



PASSPORT

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



*by Julie Albrecht
President*

Spring has finally sprung! We had to cancel the February and March board meetings because of SNOW! But FFL has still been active! We had 3 FFL members on the FFL Festival at Sea journey and they have an article for you to find out what they did. In April we had 11 FFL members go to Austin, Texas. See new member Kay Straube's article. Also join us for our presentation June 2nd at Madonna Rehabilitation Center's Sheridan Room at 2 p.m.

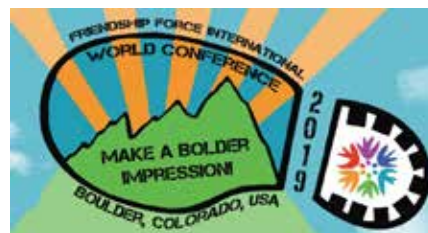
Every month we have a Breakfast and Conversation that provides an opportunity for FFL members to get to know each other and have fun with a challenging question for discussion. Our April breakfast was well attended and everyone shared their family trip from their youth which brought lots of laughs and memories.

LEO's (Let's Eat Out) are held every 3 months and provide FFL members to learn more about an ethnic restaurant in Lincoln and enjoy the company of members and your guests! We had a wonderful time at Tico's on March 16th. Check the newsletter for the next LEO.

Our FFL Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at First Lutheran Church on South 70th Street. The board meetings are open for any member to attend. We will be posting our approved minutes on our website which will help members keep up with FFL activities. Note that the board meeting is held at 6 PM.

We are encouraging all members to become INVOLVED! Find an activity or committee chair and find out what they are up to and how you can be involved. We have a couple of positions to fill – Web master and newsletter coordinator.

In Friendship, Julie



FFI World Conference

By Joanna Rogers

We are fortunate this year to have the FFI World Conference in Boulder, Colorado. Several of us are planning to drive and would welcome any interested members to join us. You should have received a registration form and lots of additional information about the Conference from FFI. The dates are July 23-27, 2019 and the place is the Williams Village Campus at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Please contact Julie Albrecht or Joanna Rogers with any questions or ride requests.

Austin, Texas Journey April 2-9



By Kay Straube

This trip was filled with many firsts for me. I'd never been on an airplane, first trip with Friendship Force, and first time traveling out of the immediate Midwest.

Bright (not so much) and early on Tuesday April 2nd we arrived at the Lincoln Airport to leave on the first flight to Denver. I didn't get to sit with our group, but ended up sitting beside a very nice gentleman, who after I explained it was my very first plane experience went out of his way to make me feel comfortable. The Denver Airport was eye-opening for me, a huge and busy place.

Our hosts were waiting for us with their Friendship Force Austin sign, we grabbed our luggage and headed to lunch at Iron Works Barbecue. The building was at one time an actual iron works business founded by a German immigrant,

Fortunat Weigl, Sr in 1913. His ironwork is still around Austin.

Wednesday found the weather cloudy and chilly as we toured the Texas State Capital. The place was packed with school children, retired schoolteachers, concerned about their retirement pay, and their state representatives. The most unique thing I saw was the door hinges, every one of them says Texas State Capital. After leaving the Capital we walked down Congress Avenue, with Lin giving us the history of the oldest area of Austin. We had lunch at Driskill Hotel, the oldest operating hotel at their 1886 Café with beautiful surroundings and fabulous food! Walked down 6th Street headed toward Austin City Hall to view art exhibits. We ended our day at Scholz Garten, the oldest operating business in Texas.

Thursday found us traveling to LBJ's childhood home

and the LBJ ranch in Johnson City Texas. Learned much about President Johnson's life. Toured his childhood home but was unable to tour the "Western White House" on the ranch because of structural problems. We continued our travels to Fredericksburg an area founded by German immigrants in 1846. We were able to investigate on our own, shopping or whatever we wanted until we ate at Rathskeller's Restaurant, offering traditional German food.

Friday was a free day, we could arrange activities with our hosts. Lois and I went with our hostess, Mitzi, to The Oasis, a restaurant built onto the bluff overlooking Lake Travis. It has approximately 35 outdoor decks, all on different levels facing the lake. It is a popular place to sit and watch the sunset. We went early to avoid the crowd. I sat with my back to

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Austin Journey

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the view, I get queasy looking down sometimes. In the evening we went to Ester's Follies! It was explained to me that it was very much like watching Saturday Night Live, all I can say is I laughed a lot!!

Saturday was cloudy then raining as we went to the new Austin City Library. It's a beautiful 6 story building that has many areas for specific groups, like small children, adults, and even an area for teens only, a place to get away from younger siblings. There was a rooftop garden with many sitting areas to read, relax, or just look at the scenery. We had lunch at the Cookbook Bar and Café, great food! I had a delicious chicken pot pie! After lunch we went to Dell Medical School which is implementing a new way to train physicians. Saturday evening we had small-group dinners, getting to know the Austin and Lincoln group better while enjoying delicious food and lively conversation.

Sunday was museum day starting at the LBJ Library, learning more about President Johnson. We went to the Bullock State His-



tory Museum where we had lunch and were able to wander around on our own. The most interesting thing I saw there was the actual-remains of a wrecked ship, the La Belle, a 54 foot ship that sailed from France in 1684 with 35 people aboard plus supplies they needed. It looked awfully small, I'm surprised it made it across the ocean. Sunday evening was take your hosts to dinner.

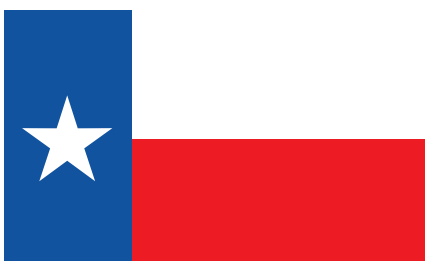
Monday we toured Community First Village, located outside city limits, it is a place for the homeless where they can "rent" tiny homes. It is a very interesting concept they have there. They have several businesses on the premises offering jobs to their clients. We had a Tex-Mex lunch and afterwards taking a group picture at mural of Greetings from Austin.

Later in the afternoon we headed to Lake Austin for the farewell dinner (boat tour). It was a gorgeous afternoon to sit in the sun and

enjoy the view, many many large homes along the lake and up the bluffs. It was hard saying good-bye to my new friends.

Tuesday April 9th was spent getting everything packed back up and getting to Austin's airport for our return home. Our flight left Austin around three arriving in Denver to wait for approximately four hours. The steward on the plane to Lincoln told us that we were lucky, flights for the next day were already canceled because there was supposed to be a snow storm with very high winds. I was glad to be headed home.

I'm really having a hard time deciding what my favorite part of the trip was. I think it was all of it! Would I do it again, most likely! Did I learn something, most definitely! Would I recommend Friendship Force to others, a resounding YES!



Millions of Laughs Amazing Adventures with New Friends



By Amy Birky

Pat Hust, JoEllen Polzien and Amy Birky joined 150 Friendship Force friends on the Holland America Cruise, Festival at Sea, beginning at Buenos Aires, Argentina sailing through Cape Horn to Santiago Chile Feb.21- March 8, 2019. FFL Travelers from Australia(11), Canada (17), Japan (2), New Zealand (6), South Africa (1) and the United States made the trip exciting and memorable. President of FFI, Jeremi Snook and Laura Romero presented opportunities to learn more about Friendship Force International and its future directions. Watch for marketing efforts to grow and maintain a strong membership. Have you ever danced the tango? Buenos Aires is the home of the tango and a very vibrant and exciting city. Following that port we visited Montevideo, Uruguay, a very European city with great art and architecture.



Puerto Madryn, Argentina was our next stop. The penguins and the countryside were the highlights of the trip. Following our day at Punta Arenas, Chile we cruised various channels and the Strait of Magellan. A highlight was reaching Ushuaia, Argentina, the city at the end of the world. We were fortunate to have a smooth sailing around Cape Horn. After the Horn the glaciers we viewed were beautiful; the shrinking of them was noted. The cruise director and staff had many activities, events, lectures, and shows that enhanced our journey. Arriving in Santiago (San Antonio port), Chile, tours were made available in the area. After seeing Valparaiso, Pat and Amy flew home while JoEllen went onto the Galapagos.



GALAPAGOS

By JoEllen Polzien

Not only was the Friendship Force journey to the Galapagos Islands a dream come true, it was also a continuation of millions of laughs shared among wonderful new life-long friends and meaningful conversations with both Friendship Force and non-Friendship Force people of all ages from all over the world.

Despite a dreadfully serious sunburn resulting from my inexperienced snorkeling adventure, I will never forget the amazing new friends, the awesome wildlife, the kindness of strangers and falling in love! I am in love with the Blue-Footed Booby! And who could possibly resist those bright blue feet?

Other highlights scream out for a mention: the male frigate bird with a 7-½ foot wingspan, in the breeding

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GALAPAGOS

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season, which had required 20 minutes to enlarge his gular sac to attract a mate; George, the world's oldest tortoise, enshrined forever in an air-conditioned chamber you must enter via two air-locks; snorkeling among sharks, large colorful fish, and the land iguanas and the marine iguanas, and the tortoise breeding facilities, and the Charles Darwin Research Center.

Did I mention the baby sea lion nursing with mama on the bench for people on the boat dock? Or the suitcases piled so high on the inter-island boats that you just knew they were going to slide into the water and disappear forever?

Plus, I met a descendant of one of the five German brothers whose parents sold their house to buy a boat for the sons to sail to the Gala-

pagos Islands in 1938 and told them NOT to return to Europe regardless because they did not want them to fight for Hitler! One of our naturalist guides, she was stunned when I asked her about it because she had never met anyone who knew her family's story, which included a direct connection to Lincoln, Nebraska, where one of the brother's wife had previously met and married Ecuador's most famous pilot before he was killed when his plane crashed. Read this fascinating story in *My Father's Island: a Galapagos Quest* by Johanna Angermeyer.

LEO

By Bruce Keim

The first LEO for 2019 was held at Tico's Mexican restaurant on Saturday March 16th. Twenty-three members and guests were treated to some very good Mexican foods. Tico's has been serving Mexican food in Lincoln since 1976. Tico's was started in what was an old Safeway building by John and Geanine Bordogna. (The building was also a Here's Johnny's Restaurant before Ticos) John Bordogna was a former University of Nebraska football quarterback who started at Nebraska for three years. John held records for pass attempts and total yards until the 1970's. John was inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 1988. Some menu favorites are the Ticortitto which is a soft flour tortilla with beef, rice and refried beans or the chicken and cream cheese Enchiladas But most popular is the Chile Rellenos containing two Chile Rellenos filled with cheese and mild chile peppers and topped with green chile and pork.

Our next LEO will be Vietnamese food at Vung Tau Pho and Grill located at 2708 Y Street. Tuesday May 21st at 5:30P.M. Hope to see everyone there. Bruce and Carlene Keim and Sara Stephen LEO committee members.

Friendship Force New Member Introductions

By Lois Poppe



MARY CASSNER

Mary Cassner has lived in Lincoln all her life. Mary enjoys learning about countries and cultures through travel in Nebraska, USA and throughout the world.

She remembers fondly family vacations as a child. She participates in the Nebraska Passport Program visiting seventy stops in Nebraska. As an adult, she has traveled to Canada, Mexico, Czech Republic, Italy, France, and Ireland.

Besides travel, Mary takes part in two book clubs and Olli (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) classes. Mary volunteered as a tutor with Lincoln Literacy and serves as a Lied Center usher. Mary retired after 43 years at the UNL library. Mary enjoys time with her son, daughter, and granddaughter.

Australia, New Zealand and China are among her travel wish list. Mary plans to be active on The Friendship Force of Lincoln's social committee. Welcome Mary Cassner to Friendship Force!



LARRY & MARY VERSCHUUR

Larry and Mary have known about Friendship Force for a long time. They recently joined The Friendship Force of Lincoln. They think it will be a good way to learn about other cultures and people from other countries.

The Verschuurs lived in Omaha before moving to Lincoln. They have been owners and directors as well as teachers at Montessori schools in both Omaha and Lincoln.

Larry originally lived in Tilden, Nebraska. Mary lived in Scotland. The Verschuur name is from Dutch Netherlands. Mary and Larry are interested in British culture – Scotland, Ireland (Dublin specifically).

The Verschuurs feel hosting through Friendship Force would be enjoyable. They have attended Friendship Force breakfasts and other activities. Welcome Mary and Larry to Friendship Force!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Mary Bryant

Have you told your friends, neighbors, people that you meet at the airport, or anyone about your Friendship Force experiences? Currently, we are following up with only 6 prospective members; we'd love to have more.

Our most promising came to us at our April Breakfast and Conversation. She was our waitress, Kati; she wanted to know how we differed from the Mayors Committee for International Visitors? She had recently joined that organization. When I had the opportunity, I asked for her name and email. After I sent out my introductory email, I asked for her phone and mailing address so I could mail her a packet and for follow-up by Amy. She replied within several days and we are off and running! Kati's grandmother bakes those delicious pies that Stauffer's sells! Yum!!

I'd appreciate if you would send me the name, phone number, email, and address of those whom you think might have an interest in our organization.

2019 Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

MAY

- 2 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 11 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 21 LEO 5:30 PM Vung Tau Pho and Grill, 2708 Y Street

JUNE

- 2 Austin, Texas Presentation 2 PM Madonna Rehabilitation Center, Sheridan Room, 5401 South St. 6 Board Mtg
- 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 8 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

JULY

- No board mtg
- 13 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 23-27 FFI Conference Boulder, Colorado

AUGUST

- 1 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 10 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- TBA - FFL Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 14 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

OCTOBER

- 3 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 1-16 Outbund Journey to Azerbaijan and Georgia
- 12 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

NOVEMBER

- 7 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 9 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

DECEMBER

- 5 Board Mtg to be determined
- 14 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- TBA FFL Holiday Party

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN MEMBERSHIP

Dues for the 2019 calendar year are \$40 for an Individual Membership and \$75 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 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."

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-\$40 _____ Family-\$75 _____ Name Badge-\$9.00/\$11.00

Total Amount Enclosed: _____