



PASSPORT

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Join us for the Holiday Party December 4th at 5:30 p.m. at Hidden Valley Golf Club, 10501 Pine Lake Road.

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Greetings from the President



by Joanna Rogers
President

During this season of giving thanks, I am especially thankful to all of the members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln who have participated in making 2016 an enjoyable year for our club. First, the wonderful EDs, including Julie Albrecht and Pat King who did double duty with Open World and the Guadeloupe Exchange. Then, thanks to Carolyn Kitterer, Margaret Foster, and Pat Novak for leading exchanges as well as giving informative programs along with the one done by Erna Rethmeier and Duane Starr on last year's Germany Exchange.

Speaking of programs, I want to express my thanks to Hope Partridge and Connie Stentz for organizing our Game Day and Annual Picnic. Of course, I am thankful for the Board members who have been presenting great LEOs,

monthly breakfasts, and generally carrying out their duties personally and with their committees. Kudos to Mary Bryant and Richard Spencer who have both given many hours to the club. And, I can't forget Jolene Schauer and Jim Ecklund who produce our newsletters.



Canadian Butter Tarts with raisins served at the October Quarterly Meeting

Then, there are the members who furnished food and entertainment for us this year. We have had delicious desserts, and a very special Black & White dinner, along with entertaining and informational meetings. I hope you will all be able to attend the Holiday Party where two more of our talented members will be performing.

Lastly, I cannot forget to thank my Executive Officers who have been wonderful about serving diligently in their assigned jobs and whenever needed beyond their assignments. I am pleased that the Board members have agreed to continue serving for the 2017 year; and I hope all of the members will enjoy the next year as much as so many of us have enjoyed 2016.

Visit Our Website at www.friendship-forcelincoln.org

By Richard Spencer

Visit our website to see pictures of the recent Huntsville-Seattle Exchange by clicking "Latest News." For new members, or those that need a refresher, visit the link About FF Lincoln/ Club Resources. There you will find a wealth of information, forms for ambassador, exchange director, home hosting, and reimbursement; plus a link to forms on The Friendship Force International website. Also, new member orientation information is found under Club Resources.

For details of the Holiday Party, visit our website and check out upcoming events in the right hand column and then click "See More."

Please visit The Friendship Force of Lincoln on Facebook and like us. For those traveling on exchanges, Facebook is a great way to share your pictures and experiences with family and club members as you travel. If you are interested in learning more about using Facebook, please let me know. If there is interest, we will put together a session on how to use Facebook.

Don't Miss the Holiday Party

Celebrate The Holidays With Us

by De Tonack

Our Holiday Party is set for December 4th at 5:30 p.m. at Hidden Valley Golf Club, 10501 Pine Lake Road.

Greta's Gourmet will cater dinner which will feature brown-sugar cured smoked turkey and country-style double smoked ham along with apple-sage stuffing, cheesy potato-yam bake, green bean casserole with rosemary-panko topping, and both maple bourbon pecan and home-style pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

The program will be presented by Humanities Nebraska members Bill Behmer and his wife, Gwen Meister. Bill is one of the founders of Lincoln Association for Traditional Arts (LAFTA), a recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award, and is a three-time Midwest Mountain Dulcimer champion. He currently volunteers as a Docent at the Nebraska State Historical Society. He will be playing a dulcimer and an autoharp for this program.

Gwen served as Folk Arts Coordinator for the Nebraska Arts Council in Omaha for more than four years and is now the Executive Director of the Nebraska Folklife Network in Lincoln.



Bill and Gwen are both knowledgeable about American Folk music and will present examples of several songs as well as information about the ethnic cultural traditions in Nebraska. The program will be centered around the Holiday Season and will include some enjoyable holiday songs.

The cost of \$20 per person will be collected at the door; but we do need to know how many places to reserve at the buffet. Please phone or e-mail your intent to attend by November 26th to De Tonack at 402-489-8097 or dtonack@neb.rr.com.



Mark Your Calendar: Holiday Shopping Benefits Many

By Nancy Comer

The Friendship Force Diversity Committee invites you to participate in a holiday shopping experience that will benefit our organization and people around the world.

Ten Thousand Villages, 801 P Street (Haymarket), is celebrating 35 years in Lincoln.

This fair trade non-profit organization carries unique items made by artisans in 34 developing countries. During the week of November 28 - December 9, Ten Thousand Villages will donate 10% of sales when you mention Friendship Force Lincoln at the check-out counter. Their hours are Monday - Wednesday, 10-6; Thursday - Saturday, 10-9; and Sunday 1-5.

Larry Kluck Receives The Wayne Smith Metal



Larry Kluck has served a wide variety of leadership roles in the Friendship Force of Lincoln. He is a charter member of the club that was founded in 1981. In his 35-year membership, he has been president for several two-year terms and served as club treasurer for countless years. He also has volunteered as treasurer for many inbound and outbound exchanges throughout the years. He has been an outbound Exchange Director for four International and one Domestic exchange.

In addition, he has served as Exchange Director for two inbound International exchanges.

Larry has set high standards in both management and administration of exchanges. He strongly supports and exhibits The Friendship Force conviction that we can create a world of friends that can become a world of peace. As a result, he has helped the club grow many friendships around the world. His willingness to pitch in where needed in our club has been exceptional. Larry was administrative treasurer for the innovative theme exchange of “Taming A Harsh Land” which four clubs in the Midwest carried out in 2013. Larry’s devotion to the ideals of The Friendship Force and his exceptional leadership in promoting The Friendship Force mission has resulted in

him being a worthy recipient of the Wayne Smith Metal.

Friendship Force International was founded in 1977 by Wayne Smith and was announced on March 1, 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. It is affiliated with no religious or political organizations and is non-profit. There are over 350 clubs around the world and the International Offices are located in Atlanta, Georgia. By coming together at the personal level, Friendship Force participants get to know people whose lives are different from their own. An open mind and respect for other cultures become the foundations of friendships that often last a lifetime.

We believe every friendship formed across the barriers of nationality, language, religion or politics makes the world a better place.

New Member Introduction

By Lois Poppe



Jeanne Combs

Jeanne Combs moved to Lincoln eight years ago from Fargo, North Dakota. Her job with Citizen and Immigration Services brought her to Lincoln. She works at the Highlands location for Immigration Services. She keeps busy working fulltime and sometimes overtime. When she isn’t working, you just might find her shopping in Lincoln’s fine stores, as shopping is one of her favorite pastimes.

She joined Friendship Force in August of this year

and is eager to “learn the ropes” of all Friendship Force has to offer. Jeanne is looking forward to participating in a Friendship Force exchange to Australia. Italy and Ireland are countries of interest to visit in the future. She also would be interested in traveling to United States and Canadian destinations. Jeanne attended the presentation on the Niagara Exchange, and she found that interesting.

Welcome Jeanne Combs to Friendship Force!

Friendship Force Lincoln and Yazedi Lunch and Learn

By Nancy Comer
& Linda Kistler

Tuesday morning, November 1, 2016, 40 plus gathered at Second Baptist Church to share food prepared by Yazedi women, FFL members, and teachers and missionaries who volunteer to teach English and support Yazedis in Lincoln. The smells wafting upstairs during the morning lesson caused mouths to water in anticipation of the meal everyone would be sharing later.

What a spread of dishes (many rice based). There were soups, barbeque, vegetables, breads, and desserts! Some of the regular Yazedi learners had previous commitments

There were other, newer Yazedi ladies, even one attending for the very first time, who

came and filled the fellowship hall with voices. Sounds of fussy little children also mingled with the voices (remember it was the morning after Halloween).

Ruth Racey, a missionary who has been working with this group of ladies for about a year and a half, encouraged all to mix together, interspersing Yazedis and members of the community.

Afterwards, Ruth spoke of the Yazedi English students classes. Some women have never learned to read and write in their own language, so this presents challenges for teachers and students. The highlight was when each lady spoke briefly and shared information about themselves. While some had only a sentence prepared, they often continued speaking while Ruth translated for ev-

eryone. Tears came to the eyes of some speakers, and members of the audience, when the women told of terrible things that had happened to family and friends in Iraq and Syria. Some don't know the whereabouts of loved ones.

We agreed that the Lunch and Learn was a great opportunity to build bridges between people of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. We plan to have other such meetings soon. In the meantime, FFL will donate money from Diversity Committee Funds for Oxford Picture Dictionaries to help the Yazedi women with English.

Websites you might find useful to learn about the Yazedi. Go to www.Yazda.org and www.yazeditruth.org.

Niagara Exchange was a Wonderful Experience!



By Pat Novak

Twenty-one ambassadors returned from Niagara Falls, Ontario after a week's stay with wonderful hosts, great adventures and

butter tarts! The group spent a day at Niagara Falls, viewing the surrounding area from the Skylon Tower, seeing a brief history of the

Falls at the IMAX, and riding into the Falls on the Hornblower boat cruise.

A day was spent at Niagara-on-the-Lake, a lovely town on Lake Ontario where we had

a back stage tour of the Shaw Theatre followed by a production of Alice in Wonderland. Time was spent at Crawford Lake getting a bit of "First Nation" history and a tour of the Mountsberg Raptor Centre. Tours of Brock University and the Meridian Hockey Centre, and the Welland Canals and Locks completed our stay. Great food and wines were only the icing on the cake for this exchange.

The 2016 Humanitarian Award goes to...

By Laurie Ann Scott

Every year a few people are honored for special accomplishments within The Friendship Force family. This is done at the final plenary of the World Conference. This month, one of our own was so honored in Marrakech, Morocco. See if you can guess the recipient before getting to the end of the announcement!

The Humanitarian Award recognizes the accomplishments of a member whose dedicated service exemplifies the highest ideals of selflessness and dedication to the welfare of communities. The recipient's commitment and contributions toward bettering the lives of people act as an inspiration to others, making significant contributions to their local community. This year's award recipient has had many careers during her lifetime, one of which had her serving as a volunteer consultant with the international Farmer to Farmer Program funded by the Agency for International Development, Department of Agriculture. Most of these consulting assignments took her to Africa with time in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, showing local subsistence farmers how to effectively plan programs to extend good agricultural practices.

Out of this work has emerged two separate projects, assistance in building Friend-

ship Force clubs in Kenya and Uganda, and humanitarian projects in both countries. This year's award recipient's work in Kamuli, Uganda, guided the efforts to develop a regional school from the ground up, raising money to support the project as well.

In another instance, she worked with a Ugandan woman teacher to further develop a struggling elementary school in a very rural area. They raised funding to construct an additional classroom and library building and to upgrade the water collection and storage facilities for this school to assure a sufficient water supply during the dry period in the country.

The award recipient has also done significant humanitarian work in Kitui, Kenya, where she and a local resident developed a close friendship and initiated a project which provides four goats to HIV families in the vicinity. Goats bear up well in this harsh environment, provide nutritious milk, and occasional meat. As a herd grows, money raised from the sale of goats provides funds for the children's school fees and uniforms. To date, 80 families in the area have received herds, and the goat project continues.

Another project was implemented in Kitui - the project of building an elementary school which is attached to a local church. The basic school

has now been constructed, and the next visit (February 2017) will see the start of a library for the school and the assistance in the growth of a new Friendship Force club of Kitui. This is the third FF trip in three years that the award recipient has led, each helping to establish clubs in Kenya and Uganda and developing as humanitarian efforts to which the ambassadors gladly contribute. Because of these significant contributions and her immense dedication and passion for service, the 2016 Humanitarian Award goes to Kay Rockwell of The Friendship Force of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.



Kay Rockwell holding twin goat kids

Exchange News

Lamphun, Thailand Exchange Postponed

By Carolyn Kitterer, ED

Nine members of our club experienced their first Thai cultural experience without going to Thailand. Recently, the King of Thailand died, and the country is in a year of mourning. Thus, The Friendship Force of Lamphun asked that the exchange with our club be postponed as they would be in mourning. They did not feel we would have the quality exchange they want to give our club. With much consultation with FFI, we agreed to submit the request for a 2018 exchange. I look forward to offering this exchange again when the date is set and invite all of you to consider joining us in experiencing the wonderful country, hospitality, and people of Thailand.

Down Under in October 2017

By Pat Novak

It's never too early to plan ahead! One year from now will find ambassadors from The Lincoln Friendship Force visiting the Sunshine and Central Coasts of Australia. Plans are just starting to be made, but if you might be interested in this exchange, please contact Pat Novak at mutanu123@yahoo.com. You will receive information on this exchange as soon as it becomes available.



Seattle/Huntsville Exchange Highlights

by Carolyn Kitterer & Margaret Foster, ED's

Fourteen ambassadors from Huntsville, AL and thirteen ambassadors from Seattle, WA assembled at the Indian Center in Lincoln on September 22 and were met by hosts and members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln. Mike Wolfe gave a traditional blessing before we ate Indian tacos, and Frank Bear Killer introduced us to the activities the Indian Center supports in Lincoln.

The next six days were filled with sightseeing, learning, and much socializing. One of the highlights was watching the movie, "Boys Town" the night before we traveled to Omaha to visit Boys Town. The tour of the State Capitol and lunch at the Governor's Residence also rated high as favorites with the group. We had the traditional trip to Beatrice and the Home-

stead Monument, complete with a visit to the one-room school with a docent and several members sharing memories of their school days in the one-room school. A warm fall day was the perfect setting for a visit to Arbor Lodge and a wagon ride through the apple orchard. Friendships were established, memories were made, and many compliments were shared as we parted on September 27.

I want to thank the committee who worked to make this an outstanding exchange. Thanks also to all the home hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts, and other members who made our guests feel so welcomed.



Upcoming Events

November

10 LEO – Hickory Road BBQ, 5571 So. 48th
12 Breakfast

December

4 Holiday Party at Hidden Valley Golf Club at 5:30 PM
10501 Pine Lake Rd.

2017 Tentative Schedule

January LEO

March Dessert & Discussion

April LEO

May 20-27 San Paulo, Brazil Incoming Exchange

June Picnic with FF Omaha

July LEO

August Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

September 7-13 Columbia/Cascade Incoming Exchange

October

Australia Outbound Exchange
LEO

November

Dessert & Discussion (Australia)

December

Holiday Party

Membership News

By Mary Bryant

It's that time of the year when we begin accepting dues renewals for 2017. The dues remain the same as 2016 - \$35 Individual and \$48 Family membership.

Your membership includes dues to Friendship Force International (FFI). We would no longer be able to participate in the wonderful cultural experiences without FFI. Every cultural experience is different. There are so many places in the world to visit or international guests to be visited by.

From the fees we collect, we pass on \$15 per person to FFI. The remainder is kept here to support your club's budget. The fees are used to recruit new members, help send a delegate to FF conferences (regional and international), and subsidize some meetings and other club activities, such as diversity projects.

It would be appreciated if you would mail your check, made payable to Friendship Force Lincoln, by December 10, 2016. Send to FFL, PO Box 30334, Lincoln 68503.

Our newest member is Jeanne Combs who actually came to us via our FFL web-

site. She knows a number of our members: Erna Rethmeier, Pat Novak, and Nina Halama. Welcome Jeanne!

Please share your Friendship Force experiences with your friends, both new and long term. They will be glad you did. We will follow up with pertinent information. In addition, they will receive the PASSPORT (FFL's quarterly newsletter), plus email reminders about our monthly Breakfast and Conversation, Let's Eat Out, Quarterly All-Member Meetings/Dessert Discussions, and exchanges. Help spread the word about our unique organization. Thanks!

2017 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

Dues for the 2017 calendar year are \$35 for an Individual Membership and \$48 for a Family Membership, the same as for 2016.. Dues are for the calendar year from January 1st through December 31st and are not prorated. Prompt payment of dues ensures that you will continue to receive e-mails/mailings from The Friendship Force of Lincoln.

Mail to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503. Make check payable to: "The Friendship Force of Lincoln." Please mail no later than December 10, 2016.

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Name Badge \$9.00/\$11.00 _____

Replacement name badges cost \$9.00 each for a pin-on type or \$11.00 each for magnetic style

Name(s) _____

Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail _____

CATEGORY: Individual-\$35 Family-\$48 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: _____