



# PASSPORT

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

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NOVEMBER 2020



*Sara Stephenson introducing the Social Committee*



*Lauren Riedesel discusses the "1918 Pandemic."*



*President Rea welcoming the members*



*Julie Albrecht discussing virtual Open World*



*Wendy Horacek, left, and Linda Kistler, right, sharing before meeting*



*Milt Bayer reviewing the finances*

## Annual Meeting September 26, 2020

After postponing the Annual meeting from August to September, the Social Committee suggested an alternate site from an indoor venue to an outdoor pavilion on the grounds of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

Around fifty masked and social distanced members enjoyed the sun and a strong breeze. To begin the meeting, members read together the Friendship Force Pledge.

Members voted for the executive officers for 2021: President, Arlene Rea; Vice President, Maxine Moul; Secretary, Ann Quinlan; Treasurer, Milt Bayer. All 2020 officers agreed to continue for another year.

The amendments to allow meetings to be held by electronic means and other clean-up items were passed unanimously. Electronic means must include real time discussion. The same quorum requirements are still in place.

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## Greetings from the President



**by Arlene Rea, President**

**A**s we enter into the eighth month of the COVID-19 epidemic, we must continually look for hope. Hope to find a cure, hope to save lives, and a hope we can get back “to normal.” Nelson Mandela said, “Our human compassion binds us the one to the other—not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.”

We, Friendship Force members, will continue to hope we will host and visit with people from other states, cities and countries to share our common humanity. In the meantime, we look for ways to visit and share with our own members and members of other clubs through a variety of different means.

*“Hope is a powerful thing. It inspires us to do the impossible and helps us carry on during difficult times. And hope can come in many different shapes and forms. It may be through our favorite music, or a good book, or even by listening to our favorite thought leaders.”*  
– Shutterfly Community

Last month, Friendship Force Lincoln Board of Directors surveyed our members to determine their level of interest and/or activities. (See Input from FF Members is Vital). As a result, members have stepped forward to lead different activities, in a variety of ways. A calendar of events for October and November was sent to you via an all member e-mail. We hope you will participate in one or more activities. Many of you have signed up for the Friendship Force International virtual tours, learning activities and being a pen pal. If you haven’t had the chance yet, visit these sites: Virtual Tours and other activities: <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>

To be a pen pal: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ok6FPR5gZva8YvOoMPLpKCddLGzhemByhZHg96Djb1k/edit>

In this issue of Passport, a December calendar is included. Look for future monthly calendars via all member e-mails.

Another feature of this Passport is Getting to Know... Look for articles about several of our members. In closing,

*“You are not here merely to make a living, you are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”* – Woodrow Wilson

**Yours in friendship,  
Arlene Rea**



**friendship force  
LINCOLN**

## Annual Meeting continued

*continued from page 1*

President Arlene Rea shared the State of Friendship Force Lincoln. Arlene indicated that the Board has continued to meet every month, except July which has always been a non-board meeting month. Board members have been calling members to check up on them and to offer conversation. Arlene and Maxine monthly attend the Midwest Leaders Meeting. Open World with Russian delegates was held by Zoom with great success. She encouraged members to take advantage of the virtual journeys and projects that members of Friendship Force International are leading.

De Tonack and Arlene Rea shared their experiences with Lincoln Literacy Job Mentoring, a project of the Service and Diversity Committee, facilitated by Janet Walters and Nancy Comer.

Wendy Horacek, Journey Resource Coordinator, indicated that journeys for 2020 and a portion of 2021 have been cancelled or postponed. The club is submitting journey choices, however, for the future.

Lauren Riedesel, Manager of the Beatrice Library and a member of the Nebraska Humanities Council, shared with us her findings around the world and in Nebraska about the "1918 Pandemic."

Interestingly, many of the same concerns were around in 1918: whether to wear a mask, gather, socialize, etc.

At the close of the meeting, names were drawn for gift cards to The Chocolate Season on which provided the snacks for the meeting. A special gourmet lunch for four donated by Jim and Arlene Rea was won by Gerald and Lois Poppe.

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### Austin & Lincoln Meet by Zoom

*by Arlene Rea*

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It has been a year and a half since Lincoln FF members visited the FF club in Austin. We had a terrific journey and made new friends.

We decided to renew our friendship by meeting by Zoom for a Happy Hour on October 20. Eight FFL members: Julie Albrecht, Milt and Gayle Bayer, Lois Katt, Carolyn Kitterer, Jim and Arlene Rea and Joanna Rogers attended, while eight members from Austin attended. We discussed, for about an hour, how we have coped with COVID and shared the variety of activities that have kept us occupied. Members are involved with genealogy research, walking, gardening, reading, sorting through years of pictures and assembling books, volunteering in safe ways, remodeling their

homes, and painting inside and outside their homes.

The group plans to meet again in January or February.



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### The Holiday Gift to Others

*by Sara Stephenson*

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The Holiday Gift to Others was established by the Social Committee after the all-member survey indicated that only a few would participate because of COVID in our usual Holiday Party.

Our social committee decided to forego our usual party and celebrate the holidays with a Holiday Gift to Others. (We will plan a social event sometime in the spring of 2021 when our community is safe to meet as a group.)

For our Holiday Gift to Others, we have selected The Center for People in Need since it is representative of all the people in our community.

At this time, many members have decided to participate by shopping on their own or by donating cash for a gift bag.

If you would still like to participate, please call or text me at 402-0525-3483.



## Getting to Know



### Bruce Keim

**B**ruce is sitting beside the shortest of their Fiddle Leaf Fig trees. Bruce's birthday is October 17.

He and his wife Carlene joined FF L in January of 2006. Bruce and Carlene are co-chairs of the LEO (Let's Eat Out) group. They have been hosts for many inbound journey ambassadors and have traveled extensively.

#### Bruce's questions:

- An important lesson I learned from my mother was to garden at home. As kids, mom had a large garden and I think hoeing the garden, podding peas, and picking potato beetles off the potato plants taught us a good work ethic as kids.
- My favorite city outside of the United States is Istanbul, Turkey.

- My favorite memory was when my dad, in 2009 and a World War II Army veteran, was able at the age of 86 to go on the WWII honor flight to Washington, D.C. He was proud and very honored to be able to go on the flight.
- The best place for coffee in Lincoln is at the Barnes and Noble Store.
- Someday, I would like to meet golfer Jack Nicklaus.
- I have lived in 12 homes or apartments.
- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is the Piedmont Bistro on South Cotner.
- My favorite comic strip is Pluggers.
- I do not use Facebook, Tweet, Snap or IG.



### Mary Bryant

**M**ary is flanked by her son, Jeffrey Blaise Sauter and his wife Heidi. Mary's birthday is October 30.

Mary has been a member of Friendship Force since March of 1993. She has served as FF Lincoln President from 1998 to 1999 and has served as membership chair for many years.

#### Mary's questions.

- As a child I did not have a favorite TV program. But I watched a lot of wrestling as I babysat for \$10 for an entire weekend in my hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.
- When President Kennedy was assassinated, I was at work as a dietitian in St. Louis. As I listened to the radio, I could not believe it had happened.
- The memories of my parents: My father taught me to be frugal and my mother had a beautiful smile. She died 8/13/57 when I worked at St. Louis County Hospital.
- My favorite book (fiction or non-fiction) is "Bad Blood - Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Start-up" by John Carreyrou. It was one of the three books chosen for One Book One Lincoln.
- I escorted Eddie Albert in 1958 to the opening reception of the Dietetic Convention in New Orleans. He played a gentleman farmer in the TV series, Green Acres. Eva Gabor was his co-star.

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## Getting to Know continued

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I wrote a postcard about that event and everyone thought I had slept with him, but not true.

- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is Olive Garden; I love their bread sticks, salad, Chicken Alfredo.
- My favorite holiday tradition is Thanksgiving when I bring a Sweet Potato Recipe that has been in Art's family for many years.



### Brian Ridenour

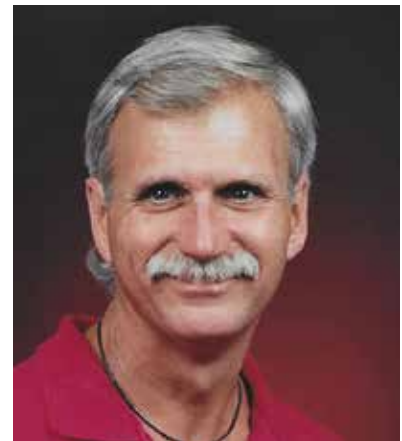
**B**rian's birthday is November 2. He joined Friendship Force in 1982

Brian is currently co-chair with Linda Kistler for the Saturday Breakfasts. As a member of the Friendship Force Lincoln Board, Brian has helped with writing the Bylaw amendments. He has traveled extensively with Friendship Force.

### Brian's questions:

- My mother died in 1980, so my memories are a bit foggy, but above all else my mother taught me the necessity to persevere, no matter what difficulties you face. Mom faced more than most people, but she never complained and she kept moving forward. I like to think I learned that trait from her. She was a remarkable person and mother.
- My favorite city outside the USA is Den Haag (The Hague), Netherlands. Our son lived there while studying at the Royal Conservatory of Music. We visited him several times and really came to love the city.
- I have many memories of both my mother and my father, but none that I identify as my favorite. They were good people and good parents.
- The best place for coffee in Lincoln is Scooters on South 70th.
- I met Senators Gene McCarthy and Bob Kerrey both during their run for the presidency.
- How many homes/apartments have you lived in? My best count is 22. But I may have missed one or two.
- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is Shen Café.

- What is your favorite comic strip? None – I stopped reading the comics many years ago. When I did read them, I suppose Doonesbury was a favorite.
- Do you: Facebook, Tweet, Snap, IG? I have a FB page, but rarely make any use of it.
- Are you a member of a family that included a veteran? I am a veteran. I served in the Army from 1970 to 1973, the Vietnam War era, but I never personally served in Vietnam.



### Milt Bayer

**M**ilt, photograph from the 90's. Milt's birthday is October 31.

Milt and his wife Gayle have been members of Friendship Force since October of 2004. He is currently serving as treasurer and has been a facilitator for the Saturday Breakfasts at Stauffer's.

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## Getting to Know continued

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He and his wife Gayle have traveled extensively with Friendship Force.

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### Milt's questions:

- The day President Kennedy was assassinated, I was in Freshman Algebra when the announcement came over the PA System.
- I remember my mother was easy to talk to. But, I really did not connect with my father until I was a high school graduating senior. I got out of school a week before everyone else and had him all to myself for that week.
- My favorite book is *The Letters From Earth* by Mark Twain
- I have not met anyone famous but as a young person I would have liked to have met Marilyn Monroe.
- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is The Rolling Wok. It has good food and is reasonably priced.
- An important lesson I learned from my father was the more you have, the more you have to take care of. Also, how to save money to get what you want.
- I grew up in southern Stanton County near Clarkson Nebraska. The phone number is 402-892-3717. I think it is still in service.

- My favorite holiday tradition is getting together with family.
- I Face Book. I have no idea how to Tweet, Snap and I do not know what IG is.



### De Tonack

**D**e is depositing her ballot for the most recent election. De's birthday is September 22.

De has been a member of Friendship Force since January of 2013. She has served as treasurer and has been a host to many in-bound journey ambassadors.

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### De's questions:

- I have memories of my mother baking home-made cinnamon rolls every Saturday morning.
- My favorite teacher was Mrs. Birth in grades 4,5, 6 at country school. Lots of

school plays and lots of helping and learning with and from other students.

- Someday I would like to meet President Obama.
- I have visited the Presidential Libraries for Presidents Kennedy and Eisenhower.
- My favorite dessert is Lemon meringue pie while broccoli is my least favorite food.
- My high school of Holdrege had two mascots: Dusters for boys and Twisters for the girls with a whirlwind for both. One story is that the name came from a 1920s game with Lexington when it was very dusty. The school's colors were purple and gold.
- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is Issara.
- I do FaceBook, but not Tweet, nor Snap, nor InstaGram.
- My worst chore at home is cleaning blinds on windows.



## Getting to Know continued



### Judy Keetle

Judy's birthday is September 21. Judy has been a member of Friendship Force since November of 2018. She is currently is currently on the Friendship Force Board and is co-editor of the FF L directory.

#### Judy's questions:

- One of my fond memories from childhood was sitting on my dad's lap on Sunday mornings while he read the funnies to us. He had great big hands and always pointed to the panel he was reading at the time.
- My favorite teacher was Mrs. Gilman, my 5th graded teacher, as she encouraged us to do projects of interest to us - in addition to the regular school-work.
- One of my favorite TV shows is Perry Mason. Although we did not get to meet him, we saw Raymond Burr come out of his dressing room when we were on a tour of the studio.
- Visiting all of the presidential libraries is on my bucket list. So far, I have visited Eisenhower's, Truman's, and FDR's.
- My favorite dessert is anything chocolate but my least favorite food is sauerkraut.
- I attended Lincoln Northeast High School, the Rockets, with colors of black and white.
- My favorite restaurant in Lincoln is Lazlo's South.
- I do not FB, Tweet, Snap, IG.
- My worst chore at home is cleaning the bathroom.

## To Be, Or Not To Be – A Member of FFL

by Carolyn Harp

Someone asked me the other day "Why would I want to continue my membership in our club, AND why would I want to encourage someone to join us"? That certainly is what's on MY mind these days. I have been a member of FFL for more than five years now, and have enjoyed trips that included Charlotte/Florida, Seattle/Portland, Thailand

and Montana. And at least as important, I've met and enjoyed the people who came to Nebraska from other clubs far and near, bringing their friendships and stories about their lives and homes, traveling and eating together with them, as we showed them the "treasures" we have in our own state.

I've appreciated the gatherings we've had, the monthly breakfasts we've shared, the entertainment

we've enjoyed at our meetings, and the Open World travelers who have come to Lincoln on occasion, bringing us new perspectives on the realities of life in other countries.

As we live through this COVID reality, I am pleased that we have Friendship Force International's site that invites us to virtually experience the travels of other clubs. There are also ZOOM

## To Be, Or Not To Be, continued

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presentations on the FFI site that we can sign up for – and I certainly invite members to do so. I enjoyed a Sacramento club ZOOM event on Soups and Stews, and not only met people from all over the world, but was sent a copy of all the recipes participants had sent in. Click here to experience all FFI has to offer by registering at: <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> Pre-recorded sessions can be viewed at any time and accessed at this site.

If you would like to be a pen pal, click on this website to be matched with someone with whom you would be compatible. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ok6FPR5gZva8YvOoMPLpKCddLGzhemByhZHg96Djb1k/edit> Our local club is developing a Calendar of Events, which will give us both ZOOM and in-person ways to stay connected during this unique time. I am thankful for our PASSPORT, that keeps us informed of what is happening in days to come, and what is the latest news for our FFI members and friends.

If you know of someone who has a sense of adventure, or wants to broaden their connection with people from all over our country, and the world, please share your experience of Friendship Force with them, and

invite them to explore the possibilities of Friendship Force. The day WILL COME when we can travel, engage with each other, and enjoy all that Friendship Force offers to us. When that person says “Yes, I think I would like information about this club”, let me ([charp3@neb.rr.com](mailto:charp3@neb.rr.com)) or Barb Ridder([bridder@neb.rr.com](mailto:bridder@neb.rr.com)) know, and we will make that contact with them.

Last word – I plan to continue my membership with Friendship Force Lincoln. I hope you will as well.

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### Did You Kvnw

**A**s of September 16, 2020, Friendship Force members have raised \$487,675.

- 1,078 individuals donated an average of \$151
- 189 clubs donated
- 43 individuals gave \$500 to \$999
- 23 individuals gave \$1000+
- Largest contribution was \$10,000
- 37 made contribution “in honor of”
- Members of Friendship Force Lincoln contributed \$9,540.

You can still participate by clicking on: [thefriendshipforce.org](http://thefriendshipforce.org).

## GUESS THE EXCHANGE/ JOURNEY





## Input from FFL Members is Vital

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by Judy Keetle

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In this time of COVID-19 and travel bans in place, the Friendship Force of Lincoln is looking for ways to keep the members interested and active. The FFL Board decided to contact as many members as possible through phone calls asking for their preferences. Here are the results of the membership survey:

### 1. Would you like to meet in person?

- Outside – 24
- Inside – 12
- Via Zoom – 12
- I do not care to meet – 13
- When COVID-19 is over - 3
- Groups of 6 or less – 2

### 2. Which activities would you participate in?

- Tailgate Party with 10 or less – 16
- Hiking/walking at Pioneers Park – 20
- Book Club – 6
- Discussions about past or virtual journeys – 13
- Happy Hour with our club/other clubs – 14
- Coffee and visiting – 16
- Other - Class on writing one's life story

### 3. Would you be willing to be an activity leader or facilitator?

- Milt Bayer – hiking
- Joyce Michaelis – no Zoom
- Gwen Meister – after COVID-19
- De Tonack
- JoEllen Polzien – discussion of past journeys
- Susan Pierce – discussion of past journeys
- Janice Jones is a travel director
- Lois Poppe – writing life's stories

### 4. If we held the Holiday Party in a large venue with proper health precautions in place with government approval would you attend?

- Yes – 8
- Depending on venue/COVID-19 – 6

Plans have been made to have several activities available for FFL members each month. Watch your email to find things of interest to you. We all look forward to traveling with Friendship Force in the future, but in the meantime, there are many ways to increase our global understanding.

## **Calendar of Activities for Friendship Force Lincoln**

**A**ctivities labeled (FFI), register for time and participation, via Zoom, at <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> Pre-recorded sessions can be viewed at any time and accessed at this site.

### **Become a Pen Pal**

- at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ok6FPR5gZva8YvOoMPLpKCddLGzhemByhZHg96Djb1k/edit>

### **December 3**

- HAPPY HOUR (FFL), 4:30 – 5:30 pm with Dorina Mahler. (Zoom address sent day or two before via all member e-mail)

### **December 5**

- Let's Paint Party – Christmas Cards (FFI), 1 pm

### **December 10**

- PAST JOURNEY (FFL): “The Joys and challenges of establishing FF club in Uganda and Kenya” with Lee and Kay Rockwell, 2:00 pm (Zoom address sent day or two before via all member e-mail)

### **December 12**

- BREAKFAST (FFL), 8:30 – 10:00 am via Zoom. Watch for Zoom link, discussion question

### **December 17**

- STROLL AROUND HOLMES LAKE PARK (FFL), Arlene Rea, 3 pm

### **Your own time**

- Watch numerous topics via FFI. See old friends from around the world. Visit <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>

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## **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