



# PASSPORT

A Publication of The Friendship Force of Lincoln  
[www.friendshipforcelincn.org](http://www.friendshipforcelincn.org)

NUMBER 136

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NOVEMBER 2014



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## Greetings from the President



by **Larry Kluck**

**A**s we approach this holiday season, please plan to enjoy our Holiday party on Sunday, December 7. Our social committee is busy planning this event with good food and wonderful music performed by Pius X High School students.

The Holiday party will also be the site of the raffle drawing for the 2014 Humanitarian project benefiting a school in Brasov, Romania, that works with visually handicapped students. If you have not had a chance to buy tickets please see Joanna Rogers. I was one of the ambassadors who toured the school during our 2013 exchange and what a delight it was to see the students. They take recorders to class and tape lectures. We saw one student listening to her tape and typing her notes using a Braille typewriter. She would type a line and run her finger across the Braille to read her typing. One of the joys for the students was art class and painting which our exchange also was able to observe. With guidance, they loved to paint and express themselves artisti-

cally. Some of their paintings were sold at an art show.

Exchange Directors are busy planning 2015 exchanges. Please note the articles in our newsletter and plan to become a part of an exchange. We need host families, day hosts and small group dinner hosts for the incoming exchanges and ambassadors for our outgoing exchanges. All of our 2015 outgoing exchanges are currently taking applications. The exchange to Taiwan will travel in April. Let Carolyn Kitterer know if you are interested. The fall Bavaria exchange is getting close to the limit so contact Erna Rethmeier or Marilyn Armagost soon if you are interested. Our domestic outgoing exchange will be to the Columbia Cascade (Oregon) and Seattle in September. Let Barb Ridder know of your interest.

Also, please plan to host in 2015. Along with Oklahoma, Kansas and Omaha we will be hosting "Taming America's Great Plains." The 2013 themed exchange was so well received we have been asked to do another one. Linda Kistler and her committee are busy planning for this exchange May 1-4. We will have a group from New Zealand coming to visit August 15-21. Diane Conley is the director for this exchange. Many of us have been on exchanges to New Zealand and enjoyed their sharing their lives with us. Whether you have been

to New Zealand or not, it is a wonderful opportunity to learn about their country and rich culture. Please mark your calendar and plan to host next May or August or both.

We have not received word yet about hosting a 2015 Open World program, but if the opportunity presents itself, we will be notifying you and seeking homes and committee workers.

I have just returned from the International Friendship Force Conference in New Zealand. It was a great conference covering many topics. Some of the ideas included offering different lengths of travel to entice younger members who may not want to travel for two weeks. Another idea was holding dinner parties with a fee to attend; the attendees then vote for a nonprofit organization to receive the proceeds. FFI would like to see more themed exchanges as they seem very popular. Some members like exchanges that include elements of service during the exchange. 72% of clubs indicate they cannot continue with the \$100 hosting fee. Normally, higher hosting fees are arranged between the hosting and the visiting club as we and some of the groups we have hosted have done. In addition, FFI is attempting to resume Semester at Sea travel opportunities. The 2015 international conference will be in Vancouver, Canada, August 28-31.

## Wayne Smith Medal



### Wayne Smith Medal awarded to our own Mary Bryant!

*By Larry Kluck*

**M**ary Bryant was honored and surprised when she received the Wayne Smith Medal award at the 2014 Lincoln Friendship Force Annual Meeting. The Wayne Smith Medal recognizes those who have shown exceptional leadership in advancing the Friendship Force mission in their communities and is a tribute to the memory of Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, whose boundless energy and optimism and untiring commitment to the cause of world friendship made this organization the global force for good that it is today.

Mary has headed our membership committee for the last 14 years and through

her leadership the committee (which includes Amy Birky and Gayle Bayer) has built the Friendship Force of Lincoln to the club with the largest membership in the world. Mary also serves our club by sending all club communication emails including newsletters, event notices, exchange meeting notices and other club information to all members and prospective members. Through the years she has served as President (3 terms), Vice-President, Social Chair and on various exchange committees and aided in drafting many of our club policies. She served a three-year term as the FFI Field Representative for 13 Midwest clubs and recently served as the treasurer for the

2013 Lincoln portion of Taming a Harsh Land Exchange

Wayne Smith believed that a world of friends is a world of peace. The medal that bears his name is the instrument through which Friendship Force clubs honor those who share that belief and who advance the organization's values of mutual respect, cultural diversity and humanitarian service. The Wayne Smith Medal recognizes the leaders of today who make it possible to maintain the founder's vision of promoting understanding across barriers that separate people.

# FFL Events

## Don't Miss the Holiday Party!

*By Carolyn Kitterer*

It's that time of year again, so let the festivities begin! The FFL Holiday Party is Sunday, December 7 at 5:30 PM at the First Lutheran Church on 70th and A (just south of the Clock Tower shops). We will start the festivities with punch and light refreshments followed at 6:00 with a ham dinner, partially catered by Tastefully Yours, and dessert. Pius X High School students will provide musical entertainment. This will be your last opportunity to purchase tickets for the Service Committee raffle as the drawing will be held at the party. The cost of this party is \$12.50 per person. Please send the reservation form with payment by November 21

## Karen Community Presentation

*By Kathy Mueller*

On Sunday, September 14th about 50 FFL members gathered at the NET building to learn about and be entertained by members of the Karen community. Dressed in beautiful vibrant colors several young Karen people performed a dance that is part of their traditions. Their only musical accompaniment was a drum.

After the performance, two other members gave a brief talk about Karen history and how they came to be in Lincoln. It was very informative and entertaining. Throughout the evening we enjoyed fresh fruit and a sweet dessert that was provided by the Karen ladies.

There are many ways we can extend a hand of friendship to these members of our community. They in turn are



looking for ways to integrate into our community. Please contact Kathy Mueller or other members of the Service committee for ideas on how we can help. In the future there will be more events or activities with the Karen community. Please be watching and volunteer to share your skills.

## Holiday Party Registration

Please send your reservation and payment to Carolyn Kitterer, 4710 Southwood Drive, Lincoln NE 68512. The cost is \$12.50 per person. Please RSVP by November 21.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

## April 2015 Exchange to Taipei, Taiwan

By Carolyn Kitterer - Exchange Director

**A**pplications for the April 2015 Exchange to Taipei, Taiwan are now being accepted by Exchange Director, Carolyn Kitterer. Taipei will host 20 ambassadors for 6-7 days. The proposed dates for the exchange are April 8-22, but exact days in Taipei have not yet been determined.

### Description:

Our hosts in will show us the highlights of Taiwanese history and culture around Taipei. We will see the traditional arts and crafts of China, learn some history, and experience the natural wonders of the surrounding area. These are some of the possible sights and activities our Taipei hosts will plan for our visit.

### 2015 Exchanges

#### April 8-22, 2015 – Outgoing to Taipei, Taiwan

Exchange Director: Carolyn Kitterer [ckitterer@gmail.com](mailto:ckitterer@gmail.com)

#### May 1-4, 2015 – Incoming “Taming America’s Great Plains” joint Exchange with Kansas, Oklahoma and Omaha Clubs

Exchange Director: Linda Kistler [lkistler@hotmail.com](mailto:lkistler@hotmail.com)

#### August 15-21, 2015 – Incoming from Napier, New Zealand

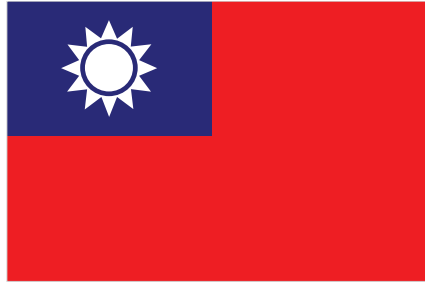
Exchange Director: Diane Conley [dconworks4@gmail.com](mailto:dconworks4@gmail.com)

#### September 14-27, 2015 – Outgoing to Seattle and Columbia Cascade (Oregon)

Exchange Director: Barb Ridder [bridder@neb.rr.com](mailto:bridder@neb.rr.com)

#### October 1-18, 2015 – Outgoing to Bavaria-Nuernberg Erlengen, Germany

Exchange Directors: Marilyn Armagost [marmagost@earthlink.net](mailto:marmagost@earthlink.net) and Erna Rethmeier [erethme@yahoo.com](mailto:erethme@yahoo.com)



### Highlights:

- National Revolutionary Martyrs Shrine, a favorite retreat of the late President Chiang Kai-shek
- Temple of Confucius and the Bao’An Temple
- National Palace Museum
- Taiwan Botanical Gardens
- Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and Sun Yat-sen Memorial
- Shihlin Market

In addition to the home-stay there will be a pre- or post- exchange trip to explore the rest of the island, including the cities of Taichung, Kaohsiung, Kenting, Tainan, Hualien and the dramatic Taroko Gorge.

Proposed cost of the trip with the pre/post tour is around \$2700, including airfare. For further information and details, contact Carolyn Kitterer at [ckitterer@gmail.com](mailto:ckitterer@gmail.com) or 308-224-5208 by December 15, 2014.



## Breakfast and Conversation Discussion

by *De Tonack*

**O**n August 9, the FFL breakfast and conversation attendees answered the question “If you could visit the country of your ancestors, would you?” Twenty-four of the twenty-six participants already have visited at least some of their ancestors’ homelands but most wanted to return or visit even more countries. Linda Ashelford and Diane Conley hope to travel to Ireland. It also became evident that many of us have roots from northern European countries such as Germany, Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia. Perhaps we are ALL COUSINS springing from several generations back!

Dick and Georgia Raecke have been to Belgium and Germany visiting relatives, and Georgia and Marilyn Watson would both love to go back in time to see their ancestral immigrants as they homesteaded in this land. Germany was the country of origin for family branches of Hope Partridge, Marilyn Watson, Marilue Becker, Amy Birky, Mary Bryant, Lana Novak, Betty Starr, Janice McClain, Gayle Beyer, and Milt Beyer. Janice added a story of using the internet to find a trail to some German cousins of her father who was born in Germany. She then visited this German area. (Janice actually discovered the family had moved from Austria to

Germany after an illness had killed many in the German area.) Lana also told of using the internet to find traces to sixty-three cousins!

It does not take much “reaching back” to extend the list to many countries and many relatives. Marj and Jim Willeke have been to Germany but would love to add a Dutch experience to their travels. Bob Cardwell has visited southern England, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland. He also shared a story of an ancestor coming to this country far back into the early 1600s. Buddy Sizemore and Chuck Godwin each have visited specific English areas close to their family roots. Carolyn Kitterer has traveled and worked in many places and has visited cousins in Sweden but would still like to travel to see kin in the British Isles.

De Tonack and Kathryn Neyens both have Irish and Viking roots; Kathryn’s verified with DNA testing. De would return to those areas for a taste of Swedish ostataka custard and Irish coffee. Kathryn also has a bit of Welsh as does Sylvia Griffith, who claims a reddish complexion is a sign of a Welsh connection. Barb Ridder shared a story of visiting a Scottish cousin who had actually lived in Kansas for a while, but returned to Scotland after a shooting and killing of a family member in Kansas.

Larry Kluck told a story of traveling to a small Czech village of his ancestors. While visiting a cemetery he learned of the custom of adding an “a” to the end of the last name on the tombstones of females. A bit of the literary also entered the stories of name changes that were sited by Lee Rockwell, Betty Starr and De Tonack; one of Lee’s family names changed to Johnson (although the Danish roots would have been an “en” not “on” ending); Betty’s ancestral name went from the Swedish Johanssen to Nelson; De Tonack had a family name change from Johanssen as well, then on to Johnson (too many of those) so on to Bergstrom.

## 2015 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2015 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." Please mail no later than DECEMBER 10, 2014.

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-\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Be Sure to Welcome These New Members!



**P**lease welcome the following new members: Don Uerling, Marilyn Newstrom, Janice McLain plus Bill and Lylaine Abbott. A special thanks to the following members who are responsible for referring these individuals to FFL: Marilue Becker, Kathryn Neyens, Sara Stephenson, Milt Bayer & Amy Birky. Referrals from members are the backbone of our membership success. We appreciate each and every referral and follow up with emails, phone calls, and mailed packets of informa-

tion. Please keep those referrals coming!

Currently, we are in the midst of our renewal drive. Each of our members has received an email or letter reminding them of our request to receive your renewal prior to December 10. That date allows both you and I to enjoy the Christmas season without remembering to pay our dues for 2015. As of the end of October we have received dues from 47 individuals and 25 families that represent 95 members. We look forward to hearing from the rest of you.