



# PASSPORT

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

NUMBER 124

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

DECEMBER 2011



**Don't Miss the Holiday Dinner Party**

**Friday, December 2, 5:30 PM  
Holmes Lake Apartments' Clubhouse,  
7100 Holmes Lake Road**

## Message from the President

by *Gaylord Becker - President*



**T**his will, of course, be my last Passport greeting as president. Nancy Comer elected at the Annual Meeting will assume office in January and do an outstanding job. As my term comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as president the past two years. I also want to thank the board for its steadfast support and all of you for

making my time as president a truly rewarding experience. I have come to think of FFL as a family, all working together to build friendships at home and abroad.

To that end, 2011 has been a busy and productive year. In April, FFL hosted the Midwest Regional Conference with 13 clubs from the region represented. Early May saw a group visit the Quad Cities for a wonderful exchange. The month of May also saw a group traveling to Ukraine. Home-hosted for a week in Kiev, the group also visited three other cities and got reacquainted with several who were home-hosted in Lincoln in 2006 as part of the Open World program. In June, the club traveled to Manley, NE

and attended a theatre production at the Loft. Lethbridge, Canada hosted the club in July for a week with those participating taking a few extra days to visit Lake Louise and Banff in the Canadian Rockies. In August, several members attended the World International Conference in Hamburg, Germany. FFL hosted Fort Collins, Colorado in October and has been invited to visit Fort Collins for a homestay in June. At the moment, plans are underway for the exchange to Turrialba, Costa Rica in January with over 20 FFL members participating.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to be a part of the leadership of this great organization and I look forward to continuing my service wherever I can make a contribution.



## Don't Miss the Holiday Dinner Party Friday, Dec. 2

by *Jeanne Zwiebel - Activities Chair*

**B**egin the 2011 holiday season by joining friends at the Holiday Potluck Dinner Party on Friday December 2. The event is at the Holmes Lake Apartments' Clubhouse, 7100 Holmes Lake Road. The evening begins at 5:30 with wine, soft drinks, and appetizers. Dinner is at 6:30. Guests are welcome.

The main course, beef brisket, is provided. We are

asking, however, that you bring an appetizer, potato, vegetable, salad, or relish dish, along with a utensil for serving. You may also bring wine for sharing. There is no charge for the event.

Directions to Holmes Lake Clubhouse: From 70th and Van Dorn, go south to the first stoplight, turn left. You will be on Holmes Lake Road. Take the first driveway to the

left. Continue past the first entrance to the second, where you will enter.

RSVP by November 25 using the form below. Send registration to Jeanne Zwiebel 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln NE 68510. If you have questions, call Jeanne at 489-1247 or email her at [jz82924@windstream.net](mailto:jz82924@windstream.net). Please fill out and mail in the reservation form on page 9 by November 25.

# Lincoln to Lethbridge, Alberta, July 2011

By Bridget Disney



**I**n July, fourteen ambassadors from Nebraska, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania participated in a Friendship Force exchange to Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. The fourteen were soon joined by three more from Burundi, none of whom spoke much English. All of us were graciously received by our Canadian hosts.

Activities included a visit to the Lethbridge City Hall to meet with members of the city council and a nearby Senior Center, a demonstration of Native American dancing at Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (a UNESCO site), a tour (including lunch) of a Hutterite colony (a religious based collective farming community), the local farmer's market, the Remington Carriage

House (where horse drawn buggies are still made), the Alberta International Air Show, and Waterton Lakes National Park.

An add-on took the group to the beautiful Canadian Rockies with stops at Lake Louise and Banff. A former science teacher, our guide was a storehouse of information regarding the flora and fauna of the great Canadian outdoors.



The group saw deer, bighorn sheep, brown bears, ground squirrels, and yes, monster mosquitoes.

Exploring the geography of the region, ambassadors learned that a coulee is a dry valley that at one time channeled a large volume of water from melted glaciers -- Lethbridge is surrounded by them -- and that a hoodoo is a tall, thin spire of rock -- also plentiful in the region. In negotiating Canadian currency we learned of the "loonie" and "twoonie." The first is a one-dollar coin, the second a two-dollar coin.

Everyone enjoyed the cooler and refreshing temperatures in late July and sitting with our new Canadian friends in the evening over a nice Canadian Amber and a piece of delicious Saskatoon berry (native to Alberta) pie. It was a wonderful exchange and all returned with fond memories of a magnificent two weeks in Canada.

# FFL Brings Moroccan Lotfi Lamrani to Lincoln

*By Laurie Ann Scott*

**F**riendship Force of Lincoln joined forces with First Plymouth Church in sponsoring Lotfi Lamrani to come to Lincoln. Lamrani is president of the Friendship Force of Azrou, Morocco and has assisted Friendship Force International in welcoming members of Friendship Force to his country. He recently traveled to Casablanca and met four members who were part of the FFI Semester at Sea, welcomed them to his homeland, and arranged home hosting for them. He has also been involved in the production "Crossing Borders," an award-winning film depicting young people from the U.S. and Morocco getting to know one another and discovering

who they are in the process.

Following a Moroccan dinner held at the church, Lamrani spoke of his efforts at bridging the gap between Christianity and Islam. Afterwards, he led a Taize service, a quiet contemplative time of meditation and prayer. Over 100 attended including many members of FFL.

The next evening members of FFL and others viewed "Crossing Borders" and had an opportunity to discuss the film. FFL has a copy of the film for showing in the future. Should you be interested in viewing it or sharing it with others contact Laurie Ann.

Larry and Laurie Ann Scott hosted Lotfi and his

assistant Karim packing as much as possible into their short visit to Lincoln. They stopped at the State Capitol and Morrill Hall. They enjoyed a drive to Kearney and a visit to the Great Platte River Road Monument which their guests found amazing. A special treat, arranged by Bob Wagner, was a visit to Morley Elementary school where the principal provided a tour. One student had an I-pad and both men were able to locate their homes in Azrou. They stayed for lunch and enjoyed a walk through the playground escorted by two young students. They ended their three day visit by people-watching over coffee at the Haymarket.



## Friendship Force Today & Tomorrow

*by Nancy Comer*

**E**lsewhere in the Passport, you will find a survey. It is an effort to secure your input regarding the programs and activities of FFL. Many of you have already completed and returned it. If you haven't done so, please take a few minutes and share your experiences in Friendship Force with the officers and

board members of the club. We are interested in the activities you like and participate in, and any ideas you have that would make FFL stronger and more successful in achieving the goals and objectives of Friendship Force.

For the record, you might be interested in these facts about Friendship Force. They were presented by President, George Brown at the 2011 Conference in Hamburg, Germany. The mission of FFI is to promote global under-

standing across barriers that separate people. This occurs on 6 continents (all but Antarctica), and in 57 countries which together have 364 clubs. Yearly, 750 exchange directors are selected to lead exchanges for 5,000 ambassadors. Over 18,000 members worldwide make 37,500 new friendships annually. And all this is done, one friendship at a time. Impressive! And every member whether one travels or not, can make a difference.

# Survey of Club Members

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by Nancy Comer

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**P**erhaps you have already responded to the survey below. If not, please take a moment and answer the questions. You can return it by including it in your registration for the Holiday party, your membership renewal, or mail to Nancy Comer 7730 Myrtle St. Lincoln, NE 68506. Thanks for your participation.

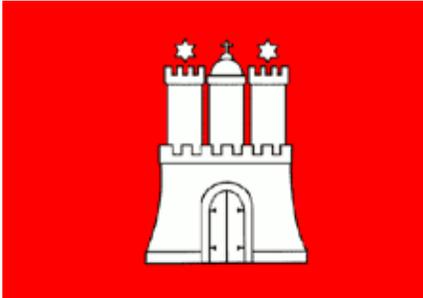
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

1. If you have been an ambassador on an outbound exchange with FFL in the past 2 years (2010-2011), please list the exchanges.
  
2. If you have been an ambassador with another FF club in the past 2 years (2010-2011), please list those exchanges.
  
3. If you have participated in an incoming FF exchange to Lincoln during 2010-2011, please list the exchanges. Please indicate if you were a host, day host, small group dinner host, committee member, whatever.
  
4. Please check the 2011 FFL activities in which you participated:
  - World Friendship Day Celebration - March 13
  - Midwest Regional Conference - April 14-16
  - Game Night – April 8
  - Lunch and theater social – June 12
  - Pool party – August 5
  - Annual Meeting – August 19
  - LEO (Let's Eat Out)
  - Picnic with Sudanese community – September 24
  - Monthly Saturday Breakfast at Pantry
  - Crossing Borders project with First Plymouth Church – October 2, 3
  - Holiday Party – December 2
  - Other:
  
5. Please list state or local service organizations in which you are involved.
  
6. What activities and outbound exchanges (country) would you participate in, if they could be added to our program?

# 2011 World International Conference in Hamburg, Germany

By Betty Starr



**P**ut the FF World International Conference on your list of future adventures. You will meet and make friends with FF members from all over the world, exchange and share ideas for making the Friendship Force a more robust and thriving organization, and insure that it will continue its mission and prosper in the future. The international conference is not just for officers and members of the board but everyone who belongs to this great organization. Next year's Conference is in Hiroshima, Japan. Plan on attending. You will find it rewarding. And while you're at it, plan to do a homestay after the conference. To encourage conference participation, FFI sponsors a number of homestays in the host country and waves the \$150 exchange fee.

My husband Duane and I left on the 20th of August bound for Hamburg Germany and the world conference. On the way, we made a stop in Bad Bodendeich near Wolfs-

burg to spend some time with Max and Inge Schneider who hosted us on FFL's exchange to Wolfsburg in 2004.

After a few days with the Schneiders, we boarded the train for Hamburg arriving at the Conference on Friday, August 26th, for the opening session. Thinking we would NOT know a soul, we were surprised to find three who participated in the exchange I led to Connecticut and who attended the Conference in Washington DC in October 2010, Lynn and Susan Harrington from Kansas and Rita Powell from Oregon. We also linked up with John and Nancy from our own club. Duane and John ran into each other at the single computer available at the hotel. Both adjusting to the change in time were awake at 3 in the morning and thought they would check their email. "Hi guy, what's happening? Can't sleep. Me neither."

There were 285 FF members registered at the conference held at the Ramada in Bergdorf, a suburb of Hamburg. Conference workshops focused on issues and concerns of clubs around the world. In general, these dealt with developing themed exchanges, recruiting new members, and reaching out and involving the

community in club activities. Specific sessions included:

## Themed Exchanges

The idea here is an exchange with a single theme, perhaps involving two or more clubs. For example, several clubs located on the Mississippi from Minneapolis to St. Louis hosted a "Life on the Mississippi" exchange this past year. A list of the upcoming 2012 Discover USA themes is included on page 7. It was suggested that clubs work on a themed exchange for marketing to the conference in Japan next year. One idea being explored by FFL is "Life on the Great Plains," linking perhaps clubs in Canada and the US.

## Social Networking

To take advantage of new communication technologies especially significant for younger members, one suggestion included starting a club Facebook page for highlighting current exchanges, club activities, and other items of interest. Another option might be a club blog. You can link up with the FFI facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/friendshipforce>.

## World International Conference continued

### Making Local Exchanges More Attractive

FFL's recent exchanges focusing on the crane migration through Nebraska is an example. Others possibilities include: Gardening, perhaps involving garden clubs not a part of FFL; a grandparent-grandchild exchange (Lincoln can be a great destination for this one), Choirs, Language Learners, Wine Festivals, Bicycling Trails, Railroads West, Adventure Sports, Ranching, Agriculture, Birds of Nebraska, and more.

### Exchange Assignments

Another workshop focused on the mechanics involved in exchange assignments. With the use of computers, assignment requests are no longer plotted on a map and paired with what happens to be available. They are charted and granted based on a number of criteria including what a club has to offer (activities and attractions), hosting capacity, and exchange history (participation num-

bers in past exchanges). The Midwest USA (that's us!!) may have to work a little harder as many do to make the region more attractive as an exchange destination, which means promotion and advertising.

In addition to the workshops, some time was devoted to seeing the sights of Hamburg and surrounding area. There were walking and bus tours, an organ concert, a short service in St. Michael's Church (a historic landmark in Hamburg) and a reception in the Town Hall. Saturday evening featured a Gala Banquet, extraordinary food, fine German beer, and a local singing group performing German favorites. At a plenary and closing session Sunday morning, the Hamburg club was recognized for hosting the conference, clubs and individuals were recognized for service to FFI, and an invitation was extended by the Hiroshima club to attend the World Conference in 2012.

After the conference, Duane and I took a 4-hour

train ride to Halle in Eastern Germany. We were hosted by Inge Papke and her friend Steffen from the FF of Halle-Saale. The week saw visits to Weimer, Halle, Leipzig, Buchenwald and Merseburg, and we learned about many talented artists coming from Eastern Germany such as Franz Liszt, Johann Bach, George F. Handel, and others.

Consider the FFI World Conferences in 2012 & 2013. All reservations are made on-line at the FFI web site.

### 2012 World Conference – Hiroshima, Japan

October 30-November 3, 2012. The official host will be the Friendship Force of Hiroshima.

### 2013 World Conference – New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

November 22-25, 2013. The official host club will be the Friendship Force of Baton Rouge.

### Up-Coming Discover USA Exchanges

These exchanges are open to ambassadors from around the world.

1. Florida's Great Outdoors, (Suncoast & Southwest Florida,) Feb 21 – March 3 2012
2. See The South Through A New Lens, (Greater Atlanta, GA), April 14 – 24, 2012
3. Bluegrass And Bourbon Trail, (Louisville, KY), June 18 – 25, 2012
4. The Aviation Trail: Past, Present & Future, (Dayton, OH) July 7 – 14, 2012
5. Fun Adventures With Food, (Northern Illinois, Greater Milwaukee & Wisconsin-Madison,) July 31 – Aug. 14, 2012
6. American Musical Legacy: Blues And Rock 'N Roll In Memphis (Memphis, TN), Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2012
7. Western Colorado Adventure Experiences, (Western Colorado), Sept. 2012
8. Taste Of New England, (Southern Connecticut), Oct. 9 – 16, 2012
9. The Other Side Of Las Vegas, (Las Vegas), Nov. 28 – Dec. 5, 2012

# Why not Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Ireland This Year?

*By Laurie Ann Scott, Exchange Director*



**C**ead mille failte! A THOUSAND welcomes. Feel a thousand welcomes when you travel to the Emerald Isle. Consider joining Laurie Ann Scott and others from Friendship Force clubs around the world for twelve nights in Ireland in March.

St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated in the small town of Killarney. A parade will feature bagpipers, drummers and Irish dance teams. But also look for the Water Rescue Squad, the Special Olympics entry, the local Fire Department (complete with a burning house) alarms sounding. You might also see the Daycare Center float, the Hurling Club, the Muckross Rowing Club, and the Biddy Group-in-Aid of Kerry Parents and Friends Association for Disabled Children. The evenings will find many retreating to the pub to enjoy live music and an opportunity to do a jig

on the dance floor if there is any energy left after a cruise on Loch Leane or touring the beautiful Dingle Peninsula. If he is still there, we just might spot Fungi, the Dolphin, who has made this bay his home much to the delight of locals who treasure his presence.

The tour, March 13 thru 25, will go from Dublin through the Wicklow Mountains to Waterford to Killarney to Galway. From Galway, it's on to Londonderry and Belfast in Northern Ireland before returning to Dublin. The group will be entertained one day by The Friendship Force of the Causeway Coast. Many special stops are planned such as the JFK Arboretum, the Cliffs of Moher, the Ulster American Folk Park, and Cobh, the emigrant departure point and last port-of-call of the Titanic. Did I mention there would be a chance to kiss that famous stone upside down and backwards in Blarney. Whenever there is an opportunity, we will engage local people to talk about life in Ireland. Of course, it is possible to extend in order to have more time in London or see Friendship Force friends in Europe or do more sight-seeing.

If you are interested, please contact Laurie Ann at

lalpscott@aol.com or 402 488 1915. The cost is \$1850 which includes almost everything but lunches...and airfare.

## FFL Family Picnic With The Sudanese Community

*by Joanna Rodgers*

**O**n Saturday, September 24th, the FFL Service Committee hosted a family picnic at Antelope Park for Sudanese families of Lincoln. Fourteen FFL members attended along with ten Sudanese adults and twenty-six Sudanese children. Kathy Mueller organized wonderful activities for the children including sack races and hand-craft projects. Amy Birky provided the drink and committee members the food.

Food and conversation were plentiful. FFL members enjoyed hearing how members of the community found their way to Lincoln and how they are getting along, and the Sudanese were interested to learn more about who we are and what we do. Hopefully this is just the beginning of a long and lasting relationship between FFL and our Sudanese neighbors.

## 2012 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2012 calendar year are \$30 for an Individual Membership and \$40 for a Family Membership. Dues are for the calendar year 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 and helps FFL continue with its programs and activities. If you are a potential member, we hope that you decide to join. Note: New members who join now will be credited as paid thru 12/31/12. Mail to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503 no later than December 1, 2011. 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 badges cost \$9.00 each for a pin-on type or \$11.00 each for magnetic style.

Replacement Name Badge @\$9.00

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



## Holiday Party Registration

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 25

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

 I will bring a/an:

\_\_\_\_ Appetizer, \_\_\_\_ Main Dish, \_\_\_\_ Potato, \_\_\_\_ Vegetable, \_\_\_\_ Salad, \_\_\_\_ Relish Tray,  
(Appetizers should be delivered by 5:30.)

I will help clean up after the party. \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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