



# PASSPORT

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

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NOVEMBER 2019



*The participants on the Georgia and Azerbaijan journey were Wendy Horacek, Julie Albrecht, Cathy Lund, Barbara Rothenay, Jacque Scholtz, and Milt and Gayer Bayer from the Lincoln Club. Holly Steussy member of Washington DC club, Gay McCullough from New Zealand club and John and Ruth Wyse from Oregon club.*

## INSIDE

President's Message	2	Georgia & Azerbaijan Journey	4
Holiday Party	2	Let's Eat Out	5
Strategic Planning	3	Brazil Openings Available	6
Membership News	3	Upcoming Events	6

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



*by Julie Albrecht  
President*

**H**appy Holidays! Our Holiday party is scheduled for Friday December 6 at the Ferguson House. More info is later in this newsletter. Pictures of the Annual Meeting at Southeast Community College are included. We hope that all who attended had an enjoyable time and learned about the future of Friendship Force International.

My two year term as president is coming to an end and it seems like the time has just flown by. Arlene Rea will be the new president and with the strategic plan-

ning event that happened in October, we will have an exciting future to look forward. Arlene has provided a brief summary of the strategic planning event in this newsletter and the board will be reviewing goals and an action plan to move Friendship Force of Lincoln to grow and develop.

I would like to thank the board for all their support during my time as president. I would especially like to thank Joanna Rogers as past president for her guidance these past 2 years.

We have a bright future!



### Holiday Party

**T**he Holiday party will be held on Friday December 6, 2019, 6 to 8:30 PM at the Ferguson House, 700 South 16 Street. We will have a Charcuterie Board by Adam Dodworth, a caterer we have used for several events. Punch will be served, with and without alcohol. A Charcuterie Board is the new trend for parties! Come and enjoy the meal with fellow Friendship Force members and invite a guest; there will be plenty of seating. Entertainment will be provided by Dan Degenhardt and Bryan McDonald. Also a docent will be available for tours. We have a surprise or two, so make sure to reserve your spot. The Ferguson house will be decorated for the holidays and their open house on Sunday... we will get a preview!

### Holiday Party Registration

Cost for the evening is \$12.00 (\$15.00 Late FEE after December 1st.) per person to be paid at the time of the reservations. Please send your check to Pat King, 1200 Coachman's Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510 by December 1st.

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

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

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

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 each      Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

## Twenty Two FF-Lincoln Members Strategically Plan for the Future

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**Arlene Rea,  
President-Elect**

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**O**n Sunday, October 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., 22 members and 2 facilitators, Jim Rea and Charlotte Liggett, met at Madonna Sheridan rooms to plan for the club's future. President Julie Albrecht and President-Elect Arlene Rea welcomed and thanked the members for taking time on a Sunday to strategically plan for the The Friendship Force of Lincoln's direction for the next several years.

The members started the afternoon by sharing their enrollment year on a time line and listed one memorable event. Members were listed in all decades beginning with the 80's. Later, members were divided into four groups with Julie Albrecht, Nancy Comer, Arlene Rea and Joanna Rogers acting as facilitators, to review the current mission statement.

Each of the four groups discussed the Who?, the What?, to Whom?, and the Why? They then shared their work. Subsequently, the four facilitators worked together to flush out the most important element(s) of each

question and presented to the large group.

After a break, the groups each looked at leadership, marketing, membership and participation in our club. Each group generated a host of ideas to guide our club. Each group reported out and members individually added or discussed other ideas.

Julie, Nancy, Arlene and Joanna, as well as Maxine Moul, who was unable to participate, met to review the work of the members and presented a plan to the board for their consideration. On November 7, the Board took action and approved the plan.

A big "thank you" should be given to members who participated: Julie Albrecht, Milt Bayer, Amy Birky, Mary Bryant, John Comer, Nancy Comer, Daniel Hawkins, Wendy Horacek, Pat Hust, Joanna Rogers, Bruce Keim, Lois Katt, Linda Kistler, JoEllen Polzien, Ann Quinlan, Arlene Rea, Joanna Rogers, Barb Ridder, Brian Ridenour, Kay Straube, De Tonack, Janet Walters. When you see them, please extend your personal "thanks."

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## Membership News

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*By Mary Bryant*

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**O**fficially, we started the year as well as ended the year with 130 members. The only two new members who joined toward the end of the year, were Dru Sypal and Joyce Michaelis. Both were referred by JoEllen Polzien.

We'd appreciate if each member would put on their thinking caps and suggest names of friends, acquaintances, and family whom you think would enjoy The Friendship Force of Lincoln. Within two weeks they will receive a phone call from Amy Birky, Membership Assistant. She will ask if you have any questions; she will review the upcoming club activities and will ask if you think FFL might be an organization they would like to join.

If you have the name of someone, I'd appreciate if you would send me (ab62359@windstream.net) their email, phone, and postal address. We'll get the ball rolling!



## GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN JOURNEY – OCTOBER 2019



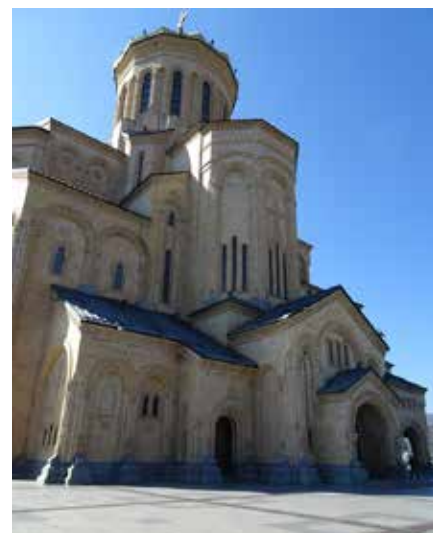
**S**even members of the Lincoln club and four members of other clubs went to Georgia and Azerbaijan October 1 -15, 2019. Georgia was formerly in the Soviet Union. It is bordered by Russia on the North and East, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey on the South, and the Black Sea on the West. Archaeological excavations have found artifacts from the Bronze Age and Middle Ages in Georgia. The UNESCO sites visited included the Jvari Monastery (590-605); Mtskheta, the "Holy City" founded by the ancient Meschian tribes in the 5th century BC. and the Ananuri castle complex – the seat of a feudal dynasty (13th century). We toured the remains of a cave city that was the one of the most important political, cultural, religious centers of pre-Christian-Kartli. Our tour guide pointed

out the locations of pagan ceremonies, food storage, etc. We walked or rode up steep cobbled roads to reach the sites. The high locations provided protection from their enemies and were closer to God. Christianity was declared the state religion in 337. We also visited Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin and the Stalin museum. Gori was occupied by Russian troops led by Putin during the 2008 Russo-Georgian War.

We traveled by bus to the Azerbaijan border to meet our Azerbaijan hosts for our second week. A Friendship Force club from Brazil transferred from Azerbaijan to Georgia at the same time. We drove through agricultural areas with a mix of small patches of crops and very large field of corn. Occasionally we came upon cattle grazing freely along

the road side. On the way to Sheki, relatives of our hosts served us their traditional dishes and the children entertained us with their dancing. Many pictures were taken with the grandparents, children and grandchildren. It was a genuine Friendship Force moment. We spent two nights in Sheki. The very narrow streets were a challenge for the bus driver. It took several maneuvers for the bus to make a right-hand turn. Sheki highlights were the Albanian Temple/ Church, an architectural example of an early Christian church and the Sheki Khan's Palace, windows were made with multi-colored glass mosaics inlaid into an intricate wooden lattice. An artisan demonstrated how the windows were built without glue or nails. Stone age petroglyphs were seen at Gobustan. The oldest petroglyphs date back to the 12th-8th century BC.

*continued on page 5*



## Let's Eat Out



**Bruce and Carlene Keim and Sara Stephen your LEO committee**

The last LEO for 2019 was held Tuesday October 22 at Tia Letys restaurant on North 27th Street with 15 Friendship Force club members present. Tia Letys (Tia meaning aunt) is run by Leticia Martinaz. Her restaurant has been located in several areas of Lincoln. She started out in downtown Lincoln and moved out by the State Penitentiary then to Lincoln Air Park.

The meal was started out with traditional chips and salsa. We had the choice of a red and green salsa. The menu had both Salvadorian and Mexican food. Papusas which is Salvadorian and also Tia's specialty dish was served with many of the items. It is a handmade pancake size tortilla made from white corn and normally

stuffed with pork, beans or cheese. Curtido, a Salvadorian pickled cabbage in spices was a side to many of the items on the menu. Pasteles are a deep fried Taco stuffed with pork, potato, carrot, and green beans. I had one of Tia's Enchiladas and it was really good; smothered in cheese and

enchilada sauce. Three meat options and a price of \$2.25 made it a great option.

Salvadorian desserts finished off the meal. Empanadas De Platano made of boiled ripe Plantains stuffed with vanilla pudding then deep fried and rolled in sugar was an item that some ordered. Canoa is a deep fried Plantain topped with vanilla pudding and cinnamon. Most desserts we found could be shared by two or three as the helpings were really large. The main dishes on the menu also contained plenty of food to share.

Tia Letys was a great stop and introduced our members to many new Salvadorian foods.

For the first LEO of 2020 we will be going to STUR 22 (21st and South Street) for Caribbean and African food. It will be in March with a

date to follow. Hope to see everyone there as they have a very interesting menu.



## Georgia Journey

*continued from page 4*

It's hard to imagine the life of the people depicted in these drawings. This area was one of the cradles of civilization. Many were fire worshippers. We also saw the temple built by Indian fire worshippers. Later worshippers were followers of Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Mud volcanoes caused by underground gas were nearby. Visitors to Baku will see the modern "Flame Towers" but other parts of the city have old Russian apartments needing repairs. The water was available in one of the apartments a few hours each day. Our hosts were wonderful. I've never seen so much food on a table or eaten so much.

## **2019 - 2020 Upcoming Events**

### **NOVEMBER 2019**

- 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 2019**

- 4 Board Mtg Home of Julie Albrecht
- 6 Holiday Party Ferguson House
- 14 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

### **JANUARY 2020**

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

### **FEBRUARY 2020**

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

### **MARCH 2020**

- 5 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 14 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 22 I've Got a Name and Not My Life 2-4 PM Unitarian Church

### **APRIL 2020**

- 2 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 11 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 24 – May 2 Open World delegation from Russia

### **MAY 2020**

- 7 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 9 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 20-25 Orlando, Florida Inbound

### **JUNE 2020**

- 4 Board Mtg 6 PM First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street
- 13 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- 12-18 New Zealand Inbound

### **JULY 2020**

- No Board Mtg
- 11 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street

### **AUGUST 2020**

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

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

### **OCTOBER 2020**

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

### **NOVEMBER 2020**

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

### **DECEMBER 2020**

- 3 Board Mtg Location TBA
- 12 Breakfast 8:30 AM Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th Street
- TBA Holiday Party



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### **Brazil Openings!**

**F**riendship Force of Omaha is inviting FFL members to join them for their outbound journey to Brazil. The dates are May 21-30 to Nova Lima and Itanhaem. Both are on the Atlantic side of the country. They have 7 spots left. Please contact Pat Headley at guthrie41@yahoo.com for more information.



# PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



## THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN YEAR 2020 DUES NOTICE

**D**ues for the 2020 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." It would be appreciated if you mail no later than Dec. 15, 2019.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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-\$14 if picked up at an FFL event, \$17.00 if mailed.

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_