



PASSPORT

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New Zealand exchange – with Mayor Alistair Sowman of Blenheim, New Zealand

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Greetings from the President



by *Larry Kluck*

We are preparing to welcome two domestic clubs into Lincoln. The Friendship Force Clubs from Los Angeles, California, and Charlotte, North Carolina will arrive on May 28. An activities sign up sheet is included in the newsletter. We look forward to receiving your sheet and your involvement. Thank you to those who have signed up for hosting, planning small group dinners and to Joanna and Jolene and their committee members who are planning to make this a great exchange. At last count

we are expecting to welcome 27 ambassadors and to share our lives and Nebraska attractions with them.

On July 21 we will have a quarterly meeting in which John MacKichan will be sharing his trip to Russia. He was invited to come to Russia when his parents hosted for the Open World program. He had the opportunity to travel to and see parts of Russia that many of us have not experienced. Plan on joining John and learn more about his road trip in Russia and also the Open World program which our club has hosted for many years.

If you have not yet made it to a LEO (Let's Eat Out) this year, please join us for an upcoming one. We are trying this year to eat at different ethnic restaurants in Lincoln. So far we have enjoyed Italian, and Korean food and will have enjoyed French food by the

time this newsletter is in your hands.

We all think of April 15 as the IRS deadline date. Well this year it is also the date when FFI hoped to send us "It's a match" notifications. We were given the names of the potential clubs we were to visit and to host several months ago. Both the hosting and the exchange clubs have to approve the exchange for it to become official "It's a match" confirms both clubs involvement and gives us the go ahead to start planning 2015 incoming and outgoing international exchanges. But it appears that FFI is also filing an extension. We will keep you posted when we hear of our matches.

Our fall domestic exchange to the Charlotte, NC and Southwest Florida clubs is nearly full. Since we are going a longer distance, we are doing exchanges with two clubs. If you are interested in going, please contact Pat Novak immediately.



Marilyn Watson and Kathryn Neyens dedicating a tree in the New Zealand "Friendship Force" garden following a tea reception with Blenheim mayor Alistair Sowman.

Days after the exchange left Mayor Sowman would be hosting Royalty: William and Kate - with a similar tea reception in the same Mayoral chambers.

Incoming California and North Carolina Exchange A Uniquely Nebraska Experience

*By Joanna Rogers
& Jolene Schauer
Exchange Directors*

On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, Ambassadors from Los Angeles, California and Charlotte, North Carolina arrive in Lincoln for a six day home-stay. Many activities are planned for our visitors celebrating venues that are unique to Nebraska or are a part of its history. Come and join us for the activities.

After spending Wednesday evening getting acquainted with their hosts, the Ambassadors begin their activities on Thursday, May 29 with a tour of the Capitol. They will have lunch at the Governor's Mansion and tour either the Larsen Tractor Test Lab or the Quilt Museum at UNL. That evening the Welcome Dinner includes Cherrie Beam Clarke from the Nebraska Humanities Council presenting her program on "The Courage to Continue." Her program depicts Nebraska life on the prairie.

Friday, May 30, the Ambassadors travel to York to explore early farm life at Wessel's Living History Farms and have lunch at Chances R Restaurant. They travel on to Seward for a tour of the Seward Library and the Junto Winery.

Ambassadors will attend a Small Group Dinner either on the evening of Friday, May 30th, or Saturday, May 31.

Saturday, the Ambassadors travel to Nebraska City. They will have an opportunity to see the Tractor Relay/Parade participants. They will spend time at the Lied Lodge and participate in the Tree Adventure and Discovery Ride. Lunch will be at the Lied Lodge Restaurant. In the afternoon, they tour the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center and the Kregel Windmill Factory.

Sunday, June 1, offers a Free Day for the Ambassadors and their hosts. Monday, June 2, begins with brunch at the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Once back in Lincoln, they will tour the UNL Dairy Store, complete with an ice cream treat. The Farewell Dinner will be held at Valentino's on S. 70th Street. The ambassadors will depart on Tuesday, June 3.

Please send the completed reservation form and your check, payable to Friendship Force of Lincoln, to Larry Kluck at 6800 Rexford Drive, Lincoln, NE 68506 by May 14, 2014

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Rogers at rkrohn@neb.rr.com or Jolene Schauer at trailview-farms@inebraska.com.



Exchange Director Opportunity

*by Kathryn Neyens,
Vice President*

Half the fun of traveling is the planning and the anticipation. Are you an organized person? Have you ever thought of being an Exchange Director?

There will be several opportunities in 2015 to be an exchange director either for an incoming exchange or for an outgoing exchange. A requirement is that you would have participated in a previous exchange but you would receive all the necessary training and education you need .

In the next couple weeks we will receive confirmation of these exchanges. If this challenge interests you or if you are curious as to the location of these exchanges contact Kathryn Neyens (tomnka@yahoo.com) or Larry Kluck (larrykluck@hotmail.com) for an application.

California and North Carolina Exchange Reservation

Please return the completed registration form with payment to Larry Kluck at 6800 Rexford Drive, Lincoln, NE 68506 no later than May 14, 2014. Make checks payable to Friendship Force of Lincoln

Mail the completed form and check to Larry Kluck (address above). Direct questions to Joanna Rogers (402)484-8678 or rkrohn@neb.rr.com or Jolene Schauer (402)467-6242 or trailviewfarms@inebraska.com.

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Incoming Calif. & North Carolina Exchange Events		Cost	Number	Total
Thursday, May 29 - Choose between one of these two tours:				
2:00 PM	Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum UNL, 35th and Fair Street	\$6 x _____		\$ _____
2:00 PM	International Quilt Study Center and Museum UNL, 1523 N 33rd	\$6 x _____		\$ _____
5:45 PM	Welcome Party Vine Congregational Church 1800 Twin Ridge Street, Lincoln 5:45 PM – Social Time, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM – Program, Cherrie Beam-Clarke	\$10 x _____		\$ _____
Friday May 30, York				
9:30 AM	Wessel's Living History Farms 5520 S. Lincoln Avenue, York	\$5 x _____		\$ _____
11:30 AM	Lunch at Chances R Restaurant 124 W. 5th Street	\$13 x _____		\$ _____
Saturday, May 31, Nebraska City				
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM	Lied Lodge Program and Lunch Tree Adventure, Discovery Ride, Tour, and Lunch 2700 Sylvan Road	\$32.50 x _____		\$ _____
2:30 PM	Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center 100 Valmont Drive	\$5.00 x _____		\$ _____
4:00 PM	Kregel Windmill Factory 1416 Central Avenue	\$5.00 x _____		\$ _____
Monday, June 2, Denton				
10:00 AM	Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center 11700 S.W. 100th Street, Denton Brunch Tour	\$12.50 x _____ \$4.00 x _____		\$ _____ \$ _____
6.00 PM	Farewell Dinner, Valentino's Pizza S. 70th and Van Dorn	\$13.00 x _____		\$ _____
				TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Membership News

by *Mary Bryant*

I am pleased to announce that our current paid membership stands at 206 members. We have twice as many individual memberships as we have family memberships which results in a nice mix of male and females on most exchanges.

Since our previous newsletter we are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Thelma Simpson, Lana Novak, Lana Chistopolskaya, Cheri Karr, Stephen Allen, and his girlfriend, Taylor Wilberger. Thanks to the following members who were responsible for referring these individuals to FFL: Barb Ridder, Marie Hitz, Joanna Rogers, De Tonack, and Kathryn Neyens. Stephen Allen is Kathryn's grandson who lives in Nebraska City while his girlfriend lives in Red Oak, Iowa.

Please continue to send me, via email (ab62359@windstream.net) contact information for prospective members. Gayle Bayer and Amy Birky will follow-up with these individuals and remind them of upcoming club activities as well as answer any questions they have about our organization.

A Dessert and Coffee gathering for new and prospective members was held the evening of Sunday, April 13. Invitations had been extended to 38 new and prospective

members. Four new members and two prospective members attended the event, held at Forest Lake Estates Clubhouse. In addition, Carolyn Kitterer, a 2013 recipient of The Moore Memorial Scholarship, explained her home-hosting experiences on the recent 25-day New Zealand Exchange. This scholarship is dedicated to Alice and Corwin Moore plus Jack and Jeane Moore. Also in attendance were President, Larry Kluck; Membership Committee, Gayle Bayer, Amy Birky, and Mary Bryant; plus Milt Bayer.

Here is a bit of scholarship history. Alice Moore is recognized as the founder of FFL. She was appointed by the Mayor of Lincoln to establish a Friendship Force club in the community and was exchange director for the first exchange of 250 ambassadors to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England in 1980. Alice's husband, Corwin served as Club Treasurer and Historian for a number of years.

In May 1985 Friendship Force International staged an event to publicize their program. FFI created an International Awareness Award for media that do exceptionally meritorious work to educate its constituency about people and their problems in other countries. FFI then hosted a special dinner in Omaha and presented the award to The Omaha World Herald for the

paper's eight-part series called "The Population Bomb." Proceeds from the dinner totaled \$4,000 and were split between the Friendship Force of Greater Omaha and the Friendship Force of Lincoln.

Thus, FFL created a General Scholarship Fund, and set up an objective to establish an Endowment Fund of \$10,000. The Endowment Fund is supported by specified donations and other designated fund raising projects, and its income supports the scholarship program.

Memorials at the times of Jack and Jeane Moore's deaths (1994 and 2007 respectively) established another award: the Jack and Jeane Moore Scholarship. Jack and Jeane Moore took part in the Lincoln/Newcastle Friendship Force Exchange in 1980 when they hosted four giggly teenage girls; it began a lifetime friendship and participation in many other in-bound and out-bound exchanges. Jack and Jeane believed in the FF mission and wanted to help young people experience the value of international relationships. Jack and Jeane Moore were not related to Alice and Corwin Moore.

In August 2009 the General Scholarship Fund and the Jack and Jeane Moore Scholarship were combined into one. It was named: The Moore Memorial Scholarship dedicated to Alice and Corwin Moore, and Jack and Jeane Moore.

Meet Newer Members of The Friendship Force of Lincoln

by *Mary Bryant*

Some time ago I asked for a volunteer to interview newer members of FFL. We wanted to introduce these individuals so we would know a little something about them when we saw them at a club activity. Lois Poppe, a member since 1991, agreed to contact newer members and find out what makes each unique! This will be an ongoing feature of our newsletters. This first installment will feature De Tonack, Margie Mertens, Carolyn Harp, Alan Boon, plus Gene and Janice Schwenke.

De Tonack knew about Friendship Force Lincoln for some time. However, she thought being an ambassador was what membership involved. Then Nancy Comer spoke to a group De belonged to. That is when De learned members could be involved in a variety of ways. Now De attends the monthly breakfast, participates in LEO (Let's Eat Out) and plans to be a home host in May. (De volunteered to record topic comments at the monthly breakfast.)

De and her husband came to Lincoln for employment. De has taught with many programs including Goodrich Middle School, The Science Focus Program (Zoo School) and at Wesleyan University. Mostly she has taught physics and math.

De has two married children and four grandchildren who live nearby. She recently lost her husband. De enjoys gardening and her cat, Mister T. She also is a movie buff - viewing both old and new movies.

De may consider travel to Asia, Greece, and Turkey in the future. Friendship Force gives her an opportunity to learn about other cultures and people. We are glad De connected with Friendship Force.

Margie Mertens joined The Friendship Force of Lincoln to find out what it is about. She learned about Friendship Force through friends who are members.

She and her husband (who died at age 63) raised six children - all but one live in Nebraska. She enjoys spending time with her family including a three-year-old great-granddaughter. Margie enjoys doing water aerobics, her Bunco group, and volunteering. She attended the Friendship Force England, Scotland, and Wales Exchange Event. The Czech Republic and Italy are of particular interest to her. Welcome Margie to Friendship Force!

Carolyn Harp considers Lincoln her home even though she has lived and worked in other places. She learned about Friendship Force through members who participate in water aerobics with her. She enjoys having coffee (five days

a week) following water aerobics.

Carolyn is active in Westminster Presbyterian Church - bell choir, vocal choir, ushering and a book group. She is also an usher at the Lied Center.

Carolyn's family is important to her. She helps with her granddaughter's first grade class at Prescott School each week. Carolyn has a fourteen-year old cat, K. C.

Carolyn participates in the Friendship Force Saturday morning coffee, on the social committee and LEO. She plans to host a small group dinner in May. In the future, Carolyn may become a Friendship Force ambassador to New Zealand or European countries.

Carolyn considers her church and her aerobics group "her communities." She says Friendship Force may become a third "community." Welcome to Friendship Force, Carolyn!

Alan Boon learned about Friendship Force from member, Sue Imig. (Both live in Seward.) Alan has enjoyed attending some Friendship Force events. He hopes to be an ambassador with Friendship Force in the future, when it fits his schedule and interests.

Alan has nine grandchildren who live in the Seward-Lincoln area. He attends their ballgames frequently. He also spends some time in Florida each year where his brother and his brother's wife live.

Alan is a golfer, does woodworking, and enjoys doing projects around his home. He retired nine years ago. Alan's wife passed away four years ago. Welcome Alan to Friendship Force!

Janice and Gene Schwenske joined Friendship Force last summer. Janice knew about Friendship Force through her parents who were active in the Omaha Friendship Force. They also knew some active Lincoln members. They have three daughters who live in Seattle, Charlotte, and Denver.

Janice and Gene like to dream about traveling and enjoy hearing about Friendship Force exchanges. They plan to host a small group dinner for the incoming exchange in May from Los Angeles and Charlotte, NC. Look for Janice and Gene at Friendship Force of Lincoln events.



Breakfast & Conversation

The topic for discussion for Friendship Force of Lincoln's February breakfast was "If you could live in one other country for a year, where would it be and why?" De Tonack summarized the responses.

The overwhelming countries of choice were Australia and/or New Zealand. The top reasons were "no language barrier," "I have been there and I know it is beautiful," or "There is so much diversity there to experience." Attendees with these votes included Bryson Braziel, Marie Hitz, Dick and Georgia Raecke, Buddy Sizemore, Chuck Godwin, and Barb Wittstruck. Dick added Costa Rica for a chance to be immersed in another language. Amy Birky seconded Costa Rica but also mentioned the Isle of Wight (been there and it was beautiful).

England made the list for Linda Kistler and Marilyn Watson. England is a great stepping off place for other European adventures, is rich in history, and again speaks the

same language! Linda would have a chance to visit her daughter who lives there, as well. De Tonack would like to live for a year in Sweden and Ireland to experience homelands of her ancestors. Italy was a choice of a few others for the beauty, food and sunshine. John Comer, and Gayle Bayer mentioned those things and few others chimed in that beautiful Italian women might be a draw, too. Milt Bayer and Leona Braziel picked Tahiti but Marie Hitz warned there might not be too much to do there for a whole year. Hope Partridge would like to see Cuba before too many changes happen. Ron Vogel and Larry Kluck would like to live in Germany for a while; Larry to visit old friends and Ron to revisit places he had been while in the Air Force. Claire Ehernberger would like to go back to relive great experiences on the island of Tasmania, Australia.

Mary Bryant had a unique response: "At this stage of my life, I want to stay right here." Jacque Scholz has lived in Turkey and loved being there so has experienced living the question the rest of us were contemplating.

2014 Dues Notice - The Friendship Force of Lincoln

Dues for the 2014 calendar year are \$30 for an Individual Membership and \$40 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. If you are a prospective member, we hope that you decide to join FFL at this time. Note: New members who join now will be credited as paid thru 12/31/14.

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 _____

Name(s) _____

Name Badge Name(s) *Please Print* _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

CATEGORY: Individual-\$30 Family-\$40 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: _____