



# PASSPORT

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

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## VIRTUAL OPEN WORLD HOSTED ON JULY 17

**S**ergey Eguy from American Councils arranged a Zoom Conference with the Open World delegates from Russia that were to come to Lincoln in April 2020. Due to Covid-19 the Open World delegates journey to Lincoln has been delayed until it is safe to travel. The Open World topic for our delegation is journalism, media in a democratic society.

The 2-hour Zoom conference helped our Friendship Force planning committee meet the Russian delegates virtually and provided us with insight into what they expected from the program. Speakers included Matt Tucker, Program Manager from Open World Leadership Center and Britton Homes, FFI Regional Support Manager. Arlene Rea, FFL President and

Julie Albrecht, Open World Committee chair welcomed the delegates on behalf of Friendship Force of Lincoln.

Ben Nelson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center also welcomed the delegates (Congressman Fortenberry was scheduled but due to his responsibilities on the Appropriations Committee, he was not able to participate).

The Russian delegates introduced themselves: Kristina Gireva, Tatiana Kruglikova, Julia Pliskina, Sergey Sotnikov, and Julia Sveshnikova. The Facilitator, Svetlana Devianina stated that she has been to Lincoln two previous times with Open World delegates.

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# Greetings from the President



**by Arlene Rea, President**

**W**ho would have guessed we would still be fighting for our lives with the Covid-19 pandemic claiming over 360 lives in Nebraska and nearly 170,000 lives across the United States since March!

We have all had to adjust. Our normal is a different and new normal. Now we say, “before COVID, I/we...” We have learned to slow down and appreciate what we have. We are scared about our children and grandchildren starting back to school. We are not sure if it is safe to meet in groups for religious worship or meetings. We Zoom or YouTube to worship or do business. We even have “Saturday Breakfast” by Zoom.

In the May Issue of Passport, I reported that Friendship Force International had raised about \$220,000 towards their \$340,000 goal. At this printing over \$450,000 has been raised by clubs

from across the world. These contributions show how important our work of Friendship Force is.

If you have not visited the FFI website recently, take a few minutes to review the different opportunities available to members. Journeys for 2021 are being scheduled. But the word of the day is “flexibility.”

See an article in this Passport called “Virtual Experiences.” I hope you take advantage of the different experiences. I have and it was well worth my one hour of time.\*

Your board of directors have been calling you to visit and to check up on you. We want everyone to be healthy and safe. Please let us know if you need anything.

According to our Bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the club, must be held in person during August or September. Our Annual Meeting will be September 27 (postponed from August 30.) During that meeting you will be voting for the executive officers and amendments to the Bylaws. The amendments will allow us to meet by electronic means rather than only face to face.

I hope you enjoy our August Passport.

Keep well.

Arlene Rea, President

\*



1. In your browser, type, [Thefriendshipforce.org](http://Thefriendshipforce.org)
2. Click on Virtual Experiences
3. Browse and register for the upcoming or recorded Virtual Journeys, Learning Spaces and/or Members Connect

## *continued from page 1* **Virtual Open World**

Julie Albrecht was able to give a brief overview of possible program topics for the delegates when they are able to come to Lincoln. Gwen Meister gave an overview of a host family perspective.

Maxine Moul, Open World Committee member and FFL Vice President, introduced Mayor Leiron Gaylor Baird. The Mayor provided her perspective on handling the media during the Covid-19 pandemic and the racial protests. She fielded questions from the delegates.

A number of FFL members attended the session also.

## The Annual Meeting will be Held Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 5PM at One of Two Locations

Sheridan Lutheran Church, 6955 Old Cheney Road at the Northwest Entrance or a Park Pavilion in Lincoln.

In these troubling times, why are we having an Annual Meeting? According to our bylaws, the annual meeting must be held in person in August or September. The board has been wrestling with this dilemma of in-person meeting since April. After working with FFI and other clubs across the United States, the Bylaws Committee and the Board of Directors for FF Lincoln are asking the members to amend the bylaws regarding face-to-face meetings. With the bylaws change, we will be able to meet by any electronic means, as long as discussions can be held. See the article below for the amendments and the origi-

nal bylaws. In addition, the club needs to elect its officers for 2021.

- Hopefully, by the first of September, we will know which site we will be using for the meeting. Sheridan Lutheran has us scheduled for their facility on September 27.
- We will notify you by e-mail of the site and other details as soon as we know.
- At either site, bring your own drink and food and to eat (no sharing). We will social-distance and will need to wear masks, except to eat.

### Agenda:

1. State of Friendship Force Lincoln
2. Journeys for 2021
3. Reports
4. Business
5. Discussion and voting on the Amendments to the Bylaws, see pages 3 and 4
6. Voting for the executive officers for 2021, see pages 5 and 6.
7. Other
8. Entertainment

*According to the Bylaws, a quorum to conduct business is 10% of the membership, or 12 people. Please come to use your voice to further the direction of the Friendship Force Lincoln.*

## Bylaw Amendments to be voted on at Annual Meeting

by Maxine Moul

### ***Background for proposed bylaws amendments/changes:***

*In June, FFL President Arlene Rea questioned the leaders of FFI on how to conduct business if we cannot meet in person, especially for the annual meeting. Zooming has been used by your board and executive committee since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on direction from FFI and other Midwest clubs, the proposed bylaws changes were recommended to the board by the bylaws committee of PAT KING, BRIAN RIDENOUR and BETTY STARR and chaired by vice-president MAXINE MOUL. For the annual meeting and other meetings of FFL to proceed by virtual means, your board is recommending the following addition/changes (highlighted in yellow) to Article VII (Meetings), Section 4 and 5:*

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## Bylaw Amendments continued

### Bylaw Amendments

**Section 4.** The annual meeting and other club meetings, meetings of the Board of Directors, meetings of the Executive Committee and meetings of any other committee of the Club, whether a standing or special committee, may be held via in person meetings and, if determined by the chairperson of the meeting to be reasonably necessary, may also be held, in whole or in part, by telephone conference, by video or web conference, or through any other methods of electronic communication, provided each person participating in such meeting is able to be heard by and to hear all other participants in the meeting including any participating by any alternative means permitted hereunder.

**Section 5.** The Executive Committee, any standing committee or any special committee may act without meeting if the action taken is reflected in a written consent or other writing executed in one or more counterparts by all members of the committee. \*

*\*Note: New Article VIII, Section 5 is an adaption of a relatively standard provision found in the bylaws of many for profit corporations. It permits a committee to act by written consent, provided all members of the committee join in the written action. Each can sign separately, or all can sign one document, thus the verbiage regarding counterparts.*

*In addition, the Board is recommending the proposed bylaws amendments (regarding good policy):*

### ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 2 (I)** To adopt Policies governing activities of the Board of Directors and the Club's committees, provided such Policies are not in conflict with these Bylaws. If a conflict between the Bylaws and the Club's Policies is determined to exist, the Bylaws shall be controlling.

### ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting. The membership shall be notified of the amendments at least thirty days before the meeting.

Amendments to the Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon their approval unless a later effective date is specified at the time of adoption.

A copy of the approved Bylaws will be sent to FFI by the president.

**For a complete document of the Bylaws and proposed amendments, [follow this link.](#)**

These amendments must be presented to the FFL membership in writing at least 30 days before the in-person annual meeting, currently scheduled for September 27, discussed and adopted by a majority of the quorum present. The quorum is 10 percent of the current membership, or at least 12 members.



## NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

by Nancy Comer

This year has been very unusual. So many events were cancelled and/or presented in a different way. Yet our executive committee continued to meet and lead our club. On behalf of Friendship Force Lincoln, the nominating committee, is so thankful that each of the officers have agreed to continue in their capacities. The officers are: Arlene Rea, President; Maxine Moul, Vice President; Ann Quinlan, Secretary and Milt Bayer, Treasurer.

At the Annual Meeting on behalf of the Board, we will present the slate of officers. The floor will be open for nominations.

The Nominations Committee: JULIE ALBRECHT, LOIS KATT, BETTY STARR, DE TONACK and chair, NANCY COMER



**Arlene Rea, President,  
Friendship Force  
of Lincoln**

Arlene joined Friendship Force of Lincoln in 2012. In 2013, she assisted with Taming a Harsh Land with Coordinator, Betty Starr; in 2015, she was a co-coordinator with Linda Kistler, for Taming the Great Plains; in 2018 she was the co-coordinator with Barb Ridder for the Global Sandhills Cranes inbound; in 2019 she coordinated the journey to Austin, Texas. Arlene and her husband have hosted many small group dinners and ambassadors in their home. She has served as secretary, vice president and currently president of Friendship Force Lincoln.

Arlene is a native of Wood River, NE, and has lived in Hastings, Grand Island and Lincoln, all in Nebraska. She retired from active teaching of public school mathematics, primarily at the middle school level. While teaching, Arlene was active in the Nebraska State Education Association and served as president of the Lincoln Education Association. In addition, Arlene was an adjunct professor of mathematics (in class and on-line) for eight years at two universities.



**MAXINE MOUL,  
VICE PRESIDENT**

I joined Friendship Force of Lincoln in 2017. I took a journey to Morocco with the Dallas Ft. Worth chapter in November 2018. What a fantastic experience! I served as secretary of FFL in 2019 and am now vice-president. I have helped with programming for several Open World delegations to Lincoln, with the most recent being the virtual program with journalism delegates from Russia whose trip here this spring was cancelled because of COVID-19. I also serve on the FFL diversity committee.

I am a member of the Lincoln Council for International Visitors and served as its development consultant in 2018-2019. And I am a member of the Lincoln South Rotary Club. Citizen diplomacy is particularly important to me, and I have been an avid international traveler.

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## **NOMINATIONS CONTINUED**

I am a native of Oakland, NE, lived in Syracuse, NE for 17 years and have lived in Lincoln since 1988. I am a journalist and was co-publisher of the Syracuse Journal-Democrat and other publications with my husband, Francis. I have served as Nebraska's Lt. Governor and Director of the Department of Economic Development and retired as Nebraska State Director of Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2017. I have traveled to nearly 60 countries and all the states. Hobbies are reading, gardening, kayaking and genealogy.



**Ann Quinlan - Secretary**

**A**nn Quinlan joined Friendship Force in 2015. Born and raised in Lincoln, Ann taught English at Irving Junior High and Lincoln Southeast High School where she served as English department chair and year-book adviser.

As a teacher leader for the People to People High

School Student Ambassador program, she traveled to more than 20 countries including most of Europe, New Zealand and Australia (including countries that no longer exist: Czechoslovakia and the USSR). In addition, she participated in professional education study tours in Greece and China. She also spent a month in Kazakhstan as an exchange teacher for the American Councils Excellence in Education program.

Her first Lincoln Friendship Force Exchange was to Guadeloupe in 2016. Her most recent trip outside the U.S. took her to Haiti to assist in providing professional development for teachers at a mission school.

In addition to traveling, Ann enjoys involvement in professional organizations, volunteering, and reading.



**Milt Bayer - Treasurer**

**M**y wife Gayle and I joined Friendship Force in October 2004.

I grew up on a farm northwest of Clarkson Nebraska. I have 5 brothers and 5 sisters. After 4 years in the Navy I went to college and earned a degree in Accounting.

For 3.5 years I worked in public accounting at a regional CPA firm in Hastings, then in Fremont and finally in Lincoln. From there I took a job as an accountant at LES, where I worked for 36 years. Retiring in 2016 as a Senior Accountant.

Gayle and I had traveled to all 50 of the United States and 10 of the Canadian provinces as well as 33 countries in North America, Central America, Europe and Asia.

Hobbies - I used to count bicycling as one, but since retiring I rarely have time. In addition to Friendship Force, I volunteer as an usher at the Lied Center, helping build houses for Habitat for Humanity, and babysitting our five-year old twin grand nephews, which we have been doing since they were newborns.

I took over the position of Treasurer in 2019 and I'm continuing in 2020. It has been more challenging than I expected. I appreciate all the work done by my predecessors and hope I am continuing their good work.

**Life is good!**

## Virtual Learning: Culinary Diplomacy

By Bruce & Carlene Keim

As we are not having the regular LEO due to the pandemic, I watched a visual class arranged online by the Sacramento Friendship Force entitled: Culinary Diplomacy. It was hosted by Kelsey Maher who is a Program Manager for Food Specific, which is a nonprofit organization. I want to share this knowledge with my fellow Lincoln Friendship Force members. First off, if you're like me, you thought Culinary what? Actually; we've been practicing some of its elements throughout our programs with international and state exchanges. I'll give you a brief rundown of what it is and you'll see the similarities.

### Culinary Diplomacy

I the use of food to connect people from different backgrounds. There are three pillars of this:

#### Gastro diplomacy

When you associate a certain area with specific foods as sushi with Japan or tacos with Mexico.

#### Culinary branding

When the agricultural economy is built around a certain food as in Peru with its 50 different types of potatoes.

#### Citizen diplomacy

This is what the woman hosting this class is involved in. It's more of a one on one

learning experience with others. She went on to tell people how to get involved in this.

#### How to get involved:

1. Visit local restaurants and grocery stores of immigrants. Ask them how they use specific products. (Is this ringing a bell with you Lincoln members? LEO)
2. Read or cook your way through cookbooks from other cultures.
3. Attend events like Slow Foods East Bay Pop-ups.
4. Host dinners for international visitors showcasing local products. (Here's the bell ringing again, folks) So many of us have hosted these types of things. Bruce and I have tried to have Nebraska meals with flat-iron steaks, Bruce's home grown vegetables & relishes I've made, and homemade pies or made in NE pies, etc. People from elsewhere enjoy this; just as you enjoy tasting their normal food fare when you visit other states or countries.

So much more was discussed but too much to get into a small space. If you have question, please email me. Hope to see you all again sometime soon.



friendship force  
LINCOLN

### DID YOU KNOW?

One of the little known facts about The Friendship Force of Lincoln is it is duly qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a charitable organization. That status was obtained through an application filed by some of the early leaders of our club. As a consequence of its status, the club is exempt from taxation of its income, filing only a simple post card type of return with the IRS. Contributions made to the Club may be deducted by the donors to the same extent and in the same manner as donations made to other charitable organizations, such as the Salvation Army, any of the numerous medical related charities (American Heart Association, etc.) or educational foundations such as the UNL Foundation. If you so choose, the Club could even be designated as a beneficiary in your estate planning documents.



## Upcoming Journeys to Dream About



by **Wendy Horacek**

**T**here are journeys tentatively scheduled for 2021. Pencil these in for destinations or incoming journeys to plan for in 2021. Our outbound international match is Moscow and St. Petersburg for late 2021. Betty Starr and I went on this journey with the Madison club in September, 2012. Our host was fabulous. We saw all the historic sites you would expect to see in Moscow. Our visit to St. Petersburg was not a journey. I think it would be even better as a journey. I will be making a power point to share our experiences in Russia. Also, Russian Open World guests will be coming in 2021 and we will have an opportunity to visit them in Russia.

### **Outbound to Arizona**

Central Arizona would be a possible outbound journey in May. Summer months would be very hot in Arizona.

### **Inbound from Orlando & Austin**

Inbound journeys will be the Orlando club which was scheduled for May 2020 and the Austin, TX club. Our club had a great trip to Austin.

I'd like to pencil in members who are thinking I might like to go to Arizona. Plans probably won't start until the first of the year. I'll be looking for a coordinator for the Arizona trip Also let me know if you might be interested in the Russia trip. Remember all or most of your trip is paid when you are the coordinator; it all depends on how many members are on the trip.



### **Virtual Tour to Mexico**

by **De Tonack**

**I** registered for the free, relaxing and informative virtual journey called "The Faces and Places in Mexico" and was given that it would take place again at 3 pm CDT (same as Mexico Time) on August 4th. However, I

soon learned it was being via ZOOM and presented in Spanish. One of the directors of the programs, Valerie Malfara, gave me a link to a pre-recorded version in English: <https://vimeo.com/439295979> . Following directions, I easily downloaded the app Vimeo. It was approximately 1 hour in length.

This presentation was accompanied by many colorful photos and also colored by a bit of Spanish dialect in the English presentation. The host began with music and quickly moved to a "trip" to various towns, including photos, history, churches, weather and festivals. Other topics included famous Mexican ruins, celebrations including a description of the Day of the Dead celebration, witchcraft, folk dances, typical activities and meals during a day, and a visit to the best beaches. There were many additional tips to visiting Mexico including good roads to travel, best hotels for good rates, and sea life to observe. If you choose to visit in January, you will be part of a month long party to celebrate a saint. Best bit of advice from the host, "If you travel to Mexico, you have to be open to surprise, ready to party a lot, and bring your own medicines (U.S. ones stronger)."



## FFL Partnership Opportunity With Lincoln Literacy Become A Job Mentor



by Janet Walters

**D**uring these unusual times you might want to explore a new way to grow and contribute while remaining in your home. A new partnership with Lincoln Literacy provides Friendship Force members an opportunity to virtually meet and assist people from around the world who live right here in our own community. If you are unfamiliar

with Lincoln Literacy here is a link to their website [www.lincolnliteracy.org](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org).

### EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION:

**V**olunteer as a **Job Mentor** through Lincoln Literacy to help Lincoln Literacy's students prepare to find jobs. Work with an assigned student online during the fall session to offer support and guidance while the student seeks employment. To do this you must complete Lincoln Literacy's online training to learn about the details and to be cleared to work with their students. Once trained online by Lincoln Literacy, **JOB MENTORS** will contact their assigned Lincoln Literacy student and then work with him or her through Zoom or another online platform

and offer encouragement and technical assistance throughout the job search process. Lincoln Literacy's fall session begins August 31st so a prompt response is required.

Sample **Job Mentor** tasks include:

- Reviewing resumes
- Advice on cover notes or letters
- Interview practice and tips
- Suggestions for places to apply if the mentor has any ideas

### CONTACT:

If interested, contact FFL member Janet Walters at [janetlynnwalters@gmail.com](mailto:janetlynnwalters@gmail.com). She will forward your name and email to Clayton Naff, Director of Lincoln Literacy. He will then send you a form to complete to begin the process.

## Historian: First Quarter Report – April 30th 2020

By Mary Verschuur

**T**he quarter began with the first Board Meeting in January. Meetings for February and March followed.

New initiatives for FFL were undertaken enthusiastically by the board as 2020 got underway. These included creating a more dynamic on-line presence for the club on Facebook and other Social Media and updating the

club's website. The membership committee designed and distributed "business cards" for the members to hand out to friends and others interested in joining FFL. All in all, a high level of involvement by members of the board got the year off to a good start.

One of the two inbound journeys scheduled for 2020 (from New Zealand) was cancelled in February but plans were well in hand to welcome a group from Orlando,

Florida in May when the Corona Virus began to make its presence felt in the U.S. and that inbound journey had to be cancelled as well. Proposals for 2021 journeys were being discussed with nothing finalized before our lives were turned upside down. Because of the Corona Virus outbreak which began to impact life in the USA by the middle of March FFL and FFI had to adapt to the unusual circumstances

## **Calendar of Events**

### **September**

- **Tuesday, 8**, 1pm..... Zoom FFL Board Meeting
- **Saturday, 12**-Breakfast, 8:30am (TBD) ..... Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **Sunday, 27** ..... Annual Meeting/elections/bylaws  
Sheridan Lutheran Church or Park Shelter
- *18-20, Super Conference in Minneapolis Cancelled*

### **October**

- **Monday, 5**, 1pm (TBD) ..... FFL Board Meeting
- **Saturday, 10** 8:30am (TBD)..... Breakfast  
Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th

### **November**

- **Monday, 2**, 1pm (TBD) ..... FFL Board Meeting
- **Saturday, 14**, Breakfast, 8:30am (TBD)  
Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **Tuesday, 10**.....Newsletter Articles Due with flexibility

### **December**

- **Saturday, 5**, (TBD) Venue ..... FFL Holiday Party
- **Monday, 7**, 1pm ..... FFL Board Meeting  
Jim & Arlene Home, 5167 Old Farm Court
- **Saturday, 12**, Breakfast 8:30am (TBD)  
Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th

## **FFL Board of Directors**

Arlene Rea.....	President, Passports
Maxine Moul .....	Vice President, Marketing, Scholarship
Ann Quinlan.....	Secretary, Journey (Orlando)
Milt Bayer .....	Treasurer, Scholarship
Julie Albrecht.....	Past President, Open World, Passports
Mary Vershuur .....	Historian
Wendy Horacek .....	Journey Resource Coordinator
Carlene Keim.....	LEO
Bruce Keim.....	LEO
Carolyn Harp.....	Membership Recruitment
Barb Ridder.....	Membership Recruitment
De Tonack .....	Membership Mentoring
Mary Bryant .....	Membership Directory, e-mail communication
Judy Keetle.....	Membership Directory
Gayle Bayer.....	Membership Courtesy
Linda Kistler .....	Service/Diversity, Breakfast & Conversation
Nancy Comer .....	Service/Diversity
Sara Stephenson.....	Social
Jim Ecklund .....	Newsletter Design, Website