



PASSPORT

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

FEBRUARY 2010



Celebrate the Ten-Year Anniversary of Open World & World Friendship Day

**Saturday, February 27, 2010
at The Country Club of Lincoln
3200 South 24th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Greetings from Your President

by Gaylord Becker - President



What Friendship Force Means to Me

On November 5th an email arrived from Dmitry and Olga Ershov from Moscow, Russia telling us they were leaving for Madison, Wisconsin and Des Moines, Iowa the next day. They had been our hosts on a 2003 FF exchange. Memories of Red Square, Russian Ballet, Moscow Metro, Kremlin and so many more rushed through our minds remembering the wonderful time we had with the Ershovs and their family. In a minute we made up our minds to visit them if it was possible.

We emailed the President of the Des Moines Club, she sent our email to the Exchange Director, and then it went to the Ershov hosts, the Krauses. Yes, they would be in Des Moines, Iowa the week of November 13 – 20.

On the 16th of November we left at 7am for Des Moines. Twenty-two Artists from

Moscow were exhibiting their art work and entertaining at the Des Moines City Library. Dmitry, who speaks good English, was asked to accompany the group as an interpreter. They were guests in both states representing their government.

We soon met the Krauses and our Russian friends. In the back of the room we saw black and white artwork exhibited by Nina Souklovetskaya. We then took our places to be entertained by Opera singers, Galina and Anna Ostaiskaya, mother and daughter. Folklore groups entertained us with dancing in their colorful dresses, accompanied by their musical instruments.

Lunch was served, and we joined the Krauses and Ershovs for a tour of Des Moines. We visited the Botanical Gardens, and then stopped at a lovely café to reminisce and enjoy tea. At 5:30 we were on our way back to Lincoln. It is difficult to describe the wonderful feeling we had. Friendship Force Friends are the BEST!

I am humbled to be your President. I hope and pray that I will succeed in fulfilling your expectations. Our club has had strong leadership in the past and has been active in Local and International Exchanges. With your sup-

port we can retain that goal and encourage new members to join. I welcome your input throughout the year.

I want to welcome Sue Imig as the new Secretary—Dorina Worthy as the new Treasurer—Mary Lou Reeves as the new merchandiser. I want to thank all past board members and committee members for their continued support.

I appreciate the opportunity extended by the board to send me to the Canadian Regional Presidents Workshop in October. It was well organized and covered many issues that presidents have or could experience and how best to solve. It was suggested that clubs establish a theme to encourage Domestic and International Exchanges. The conference covered recruiting and retention of members. I gained many Canadian FF friends and was re-united with host Canadians from 2 past Exchanges.

Dates to remember:
October 16 – 18, 2010
Friendship Force 2010 World Conference www.regonline.com/2010_world_conference.

22 brave FF members came to the January 9th monthly breakfast despite the sub-zero temperature.

Don't Miss the Open World & World Friendship Day Celebration

By Gloria Van Ackeren

Saturday, February 27, 2010
Country Club of Lincoln
4:00 PM - Reception
with Ambassador O'Keefe
6:00 PM - Gala Dinner

Friendship Day. Ambassador John O'Keefe, Executive Director of the Open World Leadership Program at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, will join us to share highlights about the impact OW is making in Eurasia countries and about its future directions.

The Open World Leadership Program has been vital in Friendship Force's international relationships over the past 10 years. Our club's participation has enhanced understanding and cooperation between the United States and Eurasian countries. We've hosted OW delegates and fo-

cused on topics such as education, medicine, youth issues, women's issues, and economic development.

The Friendship Force of Lincoln invites you to join in celebrating the 10-year affiliation with Open World and to recognize March 1 as World

The price for the celebration is \$15 for FFL Members through February 15; \$30 after February 15. Non-members and members of other clubs and guests will be charged \$30 each. Please RSVP by February 15, 2010.



Please mail your reservation to Gloria Van Ackeren, 7604 Phares Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516 by February 15, 2010. Make checks payable to The Friendship Force of Lincoln for \$15 per member.

Yes, I plan on attending

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Guest _____

Number of persons attending _____ X \$ 15.00 = _____ (check enclosed)



Please select the dinner entrée for each person included in this reservation.

_____ Chicken Parmesan _____ Herbed Pork Loin _____ Pasta Primavera

Great Lakes Eco-Exchange

September 9-23, 2009

By Becky Grutell, Ambassador

I arrived in Chicago and had dinner with my host at a fabulous French restaurant in her neighborhood. My host lived in a stylish 7th floor penthouse near the Navy Pier. While staying there we went to her neighborhood block party where there were 15,000 people in attendance. (My whole town only has 25,000 people!)

The next day I took a bus and met the rest of the group in Millennium Park at the “Bean” sculpture. There were 21 ambassadors from all over the US and one from New Zealand. The exchange focused on environmental topics such as green designated buildings, recycling, land preservation, and conservation. It was the most educational trip I have ever been on.

After walking through Millennium Park and a tour of the Lurie Gardens, we went to the Museum of Science and Industry. We went through the Smart Home and viewed the Omni-max presentation of “The Mysteries of the Great Lakes.” For dinner we were treated to a Chicago style pizza party in a private penthouse on the 92nd floor of the Hancock Building.

On Friday we toured a Recycling Center, a “LEEDS”

(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building and a 60-acre organic farm. A catered dinner was served that evening at the FF President’s home in Wheaton. On Saturday we met at the Chicago Architectural Foundation Shop for the “Green Inside Out” tour which was conducted by architectural professionals. The walking tour addressed ways architects have (or have not) taken the environment into consideration over the past century of commercial design in Chicago’s Loop.

The rest of Saturday was free-time with our hosts and some of us went to the Celtic Festival at Grant Park. My host and I also attended a performance of the Broadway show “Blue Man Group” and I got my picture taken with some of the Blue Men afterwards.

On Sunday we said goodbye to the Windy City and I rode to Milwaukee with an ambassador from St. Louis. We were welcomed at a reception at the home of Dave Kalan (the organizer) where our hosts for this leg of the trip picked us up. We then got to go to the Indian Summer Festival on Lake Michigan.

Monday we went to the Schlitz Audubon Nature

Center for a program on rehabilitating raptors followed by bird watching and hiking. We went to a gem shop where we learned about mining and processing rocks and gems and to the studio of artisan furniture maker, Charles Radtke. One of the pieces that he had just finished was sold for \$60,000. The remainder of the afternoon was spent doing wine tasting in Cedarburg and we also visited Bahr Llama Farms to see the llamas and the spinning of their wool. A picnic was held that evening at Harrington Beach State Park.

Tuesday we went to the Urban Ecology Center where we helped with a bird-banding project by capturing the birds, weighing them, recording data, and then releasing them back to the wild.

A chili feed was held for us at St. Matthews Church in Wauwatosa and the pastor described the church’s green efforts. After that we toured an older converted solar home where we learned about rain barrels, solar heating, and water pumping. In the evening dinner parties were held. Wednesday we took a bus to the International Crane Foundation which was especially interesting after seeing the Nebraska Crane migration



on our FF trip. After a picnic lunch, we traveled to Devil's Lake State Park where we did a hiking tour led by a geologist who educated us on the glacier that went through there. Thursday we visited the Pewaukee Horizon School and joined the students on their River restoration project. That afternoon was spent viewing a rain garden at the Library, a fair trade import store, touring an Indian Community School, and walking on the beach. Friday we went to a presentation at the Great Lakes Water Institute followed by a one-mile narrated walking tour on the Riverwalk. Next we went to the Milwaukee Art Museum. This wing-like structure opens up for a wingspan of 217 feet during the day, folding over the tall arched structure at night; it is amaz-

ing to watch! To me it looked like the sails of a ship; others think it resembles the wings of a bird. Our ambassador from New Zealand had her son come speak to us. He was one of the architects on this amazing building. The best part of the day was sailing on Lake Michigan as guests of the South Shore Yacht Club. They had a social hour and fish fry for us afterwards. A farewell party was held at Kochanski's Concertina Bar.

The 3rd week the ambassadors were divided up and taken to different cottages and cabins in Wisconsin for rest and relaxation before going home. My cabin was the only one on Ross Lake so I had a most amazing experience. Waking up to the sounds of nature's orchestra was indescribable. Watching the sunset from our dock with wine and cheese, canoeing and fishing, the crackling fires, playing speed scrabble, grilling steaks, nature hikes, star gazing, and watching the beavers build their dam were just some of the moments I will always remember. It was one of the best experiences of my life, with wonderful new friends, peace, and nature.

شرح متمتم باي

Morocco Potluck

6:00 PM

January 28, First Lutheran Church, 1551 South 70th St.

For All Club Members & Guests

Inaugural presentation of (can we get sound effects for "Ta Da!"):

Morocco!

Should-be-Award Winning Video

Come Taste the Tajine, See the Artifacts, Feel the Sand Meet the Lincoln Morocco Ambassadors in Person!

A True Potluck!

No Charge-No Plan

We may end up with ALL desserts or NO desserts!

Just bring your own tableware and a generous dish to serve twelve....or two smaller dishes.

Coffee and Tea will be provided.

October 2010 Exchange to Mexico

By Pat King, Exchange Director

Lincoln has been assigned an exchange with Filobobos, Mexico for 2010. Where's that, you ask? Originally the Friendship Force of Altotonga, Filobobos is a new club including the small cities of Altotonga, Perote, Atzalan, and Tlapacoyan. These appear to be near Xalapa (Jalapa), the capitol of the state of Veracruz.

Located in the Sierra Madre Mountains, Filobobos is about 200 miles east of Mexico City. At 6,600 ft. above sea level, the temperature is pleasant year-round. The area is known for whitewater rafting.

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7th at 2:00 P.M. at Gere Library, 2400 S. 56th Street. Applications may be found on the Friendship Force website, thefriendshipforce.org, or by contacting either of the exchange co-directors, Pat King, pking4@neb.rr.com, or Julie Albrecht, jalbrecht1@unl.edu.

The exchange is planned for the last week of October, 2010. This should coincide with the Lincoln Public Schools' holiday in case parents/grandparents would like to take older children/grandchildren, especially those interested in history or speaking Spanish. A passport will be needed.

Planned activities include a welcome party; visits to the Archeological Museum, State Congress, an old "hacienda," and a coffee plantation; visits to the Archeological and Eco-tourist Zones with rafting possibility; and an optional tour to the Totonac ruins of Tajin.

A 3-4 day pre-exchange tour is planned to include the ancient Aztec city of Teotihuacan, Xochimilco floating gardens, the National Museum of Anthropology and the Folkloric Ballet in Mexico City; the silver city of Taxco; and Puebla.

A post-exchange tour to Oaxaca will include the Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban and Mitla and a night visit to cemeteries to view Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) decorations, foods, and activities. The Day of the Dead includes All Saints Day and All Souls Day, and is a major fiesta throughout Mexico.

The cost of the exchange will be \$1,400 plus airfare. Ambassadors may arrange their own airfare using the airline of their choice and frequent flyer miles if they have any.



Southern Italy Outbound in May

by Richard Spencer

This exchange begins in Rome. The first week will be in Basilicata, a mountainous region in Southern Italy and the last six days will be in Mediterranean coastal towns. Basilicata's natural beauty, ancient culture, deeply rooted local traditions, Mediterranean food, and above all the warmth and hospitality of its people, will provide an unforgettable experience. At times we will travel on secondary roads through the Apennine Mountains to small hilltop villages, with dramatic panoramas of mountain ridges and rolling hills. The application deadline is near, however there are still a few openings for this exchange. The itinerary, cost, and details are available at <http://www.datapdq.com/> or contact Richard Spencer 488-6930.

The 2010 World Conference in Washington



Friendship Force members are invited to register for the 2010 World Conference in Washington, DC Saturday, October 16, 9:00 AM. - Monday, October 18, 12:00 PM

Conference highlights include:

- Building the Friendship Force of the future. Plenary sessions and leadership workshops on how to grow your club for the future. Sessions will feature new initiatives in membership growth, exchange planning, club management and publicity; along with tips on how to design new themed exchanges for both outbound and inbound exchanges.
- The Friendship Force as Citizen Diplomacy. Prominent speakers from a variety of Washington-

based international organizations and government agencies will introduce Friendship Force leaders to the growing global movement known as citizen diplomacy. You'll learn how important our mission is in today's world and how you can connect with organizations in your community that share our goals.

- Networking. You'll be part of a global gathering with Friendship Force leaders from six continents. There will be ample opportunity to meet your counterparts, learning from their experiences while you enjoy developing new friendships.
- Fun! Having fun is a requirement at any Friendship Force gathering, and Sunday's gala banquet will be an evening you'll long remember. Entertainment, music, dancing, and camaraderie. The theme of our banquet is "World Costume," so feel free to wear your national dress or any items you have acquired overseas during your Friendship Force travels!
- Explore Washington. The Renaissance Hotel (<http://cwp.marriott.com/wasrb/friendship/>) is located in the heart of downtown Washington and is ideal for experiencing the rich history and culture of the nation's capital. You'll want to take advantage of the

amazing array of museums, historic sites and cultural activities.

- Join a post-conference homestay. Following the conference travel to a Friendship Force club in the region for a four night homestay. A great way to conclude your World Conference week.

Conference Fee is US \$280:

- Fee includes all workshops and coffee breaks, plenary sessions with keynote speakers, lunch on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, a gala banquet with dancing and entertainment Sunday night, and a closing plenary with high-profile speaker Monday morning.
- An optional four-night post-conference homestay in the region is available exclusively for conference participants for an additional \$100.
- Hotel room reservations are not included and should be made directly with the Renaissance Hotel at (<http://cwp.marriott.com/wasrb/friendship/>). Quote our discount code FFIFFFIA for our special rate of \$199 per room per night!

Read all about the conference and reserve your space at the Friendship Force 2010 World Conference now at www.regonline.com/2010_world_conference

Open World Alumni in Tajikistan Organize Charity Drive For Underprivileged and At-Risk Children

By Anora Akbarova, Facilitator for 10-09 FFL Delegation

During their trip to the US, the Open World delegates on “Child Protection” received a \$50 donation to help Tajik children. After their return to Tajikistan, the group approached UNICEF/Child Protection Department in Dushanbe to help identify the groups who would benefit most from the donation. UNICEF conducted the needs assessment and identified four institutions that needed help.

Shortly afterward, Anora Akbarova, the facilitator of the Child Protection group, and Program Coordinator for Open World in Tajikistan, announced the beginning of a charity drive for needy children. As a result of this very successful charity drive, which involved both the local and international community, clothes for boys and girls were collected, and the alumni received a generous donation from the Rotary Club in Dushanbe, as well as money donated by private individuals.

On November 26, 2006, the Open World Alumni together with facilitator conducted charity events at four needy institutions. All the visits were conducted with the technical and information support of UNICEF/Child Protection Department.

1. The Reception Center for Minors is an organization dealing with street and neglected children of 3-14 years. Children received new sneakers donated by Rotary Club in Dushanbe and clothing from the charity drive. “Now I have a jacket for winter. It would be nice to have socks also” said one boy in Tajik.
2. The Special school for children in conflict with the Law, housing male non-violent offenders of 11-16 years from poor families. Almost all boys of school received new sneakers and others received clothing. Children were really happy to get new shoes for upcoming winter.
3. The Special Vocational School for Minors from Vulnerable Families. This boarding school houses 30 boys of 14-18 years. Open World Alumni purchased 13 chicken and 2 roosters for the school, using the money from charity box. The chicken and roosters were delivered to the Special Vocational School, which already had its own hen house. The chicken and roosters will help the boys to develop some breeding skills and have some eggs for breakfast.
4. Charogi Hidoyat Center for Girls. The center consists of the Girls Support Service (there were six girls currently living there - victims of violence) and a dormitory for orphan girls who are studying at university and vocational colleges. The OW Alumni had gone to the Dushanbe Textile Factory and purchased 65 meters of fabric (fustian) with the money donated by the Friendship Force of Lincoln, Nebraska. Makhbuba Muhitdinova presented the fabric to the Center’s Director. The girls had their first sewing class on December 9 and made pajamas for themselves for winter! Donated clothing was also presented to the psychologist who worked with the abused girls.

At the end of all these events, the Open World group came to the conclusion that it was possible, with activism, “to integrate and implement volunteerism and joint cooperation of state organizations, NGOs and the private sectors in Tajikistan, just as we observed during our trip to the USA.”

You Are Invited

By Betty Starr, Exchange Director

Our invitation extended by TFF of Connecticut is scheduled for October 9th to the 14th 2010. The Exchange Director is official, and it will be Bob Marshall, who came on the Nebraska Crane Excursion in 2009. Bob and his wife, Nancy, [who played the bagpipes on the Excursion at Calamus] also hosted our club at the Farewell in Springfield, MA in 2003 during an earlier domestic exchange when they had hosted 5 Ambassadors including Art and Mary Bryant.

Ever been to a Friendship Force World Conference? I haven't and thought this is a great chance to participate, learn and meet some new friends. Let's go together! Washington D.C. is a great city with many sights, restaurants, history and fun. This exchange will give the ambassador any or all of these options.

Ambassadors can participate:

- 1.) in the 6 day home stay with TFF of CT, Oct 9 – 14;
- 2.) in The Friendship Force World Conference in Washington DC, Oct 16 – 18; and
- 3.) in the 4-day Post Exchange home stay with one of several clubs in the Washington area, Oct 18-22. These will include Charlottesville, Virginia; Harris-

burg, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Southern New Jersey; Washington, DC. Arrangements for the conference portion and the Post Exchange are on your own at the FF web site; www.friendshipforce.org or I will help you if needed.

Call me if you are interested and I will e-mail you a brochure which will give you more information: Betty Starr: 402.486.4006 or betystarr@inebraska.com. After this month the invitation will soon be extended to the other participants of our 2009 Crane Excursion.

Friesland Exchange

by Larry Kluck

Windmills, canals, bicycles, famous art museums, the Anne Frank house are just a few of the things we will see on the 2010 exchange to Friesland, The Netherlands. We will meet in Amsterdam on May 16 to sight see for two days before heading to the Friesland exchange location at Leeuwarden. From the 18th through the 25th, we will be home hosted and have the opportunity to be Ambassadors to the Friesland Club which is planning on entertaining us with several wonderful day trips

around their area. Then we will head back to Amsterdam for three more days following the exchange. We will do a canal tour and have a tour to some of the surrounding area and towns south of Amsterdam.

Following will be an optional tour May 29-June 3 to Munich where we will visit the Marienplatz and see the famous clock and visit Schloss (Palace) Nymphenburg. There will be opportunities to visit the museums of your choice which could include the car museum, the English Gardens, the Olympic Village, and a World War II concentration camp. Optional items will include trips to Oberammergau and Salzburg. In Oberammergau we will attend the world famous Passion Play which is held every ten years. This was the first location for the Passion Play to give thanks for being spared in a plague. Our day in Salzburg can include a tour of Sound of Music sites, Mirabelle Palace and the childhood home of Mozart. If you are interested, please contact, Larry Kluck at 483-6508 evenings, or at LarryKluck@hotmail.com.

Membership News

By Mary Bryant

As of January 4, 2010 we have 114 paid memberships consisting of 48 Family and 66 Individual Memberships, which represent 158 persons. The 114 Memberships are 77% of the total 2009 Membership of 149. We would like to finalize our 2010 Directory; if you have not sent in your membership dues, please do so.

Please welcome new member, David Cree Howak, who joined in December. David is eager to make new friends and become involved

in the group's activities.

Congratulations to Earl and Jean Visser. Jean became one of our newer members when she and Earl married this past fall after meeting at a Habitat for Humanity build site the year before. Welcome Jean to our club when you meet her at future activities.

Please tell your friends about The Friendship Force; let Joanna Rogers or myself know of any of your contacts that express interest in our group. Send their names, postal address, phone number and email address to Joanna (rkrohn@neb.rr.com) or my-

self (ab62359@windstream.net). Your referrals bring new life and participation in our club's activities and exchanges. Annual dues have remained unchanged for the past three years - \$28 for an individual and \$35 for a couple or family.

The Vision of Friendship Force International continues to be that each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill and overcome differences among people and nations. Friendship Force changes the way we see the world by connecting the world, one friend at a time.

Welcoming Dinner For Nebraska/Sandhill Crane Inbound Exchange

Approximately 40 ambassadors from several clubs in the Midwest region will be participating in the Nebraska/Sandhill Crane exchange, March 12 - March 18. The welcoming dinner will be Friday evening March 12 at St. Mark's, 84th and Pioneers Blvd., from 6 to 8:30.

Park and enter from the south. Social time will be from 6 to 6:30, dinner 6:30 to 7:30, guest speaker Jim Potter, an expert on Nebraska's pioneer culture, 7:30 to 8:15. The dinner is open to all members but please forward your reservation prior to March 3 to John Comer, 7730 Myrtle Street,

68506 or jcomer1@unl.edu. The main course will be honey baked ham provided by the club; we will also provide dishes & eating utensils. Additionally, we are asking each family to bring either an appetizer, salad, vegetable, or dessert plus the appropriate serving utensil.

Nebraska/Sandhill Crane Welcoming Dinner Registration (no charge)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Number Attending: _____

I will provide (service for 12) an _____ appetizer, _____ salad, _____ vegetable, _____ dessert.

____ I will provide a centerpiece depicting the history and culture of Nebraska or one of its ethnic communities.

____ I will help with set-up at 5:15 PM _____ I will help with clean-up after the program.

Return to John Comer, 7730 Myrtle Street, 68506 no later than March 3. If you are able to host an ambassador, please contact Joanna Rogers at rkrohn@neb.rr.com

2010 Board of Directors

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Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Kathy Mueller, 525-3357; kmueller@lps.org Diane Conley, 489-3472; diane.conley@nebraska.gov
International Organization	
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FFI Midwest Regional	
Coordinator	Lee Rockwell; 484-5431; lrockwell@windstream.net
FFI Representative	Laurie Ann Scott, 484-1915; lalpscott@aol.com
Exchange Directors:	John Comer, Sand Hill Cranes (Inbound) ; Kay Rockwell, Open World (Inbound); Larry Kluck, Friesland-Amsterdam (Outbound); Richard Spencer, Southern Italy National Exchange Outbound) Betty Starr, Connecticut (Outbound); Nancy Comer, Tokyo (Inbound) Pat King , Filobobos, Mexico (Outbound)
Committee Assistants	
Exchange Coordinator Ass't	Julie Albrecht, 464-2702; jalbrecht1@unl.edu
Activities Ass't:	Amy Birky, Nancy Comer, Barb Ritter, Sue Imig, Joan Foote



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

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name(s) _____

Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

CATEGORY: Individual-\$28 Family-\$35 Patron-\$50 Benefactor-\$75 Sponsor-\$100
 Replacement Name Badge @\$9.00

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

NOTE: NEW members each receive a complimentary name badge; replacement name badges cost \$9.00 each.