



PASSPORT

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Friendship begins with a smile!
The Friendship Force of Lincoln
Celebrates World Friendship Day

Message from the President

by Gaylord Becker - President



To begin, I want to welcome the thirteen new members that have joined FFL this past year. It is my hope that you will become involved in the many activities of FFL and that you are able to travel with club members on one or more of the several exchanges available to members. There are overseas exchanges but there are also exchanges in the United States. Both provide excellent opportunities to make new friends and learn about peoples and cultures in a very intimate and personal way.

I am pleased to announce that the 2012 exchanges have been finalized. FFI has matched FFL with Costa Rica for an outbound exchange in January and with Niagara Fall, Canada for an inbound in the Fall. FFL has also been invited to Ft. Collins, Colorado for an outbound domestic exchange in June. If you are interested in leading any of the above, there is a application form elsewhere in the Passport

The Midwest Regional Conference hosted by FFL at the Carol Joy Holling Conference Center April 14 – 16 was by any measure a resounding success. George Brown, President and CEO of FFI, provided the keynote presentation. He updated 70 plus delegates from various clubs in the Midwest on FFI and club activities from around the world. Much of the time at the conference was spent continuing to develop the idea of theme-exchanges. The Lincoln, Omaha and St. Louis clubs agreed to work on a theme-exchange emphasizing the way West entitled “Trails and Rails.”

President Brown reported that the Field Representative from Japan, Teuguyo Ishii, wrote that clubs from all over the world sent messages of sympathy and encouragement following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. While difficult times still confront this island nation, those from Tokyo who traveled to Lincoln last fall were not directly affected by the disaster.

The 2012 Nominating Committee consists of Chairperson, Jeanne Zwiebel, plus Pat King, Jim Ecklund, Marge Anderson, and Agnes Adams. The Committee will nominate a slate of officers which will be voted on at the annual meeting August 19.

FFL Holds World Friendship Day Celebration

Friendship Force Lincoln hosted a World Friendship Celebration March 13 at the stately Ferguson House listed in the National Register of historic places. The event provided the opportunity for 58 FFL members and their guests from Japan, Korea, China, Russia, and Iran to get to know each other better while enjoying wine, hot beverages and delicious hors d’oeuvres.

Dolores Mather, one of FFL’s members and former President of the Mayor’s Committee on International Friendship, was the main speaker. She shared how the Committee works with guests from foreign countries, helping them learn more about Americans and American institutions. She read letters from former visitors which highlighted how their time in Lincoln positively impacted their lives and contributed to their understanding of Americans.

Following on the heels of the terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Yurika Matsui, President of Global Friends of Japan, and Takoya Wakamatsu shared students’ plans to host a concert on the UNL campus to raise funds for the Japanese. Many in attendance started the ball rolling by contributing to the cause.

Picnic And Melodrama On June 12

by Jeanne Zwiebel - Activities Chair

The afternoon begins in Elmwood at 12:30 with a picnic on the lawn of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall Veterans Museum. Sandwich will be provided by Sips and Subs Sandwich Shop, cost \$5.00. Desserts and drinks will be provided, no cost.

The museum is in a small refurbished building originally constructed in 1886 for use by Civil War veterans and widows and orphans of Union soldiers. The museum is a reminder that the War fought primarily in the east impacted the frontier. Forty-eight Civil War veterans are buried in the near-by cemetery. The museum opened in 2004 through the cooperative efforts of community volunteers and high school students. Inside are memorabilia donated by community World War II veterans from the area.

Three blocks away is the home of author Bess Streeter

Aldrich. If there is interest, the curator will open early on June 12 for Friendship Force. Please indicate your interest on the registration form.

Following lunch, the group will travel 12 miles to Manley to see the melodrama, "Leaving Iowa." "Leaving Iowa" is a laugh-out-loud comedy about a middle-aged writer, who returns home, and decides to finally take his father's ashes to his childhood home. The performance begins at 2:00 PM and the cost is \$15.00.

If you would like to attend but cannot drive, efforts will be made to arrange car-pooling.

Directions to the Museum: 124 East D Street, Elmwood (From 84th and Adams, drive East on Adams 16 miles).

Directions to the Theater: 156th Street, ½ mile North of Hwy 1, just East of Manley. (In Elmwood go west ½ block from the Museum on D Street to Hwy 1, turn north and go 5 miles and follow Highway 1 about 12 miles to 156 street, which is ½ mile past the turn into Manley. At 156th Street turn North. The Loft Theatre is 1/2 mile on the West side of the road.)

Please send your reservation to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln, NE 68510. Questions call Jeanne at 402 489-1247 or email her at jz82924@windstream.net.

Please return this form with payment to Jeanne Zwiebel, 1025 Lamplighter Lane, Lincoln, NE 68510 no later than June 1, 2011

Yes, I plan on attending

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Guest _____

Number of persons attending _____ X \$ 20.00 = _____ (check enclosed)

 Mark if you would like the Streeter Aldridge House Tour

_____ Yes, I would like the tour!

Lincoln Ambassadors See “The Other Side of Vegas”

by Parker and Velma Shipley



On November 5th, 2010, Lincoln Friendship Force members, Parker and Velma Shipley drove northwest from their winter home in Gold Canyon, AZ to Las Vegas where they joined sixteen other ambassadors from across the U.S. and Canada for a “different” kind of Vegas adventure.

Arriving at the home of hosts, Dr. Ron and Kathie Slaughter, they had a wonderful home-cooked meal. After dinner, Parker and Velma met the resident cat, “Smudge”, an 18-pound earth-toned beauty with “white boots” on each paw.

Saturday’s welcome lunch gave everyone a chance to meet new friends, and get reacquainted with some old ones. The Shipleys were surprised to find Jacques Landry from Canada a part of the group. Jacques and his wife Celine hosted the Shipleys a few years ago during FFL’s exchange to Sherbrooke.

On Sunday, ambassadors traveled to Red Rock Canyon and Calico Basin, west of the city. Up close, the landscape reveals splashes of red and white sandstone and on the Canyon walls Indian petro glyphs. That night, the group took in Donn Arden’s hit musical, “Jubilee” at Bally’s on The Strip.

The next morning backstage at Bally’s a guided tour led by showgirls provided a close-up of costumes, sets, and other features that made the show spectacular. The afternoon saw ambassadors fanning out along the strip. Some visited Bellagio’s Conservatory, some Caesar’s Forum Shops. A few took in the Antique Car show at the Imperial Palace. More partying that evening at the Slaughter home allowed ambassadors and hosts to get better acquainted. Safe to say a good time was had by all.

The following morning took the group to the Atomic Testing Museum. Nevada, of course, is where the A bomb was tested before its use in WW II. That afternoon was spent at the Barrick Meso-american Museum which features artifacts and information on early inhabitants of the region and displays and

information on how the desert has evolved over time. The day ended with small group dinners.

A trip to Las Vegas would not be complete without stopping by Hoover Dam. A guided tour took the group inside to see the large turbines powered by the rushing water of the Colorado River. There is also the new bridge, the fourth largest of its kind in the world, that allows visitors to walk the top of the dam from either the Nevada or Arizona side

The Slaughters provided a real treat on the last day of the exchange, a trip west of Vegas to the Valley of Fire and a difficult walk on a trail marked by more petro glyphs and dwarfed by rugged red sandstone towers reaching to the sky.

The exchange ended at a farewell party where ambassadors recalled the week’s activities, and then with hugs and a few tears left for home.

Let's Eat Out (LEO)

By Diane Conley



Enjoy the foods of other countries. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the upcoming LEOs. Gather at 5:30, order at 6:00.

Japanese food at Shogun's 3700 South 9th Street on Thursday, May 19. Leave early as Shoguns is off the beaten path. Coming from the south or east take Hwy. 2 west bound past the penitentiary, turn left on Pioneer and just before the railroad tracks turn right (toward the grain elevators). The restaurant is located in the middle of the strip mall. Coming from the north, take 9th Street south past Van Dorn Street, turn right on Pioneer and right again before the railroad tracks. See you there.

Greek food at the Parthenon, 5500 South 56th St. on Tuesday, June 21. In the shopping mall east of Ruby Tuesday's at 56th & Hwy 2.

American food – try it, you'll like it -- Randy's Grill and Chill, 4947 Holdrege, on Friday July 22.

Membership News

*By Mary Bryant,
Membership Co-Chair*

As of April 11, FFL has 140 paid memberships. This includes 58 family and 82 individual memberships for a total of 198 persons. The club gained 12 new memberships from July 2010 through April 2011. The club, however, lost 21 memberships from 2010. Everyone will miss Bobbe Cusick, Sheila & Orvis Wall, Marilyn & Harry Wall, Diane & George Robie, Jill & John Wild, Paul Avery Smith, Jim Danielson and Barbara Rixstine, Yung Yung Chung, Neenie & Jim Jeffers, Sylvia Griffith, Faith Wiemer, Marcia Houchin, Sara Ainscow, Ware Wimberly, Ethel Cooper, Darlene Scheneman, Jean Krejci, Harriet Turner, Santu Banerjee, Linda Hall, and Barbara Wentink.

Our newest member is Pat Hackley; please introduce

yourself to Pat at the next FFL activity. The Committee continues contact with 45 prospective members who have expressed varying degrees of interest in FFL. Referrals are appreciated; each receives an informational packet and newsletter. Please send the name of any prospect along with their address, phone, email and how you know them to Mary Bryant at ab62359@windstream.net.

Why not contact those you referred to us and invite them to an upcoming activity. You might even share with them your own Friendship Force experiences while you relax over a cup of coffee or tea. The personal interaction is what we find to be most helpful to spark the interest of others in our international organization. Tell your friends those heartwarming experiences that you have found so rewarding. Let's each do our part to keep our club growing.

2011 Social Activities, Exchanges & Hostings

- Outbound Exchange to Ukraine.....May 11-30
- LEO at Shogun Japanese RestaurantMay 19
- Loft Community Theater Manley, NebraskaJune 12
- LEO at Parthenon Greek RestaurantJune 21
- Outbound Lethridge, Canada - Bridget Disney..... July 18-29
- LEO at Randy's Grill and Chili July 22
- Annual Meeting-St. Marks Methodist Church August 19
- FF World Conference, Hamburg, Germany August 26-30

Breakfast and Conversation

(2nd Saturday of each month 8:30 AM at The Pantry, 2548 South 48th Street)

Friendship Without Borders Ukrainians study government in Seward, find hospitality to boot

by Theodore Wiesehan

Seward served as an international classroom of sorts as a dozen young leaders from Ukraine got lessons in accountable government, local economic development, relationships between government and business and the spirit of volunteerism in December as part of the Open World Leadership Program (OWLP).

The group, which included four city mayors and several leaders of youth and nongovernmental organizations, toured Hughes Brothers Manufacturing, The Bakery, the Seward County Courthouse, Rivoli Theatre, Seward Mayor Roger Glawatz's office, the Seward Volunteer Fire Department and Concordia University during a day of activities designed around local government.

"The most important thing was to witness the level of development of local rule, especially economic development," Stanislav Zholudiyev, head of the Dnipropetrovsk Youth Council, said. "We realize well that the basis of economic development and power of a country is the local economy."

The fire department visit particularly impressed the Ukrainian visitors as they

clambered for photographs in the trucks and wearing fire-fighting gear after learning about the VFD members' unpaid service to the community from Lieutenant Geoffrey Dahlgren.

The purpose of OWLP, a program initiated and funded by the U.S. Congress, consists of acquainting young leaders from the former Soviet republics to American-style democracy and providing experience in areas of interest.

Mayor of Smila, Andriy Kolesnyk expressed confidence that lessons learned from business and government partnerships in Seward would give him the tools to attract economic development to his city of Smila and to assist other cities in strengthening local economies.

"As a mayor I feel confident now that I know how this can be done, because I have witnessed it," he said.

Friendship Force International, the Lincoln club that hosted the visitors and coordinated the events for their visit, seeks simply to foster international understanding via cross-cultural friendships.

"If we get to know other people, other cultures, and other cultures get to know us then maybe we're going to

have a better shot at peace," FFI member Lee Rockwell of Lincoln said.

"The Friendship Force is not a travel club - it's a friendship club," Rockwell stressed. "But of course you've got to travel to get there."

Approximately 350 FFI clubs are spread across 60 different countries. The club in Lincoln is reaching out to nearby communities and already boasts a handful of members from Seward.

In fact, Julie and Chuck Wisheart of Seward, among the club's newest members, were responsible for bringing the group to Seward and arranging the day's activities.

As representative after representative from Ukraine stood to introduce themselves, all testified to the welcoming spirit and generosity of the people.

Exchange Directors Needed Think Globally - Lead an Exchange!

by Nancy Comer, Vice President



It's time to get off of the bench and into the game. There will be two international exchanges in 2012, an outbound exchange to Turrialba, Costa Rica in January and an inbound exchange from Niagara, Canada in the fall. There will also be an inbound domestic exchange with the club from Northern Colorado in June.

Being an ED requires an appreciation for the ideals and values of Friendship Force, a lot of enthusiasm, a little organization, and adequate time to prepare. Board members and former exchange directors are available to help. The Vice-President will counsel and guide you in the planning and execution of your exchange.

If you are interested, please fill out the application below and mail to: Nancy Comer 7730 Myrtle St. Lincoln, NE 68506. Questions call 402-488-9209. You can also download an application from the FFL website. Get involved, have some fun, consider leading one of the 2012 exchanges.

Exchange Director's Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

Club Member since _____

Exchange(s) In Which You Are Interested (You may designate more than one)

To assist the Board of Directors in assessing your commitment to Friendship Force, please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Indicate in a paragraph or two why you think you would make a successful exchange director.
2. How would you recruit club members and members of the community to participate in the exchange?
3. What ideas do you have regarding leading workshops prior to the exchange to instruct Hosts/Ambassadors on how to make the exchange a success?



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

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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 Badge \$9.00 _____

Name(s) _____

Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

CATEGORY: Individual-\$30 Family-\$40 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.