



PASSPORT

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Secretary of State, John Gale; FFI Field Rep. Coordinator, Laurie-Ann Scott; and FFI President, Jeremi Snook at the Celebration Dinner for the 40th Anniversary of Friendship Force International and the 150th anniversary of Nebraska's Statehood.

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Joanna Rogers
President

We all have another learning experience to work on. The FFI has changed the terminology for our “exchanges.” Since we no longer have true exchanges of the same two clubs, and with the addition of the Global exchanges, the Exchange Directors or EDs will now be addressed as Journey Coordinators and Host Coordinators. Our outbound trips will be titled “Journeys,” and our inbound will be “Hosting” opportunities. It will be a difficult change for some of us to remember, but we will be using those terms in all of our articles, e-mails, and the Passport.

What a wonderful 40th Anniversary Party! Thank you to all my helpers, our speakers, and guests: it turned out to be a very nice evening. Our FFI President, Jeremi Snook and his son, Gabriel, were our special guests. We were honored to have Secretary of State, John Gale, and his wife, Carol, as guests. They were here with us to help celebrate Nebraska’s 150th year of Statehood.

GABRIEL'S LETTER



DEAR FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN,

It was so nice meeting everyone at the dinner party. Please let me share with you more about my adventure in your great state. When we drove around, I saw lots of snow piles. It reminded me of living in New Hampshire when the snow was starting to melt. I also for the first time saw the Great Plains. Some people think it’s nothing, but the open land is actually beautiful. It’s probably even prettier when it’s green.

I also visited the Air and Space Museum, and I went to the Speedway Motors Museum. I loved looking at the racecars and the motors. My Dad says I was spoiled like a grandchild.

We stayed at the home of Duane and Betty Star. They were fantastic people to stay with. I enjoyed playing around with their speaker system. I remember my dad giving me the eye to sit down, but he knows I like

electronics and taking things apart. They even allowed me to ride the lawn mower around their house. We have a zero-turn mower, and my dad never ever allows me to touch it.

I also made a friend, Eveya Noelle. What a cool name! She took me to the skating rink over in the middle of Lincoln. This was my first time on roller-skates. Her mom was there too, and she was very nice. She was also there at the dinner party, and she gave me the biggest round of applause. I was so excited that she was there.

As you know, I enjoyed sharing about my trip to Japan. My Dad later told me that it wasn’t actually my turn to speak, but when I heard my name, I thought it was my turn to go. Oops. I hope you didn’t mind.

Thank you for letting me share again with you.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Snook



ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATION



Jeremi met with the Board on Friday evening at the home of Jim and Arlene Rea.

ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

By Barb Highstreet - Guest

Jack, my husband, and I had the opportunity to attend the birthday celebration of Friendship Force International on March 4 with our good friends, Jim and Arlene Rea. The guest speaker was a gentleman who is the President of Friendship Force International. He was delightful, as was his young son. They both spoke and entertained us with stories of experiences, and gave us information about Friendship Force International worldwide. I particularly enjoyed the information about when they were in Japan.

I have hosted about 22 young agricultural trainees from Japan in a program through the University some

years ago. The host families had one or two Japanese young fellows stay with them for a period of three months during the years of 1976-2005. The Japanese experience prompted several trips to Japan, and I was awarded a Fulbright Teacher trip to Japan. So, I was excited to see the material on the video about Japan.

We were impressed with the number of people involved with The Friendship Force of Lincoln. I did know several people in the organization and particularly thought having guests from The Friendship Force of Greater Omaha was special. I am looking forward to getting more involved.

*By Mary Chirside
- FFL New Member*

It was a perfect evening for a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Karim's Mediterranean Grill to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Friendship Force International (FFI) and the 150th Anniversary of the Statehood of Nebraska. The room was full: members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln, and their guests, were mingling with lots of chatter about places they had visited this past year and where they are planning to travel in 2017. The food was excellent with Caesar salad, very tender and tasty Lemon Chicken and Pork Medallions, roasted sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables. The dessert was Crème Brule. Chef Karim bustled in and out, keeping the trays full, while happy members and guests served themselves at the buffet line. We were treated to a very interesting and energizing presentation by Jeremi Snook, FFI President and CEO. Gabriel, Jeremi's 10 year old son, presented an equally interesting speech about his observations in Japan. Suite One Eleven, decorated in a modern motif, provided a pleasing background for an enjoyable evening that was ideal for starting plans for future travel and developing new friendships. I enjoyed the event immensely!

Sao Paulo, Brazil Incoming Journey



By Pat King

The Friendship Force of Lincoln will be welcoming 18 ambassadors from Sao Paulo, Brazil May 20 - 27. There will be five couples and eight singles. This will give club members an opportunity to meet the Brazilians, demonstrate our famous hospitality, and show off our city and state.

Lincoln visited Brazil in 2008. We spent a day in Sao Paulo, a huge city with high rise buildings as far as the eye can see. The Brazilians should enjoy our green yards and open fields.

Volunteers are needed to host the small group dinners. These do not need to be fancy - a picnic or potluck would do. You can enlist neighbors, friends, or Friendship Force members to co-host with you.

The following activities have been planned for the Brazilians. Club members are welcome to participate in any or all activities.

Sao Paulo Schedule Saturday May 20 - Arrival

SUNDAY MAY 21

- In the am Church with hosts.
- 7:00pm Welcome Party at Deer Springs Winery, 162nd & Adams Wine tasting & catered dinner

MONDAY MAY 22

- 9:15am Meet at West door for photos
- 9:30am Tour of State Capitol
- 12:00pm Lunch at Governor's Residence
- 2:00pm Nebraska History Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North
- 6:00 pm Small group dinner

TUESDAY MAY 23

- 8:15am Meet at First Lutheran Church, park in rear
- 8:30am Bus tour to Omaha
- 10:30am Henry Doorly Zoo
- 12:00pm Lunch at Zoo (on own)
- 3:00pm Tram tour of Lauritzen Gardens
- 6:30pm (approx.) Dinner at Valentino's on 70th

WEDNESDAY MAY 24

- 8:45am Meet at NW Corner by Osborne statue
- 9:00am Tour of Memorial Stadium
- 12:00pm Lunch at Student Union
- 2:00pm Tour of Morrill Hall
- 6:00pm Small group dinners

THURSDAY MAY 25

- 8:45am Meet by Larson Tractor Testing Station
- 9:00am UNL Tractor Museum
- 10:30am Quilt Museum
- 12:00pm Lunch on own (location tba)
- 2:30pm Innovation Campus
- 6:00pm Guests may take hosts to dinner

FRIDAY. MAY 26

- 8:45am Leave for York via private cars
- 10:00am Visit to Wessels Living History Farm
- 12:00pm Lunch at Chances R, York
- 3:00pm Shopping, etc.
- 5:30pm Farewell Party (location tba)

SATURDAY MAY 27

- 10:00am Meet at airport, Ambassadors leave for Denver.

BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

Julie Albrecht (402-464-2702) is the Host Coordinator for this Hosting. Pat King (402-489-3695) is the Treasurer. Please contact either of us for questions or concerns. Be sure to complete and return the form on the next page and join us in the week's events.

Sao Paulo Reservation Form

Please complete the following reservation form for the Lincoln/Sao Paulo Hosting. Send your reservation and payments by May 12 to Pat King, 1200 Coachmans Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510.

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Sun. May 21 Welcome Party, Deer Springs Winery \$20 x _____ = _____

Mon. May 22 Lunch at Governor's Residence \$20 x _____ = _____

Tues. May 23 Omaha Zoo & Lauritzen Gardens

Bus \$35 x _____ = _____

Zoo \$18 x _____ = _____

Gardens w/ Tour \$13 x _____ = _____

Fri. May 26 Farewell Party \$10 x _____ = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

I would like to co-host a small group dinner on _____.

I would like to be a day host. I am available on _____.

2018 Host AND JOURNEY COORDINATORS NEEDED

The Board is currently taking applications for Host and Journey Coordinators (formerly called Exchange Directors) for 2018. We are in need of a Host Coordinator to head a planning committee for the Global Crane visit in March. This person will be compensated according to the number of ambassadors attending to a maximum of \$400 which can be used for future FFI/FFL journeys or activities.

We are also taking applications for the Missoula, Montana Journey in the fall of 2018. These coordinators receive compensation in the form of trip expenses. The Thailand Journey Coordinator is Carolyn Kitterer who was approved by the Board in 2015.

Please contact Joanna Rogers at rkrohn@neb.rr.com or 402-484-8678 if you are interested in either of these positions.



JOURNEY TO LAMPHUN, THAILAND SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

By Carolyn Kitterer, Journey Coordinator

The Friendship Force Lincoln has been invited to journey to The Friendship Force Lamphun, Thailand in February 2018. You may recall this journey was postponed due to the year's mourning for their king. No dates or possible post-exchange trip have been set at this time. I plan to have an informational meeting in late May or June and hope to have more details then. Gayle and Milt Beyer enjoy telling us about their trip and tour to Bangkok and Chiang Mai this past February. I am excited to lead this journey once again to "The Land of Smiles" and hope you will join me.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY PAT NOVAK ABOUT THE AUSTRALIA JOURNEY.

We regret to inform you that the journey to the Sunshine and Central Coasts of Australia, that was scheduled for October-November, 2017, has been cancelled.



COLUMBIA CASCADE HOSTING

By Carolyn Kitterer, Host Coordinator

The Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington club will be coming to Lincoln September 7-13, 2017. The Fall is a perfect time to share our city and surrounding area with Friendship Force guests! As the Host Coordinator, I will be meeting with my committee, and we will begin planning the activities soon. We hope that many of you will join us in sharing our history and culture with new friends.

One of the most important parts of a journey is hosting the ambassadors. I am calling on you to open your home to our new friends. If you have not hosted before, I will have a "Being a Good Host" meeting and will walk you through the process. Also, I would like to pair new hosts with our much experienced hosts so you are actually co-hosting. That means when the sign up list comes around, or you are approached by a committee member, be willing to step forward and participate in one of the most rewarding parts of a journey --- the hosting of an ambassador or two! We will also need some day hosts and small group dinner hosts. I thank you for your willingness to help make the journey a success for all.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS, APRIL, 2017

By Lois Poppe



PAMELA BERANEK

Pamela learned about Friendship Force from her friend, Pat Novak.

Pamela is a lifelong Lincoln area resident. She is a nurse and has worked in home healthcare for 21 years. Pamela loves music, travelling, and reading. She has been involved in the Meadowlark Music Festival and served on its board. She combines her interests when she volunteers for Argentina Tango events where she meets people from all over the world.

Pamela's two children graduated with Masters Degrees – her son in Exercise Science and her daughter in Social Work. (Her daughter's specific interest is in Human Trafficking.)

Pamela had planned on participating in The Friendship Force trip to Australia. Her future travel plans include Sweden and Denmark where she plans on visiting areas of her heritage. Welcome Pamela to Friendship Force!



MARY STEPP

Mary Stepp learned about Friendship Force through a Neighborhood Extra article about FFI's 40th anniversary celebration. She also knew about Friendship Force from members Mary and Dick Allen. She lives in Fairbury, Nebraska.

Mary worked for the gas company (now Black Hills Energy) for 30 years. Mary's husband, Bob, worked for the Rock Island Railroad and later drove for Windstar Tours. He passed away in April, 2014.

Mary has many interests. She loves all kinds of music, doing needlework, and travelling. Mary is an avid reader. She gave piano and organ lessons. Mary taught English as a Second Language and has volunteered with the Jefferson County Spelling Competition and the Nebraska Reading Contest.

Mary and her husband's three sons live in the states of Oregon, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Mary is open to going on Outbound Journeys with Friendship Force. She is willing to help with Inbound Hosting also. Welcome Mary to Friendship Force!



DICK AND CHERYL JOHNSON

The Johnsons attended the March Friendship Force "Breakfast and Conversation" after seeing an article in the Neighborhood Extra about Friendship Force International's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Dick and Cheryl enjoyed participating in the Lincoln Friends of Foreign Students program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln until that program was discontinued. Friendship Force will provide them new opportunities to learn more about people from other cultures.

The Johnsons grew up in Iowa and came to Lincoln to attend college. Cheryl taught music at St. Patrick and St. Teresa schools in Lincoln for thirty years. She enjoys music, drama, and the arts. She finds it rewarding to share music as a volunteer at Madonna. Cheryl volunteers at Matt Talbot and at their

church – Blessed Sacrament. Dick worked for Proctor-Gamble, Associated Builders and Contractors, and Bethany IGA. He also served on the Lincoln City Council. He is “Mister Fix-it” and enjoys his basement workshop.

Cheryl and Dick have two children. Their son works in aerospace at Boeing in Los Angeles. Their daughter works for the Buffett Foundation in Omaha. Dick and Cheryl have five grandchildren – all boys.

The Johnsons look forward to home hosting and as small group dinner hosts through Friendship Force. Welcome Dick and Cheryl Johnson to Friendship Force!

June Picnic with Friendship Force Friends from Omaha

By *Connie Stentz*

Please SAVE the date for a delightful afternoon PICNICKING with The Friendship Force of Greater Omaha.

WHERE: Mahoney State Park, 28500 W. Park Hwy, Ashland, NE 68003

WHEN: Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 12:30 pm.

WHAT TO BRING: Your own DRINKS. If your last name starts with A-H: bring salad, or vegetable dish; I-P: bring fruit, or pasta dish; Q-Z: any type of dessert.

LINCOLN'S FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMBERS WILL PROVIDE: paper plates, cups, plastic wear and FRIED CHICKEN.

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2017 to Connie Stentz at 402 499-4122 or email: prettyribbons48@yahoo.com

Look forward to seeing you there. *LOOK FOR OUR FRIENDSHIP FORCE SIGN*, we have reserved a shelter for this year's picnic.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By *Mary Bryant*

As of mid-April, we have 154 members consisting of 33 families and 88 individuals. Welcome one and all to The Friendship Force of Lincoln!

Since our February newsletter, we have welcomed new members Mary Stepp of Fairbury; Pamela Beranek, who was referred by Pat Novak; and Dick and Cheryl Johnson. Mary and the Johnsons saw the article about The Friendship Force of Lincoln's 40th Anniversary celebration of the founding

of Friendship Force International in the February 11, 2017 issue of the Journal Star's Neighborhood EXTRA. This article, and resulting celebration, brought a number of prospective members to our attention. Thanks to Pat King for a great article. This article triggered a substantial amount of interest in our organization, unlike others we have had in the newspaper.

Mary Stepp attended the March 4 celebration, liked what she heard, and mailed in her membership the next day. After the Johnsons saw the article, they attended the March 11 Breakfast and Con-

versation and joined shortly after.

We always appreciate receiving the name, email, and phone of anyone interested in our organization. We will email them some basic information and follow-up with a mailed packet. A Membership Assistant will be assigned to phone them to see if they have additional questions and invite them to upcoming activities.

Please help us share our unique organization with your family and friends, as well as those you meet on your travels. They'll be glad you did!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Meeting of The Friendship Force of Lincoln will be held on August 6, 2017. The business to be conducted will include voting on the slate of officers for 2018; as well as updating the Club Bylaws from suggestions of the Bylaws Committee. Time and place to be announced.

2017-18 UPCOMING DATES

Breakfast -	Second Saturday every month at 8:30 am – Stauffers Restaurant
May 20-27	Host San Paulo, Brazil
June 25	Picnic with The Friendship Force of Greater Omaha at Mahoney State Park
July 18	LEO – Tandoor India Cuisine, 3530 Village Dr., #100
August 6	Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
September 7-13	Host Columbia Cascade
October 24	LEO – Chef Karim’s Mediterranean Grill, 333 North Cotner Blvd.
November	Dessert & Discussion
December	Holiday Party
January, 2018	LEO
February	Journey to Thailand
March	Host Global Crane
April	LEO
May	Dessert & Discussion (Thailand)
June	Picnic with The Friendship Force of Greater Omaha
July	LEO
August	Annual Meeting
September	Journey to Missoula, Montana
October	Host Global Leadership Training Conference



FFL Breakfast & Conversation

By Milt Bayer

There were 12 members and one guest at the April 8th Breakfast and Conversation. Topic of discussion was “If you could have free, unlimited service for five years from an extremely good cook, chauffeur, housekeeper, masseuse, or personal secretary, which would you choose?”

We have a very diverse group, so there was no one popular answer. The tally of the answers were: preference for a good cook - 4; a chauffeur - 1; a housekeeper - 3; a masseuse - 4; and a personal secretary - 1. Mainly, we like to eat well and be pampered.

In addition to the topic of discussion, information was provided on the upcoming “Hostings and Journeys” (formerly exchanges), Super Conference, Leadership Training, and upcoming LEOs.

Topic of discussion for the May 13th Breakfast will be: “If you could gain one ability or quality you admire in someone else, what would it be?”

OPEN WORLD VISITORS



friendship force
L I N C O L N



Open World participants from Ukraine sing their native song at the welcome party in February

JOIN THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN

Dues for the 2017 calendar year are \$35 for an Individual Membership and \$48 for a Family Membership. 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 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."

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: _____