



# PASSPORT

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

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## FFL Ambassadors in Berlin

**M**embers of the Friendship Force of Lincoln pose during the recent trip to Germany. The Buddy Bears began in 2001 as an art project. More than 100 bears were created and “appear” all over Berlin. Following a three day tour of Berlin, the fifteen FFL Ambassadors were then home hosted by the Bavaria-Nuernberg Friendship Force. During the seven day visit, the members toured Nuernberg, Bamberg, Creglingen, and Rothenburg.

Before returning home, eight members enjoyed a Viking Cruise to Budapest. The other members went on to visit friends and family in Germany and other destinations. The group will present a program to the Lincoln club at a future date.

## Greetings from the President



by Joanna Rogers  
President

**B**y the time you are reading this, I should be basking in the sun with my host family on a beach in Guadeloupe or maybe at the pool in a resort in San Juan. Pat King and Julie Albrecht have arranged a wonderful trip for 12 of us from the Lincoln club, a couple from Wisconsin, and three FF members from Ottawa, Canada. Not all of us can speak French, but the ones who can will help those of us who cannot, especially me. This should be a wonderful Exchange, and we can't wait to tell all of you about it at a "Dessert & Discussion."

Oh yes, this is what we are going to call our all-member meetings in the future. We received feedback that the meetings were more about travel and less about FF business, so we felt the need to change the name to reflect the activity. Speaking of activities, you will notice the 2016 Schedule elsewhere in this newsletter. Please watch for these dates and put the activities on your

calendar so you can join us for the fun here at home and on Exchanges.

The next outbound exchange is to Niagara in August. Pat Novak is the Exchange Director. She is hoping for an all-Lincoln club exchange with this one. If you are interested in going, there are a few places left, so contact Pat. There will be more information about the exchange in the future. We also have an incoming exchange scheduled for September which Carolyn Kitterer and Margaret Foster are co-chairing. They will be asking for help in many areas, and I hope we can involve quite a few members to offer our hospitality to these two clubs from Seattle, Washington and Huntsville, Alabama. Sadly, our friends from Brazil report that they cannot come on an exchange this year since there isn't another club to host their second week in the United States, and the economic situation in Brazil is not conducive to shorter trips.

However, as you probably know by now, we are again hosting an Open World group from Ukraine. They will be here later this month, and everyone will need to fill out the reservation form in this Passport for our big Welcome Dinner. The program will feature Laurie-Ann Scott with a short presentation on the France Exchange. And, there will be some discussion time with the

Ukraine delegates.

Lastly, I want to emphasize the invitation everyone received to attend the Midwest/Great Lakes Regional Conference in April in Davenport, Iowa. There has been a lot of work done by many people to make this conference a wonderful experience for all of the 20 clubs involved. There will be an opportunity to meet the new FFI CEO, Jeremy Snook. Our Regional Rep, Adrienne Moen, is hoping for at least a 10% attendance from each Midwest club. It will be my third Regional Conference. And, with each one, I come home with more ideas and plans we can initiate, as well as more new friends to value. Please let me know if you plan to register so that we can coordinate transportation and hotel rooms.

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**

## FFL 2016 Executive Committee Biographies



**J**oanna Rogers, President, has been a Lincoln resident her entire life. She graduated from UNL with a Master's degree in Educational Administration. Joanna worked as Secretary in several Lincoln churches, as well as in the Governor's office at the State Capital. She retired after 20 years as Assistant to Dean Harvey Perlman and Business Manager at UNL College of Law. Besides Friendship Force, she volunteers for the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation where she updates their data base. In the past, she served as President of Lincoln Personal Crisis. She is currently Treasurer of her regional collector's club. Her hobbies include bowling, square dancing, and participating in OLLI classes.

**B**arb Ridder, Vice President, is a retired English teacher who taught in four states and two foreign countries. She loves to read, garden, sew, paint, and travel. She enjoys swimming and water aerobics, including the sociality of the exercise group. Barb serves on the board and participates in the Lincoln Rose Society. She volunteers as an usher at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, serves on the board of the Mayor's committee for International Visitors, and belongs to a Scrabble group and a book club.

**D**e Tonack, Treasurer, was born in Holdrege, Nebraska. She grew up on a farm, is a product of country schools, and has a Swedish heritage. She received her college degrees from what was then Kearney State College (now the University of Nebraska-Kearney) and her Ph.D. later from UNL. She has enjoyed many years teaching mathematics and physics in Kearney and in Lincoln, with her last full time employment with LPS at the Science Focus Program, i.e., "Zoo School." She continues to teach part time for Nebraska Wesleyan University and enjoys volunteering for Sheldon Museum of Art, OLLI, and the Lincoln Education Association.

**A**rlene Rea, Secretary, has been a Lincoln resident since 1988. She graduated from University of Nebraska-Kearney (formerly known as Kearney State) with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics education and a Master's degree from Kansas State University in Curriculum and Instruction. She taught mathematics at the middle level for more than 30 years in the Hastings and Lincoln Public Schools. Arlene served as President of the Lincoln Education Association for six years. She represented members at the negotiating table, was an observer of school board meetings, served as a spokesperson for the organization in curricular and personnel issues, and served on the Educator's Health Alliance Board (Blue Cross-Blue Shield). Arlene is currently an adjunct professor in mathematics for two local universities. Besides Friendship Force, she volunteers for Lincoln Literacy, the Lincoln Education Association (retired as president), and American Association of University Women as Program Vice-President. Her hobbies include traveling, gardening, and reading.



## Seattle/Huntsville Exchange Info.

*By Carolyn Kitterer & Margaret Foster*

**C**oming soon to Friendship Force Lincoln! Seattle (WA) and Huntsville (AL) will be visiting us September 22-28, 2016. Carolyn Kitterer and Margaret Foster are Co-EDs and are looking for more members to join us on the planning committee. We anticipate this to be a fairly large group as we have two clubs coming and will need hosts, day hosts, and group dinner hosts. Please put the date on your calendar and look for ways you can be a part of this exciting exchange.

We are looking for your ideas, organizational skills, and communication skills to make this a fun and memorable exchange. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Carolyn at ckitterer@gmail.com or (308) 224-5208, or Margaret at seameada@neb.rr.com or (402) 488-6992.

## Upcoming Events in 2016

### February 3-15

Guadalupe Exchange

### February 26 to March 5

Open World Delegation

### February 28

Welcome Dinner for Open World Delegates and Program on France Exchange

### March 19

LEO - Noon at Ginger Grill, 6055 Apples Way

### April 24

Program on Germany Exchange

### April 28 to May 1

Midwest Conference in Davenport, Iowa

### May 1 Passport information due

Game Night

### June

LEO - TBA

Picnic with Omaha FF

### July

Program on Guadalupe Exchange

### August 1 Passport information due

### August 24 to 31

Niagara Exchange

LEO - TBA

### September

Annual Meeting – Date & Place to be announced

### September 15 to 18

World Convention in Morocco

### September 22 to 28

Incoming Exchange - Seattle/Huntsville

### October

Program on Niagara Exchange

### November 1 - Passport info due

LEO - TBA

### December

Holiday Party TBA

## FFL New Member Introductions - February 2016

by Lois Poppe

### Rosemary (Rosie) Swanson

Rosie has enjoyed traveling to many countries and major continents, but not South America, which is on her travel wish list. Rosie and her husband moved to the Lincoln area (Raymond) in 1973 for her husband's job. Rosie worked at the Post Office in Raymond and later in Lincoln as a clerk. Rosie and her husband were married for 43 years before he passed away.

Playing bridge, bowling, knitting, and crocheting are among Rosie's many interests. She also is a long-time volunteer at the Lied Center. She assists with the Food Bank's "back-pack" program at her church. Rosie's four grown children live in the area - Lincoln, Milford, and Kansas City.

Rosie would consider hosting a small group dinner or home-hosting one person through Friendship Force. Welcome Rosie to Friendship Force!

### Joann (Jo) Brown

Jo Brown heard about Friendship Force for years through Pat King and other sorority sisters. Jo grew up in Lincoln, moved away, then returned to Lincoln in 1990. She has been a teacher as well as a practicing artist, mainly painter. Jo has been

involved in Nebraska Impact artists, both within and outside of Nebraska. She serves as co-director of the Unitarian Church art gallery.

Jo's travel list may be to visit Paris again. Costa Rica might be another travel destination. Jo looks forward to learning more about Friendship Force. Welcome Jo!

### Ann Quinlan

Ann is a life-long Lincolnite. For a long time, she knew about Friendship Force through friends. When she retired, she felt she had the time to join. Ann enjoys reading, sewing, attending concerts and plays, and traveling.

Ann has volunteered in professional organizations including the National Council of Teachers of English. As an educator, she supervised students through the University of Nebraska. Ann also taught in the Lincoln Public Schools at the middle school and high school levels. Ann also enjoyed traveling with students through the "People to People" program.

Ann looks forward to being involved in Friendship Force. She may consider hosting a small group dinner. Look for Ann at Friendship Force events.

### Lora Black

Lora, a native Nebraskan (born and raised on a farm in SE Nebraska), came to Lincoln for a job. She works 30 hours a week as an announcer at NET Radio – going on 25 years for the station. Lora hosts a classical music program every weekday afternoon on 91.1 FM. On Fridays, it is Classics by Request.

Lora's many interests and hobbies include photography, gardening, yoga, and history. Lora has three grown children, all married. A 16-year-old granddaughter (in Maryland) loves acting. She enjoys baby-sitting her 2-year-old grandson, Lincoln (who is expecting a baby brother in February). She enjoys her Labradoodle (Biscuit) and cat (Tinkerbelle).

Lora participated in a mission trip with her church to Honduras where they built houses. She plans to travel with Friendship Force. Her travel wish list includes Cuba and Japan. Welcome to Friendship Force, Lora!

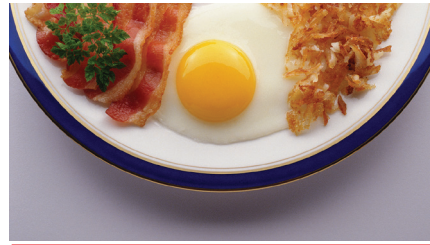
## Let's Eat Out Report

*By Carlene Kein*

**T**wenty-seven members met at El Mariachi's at 6:00 P.M. on January 5, 2016. The restaurant's owner, Paula, gave a talk about starting the restaurant business after having moved to the United States from Mexico. She kindly offered our members a special price of \$5.99 rather than the regular \$7.99 price on any meal from her 'favorites' section of the menu. After the meal, Paula served a complimentary crispy dessert to introduce the members to her cuisine. Members who parked in the Red Garage next to the restaurant were given a card that entitled them to an extra hour of free parking in that complex. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal and conversation.

Our next LEO will be at noon on Saturday, March 19th at Ginger's Grill located at 6055 Apple Way (by Lowes just off Hwy 2). Ginger's offers a selection of Pan-Asian foods. It consists of a Mongolian Grill, Sushi selections, or ordering straight off the menu. Come be a part of this experience. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the company and noon meal. Reservations can be emailed to [bkein@ham-burgia.net](mailto:bkein@ham-burgia.net) or call (402) 269-2778. Please let us know if you're coming by March 14th

so the restaurant can reserve the number of tables we need. We welcome last minute calls, but it's extremely helpful with organization of the event to have advanced notice. Please try to do so if at all possible. Thank you.



## January Breakfast & Conversation

*By De Tonack*

**T**en hardy members braved the cold to meet for breakfast on January 9th, 2016. The question of the morning was "What is your favorite memory from 2015?" Newly-elected President Joanna Rogers mentioned her experience this past summer at the FFI World Convention in Vancouver, B.C. It included a pre-visit with a host from the Seattle, Washington FF club.

Milt Bayer mentioned his last day of work at the end of the year as his best memory. While Milt is enjoying being done with his work, Sylvia Griffith has taken on a new special job. She is one of the editors of her daughter's new series of fantasy books. Her daughter writes under the

name of C.T. Griffith, and her new book is available online. The first book is dedicated to her mom, Sylvia.

Of course, trips were popular with this group! De Tonack enjoyed two trips with her daughter; one to Japan, and one a true mystery tour to Rhode Island. Phyllis Arth shared special relaxing time from her recent trip to France. Eliose Hiatt just likes lots of trips; she has had many this past year and plans for many more.

Trips and family were good combinations for several. Larry Kluck and his wife had a holiday trip to Alabama which included sunny experiences on a warm beach, but flood dodging on the return. Gloria Van Ackeren gathered four grandchildren from different places into one spot for a great July 4th celebration. Amy Birky celebrated her special birthday with a family gathering at Lincoln's Roger's House. Gayle Bayer shared a special family opportunity. She had the opportunity to help care for her niece's newborn twin sons.



## 2016 FFL Board

President:	Joanna Rogers rkrohn@neb.rr.com
Vice President:	Barbara Ridder bridder@neb.rr.com
Secretary:	Arlene Rae arlenerea36@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	De Tonack dtonack@neb.rr.com
Past President:	Larry Kluck
Exchange Coordinator:	Pat King
FFI Field Rep. Coordinator:	Laurie Ann Scott
Historian:	Sara Stephenson
International/Diversity:	Nancy Comer & Linda Kistler
Let's Eat Out:	Carlene & Bruce Keim
Membership:	Mary Bryant Gayle Bayer Betty Starr
Merchandise:	Marilyn Watson
Monthly Breakfast:	Milt Bayer
Newsletter:	Jim Ecklund Jolene Schauer
Publicity:	Monica Pribil
Social:	Committee Members
Website:	Richard Spencer
<b>Exchange Directors:</b>	
Guadalupe:	Julie Albrecht & Pat King
Niagara:	Pat Novak
Open World:	Julie Albrecht & Gloria Van Ackeren
Seattle/Huntsville:	Carolyn Kitterer & Margaret Foster



## Membership News

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*By Mary Bryant*

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**P**lease welcome our newest members: Janet Walters, Nikolay Shapoval, Enny Marrs, and Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe. Both Janet and Elizabeth became aware of our organization through articles in the Journal Star's Neighborhood Extra. Credit for those articles goes to Pat King, Publicity Chairperson in 2015. Nikolay was referred by Sara Stephenson, and Enny learned about us through Kathy Mueller. If you know someone who has expressed an interest in learning more about FFL, please contact me by email at [ab62359@windstream.net](mailto:ab62359@windstream.net).

As of the end of January, we have 150 paid members and are eagerly awaiting word from the rest of you. We appreciate each of our members and look forward to seeing you at upcoming club activities.

# The Ukrainians Are Coming!



## Meet our Guests! Bring Your Friends!

**S**ix young Ukrainians will arrive in Lincoln on February 26, 2016 to learn about life and leadership in the United States. Our club is honored to host this eight-day exchange (which is sponsored by the Open World Leadership Program). The five delegates and one facilitator are specifically interested in our government's role in medical services.

Would you like to be part of this memorable experience? Bring your friends, neighbors, and families to these activities:

**WELCOME PARTY** at NET, 1800 N. 33rd, on Sunday, February 28 at 4:30 p.m.

We'll welcome the guests along with our all-member quarterly gathering. Sandwiches, salads, and coffee catered by The Eatery. Cost is \$12. Following the party, you're invited to join the group at PlaMor Ballroom for dancing.

**LUNCHEON** at the Governor's Residence on Monday, February 29 at 12:00 p.m. Meet the guests at a sit-down luncheon. Cost is \$16 for pan-roasted pork chops with creamy herb sauce, jasmine rice, winter vegetable medley, dinner roll, salad, and beverage.

To attend events, please complete this form and mail it with your check by February 20 to Gloria Van Ackeren, 7604 Phares Drive, Lincoln, NE, 68516. Please write your check to Friendship Force of Lincoln. Contact Gloria at [glrvanack@windstream.net](mailto:glrvanack@windstream.net) or (402) 202-7469 with questions.

### Detach Here

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

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ukrainian Exchange Events	Cost	Attending	Total
Sunday, Feb 28 WELCOME PARTY 4:30 p.m. NET, 1800 North 33d Meal includes: Mini Beef Burger, Pulled Pork, Smothered Chicken Sandwiches, Three salad selections, Coffee	\$12	x _____	_____
Monday, Feb 29 BUFFET LUNCHEON 12:00 p.m. Nebraska's Governor's Residence 1421 H Street Meal includes: Pan-roasted pork chops with creamy herb sauce, Jasmine rice, Winter vegetable medley, Dinner roll, Salad, and Beverage	\$16	x _____	_____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	_____



## The Friendship Force of Lincoln

**D**ues for the 2016 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:** \_\_\_\_\_