



PASSPORT

A Publication of The Friendship Force of Lincoln
www.friendshipforcelincoln.org

NUMBER 165

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NOVEMBER 2021



3 Chords & a Cloud of Dust provided entertainment

Annual Meeting at Mahoney Park

Again this year, the Social Committee decided that the safest venue, against COVID, was an outdoor space. The outdoor pavilion at Mahoney Park was an excellent choice with plenty of shade and accessibility as well as being spacious and well-protected.

Thirty 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 2022: President, Judy Keetle; Vice President, Maxine Moul; Secretary, Ann Quinlan; Treasurer, Milt Bayer.

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, by Zoom. Board members have been calling members to check up on them and to offer conversation. Arlene, Maxine, and Ann attend the monthly Midwest Leaders Meetings.

Sara Stephenson and Julie Splichal shared their plans for a Holiday gift event and the Holiday Dinner at the Venue. See further details on page 4.

Maxine Moul discussed the marketing committee's work in developing business cards and promotional brochures.

continued on page 3



President Rea presiding



Carolyn Harp preparing the snacks Photos courtesy of Gayle Bayer

President's Farewell



by Arlene Rea, President

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. My memories of the past two years were not as I anticipated when I began my term in January, 2020. In October, 2019, twenty-two members gathered to develop a Strategic Plan for Friendship Force Lincoln. The Plan was developed to re-invent our club by involving more members to share the load with a vision of spreading the word about the benefits of Friendship Force.

By January committees were assigned and ready to begin their work with the guidance of the Plan. In January and February we enthusiastically met in person as a board to guide our club using the Strategic Plan. By March we were all in isolation because of the COVID-19 virus and all its unknowns. The Board continued to meet by Zoom, while

looking for ways to keep in contact with our members. Board members called members to "check" on them.

FFL and FFI moved to offer the membership numerous ways to connect virtually and to stay in touch with one another within our club as well as across the international organization. Virtual became the keyword. Local members at FFL shared their past journeys on-line. FFI did likewise. Trivia nights and book clubs, and pen pals became popular, both within our club and in conjunction with other clubs.

The past two years have been challenging. We did not travel, nor did we welcome guest into our homes. Our membership numbers have dropped, but we hope that many of those members will rejoin as we begin to open our airways and meeting places.

A year and a half later, we are still under a mask mandate. But as more of us, adults and children, get vaccinated, we are seeing some glimpses of a mask-free future. We hope to meet in person beginning in December.

Congratulations to Judy Keetle as she assumes the presidency in January. She will have a wonderful executive committee and board to support her. Please give her the support that you have given me. It is my hope that

she will have a term that welcomes FFI members to visit our great city of Lincoln. In addition, that FFL members will travel to other cities and countries of the world.

There are some excellent opportunities in the works for 2022 and 2023. My wish is that you have the opportunity to be a part of all that Friendship Force stands for: "a world of peace is a world of friends"

In friendship,
Arlene Rea



Happy Birthday!

We though you might like to spread some joy. Send a note, e-mail or card to someone who has a birthday between December through January. We will honor future birthdays in the next Passports. If your name is missing, send a note to Judy Keetle. Have fun giving and receiving!

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| Barbara Rothenay | Dec. 9 |
| Joanne Brown | Dec. 15 |
| Barbara Ridder | Dec. 22 |
| Maryjo Shibata | Dec. 25 |
| Jeanne Zwiebel | Dec. 30 |
| Maxine Moul | Jan. 26 |
| James Rea | Jan. 30 |

Holiday Dining on December 4



by Julie Splichal
FFL Social Committee

The Social Committee is delighted to announce an evening of fine dining, music, and reminiscing about Lincoln Friendship Force's 40th Anniversary with a grand holiday celebration. Shed your loungewear and dust off your party clothes for a night on the town.

The event will take place at The Venue's Nebraska/Lancaster private dining room on Saturday, December 4th. Located at 4111 Pioneer Woods Blvd, guests will enter on the east side of the building. A cash bar will open at 6:00 PM for socializing, and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. The menu includes a plated salad, rolls, coffee or tea and a buffet with chicken bruschetta, roast beef and delicious sides.

The OLLI Ukelele group will provide our special music. Reserve your place by sending a check for \$20 per person to Julie Splichal, 2035 Main Avenue, Crete, NE 68333 by November 24th. The Board has graciously agreed to finance a portion

of each meal, the cost of the event facility, entertainment, and décor. (If you missed the deadline, contact Julie.)



Annual Meeting continued from page 1

She also indicated that the articles in the Neighborhood Extra have drawn an interest and two members have joined.

Wendy Horacek, Journey Resource Coordinator, indicated the 2022 Journeys with New Jersey, North Carolina and Russia are still tentative. Wendy has been in contact with them with the hope that it will be safe for travel in 2022, but they are operating from a point of caution. The Lincoln club will be submitting journey choices to Friendship Force International for the future journeys.

Ann Quinlan discussed Be the Bridge project and asked members to volunteer to help plans to build relationships in the community and attracting more diverse members. Several signed up to help.



Judy Keetle, Arlene Rea, Marilyn Watson and Carolyn Harp
(Photo by Gayle Bayer)

To help celebrate Friendship Force Lincoln's 40th Anniversary as a club, Pat King shared some of her experiences in the new club when she joined in 1983. The journey structure was much different at that time. On one occasion, they did not know to where they were traveling, only to pack for a week in a warm climate. Only when they boarded the plane, did they learn where they were going. It was fun!

The meeting adjourned with the singing of Let There Be Peace on Earth. The 3 Chords & a Cloud of Dust entertained the group allowing members and bystanders to dance on the nearby sidewalks.

The Social Committee of Sara Stephenson, Carolyn Harp, Ruby James, Dal Ronnau, Julie Splichal, Marilyn Watson and Jeanne Zwiebel served a variety of packaged goodies and bottled water.

Looking Forward to 2022



**by Judy Keetle,
President-Elect**

It really does take a “village” to make Friendship Force of Lincoln run smoothly. As the newly elected President of Friendship Force of Lincoln for 2022, I am looking forward to a great year for FFL! By following the FFI motto of “a world of friends is a world of peace”, there are many ways YOU can become involved. I’ve tried calling many of you over the past few weeks, but only connected with a few people.

Since I don’t know all of your talents and interests, please let me know which committee(s) you would like to serve on, chair, or co-chair:

Standing Committees

1. Membership – De Tonak, Chair
Recruit, keep records, etc.
2. Publicity –
Club promotion with various forms of media
3. Social – Sarah Stevenson, chair
Programs, events, etc
4. Newsletter –
Editor organizes the newsletter (4 x per year)
5. Breakfast and Conversation – Linda Kistler, Chair

Arrange for monthly breakfast socials at restaurants

6. Historian –
Maintain an up-to-date history of the club
7. Scholarship – Maxine Moul (VP), Milt Bayer (Treas), Lois Katt, Marilyn Watson,
Shall consist of five members
8. Service/Diversity – Nancy Comer
9. Web Site Maintenance – Jim Ecklund
10. LEO (Lets Eat Out) – Bruce and Carlene Keim, Chairs
11. Open World – Julie Albrecht, Chair
Plan and carry out programs on certain themes for visitors from around the world.

Ad Hoc Committees

1. Audit –
Audit the FFL Treasurer’s records at the end of each year
2. Budget – Judy Keetle (Pres), Maxine Moul (VP), Milt Bayer (Treas), Arlene Rea (Past Pres)
3. Nominating - Nancy Comer, Judy Keetle, FFL 2022 President

To let me know your areas of interest, please contact me:

jkeetle2@gmail.com,
cell: 402-432-0830 – text
home: 402-423-8618 – leave message

Afghan Refugees

**By Clay Naff,
Lincoln Literacy**

There were lengthy delays in getting Afghan refugees here, but they have begun to arrive. We’re currently assisting 12 of them, while enrolling more each day. The State Refugee Coordinator says that 68 (adults and children) are expected this week, with 122 more to follow before the end of the year. Some of the refugees we’ve met have very good English, but most are at a low level.

Since a change in the rules governing Afghan humanitarian parolees, they are now eligible for all refugee services. This means that a significant fraction with young children will not come to Lincoln Literacy and our partner, Southeast Community College -- at least not in the short run -- but will opt for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). TANF requires them to be under the management of Equus, a state contractor, and to take 10 hours a week of English at the Center for People in Need, among other things.

Note: Several Afghan refugees will be attending the Holiday Party at the Venue Restaurant private dining rooms on Saturday, December 4 at 6PM. As we become aware of opportunities for our members to be involved, we will keep you informed.

Volunteers Needed



Volunteer at Center for People in Need with Toyland Gift Giving Event

by Carolyn Harp,
FFL Social Committee

Want to give a hand to help make the holidays brighter? The Center for People in Need needs volunteers to help with their Toyland gift giving event. Volunteers are needed in various capacities from December 3 – 7.

To volunteer, go to cfpin.org, click on Get Involved, and scroll down to Volunteer (signup genius). Choose Toyland 2021, and choose your time slot to help out. There are several choices to use your talents.

Thank you for the gift of your time.

Help Needy Teens this Holiday Season

by Carolyn Harp

Want to help a teenager have a Happier Holiday? The Center for People in Need is asking for donations of gift cards that might appeal to teens. These might be from fast food restaurants, Claires, Starbucks, Game stores, Scheels, etc. Amounts of \$10 or \$15 would be great. Cards need to be delivered by December 1, so they can be included in the Toyland Gifts planned for December 5 through 7.

Carolyn Harp will be collecting the gift cards. Please send or deliver them to Carolyn by November 27. Her address is 2905 S 41st, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Thank you for helping teens in our city.

FFL Social Committee Members

Sara Stephenson, Carolyn Harp, Ruby James, Dal Ronnau, Julie Splichal, Marilyn Watson and Jeanne Zwiebel.

Courtesy

If you know someone who is ill, hospitalized or needs an uplifting card and note, please contact Gayle Bayer at bayergayle@gmail.com or 402-486-1415.



friendship force
LINCOLN

Journeys for 2022

by Wendy Horacek

We will soon have journeys on our 2022 calendar. New Jersey club members are discussing a possible June date for their incoming journey. Central North Carolina is our other match for an outgoing to their club. The possibility of our journey to Moscow and St. Petersburg is looking bleak due to Covid and the political climate.

I will be needing coordinators for either of the journeys. If you are interested, I will be having a training soon. Please contact me at (402) 960-1180 or whoracek@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

November 30th, 2021



GIVING TUESDAY

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving back. On the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, people all around the world are encouraged to think about the organizations they value and support them with a donation.

JOIN US

We hope you will join us this year in making this our most successful Giving Tuesday ever. The Covid 19 pandemic continues to impact Friendship Force and we still rely heavily on the support of our members.



DONATE NOW

Our campaign is officially live and ready to accept donations and to be shared generously among friends! If you would like to make your donation early this year, please visit our [2021 Giving Tuesday donor page](#) and lock in your gift today!

Open World: Russian Media Literacy Group Visit tentatively set for the week of May-13-22

Our colleagues at the Congressional Office of International Leadership (a.k.a. Open World Leadership Center) have reached out to FFL to begin discussing new dates for our postponed Open World program from 2020. This includes our Russian Media Literacy group that was originally scheduled to visit Lincoln in April of 2020. With the new vaccine mandate for

international travelers and numbers looking better, they feel ready to resume planning! Of course, everything is still somewhat tentative pending return to robust exchanges and no other travel restrictions/events preventing this travel. Open World staff are monitoring everything very closely, especially with concern to the Russian programs due to the accepted vaccines issue.

ALEX, Academic Learning Experience tentatively scheduled for May

Lincoln Friendship Force has been invited to participate in a new State Department-sponsored exchange program! The Academic Learning Experience (ALEX) is a highly competitive, short-term, in-person exchange program for students ages 17 to 19 from over 60 countries around the world.

The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs is still gathering information and preparing to officially approve and announce the program. Our friends at the American Council for International Education hope to be able to officially announce and move forward with the program soon.

We will keep you posted. We will be needing homes to house the students and others willing to develop the program. If you can participate, please let President-Elect Judy Keetle know.

It sounds like there is some flexibility with dates, but the Open World program coordinators suggest the week of May 13th, with a DC arrival date of May 11.

FF Lincoln will need volunteers to host the delegates, to plan for activities, etc. If you can help in any way, please contact Julie Albrecht at 402-464-2702 or 402-580-2910 or jalbrecht@unl.edu

Friendship Force of Lincoln “Let’s Eat Out”

by **Bruce Keim**

Villa Amore Italian Eatery and Wine Bar next to The Country Inn and Suites on north 27th Street was the location of our October 7th Let’s Eat Out meeting. Twelve members of the Lincoln Friendship Force club were in attendance.

Nick, our waiter, told us about the restaurant and the menu. Nick was from the small country of Albania. Albania is north of Greece and just across the Adriatic Sea east of Italy. He came to the U.S. to travel and work, starting in Wisconsin. For the last 3 years he has been in Lincoln, working at Villa Amore for the last year. Florim Ramadani is the owner and has had several other Italian restaurants in Lincoln.

The white tablecloths make it seem more formal but the restaurant still has a casual feel to it which al-



FFL members enjoy Italian food

lowed for great fellowship and conversation.

The menu had many traditional Italian pasta dishes but also included steaks and specialty pizzas. The entrees are served with a choice of salad or soup and a fresh baked roll. My selection was the meatballs sauteed in marinara sauce with angel hair pasta. I especially liked this dish with the smaller angel hair pasta. I had a beautiful garden salad. But I will say that the soup would have been an excellent choice also.



Villa Amore Italian Eatery and Wine Bar



Nick, waiter and native of Albania, described the dishes. Pictures are courtesy of Bruce Keim

LEO Committee Members
Bruce and Carlene Keim
Sara Stephenson

Let's Eat Out at Rendang Malaysian Restaurant



Nick, waiter and owner, described our food as a fusion of Chinese, Malaysian and Indian cuisines.

FFL members enjoy Malaysian Cuisine. Photos courtesy of Arlene Rea.

by Bruce Keim

The last Let's Eat Out for this year was held at Rendang Malaysian Restaurant located at 27th and O Street on November 3, 2021. Fourteen Lincoln Friendship Force members attended what is described as the first and only Malaysian restaurant in Nebraska. The parking lot for Rendang is on the north side of the building and with rush hour traffic is easy to miss, causing extra time to get there.

Our waiter told our group that Rendang has been open for about 6 months. He described Ma-

laysian food as a fusion of Chinese, Malaysian, and Indian cuisines. The main ingredients in Malaysian foods are shrimp paste and coconut milk. The menu at Rendang is smaller but included entrees that were prepared to perfection and had a colorful presentation. Most entrees included a type of rice and fresh vegetables like cucumbers or tomatoes. I ordered Hainanese Chicken. It was steamed chicken served with chicken flavored rice. A house chili sauce, soy sauce and chicken soup were served on the side. Hainanese chicken comes from Hainan, China, a tropical island at the southern



Nick, waiter and owner, described the dishes as a fusion of Chinese, Malaysian and Indian cuisines.

tip of the country. It is also associated with Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. The Hainanese chicken was superb and this is a good selection for someone looking for a not so spicy dish.

The menu included several drinks. Milo Dinosaur was one of the drink selections. It is an iced chocolate malt beverage topped with milo powder. The KL Sunrise, a mocktail made of mango and lychee juice looked like an interesting combination.

Desserts were also part of Rendang's menu. Some of our members tried Tau Foo Fah (soybean pudding) which is a Chinese dessert made with very soft tofu with a clear or brown syrup.

The next LEO will be March 2022. Look for details next year.

40th Anniversary of FFL, Sherre Jahde Memories



Sherre and Dorothy of the Netherlands

In 1980, I was a young stay at home mom to 2 little girls. A friend of mine was involved with the Mayor's Committee for International Friendship. She asked me if we would be willing to host a young lady from Japan for a few days and we said yes. We enjoyed that experience so much, that when I saw an article in the paper soon after about a new organization called Friendship Force, I decided to investigate. Although at that time, we couldn't afford to travel abroad, we signed up to host on that very first exchange from Newcastle, England, and that started a lifetime

of adventures with international visitors from FF and several other organizations. Our guests from Newcastle were a recently widowed lady and her young adult daughter. We enjoyed them so much and kept in touch at Christmas over the years. In the last few years, I have been to visit Dorothy, the daughter, who now lives in The Netherlands, twice. We skype frequently and are fast friends!

Our next FF hosting was the Colombia exchange in September of 1983. We hosted a mom and her 2 young daughters. Although we did not speak Spanish, and they did not speak English, with the help of dictionaries we communicated quite well, and had a great week. FFL had a short class in Spanish for us before they came, which helped. I felt "fluent" in Spanish by the end of the week. LOL! Sadly, we lost touch with them after a few years.

In the fall of 1984, we travelled on our first and only exchange, to New Zealand. It was a perfect match! My husband wanted to learn to scuba dive, and our host husband was a scuba diving instructor. In one week, we were like family and have kept in touch with them ever since. He died several years ago, but his wife and I communicate frequently via video chat. They came to Lin-

coln a few years before he died, and I am hoping to get back to NZ to visit her. I was planning that in 2020, until Covid intervened!

In the fall of 1991, I hosted a family with 2 young girls from East Germany. It was their first trip to a non-Communist country. We had a wonderful week with them. The husband really bonded with my toddler son! I had not seen them since, just kept in touch at Christmas, until a couple of years ago when the wife, (her husband is now deceased), her grown daughter and family came to Orlando and asked me to come join them. This family has been on 25 or so exchanges all over the world with FF. We reconnected like we had never been apart, and I am planning to go visit them next summer.

International hosting has given my family lifelong friends from all over the world! I am so grateful to have had these experiences! My daughter told me once that hosting international people is one of the most important things that has shaped her life. We all learned that first impressions are not always accurate, that people are the same all over the world, and that we have more similarities than differences! "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!"

CALENDAR December through June

December 1	Gift Cards for Teens to Carolyn Harp	
December 3 – 7	Volunteer at People for Center of Need’s Toyland	
December 4	Annual Holiday Party.....	6:00 PM
December 6	FFL Board Meeting.....	12:00 PM
		Rea Home
December 11	Breakfast with Linda Kistler	8:30 AM
		Stauffer’s Café & Pie Shoppe
January 3	FFL Board Meeting.....	1:00 PM
		TBA
January 8	Breakfast with Linda Kistler	8:30 AM
		Stauffer’s Café & Pie Shoppe
January 10	Newsletter articles due with flexibility	
May 13	Open World, Russian Media Literacy	
May (TBD)	ALEX	
June (TBD)	New Jersey incoming Journey	

FFL Board of Directors

Arlene Rea.....	President; Passports; email communications
Maxine Moul	Vice President; Marketing; Scholarship
Ann Quinlan.....	Secretary, ToBeTheBridge Coordinator
Milt Bayer	Treasurer; Scholarships
Julie Albrecht.....	Past President; Open World
Linda Kistler	Breakfast & Conversation; Service/Diversity
Wendy Horacek	Journey Resource Coordinator
Bruce and Carlene Keim	Let’s Eat Out (LEO)
Gayle Bayer	Membership Courtesy
Judy Keetle.....	Membership Directory
De Tonack	Membership Recruitment and Mentoring
Nancy Comer	Service/Diversity
Sara Stephenson.....	Social Committee

(Carolyn Harp is representative to the board)

Ex Officio Members

Mary Bryant	Club Consultant
Laurie Ann Scott	FFI Liaison
Mary Verschuur	Historian
Jim Ecklund.....	Newsletter Design, Website
Sara Stephenson.....	Social Committee

Dear FFL members and friends,

The pandemic has been difficult for all of us. It has been particularly difficult for non-profits such as Friendship Force International. FFI relies on dues and journeys to maintain the services that we enjoy.

FFI exists today because of the incredible generosity of members and clubs, operational grants from the US, UK, Australian and French governments, and some major belt-tightening.

Despite the setback, FFI has been able to:

1. Launch a broad series of FF Virtual Experiences
2. Develop a new multi-lingual website
3. Send timely, multilingual, communications to all members through my.friendshipforce.org
4. Plan our first post-pandemic World Conference in 2023.

To continue positioning FFI for a stronger future, the following changes have been recently approved by the FFI and FFL Boards of Directors:

1. 2022 dues: FFI (\$25, a \$5 increase, per member) and FFL (\$20, no increase) dues are \$45 per member or \$85 for a household. FFL dues deadline is December 31, 2021 while FFI 2022 dues are payable in January, 2022.
2. 2023 dues: FFI (\$30) and FFL (\$20) dues are \$50 per member or \$95 for a household. FFL dues deadline is December 31, 2022 while FFI 2023 dues are payable in January, 2023.

The FFL Board had set the dues for 2022 before the Annual Meeting at \$40 per person and \$75 per household. The FFI Board announced the dues change from \$20 to \$25 after that, so we are \$5 short per member. If you have already paid your 2022 dues at the \$40/\$75 rate, please send \$5 per member. If you have not paid yet, please pay at the \$45/\$85 rate. If you have already paid at the \$45/\$85 rate, thank you. Send your check before December 31, 2021 to: The Friendship Force of Lincoln, Milt Bayer, P.O Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Note: *In the future, we will need to collect dues by December 31 before the following year so we are current with FFI.*

The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Form

_____ Family-\$85 _____ Individual-\$45

Date _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member _____ Birthdate (month, year) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail _____

New members receive a complimentary name badge:

Check your choice. prefer _____ pin or _____ magnetic closure.

Name(s) on badge _____

Make check payable to:

Friendship Force of Lincoln

Send to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503. Dues are for the calendar year (January-December)