



PASSPORT

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Special Event of The Friendship Force of Lincoln, A Visit to Assemblage

828 N Street, Lincoln, NE

Sunday, November 5, 2017 from 2 to 4 p.m.

View Assemblage's all Cuba Show with hosts Kathryn & Marc LeBaron

See inside for reservation information

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**by Joanna Rogers
President**

Thanks to all who helped make the August Annual Meeting a great success. We had the Argentine Tango dancers as our entertainment (see photos below). Dinner was delicious and the Board members supplied the table decorations from their previous Journeys with FFL. We elected the Slate of Officers as reported in the last Passport. This means that this is my final message as President.

I want to thank all of the Board members who have served with me these past



two years. I think we have done some new and innovative things with the club; and I hope that will continue in the future. We need to keep thinking about the next generation and how we can include them in our cultural learning circle.

I especially want to acknowledge the help the newsletter editors have given me. Jolene Schauer and Jim Ecklund have always been available and willing to help us get out our messages about the activities and Journeys in an attractive, readable format. All my thanks.

Please read about our remaining 2017 meetings in this issue and be sure and come out for the November 5th exciting Assemblage visit and the December 3rd Holiday Party.



MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT, JULIE ALBRECHT

I have been a member of FFL since November 2006. I have traveled to Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine and Guadeloupe with FFL exchanges and have been active in hosting the Open World program. In February, I retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I was a Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences. Because my expertise in food safety and food preservation, I have the opportunity to travel internationally with USAID contractors (Winrock International and ACDI/VOCA) to teach food preservation and food safety in underdeveloped countries. In August, I traveled to Guinea in Africa. In 2018, I look forward to serving as your FFL President and encourage your participation in the many FFL events. Also, I would welcome you getting involved with hosting international guests in your home and to consider serving on many of the committees in FFL.

GLOBAL CRANE JOURNEY



JOURNEY TO LAMPHUN, THAILAND IN FEBRUARY 2018

By Carolyn Kitterer

BE A PART OF THE GREAT MIGRATION!

By Barb Ridder and Jolene Schauer

RESERVE THE DATE - MARCH 17-24, 2018

Each spring, the open sky is filled with millions of flapping wings and a chorus of calls as more than 80 percent of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes converge in the HEART OF THE GREAT PLAINS - The Nebraska Platte River Valley.

Over 500,000 Sandhill Cranes, two million geese, five to seven million ducks, and 300 whooping cranes migrate through Nebraska each year. We are excited to share the migration through a global journey. There will be many opportunities to join our visitors in learning about and seeing the Sandhill cranes. We will travel by bus to prime crane view-

ing areas and witness both the morning and evening crane behaviors. During the three days away from Lincoln, experts will provide information about the birds and the habitat. The trip will include good food, nice accommodations, museum tours, friendly conversations between Friendship Force members, and time in Red Cloud learning about Willa Cather and appreciating her town.

Come join us on an unforgettable road trip to the Sandhill Crane Capital of the World!

There are still openings to join this Journey. Lamphun is located in northern Thailand, near Chiang Mai and is a historical and cultural center of this region. One of the highlights of the trip will be attending the National Flower Festival in Chiang Mai. Our Lamphun hosts are also offering a post-journey trip to the "Golden Triangle" which borders Laos and Myanmar and is in the northwest corner of Thailand. We will start our journey with five days in Bangkok and the surrounding area. The journey begins on Jan. 26 in Bangkok and will end Feb. 12 in Chiang Mai.

For more information contact Carolyn Kitterer, Journey Coordinator at ckitterer@gmail.com or call 308-224-5208. Applications close on November 30th.

INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE HOSTS A SPECIAL PRESENTATION



By Maxine Moul

Cuban art and culture will be the focus of a special event for Friendship Force Lincoln members at Assemblage, 828 N Street, Lincoln, NE. The date is Sunday, November 5, 2017 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Reservations are needed by Wednesday, November 1. Send your RSVP to Pat King at patfking123@gmail.com (don't forget the "f") or call my phone at 402-489-3695. Refreshments will be provided. There is no charge for the event.

Kathryn and Marc LeBaron will host us as we view Assemblage's newest exhibition, an all Cuba show. Along with Karen and Robert Duncan, the LeBarons have long been economic and social catalysts in Lincoln. Assemblage is one of their most recent projects, with the restoration of the historic building in Lincoln's Antelope Valley. It is now an exhibition space for their art collections.

Anne Pagel, Curator, provides this Exhibition Statement:

CUBAN ART: LEAVING ISOLATION

Despite Cuba's idyllic natural beauty, the island nation has been on a challenging socioeconomic rollercoaster since its revolution in 1959. This exhibition reflects the country's last three decades in a remarkably succinct and insightful way.

The artists who created these works are living (with the exception of one who died prematurely of AIDS). The majority were born within a 10-year period between 1968 and 1978.

Those artists began their university training at the end of the 1980s, a time of severe economic deprivation caused by the collapse of the sugar production industry. In the early 1990s, the Soviet Union dissolved, leaving Cuba in an even more destitute situation.

Art supplies were scarce during those years, leaving students, as well as faculty and working artists, to scavenge everything from pushpins and plastic wrap to woodwork they swiped from

abandoned houses to use as creative media.

But most significantly, their work began to reflect their disappointment in failed dreams and their frustration with chaotic leadership, censorship, repression, secrets, lies, and poverty. The longing for migration that pervaded the country is apparent in the prevalence of boats and airplanes in the exhibition.

These works show an obvious divergence from those created by the half-dozen artists born prior to 1964, such as Jose Bedia, Roberto Fabelo, and Pedro Pablo Oliva. Some of the same concerns are there, but their presence is obscured. These artists have been more prone to reach for sources such as Cuba's African, European and Caribbean roots, spiritual rites, and tenets, as well as folk customs and lore.

Finally, among the four artists who began their university art studies around the turn of the century – Rodolfo Peraza, Duvier del Dago, Katiuska Saavedra, and Miguel Florido – there is an immediate recognition of technical awareness in their works. They reflect more cynicism,

self-assurance, and confidence in controlling their own destinies.

But there is a paradox. Cuban artists enjoy a number of distinct advantages. There is a long tradition of excellent art education that talented youth can access without charge. These educational opportunities provide connection with, and access to, aesthetic dialog and artists across the globe. Artists are allowed more latitude for travel. And, of greatest significance, they can receive hard currency for their work. While there are no independent galleries on the island, virtually all of the artists in this exhibition are represented by prestigious galleries in Mexico, the United States, South America, and Europe, assuring them handsome revenues.

There is an undercurrent that unites these artists and their works – often times discernible as solitary figures that reference a solitary island. The deep connection to Cuba, its people and its traditions always lies just beneath the surface.

Assemblage – “Cuban Art: Leaving Isolation”



Miguel Florido

Cuban, 1980

Tu Me Tienes Olvidado (You Have Forgotten Me), 2011

Oil on canvas

39 3/8 x 78 1/4 inches

Kathryn and Marc LeBaron
Collection

The Artist, Miguel Florido, forthrightly expresses frustration with a neighboring adversary by titling his American flag, Tu Me Tienes Olvidado (You Have Forgotten Me), making reference to 50 years of divided families, loyalties and convictions.



Roberto Fabelo

Cuban, 1951

Oracion Domestica, (Home Prayer), 2008

Bronze, polychrome

37-1/4 x 17-1/2 x 21 inches

Kathryn and Marc LeBaron
Collection

For more than a decade, Fabelo has created compositions of simmering pots packed with fish, vegetables, chickens and human figures. For the artist, these sensuous, food-obsessive images have their roots in the economic austerity caused by the collapse of Cuba's sugar market in the 1980s and the further extreme deprivation brought by the collapse and pullout of the USSR in the 1990s.

Assemblage – “Cuban Art: Leaving Isolation” continued



Frank Martínez

Cuban, 1972
Untitled, 2007

Mixed media on cardboard
39-1/2 x 27-1/2 inches
Kathryn and Marc LeBaron
Collection



Francisco Reproduction

Rene Francisco,

Reproduction, 2001,
Karen and Robert Duncan
Collection

Martínez is as interested in embedding metaphors through his media as through pictorial content. Here, he synthesizes silk-screen and charcoal as a means of referencing sociological concepts. His choice to limit his works to black and white provides emotional distance, as though the images were fragments of daily news bombardment. Additional Samples of the Assemblage’s Artwork

This sculpture made of a museum shopping bag with used toothpaste Plana -de-la Habana tubes formed into little figures speaks to the artist’s commitment to art education.



LET’S EAT OUT

By Bruce Keim

The July 18, 2017 LEO was held at Tandoor Indian Cuisine and was attended by 23 members. Joanna Rogers brought Bud Speidell, a prospective new member. Rinzin, the owner and chef, is from Bhutan, a small country northeast of India. The Tandoor was closed for most of June because Rinzin went back to Bhutan to spend time with relatives. He came to the U.S. from Bhutan in the 70’s with his brother, and Rinzin ended up staying here. The restaurant’s name, Tandoor, comes from a vase shaped clay oven used in the Punjab area of India. The Punjab area is close to Pakistan. The type of food served was mainly from India or Bhutan. The menu had a large selection of chicken, shrimp, lamb, and beef items. The wide range of spices and heat levels made our selections interesting. We had a choice of 14 different breads from a menu that also had several deserts listed. Kulfi, a homemade Indian ice cream, looked really good.

The last LEO of the year took place on October 24 at Chef Karim’s Place and featured French Moroccan and Mediterranean Cuisine. It was attended by 18 members.

JOIN THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN

Dues for the 2018 calendar year are \$35 for an Individual Membership and \$48 for a Family Membership, the same as for 2017. 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." It would be appreciated if you mail no later than Dec. 10, 2017.

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 _____ Mobile Number _____

E-mail _____

CATEGORY: _____ Individual-\$35 _____ Family-\$48 _____ Name Badge-\$9.00/\$11.00

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY PARTY

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. on December 3rd at Christ United Methodist Church, 45th and A Streets. Our dinner will be catered by the Parthenon.

THE MENU INCLUDES:

- Salad and pita bread
- Chicken Riganato
- Oven-roasted potatoes with herbs
- Roasted vegetable medley
- Assorted pastries



Our entertainment will be provided by the OLLI Greasers. They have performed in the past at the Lincoln Community Playhouse. Cost for the evening is \$15 per person to be paid at the time of the reservations. Please send your check to Treasurer, De Tonack at 2315 Dodge St., Lincoln, NE 68521.

HOLIDAY PARTY REGISTRATION

Please send your check to Treasurer, De Tonack at 2315 Dodge St., Lincoln, NE 68521..

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Guest's Name _____

Number of persons attending _____ x \$15 each Total Payment _____

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



by Lois Poppe

MAXINE MOUL

Maxine Moul has known about Friendship Force for a long time. Her interest was renewed while visiting with Linda Kistler at an OLLI Book Club meeting.

Maxine, and her husband Francis, moved to Lincoln in 1988 after being involved with newspapers in southeast Nebraska, as well as a media company. Maxine and Francis raised a son and a daughter. Their daughter died in a car accident at the time she was a student at UNL. Their son and his family live in Rapid City, South Dakota. Their three grandchildren are all involved in swimming. Maxine enjoys watching their swimming competitions.

Maxine is now retired from her career as a journalist and in public service. In 1990, she was elected to serve as Lieutenant Governor with Governor Ben Nelson. She served eight years in state government and

eight years at the national level. She enjoys gardening, genealogy, walking, and bicycling. Maxine and her husband share a love of reading. Her husband often reads a book a day.

Maxine is already getting involved in Friendship Force. She knows Bruce and Carlene Keim and attended a recent Let's Eat Out (LEO) dinner. She attended the Turkey Open Forum with Ferhat Ozturk, as well as the Friendship Force annual meeting.

Maxine loves traveling. She has visited all fifty states and all continents except Antarctica. Travel expands Maxine's cultural knowledge and understanding. She is anticipating being a part of The Friendship Force of Lincoln's Journey to Thailand.

Please welcome Maxine Moul to Friendship Force.



KAY LEWIS

Kay Lewis learned about Friendship Force from member Betty Todd. Although Kay has traveled somewhat extensively, she liked the idea of staying with

families in their homes. Kay attended the July Friendship Force breakfast and learned more about Friendship Force Home Hosting and Journeys.

Kay lived in Lincoln for a couple years in the early 1970s. She then returned to California where her sister lives. Kay liked Lincoln, had a wonderful friend here, and found the cost of living much less than in California. She is now retired after fifty years in sales. Kay moved back to Lincoln over a year ago, and her son moved to Lincoln from Oklahoma.

Kay enjoys gardening and feeding birds. She loves watching wildlife – squirrels, rabbits, and foxes. Kay likes volunteering at the Bryan East surgical waiting room. In September she began volunteering at the People City Mission Homeless Prevention Center at 26th and O Streets.

Kay frequently travels to California where her sister, daughter, and friends live. Asian travels have been among her favorites. She is open to other locations. Being new to Friendship Force, Kay is exploring ways to be involved with our organization.

Welcome to Friendship Force, Kay!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Mary Bryant

We are now accepting the 2018 dues for Friendship Force of Lincoln. Dues remain the same as 2017 - \$35 Individual and \$48 Family. Your membership includes dues to Friendship Force International (FFI). Without FFI, we would no longer be able to participate in the wonderful cultural experiences. Every cultural experience is different. There are so many places in the world to visit or to be visited by their ambassadors.

From the fees we collect, we pass on \$15 per person to FFI. The remainder is kept here to support your club's budget. They include bringing on new members, helping to send a delegate to FF conferences (regional and internationally), subsidizing some meetings, and training Journey/Hosting Coordinators, etc.

Please use the form found in this e-newsletter to include with your payment. If none of your contact information has changed, send check for your dues to FFL, PO Box 30334, Lincoln 68503. Indicate "2018 Dues" in the Memo section of your check. This would be a good time to make any changes to your contact information, if you haven't done so already.

It would be appreciated

if you would mail your check by December 10, 2017.

We officially end our 2017-year with 156 members; 33 Families and 90 Individual Memberships. We appreciate each and every one of you and hope you continue your membership for many years to come. If you have friends, casual acquaintances, and family who have expressed an interest in our organization, please refer them to me. I will assign them to a Membership Assistant, Jacque or Marilyn, who will contact them at appropriate intervals. They will receive introductory and follow up emails as well as a packet of material. Let them know about your Friendship Force experiences. They will be glad you did!

Please welcome our newest member, Georgia Oehlert. You can find her bio below.

GEORGIA OEHLERT

Georgia learned about Friendship Force from member, Mary Chirnside. Georgia is a retired registered nurse. She and Mary worked at the Department of Corrections for the State of Nebraska.

Georgia likes to travel and is curious to learn about new people and cultures. She is "game for about anything." She has traveled to

South Africa three times and to European countries, among other places. Georgia looks forward to visiting Australia and New Zealand in November.

She regularly travels to Denver to visit her son and family. Georgia also has a sister in Bruno, Nebraska and another in Missouri. What is on her travel wish list? Here are just a few: Thailand, Scotland, Japan, National Parks (Yellowstone and Glacier), and Czech Republic/Slovakia. (Georgia is part Czech.)

Her interests include playing cards with friends and working in her garden. Georgia has a new French bulldog who likes to join her outside. Her previous dog died at age eighteen. Georgia loves to read, and of course, travel.

Georgia attended the September Friendship Force breakfast. She looks forward to learning more about Friendship Force. Welcome, Georgia!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2017-18 UPCOMING DATES

Breakfast second Saturday every month at 8:30am. – Stauffers Restaurant

October 24 LEO – Chef Karim’s Place, 333 North Cotner Blvd, 6:00 p.m.

November 5 Diversity Event at Assemblage, 828 N St., 2:00 p.m.

December 3 Holiday Party, Christ United Methodist Church, 45th and A Streets, 5:30 p.m.

January, 2018

January 13 LEO – LaPaz Mexican Restaurant, 321 N. Cotner St., 12 noon

January 26 Journey to Thailand with Carolyn Kitterer

March 17-24 Host Global Crane Inbound with Arlene Rae & Barb Ridder

April 10 LEO – Piezanos Italian Restaurant, 2740 South St, 6:30 p.m.

May 6 International Diversity event

May Dessert & Discussion (Thailand)

June Picnic with Greater Omaha Club

July 28 LEO – Hub Café, 250 No. 21st St., 12 noon

August Annual Meeting, TBA

September Journey to Missoula, Montana with Pat Novak

October 16 LEO – Shoguns Japanese Restaurant, 3700 S. 9th St., 6:30 p.m.

TBA FFI Training Program for new International club officers

Dec. Holiday Party