



PASSPORT

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**Open World Delegates from Russia Learn
about Nebraska Government**

Greetings from the President

by Nancy Comer - President



Kudos to you for your support of Open World activities, June 8-16. Including guests, some of whom participated in recent diversity dinners, over 100 participated in various activities during the week. Many of you were responsible for planning events; several took on the task of hosting.

Shortly after the plane touched down Friday afternoon, host families and the Russian delegates were welcomed at Lynn Darling's lovely country home; Marge and Dale Anderson helped with food, and ED Julie Albrecht went over the week's agenda. Saturday, Bob and Mary Lou Reeves, along with Milt and Gayle Bayer organized a hike, picnic and games at Pioneers Park, which enabled the young Russians to get to know one another. Sunday evening, Jeanne Zwiebel, Richard Spencer and their committee put on a rousing Welcome Party at Holmes Lake Apartments

Clubhouse. Those who were there know how great it was!

During the week, many of you participated in other activities and on Friday evening, Pat Henry, Amy Birky and their committee hosted everyone at Hillcrest Country Club for a Farewell party.

Again, a big thank you to Co-EDs Julie Albrecht and Gloria VanAckeren (a great team), and the planning committee who spent many hours making program arrangements and honoring specific requests of delegates. We leaned on FFL member Roger Keetle to organize a panel discussion and other activities associated with state government. Pat King and Bob Wagner continued to lend their support in arranging meetings even while away from Lincoln. (See Julie's article for more.)

Thanks, also, to Kathy Mueller who volunteered to meet and talk with folks attending the World Refugee Day Celebration, June 30 at Park Middle School. The food and entertainment provided a true cultural experience.

More have expressed a willingness to host a diversity dinner. But we also need more diversity guests. If you know someone from a different ethnic or religious community or anyone for that matter who might like to participate, let

me know.

One thing that I would like to explore with you prior to our annual meeting is the way our club and others go through the process of choosing outbound exchanges. This information is being shared and discussed at FFI conferences, as well as among the 13 clubs in the Midwest region. The idea is to let members know which countries have FF clubs, the number of clubs in each country, the number of weeks of hosting available and the number of requests to visit each country. With this information and information gathered by Mary Bryant on past FFL exchanges, the board selected countries from which we might make our final selections for 2014. You will be asked to select your top choice from these countries at the Annual Meeting, and also indicate whether you would be willing to participate in an exchange to that country.

FFI research shows that members who are likely to travel on outbound exchanges in the near future make the decision based on location, distance and airfare cost. Below are some questions to think about. You will be asked to fill out a similar form at the Annual Meeting on August 17th.

continued

Of the countries selected on the basis of home hosting availability, please indicate your top two choices for 2014

- Argentina* _____
- Brazil _____
- Australia _____
- England _____
- Germany _____
- Japan _____
- New Zealand _____
- Thailand* _____

*Asterisks indicate countries where FFL has never had an exchange.

1. Are you willing to pay at least \$1,000 for airfare? _____
At least \$1500? _____
2. Are you willing to fly at least 10 hours on an exchange? _____
At least 15? _____
3. Are you willing to participate in a two-week exchange, with an optional additional one-week tour? _____
4. Are you willing to participate in a one week exchange, with an optional additional one-week tour _____
5. Are you open to traveling at any time during the year.

6. Are you limited to travel at only certain times of year? _____ When? _____
7. Would you prefer to travel with at least a majority of members from FFL? _____

This kind of information will help us to fill our outbound exchanges.

Meanwhile continue to enjoy the many activities of FFL and see you at the Annual Meeting.

International Service Committee in Action

The International Service Committee of the Friendship Force of Lincoln is sponsoring a picnic with the Lincoln's Sudanese Community for August 25th at 1 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will meet at the Antelope Park shelter #2 by the playground. This is an opportunity for our Sudanese neighbors to get to know us and for us to get to know them. Come and enjoy good food, fellowship and fresh air. All members and guests are welcome.

Also remember the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting for the benefit of the BICE program in Africa. There will be unique items from around the world. The committee is still accepting items for the auction; contact Joanna Rogers if you have an item you wish to donate at 402-484-8678 or rkrohn@neb.rr.com.

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of Marilue Becker, Mary Bryant, John Comer, Sara Friedman, and Richard Spencer recommended to the Board for approval at the Annual Meeting the following slate of officers for 2012: President Nancy Comer, Vice President Larry Kluck, Treasurer Wendy Horacek, and Secretary Joanna Rogers.

Activities & Exchanges



Upcoming Activity

Remember the last time you went on a hay rack ride? Probably been a few years. Had fun did ya? Well let's do it again. Join with Niagara Falls Ambassadors on Friday October 19th 5:00 p.m. at 4240 West F Street (Go West on Van Dorn; turn right on S.W. 40th St; turn left on West F Street (1st place on the right). Wear that cowboy hat that you have been saving for just such an occasion and enjoy a hot dog roast, s'mores, bon fire, and cowboy music. Bring a lawn chair. See the Niagara Falls Schedule of Exchange Events elsewhere in the Passport.

Northern Colorado Exchange Rescheduled

The Northern Colorado (Fort Collins) trip, postponed due to the fire, is rescheduled for September 6 - 12. There are still opening for 3 or 4. The exchange will travel by car on the 6th and return to Lincoln the morning of the 12th. Events as previously planned have been rescheduled with activities in and around the Boulder, Loveland, Greeley and Fort Collins area. Depending on restrictions owing to fire damage, ambassadors may also visit Rocky Mountain National Park. Cost of the exchange is \$200 plus transportation. For more information contact exchange director Larry Kluck at LarryKluck@hotmail.com



2012 Social Activities

August 17th

Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Church, 84th & Pioneers

October 19th

Hay Rack Ride with Niagara Falls, Canada Ambassadors

December 1st

Holiday Party West Gate Bank 6003 Old Cheney

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is Friday, August 17th, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:15 PM at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 8550 Pioneers Boulevard. Pulled pork and beverages provided.

Please bring a side dish:

Appetizer _____ Potato or vegetable _____ Salad _____ Fruit _____ Dessert _____

Number of persons attending: _____

I will help set up _____ I will help clean up _____

Please return reservations to Jeanne Zwiebel by August 4th 402-489-1247 jz82924@windstream.net

Russian Open World Program

By Julie A. Albrecht



June 8-16, Friendship Force of Lincoln hosted nine Open World delegates, two Open World facilitators and two Russian interpreters. The delegates were from various parts of Russia, ranging from St. Petersburg in the west to the cold plains of Siberia in the east.

The theme Responsible Governance included visits with members of the Lincoln City Council and sitting in on a portion of a City Council meeting. The Russian delegates became honorary Lincolnites.

On a day devoted to learning about state government, the group met with Nebraska legislators and toured the Capitol building, visited the Secretary of State's office, lunched at the governor's residence, met with a panel of state legislators and staff, spent time with a citizen advocate (Amy Birky, a FFL member) and a lobbyist. At the State Department, the delegates were made honorary Nebraska citizens.

Many of the delegates are involved in public relations or media and a workshop at the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communication provided insight into "new media." The day also included a visit to a radio station where delegates were on live radio. NETV introduced the delegates to public TV and radio. Visits to the Lincoln Journal and the Daily Nebraska (UNL's newspaper) exposed the group to print media.

A visit to Omaha was highlighted by a special dinner at the Omaha Zoo Aquarium with Walter Scott, Chair of the Open World Board and Michael Yanney, Open World Board member. The delegates felt honored to interact with both. In Omaha, the delegates also visited the Omaha World Herald, The Holland Center for Performing Arts and the Scott Technology Center. Later that day the group opted to return to the Omaha Zoo as they only saw the Aquarium the evening before.

A visit to the Center for People in Need and Matt Talbot Kitchen introduced the delegates to the idea of volunteerism and a different view of the US. One delegate said, "For the first time, I have seen what a big role volunteer movements play in the life of Americans."

Social events included a visit to Pioneer Park with a nature hike to see the bison and a picnic with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. At the Welcome party, Pangaea – a steel drum youth group amazed the audience with their performance. A pizza dinner at Valentino's is a Lincoln must and the farewell dinner featured a musical group and an impromptu musical presentation by Mikhail, one of the Russian delegates. A swim party at Pat Henry's home was a welcome relief from the warm temperatures.

For the delegates, home hosting was one of the most memorable activities of the program. One of the participants said, "I didn't feel I was a guest, but rather a part of the family." Another one said, "Living with a host family gave me firsthand experience of the life of the American people." One of the Russian delegates summed up the experience in America, "Many stereotypes about the USA were broken"

Gloria Van Ackeren and I would like to thank everyone for making this Open World group welcome in Lincoln and a wonderful experience. We could not carry out a program like this without the help of so many FFL members. THANKS!

Get Ready

By Sue Imig

Twenty-three Niagara Falls ambassadors will arrive in Lincoln on Sunday evening, October 14th. The group will enjoy FFL hospitality until Sunday morning, October 21st. Please consider home hosting as well as joining in one or more of the week's activities. If you would like to home host, please fill out the Host Application and read the Host Agreement document, both on FFL's web page. You may also contact Sue Imig or Barb Ridder. If home hosting will not work for you, please consider day hosting for one or more days.

Make reservation for exchange activities by completing the form and mailing it with your check (payable to FFL) by September 25th to Sue Imig, 357 E. Pinewood, Seward, NE 68434.

Questions: Sue at sueimig@yahoo or (402) 643-9747 or Barb Ridder at bridder@neb.rr.com or (402) 435-0270.

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Niagara Falls Exchange Events		Cost	Number	Total
Monday, October 15 1:00 PM 1425 H Street	LUNCH Nebraska Governor's Residence	\$16 x	_____	_____
Monday, October 15 6:30 PM	WELCOME EVENT Legacy Estates 7200 Van Dorn	\$4 x	_____	_____
Tuesday October 16 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 2:30 PM	Bagels and Joe, 4701 Old Cheney Bedient Organ Tour Quilt Museum Tour or UNL Tractor Testing Lab	\$2 x \$5 x \$2 x	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Wednesday, October 17 7:30 AM 6:30 PM	Bus Trip to Kearney (space limited) Dinner Chances R in York	\$30 x \$14 x	_____ _____	_____ _____
Thursday October 18 1:30 PM	Speedway Motors Tour	\$8 x	_____	_____
Friday October 19 8:30 AM 11:45 AM 5 PM	Trip to Beatrice, Pottery Shop, Gage Co. Museum Lunch and Tour of Yesterday's Lady Hayrack Ride and Cookout	\$2 x \$15 x \$5 x	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Saturday October 20 6 PM	Farewell Dinner at Knolls	\$15 x	_____	_____
			TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

Membership News

By Mary Bryant

Please welcome our newest members: Bill and Arlys Eddy, John and Rosalee Vondracek, plus returning member Patricia Novak who temporarily left Lincoln to serve in the Peace Corps.

It's that time of the year when we begin renewing membership for 2013. Look for the table set up for your convenience at the Annual Meeting. Dues are \$40 for a family, \$30 for an individual.

At the same time, pick up a packet of five of the club's new Friendship Force referral cards. On the front is the club's website plus a space for you to add your name, phone number and email. If you prefer, write

the contact information for the club President, Nancy Comer, or me as Membership chair. This information is included with your referral cards. The back of the card contains basic FFL/FFI information.

It would also be a helpful if you would provide me with the name, address, phone, and email of the person to whom you give the card and someone will follow-up. If you meet someone while traveling who is not from Nebraska, point out that the card contains the website for Friendship Force International and explains how to request information about the club nearest their hometown.

Help us spread the word about our unique organization by telling others about your personal experiences. I often think about how different my life would have been had I not become connected with Friendship Force. It is not likely that I would have known each of you plus the numerous new friends I have made around the world. How fortunate that we have had this organization in Lincoln for more than thirty years. Get involved at some level whether it be slicing pickles or tomatoes at a potluck, day hosting a visitor, participating in an exchange to experience a different culture, or accepting a leadership position; do it, you won't regret it!

2013 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

Dues for 2013 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. 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: _____

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**The Friendship Force of Lincoln
PO Box 30334
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