



PASSPORT

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Lincoln Irish Dancers to Perform at Annual Meeting

Join us on September 11, 2016 at 6:45 PM at First Lutheran Church at 1551 South 70th Street. The mission of the Irish Dancers is to heighten awareness and appreciation of traditional Irish dance and to celebrate Irish culture in Lincoln, Nebraska and surrounding areas. The group will perform at 7:00 PM while you are enjoying desserts provided by the FFL Social Committee.

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Greetings from the President



*by Joanna Rogers
President*

It has been a busy time since our last newsletter. Game Day was fun for those who could attend, and we all learned how to play Bunco. There were great treats prepared by Lois Pasco and even prizes for the top players. Thank you to Hope Partridge and her committee.

We had a joint picnic with the Greater Omaha club in June. The group picture shows the Lincoln members who attended. We had an additional 12 attendees from Omaha. Also attending the picnic were Sue and Rob Linahan and guests from SW Florida. Connie Stentz did a great job organizing the picnic and working with the Omaha members. We decided this will be an annual affair.



July was the Black and White Party sponsored by the ambassadors who were on the Exchange to Guadeloupe. It was a delightful evening, and a great event for learning about the island's culture. The meal was furnished by the ambassadors. Pictures of all of these events are posted on the revised Friendship Force of Lincoln website explained by Richard Spencer in this newsletter.

The next event coming up will be the Annual Meet-

ing. The 2017 Slate of Officers is listed below. This year we are only serving dessert rather than a meal; so eat early and arrive in time to find your seat for our special entertainment. The business meeting will follow, and you can learn exactly what the Board members do at their monthly board meetings. You will be involved in selecting the 2018 Exchanges. At the close of the evening, we will open the floor for your comments, suggestions, and questions.

2017 Slate of Officers

President – Joanna Rogers
Secretary – Arlene Rea

Vice President – Barb Ridder
Treasurer – De Tonack

This will serve as notice of the Slate to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of The Friendship Force of Lincoln, September 11, 2016 at First Lutheran Church, 1551 South 70th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Julie Albrecht, Chair, Richard Spencer, Betty Starr, and Milt Bayer.

Be Sure to Visit www.friendshipforcelincn.org

New Features on The FFL Website

By Richard Spencer

A few months back The Friendship Force of Lincoln website switched to different software, and with that, the site has a new look. Please visit the site at <http://friendshipforcelincn.org/>.

Most pages display six upcoming events in the right hand column. By clicking on one of those events, a popup box displays more information. To view the calendar of monthly events, click the "Events Calendar" link at the top of the page. Click an event in the calendar, and a popup box displays more information. FFL breakfasts, Let's Eat Out, exchange dates, and other



events are listed on the calendar. The "Latest News" Link at the top of the page displays pictures and a paragraph about the event.

Under the link "About FF Lincoln"/club resources, there is a wealth of information, including forms for ambassa-

dors, exchange directors, home hosting, and reimbursement. There is also a link to forms on The Friendship Force International website. New Member Orientation information is also found under club resources.

Exchange information, current and archived newsletters, and a list of board members with contact links are found on the website. If you are an exchange director or planning an event, please send me complete details so they can be listed on our website. I see my job as pressman rather than reporter, and in fact, the software we are using is WordPress. If anyone is interested in learning WordPress, I will be happy to teach you. It would be nice to have a backup. Feel free to contact me at my email - richspe2@gmail.com.

Additional Photos from the Picnic



Friendship Force Presidents



Having Some Summer Fun



Omaha's Friendship Force Members



Friendship Force Friends



Enjoying the Food

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

Midwest and Great Lake Regional Conference

By Joanna Rogers

Six members of FFL attended the 2016 Regional Conference in Davenport, Iowa earlier this year. President, Joanna Rogers; Vice-president, Barb Ridder; FFI Field Rep, Laurie-Ann Scott; Membership Chairman, Mary Bryant; Historian, Jim Caruso; and member-at-large, Ginny Burstein.

Laurie-Ann presented at a session, and we each attended several different sessions

where major issues were discussed, and clubs shared ideas on making our organization more vibrant and relative to the changing world. We came home with some new ideas and a better understanding of FFI's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

It was suggested at conference that clubs become familiar with their Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. Our club is establishing a committee to review those documents and make sure that we are in compliance with our original

mission. Some other items discussed were budgets, membership growth (especially among new generation members), board member duties and committee purposes, visibility in the community, and ideas for adding more purpose to exchanges.

We also enjoyed a paddle boat cruise on the Mississippi River and lots of wonderful food. We ended the conference with a breakfast where discussions were held while plates were emptied.



Ginny enjoying breakfast



Barb sharing her thoughts



Jim in discussion

Stories of Friendship

By Joanna Rogers

Have you seen the exciting new page from FFI? They are instituting a website called Stories of Friendship.org. As they told us, "Stories of friendship are stories of peace." So, if you want to write about an experience you have had on a Friendship Force Exchange, or maybe even meeting a new friend at a club event right here in

Lincoln, please take advantage of this opportunity to share it with others around the world.

I know that many of you have made long-lasting friendships through the club and the exchanges. Let's talk about those friendships and how they have brightened our lives. This is your opportunity to "have your experience archived in the annals of FFI."

"Whether your story is short or long, funny or moving, from three weeks or three

years ago, please share it" at: storiesoffriendship.org, or mail to FFI at 260 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 402, Atlanta, GA, 30303.

**CHANGING THE
WAY YOU SEE
THE WORLD**

Membership News

By Mary Bryant



We have made some changes to the Membership Committee. Gayle Bayer and Betty Starr, Membership Committee Assistants, have decided to pursue other endeavors. I thank them for the time they spent following up with prospective members whose names were referred by our members. I'm pleased to announce that the new Membership Assistants are Marilyn Paolini and Jacque Scholz. Marilyn has been a FFL member for 21 years and Jacque for 8 years. Both women have been ambassadors on numerous exchanges, so they can relate their many Friendship Force experiences to prospective members.

Recent research indicates we continue to be the largest FF club in the United States, and possibly the world! Three years ago I located 16 U.S. clubs with 100 or more members. Last month I rechecked The FFI data base and found

only 13 U.S. clubs with 100 or more members. With 172 members (currently 179), The Friendship Force of Lincoln's closest contender is The Friendship Force of Olympia (Washington) with 149. Three other Midwest Clubs have memberships in excess of 100. They are: The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison with 143 members, The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee with 131, and The Friendship Force of Minnesota Twin Cities with 103. The Midwest Region should be proud of their membership achievements. The other eight Friendship Force clubs with 100 or more members are: Sacramento, Denver, Atlanta, Southern New Jersey, Harrisburg, Sarasota, Kansas, and New Mexico.

Our newest member is Judy Rogers who was referred to FFL by Barb Ridder. Welcome Judy!

If we hope to retain our membership status, we need your help in referring your relatives, friends, and acquaintances to a Membership Committee member. We will follow up with pertinent information. In addition, they will receive the PASSPORT (FFL's newsletter), plus email reminders about our monthly Breakfast and Conversation, Let's Eat Out, Dessert Discussions, and exchanges. Please share your Friendship Force experiences with those you know; they will be glad you did!

Breakfast and Conversation

The breakfast group meets on the second Saturday of every month. The next breakfast is at Stauffer's Café, 5600 South 48th Street at 8:30 AM on August 13, 2016. Milt Bayer, the group's leader, asks that you come prepared to discuss the month's question, "Have you ever met a celebrity, and who was it?" Hope to see you there.

Friendship Force New Member Introductions - July, 2016

By Lois Poppe



Janet Price

Janet loves to travel, and she decided to join FFL after Pat Novak told her about the Niagara Exchange to Canada.

Janet worked at the International Quilt Museum for six years. Currently, she works part-time at the Lentz Center where she organizes collections for the Asian Culture. Janet enjoys her two cats, reading, watching good movies, and travelling. She is learning to quilt. Future travel plans may include Cuba, South America, France, Japan, and Florence, Italy. Welcome Janet to Friendship Force.



Barbara Rothenay

Barbara learned of Friendship Force from member Pat Novak.

She looks forward to the Niagara Exchange to Canada. Barbara has traveled to many places - some for participation in mission work. Some locations she has travelled to include Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, and India. She enjoys new experiences and adventure.

Barbara served as post-master in Ohio, Waverly, and Roca, Nebraska, to name a few locations. She has been treasurer in her hometown church in Ainsworth, Nebraska and currently volunteers at Saint Mark's United Methodist and Matt Talbot in Lincoln. Barbara enjoys hiking, bridge, golf, reading, quilting, being a Cornhusker fan, and her Scottish Terrier - "Miss Molly." Barbara has three sons and five grandchildren. She is one of nine children - five currently living. Future travel plans include Australia with her sister in 2017, and at some point, possibly Africa, Iceland, and Scotland. Look for Barbara at Friendship Force events.



Betty Todd

Betty Todd learned about Friendship Force from Mary Bryant at an Olli class. Betty attended a Friendship Force breakfast and decided to join. She enjoys travelling and people, so this seemed like a "good fit."

Betty lived in Tennessee before moving to California. She met her husband in California, and they moved to Lincoln in 1958 for her husband's job at Allied Insurance. Betty worked as a banker at Gateway and Wells Fargo banks. She is a widow.

She and her husband raised two sons - one lives in Lincoln and one in Topeka, Kansas. Betty has three grown grandchildren. Her mother recently celebrated her 101st birthday. Betty enjoys reading and volunteering, currently at the Nebraska History Museum and at her church, The Church of Christ.

Betty has a wish list for her travels - Cuba, Netherlands, and Asian countries. She plans to host for the Seattle/Huntsville Exchange in September. Welcome, Betty!

LEO Report

By Bruce Keim



The Keims

Twenty FFL members met for a wonderful dinner and fun conversation at the Imperial Palace on 27th and Vine Street on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. The manager picked out some of the best-selling dishes for us and served them family style. This allowed us to taste several different selections. They were all so tasty and freshly made which is so true to the China experience. We were seated in a private room in small groups of five to eight people. This made visiting so much nicer since we could hear each other's conversation. The manager told us that he'd been there for 20 of the 30 years the restaurant has been in Lincoln.

The next LEO will be held at Sultan's Kite on 1311 "O" Street in the Haymarket District. It will be held Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2016 at 6:30 PM. They serve wonderful

Mediterranean food we'd all like to experience. Parking at the University Square Parking Garage can be accessed on either P Street or 14th Street. If you'd like to attend, please mail your reservations to Bruce at bkeim@hamburgia.net, or call Carlene and Bruce at 402-269-2778. We'd love to have you join us!

Lamphun, Thailand Exchange, 2017

By Carolyn Kitterer, Exchange Director

The exchange between Friendship Force Lincoln and Friendship Force Lamphun has no new information at this time. I am still waiting for the date of the exchange (sometime around February 2017) and the number of ambassadors they can host. The list of interested persons is still in my hands, and as soon as I have some definite information, I will contact you. At this time, I anticipate flying into Chiang Mai where we will have a short pre-exchange stay (two to three days) followed by a longer post-exchange trip to Bangkok (four to six days). If you are interested in this exchange and have not put your name on the list, please contact me at ckitterer@gmail.com.

Seattle/Huntsville Exchange Help Needed

By Barb Ridder,

Final plans for the Seattle/Huntsville Exchange are just about completed, but we are in need of one or two more small group dinner hosts. Dinners are being planned for either Sunday night (Sept. 25), or Monday night (Sept. 26) and will alternate with the Take Your Host to Dinner. If you can host three to six guests (ambassadors and hosts), your help will be appreciated.

We are also in need of Day Hosts. Our Day Hosts help the hosts by giving them a break! Serving as a Day Host allows you to be part of the action, see something you haven't seen or want to see again, or provides you the opportunity to meet and talk to the ambassadors. If you can day host one or two days, your help will be much appreciated.

Contact Barb Ridder at bridder@neb.rr.com, or call 402-435-0270 (home) or 402-540-8724 (cell). Thank you!

Seattle/Huntsville Exchange Signup

By Carolyn Kitterer and Margaret Foster, Exchange Directors

Thursday, September 22 is drawing near, and it is time for you to join the committee members and hosts of The Friendship Force of Lincoln in welcoming and entertaining 14 ambassadors from Seattle and 16 ambassadors from Huntsville. We have six days packed with fun, sight-seeing, and learning. Take a look at the activities, sign up to share the good times, and get to know these incredible ambassadors.

Thursday - September 22

The ambassadors will be arriving via car and plane at various times throughout the afternoon. We will welcome them at 5:45 PM at the Indian Center (1100 Military Rd.) with a short program about our Native Americans. Then, we will enjoy an Indian Taco dinner.

Friday - September 23

We will split into two groups and have alternate visits to the International Quilt Study Center and Museum (1523 N. 33rd St.) and the Innovation Campus (2021 Transformation Dr.). Tours will start at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Lunch is on your own.

In preparation for Saturday's activity, only the ambassadors will meet Friday evening at 6:00 PM at Ayers & Ayers Inc. (2436 N. 48th St.) for Lincoln's own famed pizza and Runzas. Then, they will watch the movie, "Boys Town."

Saturday - September 24

We have scheduled a bus trip to Omaha. We will leave at 8:30 AM from First Lutheran Church on 70th and A Streets and travel to Boys Town to learn about its activities today. We will visit the Pioneer Sculpture Parks, eat in Old Town, walk across the Bob Kerrey bridge, and stop at the Lewis and Clark Museum.

Sunday - September 25

The ambassadors will have a free morning. We will meet at the Homestead Monument in Beatrice at 1:30 PM for a look at the prairie grasses and to learn about the Homestead Act. That night will either be Small Group dinners or Take Your Host to Dinner.

Monday - September 26

The ambassadors will meet at the Capitol Building on the north side, 2nd floor at 9:45 AM for a tour; lunch will follow at the Governor's Residence at 12:30 PM. The afternoon will be free, and the evening will be either Small Group Dinners or Take Your Host to Dinner.

Tuesday - September 27

We will be travelling to Nebraska City. We will meet at the Morton House/Arbor Lodge at 10:00 AM for a tour. Lunch will be at 12:00 PM at the Lied Restaurant, and the Tree Adventure Discovery Ride will begin at 1:30 PM. The Farewell Dinner will be at 6:00 PM at Firespring (1201 Infinity Court, just off 14th St.). Beacon Hill will cater the meal.

Wednesday - September 28

This is departure day for the ambassadors. Some will be leaving in the morning while others have afternoon flights, so we will have some activity that morning. This is yet to be decided.

Please complete the following reservation form for the Seattle/Huntsville Exchange. Send your reservation and payment by September 12 to Mary Bryant at 5015 S. 69th St., Lincoln, NE 68516

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

September 22	Indian Center	\$9 x _____ = \$ _____
September 23	International Quilt Museum Innovation Campus	\$8 x _____ = \$ _____ No charge
September 24	Bus trip to Omaha	\$20 x _____ = \$ _____
September 25	Homestead Monument	No charge
September 26	Capitol and lunch	\$20 x _____ = \$ _____
September 27	Morton Mansion	\$8 x _____ = \$ _____
	Lunch at the Lied	\$17 x _____ = \$ _____
	Discovery Ride	\$15 x _____ = \$ _____
	Farewell Dinner	\$15 x _____ = \$ _____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



Events Calendar

August 24-31

Niagara Exchange

September 11

Annual Meeting -- First Lutheran Church @ 6:30 PM

September 15-18

World Convention in Morocco

September 22-28

Seattle/Huntsville Incoming Exchange

October 19

Program on Niagara Exchange

November 1

Passport information due

November 10

LEO -- Hickory Road BBQ, 5571 So. 48th

December 4

Holiday Party

February 1, 2017

Passport information due

Lamphun, Thailand Outbound Exchange

Exchange Director – Carolyn Kitterer

May 20-27, 2017

San Paulo, Brazil Incoming Exchange

Exchange Director – Julie Albrecht

September 2017

Columbia/Cascade Incoming Exchange

October 2017

Australia Outbound Exchange

Exchange Director – Pat Novak