:	
9:15 AM	Talk and Presentation	free
10:30 AM	Spring Creek Prairie Brunch	\$10 x _____
12:30 PM	Prairie Walk	\$3 x _____
Sunday, May 3	Lunch at Homestead National Monument	\$14 x _____
Monday, May 4	Lunch at Nebraska Governor's Mansion	\$20 x _____
5:30 PM	Catered Farewell Dinner, Prairie Creek Inn	\$25 x _____
Tuesday, May 5	Lunch to meet Omaha host, pay your own	
		TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

2015 Exchanges for the Friendship Force of Lincoln

May 1-5, 2015

Incoming "Taming America's Great Plains" joint exchange, Kansas, Oklahoma and Omaha - Exchange Director: Linda Kistler, ljkestler@hotmail.com

August 15-21, 2015

Incoming from Napier, New Zealand - Exchange Director: Diane Conley, dconworks4@gmail.com

September 14-27, 2015

Outgoing to Seattle and Columbia Cascade (Oregon)
Exchange Director: Barb Ridder, bridder@neb.rr.com

October 1-18, 2015

Outgoing to Bavaria-Nuernberg Erlengen, Germany
Exchange Directors: Marilyn Armagost marmagost@earthlink.net and Erna Rethmeier, erethme@yahoo.com

Reflections of India

By Marilyn Newstrom

December 29, 2014 -
January 26, 2015

In a country of 1.252 billion people there is more of everything. More cars, motorcycles and trucks, more streets, more shops, more languages, more fruit and vegetable markets, more buildings and houses, more poverty, more trash, more dust, more fishing boats, more mosques, Hindu temples and churches, more elementary schools, colleges and universities. The city of Gunter in Andra Pradesh where I stayed was about 2M people, Chennai in a neighboring state was about 4M; farm villages are as large as 100,000 people. Rallies and sports events attract 1M people in one stadium. India is comprised of 26 states each with its own language, custom, dress and cuisine.

Four of us arrived in India just after Christmas and in time for New Year's celebrations. In a country that is 85% Hindu, 12% Muslim and 3% Christian, obstacles and challenges occur. Leaving expectations at home and going with an open mind we shared a meal, an idea, or an ice cream cone. A shopping trip or family gathering had deeper meaning with someone who knows your heart in



Charminar Mosque
Hyderabad



Fishing Boats in the Bay of Bengal



Church Service, Shalome Church, Gunter, Andra Pradesh, India



this place of unfamiliar customs, language and people groups. Although we live ten time zones apart, we are united as one. Lives are transformed in prayer, words, behavior and joy.

India is the largest exporter (second only to Mexico in the world market) of red chili peppers in the region supplying Asia and Europe, so it is not a surprise that the food is a

bit spicy for our taste. They also grow rice, different kinds of green beans, tobacco, corn, cotton, coffee, sugar cane and bananas. When we drove into the country and towards the Bay of Bengal, we saw farmers harvesting crops and big trucks or lorries hauling cotton, red chilies, rice and other products to market. Goat herds often stopped traffic both in the country and in the cities. Buffalo milk was used to make the rich creamy ice cream and was also used in our coffee. Chicken, fish and mutton were served in curry sauces ranging from mild to "I probably shouldn't even try."

Neighborhood slums where people live in makeshift tents or houses with



India continued

thatched roofs are being replaced by concrete structures. Government subsidies, education and better jobs support the transition from dirt to concrete floors. Our hostess, Miss Leela, grew up in a farming village. Her father was a pastor and raised 9 children in a two-room hut with a thatched roof. They all slept in the same room. From those humble beginnings, the children grew up to be pastors, teachers, government workers and professors. Miss Leela has a PhD in Botany and taught at Andra Christian College in Gunter for 35 years. The house was rebuilt by one of the brothers as a concrete structure where the family often gathers for reunions.

Our site-seeing excursions took us to the ancient Hindu caves in Undavalli, St Thomas' Basilica in Chennai, ancient Hindu temples along the Bay of Bengal, Pondicherry French Territory south of Chennai, the Bay of Bengal with many colorful fishing boats and racks of fish drying in the sun and Haailand amusement park which reminded us of Disneyland. We even enjoyed Thai, Italian and North Indian cuisine. In the Pondicherry French Territory, along the Bay of Bengal, these American tourists, along with their

Indian friends, enjoyed Italian food prepared by an Indian cook who spoke fluent English in a restaurant owned by a German. Our world truly gets smaller every day.

After a long flight and a 24-hour delay due to snow in New York, I reflect on the people, the customs, the food and connections made in India. The solitude of my farmhouse in Kansas, the quiet snowfall, and the rolling plains, refresh my spirit.



Feeling like a princess in my sari

The Seattle and Columbia Cascade Exchange

By Barb Ridder

Join the exchange to the Northwest! The Seattle and Columbia Cascades Clubs are busy planning activities. Ocean and mountains, museums and an old fort await us. We fly to Seattle September 14; we go to Portland by train September 20; we return home September 26. Add your name to those already expecting to go on the adventure. Contact Barb Ridder (402) 435-0270 or bridder@neb.rr.com.

Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission. That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the causes of friendship, love and peace can be furthered. I can make a difference.

**CHANGING THE
WAY YOU SEE
THE WORLD**

Parlez-vous Francais?

By Laurie-Ann Scott

You don't need to be able to speak French to "Discover France" this September 18-30th. I will be leading this special program to Paris, Normandy, and the Loire Valley. Plans are also underway to connect with Friendship Force prospects in both Paris and Versailles.

This exchange begins in Paris where hop-on-hop-off bus tickets will be provided along with a cruise on the River Seine and a Paris Museum and Monuments pass for free admission to sixty sites. One Parisian day, our coach will take us to visit the Palace of Versailles and the Monet Gardens at Giverny. Next we go to Normandy where we will visit Omaha Beach and the museums that tell the story of D-Day. We will visit the cemeteries and St. Mere Eglise, the village liberated by Americans who parachuted in to protect the GI's from the only road accessible to German troops. One paratrooper, John Steele, got hung up on the church tower and had to watch helplessly while others were shot as they descended. This event is memorialized at the site and if you remember "The Longest Day", Red Buttons portrayed that soldier!

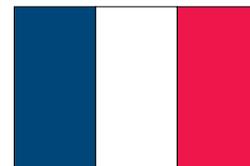


Eiffel Tower in Paris. This photograph was taken by Alfie Ianni. To see more of his work, visit his website at www.alfieianni.com.

Mont St Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been the seat of a monastery since the 8th century. It's idyllic location is on an island a half mile from the coast connected by a tidal causeway. We will also visit Bayeaux, settled in the 1st century, and the location of a museum featuring the Bayeux tapestries, which commemorate the Norman Conquest of England, in 1066. The Loire River Valley, sometimes called the Valley of a Thousand Chateaux, embodies the Age of Enlightenment and the French Renaissance. Local guides will take us through a number of these mansions and the valley's subterranean wine caves for wine-tasting and lunch.

Before returning to Paris, we will visit another World Heritage site, the beautiful Cathedral at Chartres.

This 13 day Discover France program is \$2,330, including all transportation, admissions, hotels, buffet breakfasts, two lunches and more, but not air. An optional French language learning experience with home hosting for one or two weeks prior is also available through Education First, a partner to Friendship Force. Interested? Contact Laurie Ann at lalpscott@aol.com or (402) 488-1915.



Exchange Directors Needed!

Are you interested in being an Exchange Director for either an incoming or outgoing exchange in 2016?

Here are the exchanges our club will be involved in for 2016:

- March outgoing to the island of Guadeloupe (in the Caribbean)
- May incoming from Brazil
- August/September incoming domestic from Huntsville, Alabama and Seattle, Washington combined
- October outgoing to Niagara, Canada

Please return this application to either Larry Kluck or Kathryn Neyens by April 30th.

Exchange Director's Application:

Name _____ Club Member Since _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ cell _____

To assist the FFL Board of Directors in assessing your commitment and qualifications to be an exchange director, please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper!

1. What general club membership activities have you participated in during the last two years?
2. List your exchange experience. (Give country of exchange and any committee in which you participated for that exchange. List both Friendship Force trips taken as well as hosting experiences.) Indicate with a (c) any committees for which you were chairperson.
3. List your Club experience: committees on which you have served and offices held or other positions on the board including the year(s) involved.
4. Is there a time of the year when you could not lead an exchange or hosting?
5. Give a brief resume of profession, hobbies, and other volunteer work you do.
6. Are you willing to lead either an Outgoing Exchange, an Incoming Hosting for either an International or Domestic Exchange?
7. Why do you want to lead an exchange?
8. How would you go about recruiting club members and members of your committee to participate as Ambassadors or Hosts for an exchange?
9. What experience have you had recruiting and working with volunteer workers?
10. What ideas do you have regarding leading workshops prior to the exchange to instruct Hosts/Ambassadors regarding the exchange requirements and ideals of The Friendshipship Force.
11. What are your qualifications to lead an exchange?