



PASSPORT

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FEBRUARY 2022



HOLIDAY PARTY

by Julie Splichal

Thankfully the December 4th holiday celebration, at the Venue's Party Room, took place before the major Omicron outbreak.

We all immensely enjoyed an elegant evening with friends, music, and meeting the Afghanistan refugees. The OLLI Ukulele group provided festive light-hearted singalong entertainment. The Afghanistan refugees shared personal experiences about evacuating from their war-torn country, leaving their families behind, and their appreciation for finding refuge in Nebraska.

It was a night to remember and solidified the importance of the Friendship Force's mission of "a world of friends, is a world of peace."



FROM THE FFL PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 2022



Judy Keetle, President

Thank you to all 86 Friendship Force of Lincoln members who are continuing to support the mission of Friendship Force – a world of friends is a world of peace. The past couple of years have been anything but normal due to the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic. Traveling domestically and internationally has been curtailed. FFL members have adapted well and have found ways to learn about other cultures and prepare for future travel - always keeping the safety and health of our members in mind. The FFL Board has done amazing work under very trying circumstances. Meeting via Zoom has been priceless.

Friendship Force International was founded in 1977. This year, 2022, is the 45th anniversary of FFI. They are inviting interested people to

donate \$45 this year to support this non-profit, international organization. Friendship Force of Lincoln started in 1980, so we have a long-time history together. We look forward to many, many years of collaboration in the future.

It is looking like the Covid-19 pandemic will soon be under control, so FFL is preparing to shift into high gear. Journey Resource Coordinator, Wendy Horacek, is busy lining up people to work on inbound and outbound journeys in 2022. Let her know if this is something you would like to do. We will continue programs and committees that have been successful in the past, as well as look for new ways to bring value to FFL members.

On a personal note, I want to give many thanks to past-President Arlene Rea for being a great mentor. Her experience, knowledge, and guidance are invaluable to me! Thanks also to VP Maxine Moul, Secretary Ann Quinlan, and Treasurer Milt Bayer for continuing in their offices for the third year. Many Board members are also continuing to serve. Hopefully this year will be close to normal. Since I am relatively new to FFL and to the Board, I am relying on you to do your part to make this a great year for The Friendship Force of Lincoln.



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 February through May. 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!

- Larry Harnish - Feb. 6
- Tom Higley - Feb. 7
- Arlene Rea - Feb 9
- Nikki Scott - Feb. 11
- Lois Katt - Feb. 28
- Kay Rockwell - Feb. 28
- Joyce Michaelis - Mar. 4
- Ann Quinlan - Mar. 4
- Jane Kinsey - Mar. 10
- Pamela Beranck - Mar.19
- Kay Ridenour - Mar. 26
- Richard Allen - Apr. 11
- John Comer - Apr. 27
- Janice Jones - Apr. 27
- Mary Rabensberg - May 2
- Jacque Scholz - May 5
- Larry Scott - May 8
- Bridget Disney - May 9
- Linda Kistler - May 18
- Vicki McDonald -May 26

ALEX, AN OPPORTUNITY

We are happy to announce FFL has been accepted to host ALEX April 30 through May 8.

The American Leadership Experience (ALEX) is a new short-term program offered by the United States State Department to approximately 900 students, ages 17 to 19 years, who couldn't participate in a 10-month long study abroad program in the United States due to the pandemic. The program will include a week in Washington, DC and then a week in host cities across the United States.

Very stringent protocols are being implemented to ensure students, staff and hosts are safe. Students must prove vaccinations for COVID, pass a COVID test before and during the travel and stays, and practice safety measures of masks and distancing. Home hosts, also, must follow safety protocols and vaccination status. Because young people are involved, home host(s) will need to undergo criminal background checks. FFI will facilitate the checks.

This is a great opportunity for Friendship Force of Lincoln to host 10 to 12 students from the Ukraine and Slovakia, in addition to a leader selected by the State Department.

The planning is just in the beginning stages, but we will need members to be a home host or day host, to provide a group meal, to plan day events and/or welcome/going away dinners, etc. If you would like to participate in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Arlene Rea, ALEX coordinator, at arlene-rea14@gmail.com

FFL – THINGS TO KNOW

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special! It is a day to celebrate you! FFL wants to send online greetings to each of our members. If we don't yet have your birth date (month and day only) let us know. Online Birthday chair is JoEllen Polzein.

COURTESY

Gayle Bayer is Courtesy chair. Let her know at bayergayle@gmail.com if a card should be sent to an FFL member because of an achievement, illness, death, etc.

DAY TRIPS

Because international travel is "on hold" because of the covid pandemic, FFL is going to learn about other cultures at places an hour or so from Lincoln. Each month, interested FFL members will carpool to the site of our tour. Lunch will be at an ethnic restaurant close by. The January day trip to the American Museum of Germans from Russia was postponed due to covid restrictions. Day trips will resume when the covid situation is under control. Lee Rockwell is Day Trips chair.

VIRTUAL TOURS

Although it may not be possible to travel everywhere we would like to go in person, it is possible to travel virtually to many places in the world. Each month or so a virtual tour will be enjoyed by interested FFL members who will then meet via Zoom to discuss the tour. Sylvia Griffith is Virtual Tours chair

WALKING GROUP

Keeping fit is good for us all. It is never too early to prepare to walk on cobblestone streets or uneven ground on your next trip. Starting in January FFL will schedule 2-mile walks. Jan 24 was our first walk of the year through Antelope Park followed by walks on Feb 10 and 22.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS PAMELA FREUDENBURG & SUSAN FULLER



Pam, celebrating a birthday with High Tea in West Palm Beach.

PAMELA FREUDENBURG

I am a return member to Friendship Force. I was solo on home stay trips to FF-Greater Harrisburg, PA and with leader Pat Novak to Ontario. Home stays are part of what drew me to FFL.

I also cherish a trip to NW Germany with Family Tree Tours, and hope to do genealogical research and join them to Ireland. I think it is an important support group and I have gained friendships and irreplicable memories even in times when group travel is not possible. I enjoy the social events, especially when a group presents the highlights of their trip.

When I was seven years old my mother's sister gave me a black and white vinyl purse with many foreign landmarks on it. I knew right then that I wanted to go to all these places. I carried it around thinking I must be the most sophisticated individual that ever lived on a farm in Madison, Nebraska. The tootsie rolls she filled the purse with are long

gone, but the dreams of traveling to these places are not. Another of my favorite childhood possessions was a globe and I would lazily spin it and daydream of what it must be like to visit these places.

I am a fan of Rick Steves "Monday Night Travel" and Samantha Brown's "Places to Love." I enjoy live travel podcasts on Beamz. Angel Castellanos "The Travel Ambassador" is a blog I follow.

Only 13 more and I will have visited all 50 states. I make a point of getting in some good walking or hiking wherever I go. I'm open for a road trip anywhere (good car snacks included of course). Cruising is nice. I would like to travel by rail through the Rocky Mountains.



On left, Susan Fuller; with her sister Bev

SUSAN FULLER

Susan is living in a 150-year-old house, making it her home. At 11th and E you'll see her Queen Ann companion. Yellow pine woodwork,

never painted; ten foot ceilings, 1500 square feet. Cast iron sink and drainboard. She can see the Capitol from her bedroom. Susan's had some help with restoration chores. Others have hung wallpaper, painted, and refinished woodwork. She has removed miles of exterior layers of lead paint, inch by inch, melting it with a heat gun then scraping it off. She found previous workers painted over ivy and misinformed caulkers squeezed the goop into horizontal crevices! Susan will be

splurging on custom Victorian cabinets for the kitchen. An Australian heeler puppy, an English coon hound and a black Lab keep her company.

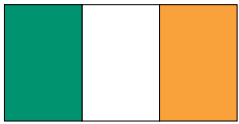
At work, Susan is a financial specialist within the UNL College of Engineering. Given her business accounting expertise, she tracks expenses and works with new faculty on the restrictions of spending startup grant money. Startup grants are funded by the university to help faculty establish their labs. These labs are used for teaching and research.

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2022 LEO - TASTING ETHNIC FOODS FROM IRELAND, JAPAN, MEXICO & ITALY!

By LEO chairs:
Bruce & Carlene Keim

LEO (Let's Eat Out) is a Friendship Force activity where several times a year members will meet at different ethnic restaurants in Lincoln. "Good food and good company. It doesn't get any better than this".

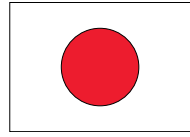


Wednesday March 30th - 5:30PM. McKinney's Irish Pub in the Haymarket for Irish food. We will check out some Irish foods like Irish Stew, Irish Dunker, Irish Coddle or Shepherd's Pie. Maybe you will want to try out one of over 20 different beers that they offer. How about a starter like their Guinness Onion Dip and chips?



Thursday May 5th- 5:30PM. For Cinco De Mayo Day we will be at EL POTRO located at 3410 South 10th Street. It is one of Lincoln's newest Mexican restaurants in the former Pizza Hut building at 10th and Calvert. Owned by two local families with over 40 years of experience. Choose from many specialty dishes, fajitas and enchiladas. They also have a Gulf of Mexico

section on the menu for the shrimp and crab lover.



Tuesday July 19th- 5:30PM. Koen Japanese BBQ and Sushi located at 2601 Jami Lane, Suite 100. Look forward to authentic Japanese BBQ flavors from foods pre-marinated. Every customer becomes their own chef with personal smokeless grills built right into each table. Fresh Sushi is also available to order at Koen.



Tuesday September 6th- 5:30PM. It's Italian at Napoli's Italian located at 5571 South 48th Street. Napoli's is family owned and operated by Chef Besim Shala. Taste some of the best food from Besim's own award-winning recipes

Some of the dates and times could change if some other club activities are scheduled. You will get an email on upcoming LEO activities about 2-3 weeks before the activity is scheduled. LEO's are a great way to meet other club members or just have great conversations with old friends. We hope to see you there in 2022.

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Susan's traveling companions have often been family. She camped with her kids. She toured Italy with her sister and Italian speaking brother-in-law. She traveled Malaysia with her son and family. In Kuala Lumpur Susan visited a Hindu temple carved into a mountainside, monkeys were all over! She floated down a river in a rickety boat to see thousands of fireflies, like Christmas lights. She went to California to care for her dad prior to his passing. With her sister she sailed Alaska's Inside Passage on a National Geographic cruise.



FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMBERS PROVIDE JOY FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH

by Carolyn Harp

The 2021 holiday season was made a little brighter by a number of our club members, who responded to the request to provide gift cards for the Center for People in Need's Toyland Event in early December. These gift cards were specifically requested for teens, and our responses included cards for restaurants, sports venues, fashion accessory shops and grocery stores.

The cards, totaling \$365, were delivered on a morning when the Center was abuzz with volunteers preparing for the big Toyland gift event. The staff person who received the cards was very appreciative of our contributions.

We have received a Thank You note from Jo Ann Emerson, Director of Fund Development at the Center for People in Need, who wrote: "We are so grateful for the gift cards your members donated for our Toyland

event. They were a popular option for parents looking for a special gift for their teen. – Your support of our projects is so appreciated. It, indeed, takes a village to ensure our community grows strong and its members are well cared for. Thank you."

Thank you for your response to our club's request for some special holiday giving. The community benefits from the caring of people like you.



GET READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS

**By Wendy Horacek,
Journey Resource
Coordinator**

No inbound or outbound journeys occurred in 2020 or 2021 because of the COVID Pandemic. Friendship Force International provided Zoom virtual journeys. Club members signed up to participate in Zoom meetings and saw presentations of past journeys as well as shared experiences and stories with FFL

members. Health mandates are still in place as of mid-Feb 2022, but experts predict that the pandemic is winding down. So...

Get ready to pack your bags. Journeys are scheduled for 2022. An outgoing domestic journey to Central North Carolina is scheduled for June 22nd to June 28th. Please send me an email (whoracek@yahoo.com) if you are thinking about taking this trip. An add-on could be arranged with another club or a visit to the East if there is interest.

The Southern New Jersey Club is excited about coming to visit us October 24 to October 31. They recently traveled to Colorado on a journey and have another journey scheduled to Africa this year. Ann Quinlan and Marilyn Watson will be

co-journey coordinators for this incoming New Jersey journey. They will need several members helping as home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, planning welcome and farewell dinners, etc. Please let them know if you can help.

Although the future is unknown, we will be ready when the travel restrictions are lifted.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REACTED TO QUOTES FROM YOGI BERRA'S BOOK, "WHAT TIME IS IT? YOU MEAN NOW?"



by Milt Bayer, Treasurer, Executive Board, FFL

Yogi Berra and I agree that you can get old pretty young if you don't take care of yourself. When I was in my mid-to-late 30's I had significant back troubles – and if you have not had back troubles – that means

almost all body movement hurts. I decided that I needed to slow down and not try to do everything. I thought, "If this is "what it feels like to get old", and I want no part of it." I decided to try chiropractic treatment and was recommended stretching exercises. I got better; I added more time on my bike which also helped. I even twice completed BRAN (Bike Ride Across Nebraska). That's 500 miles in a week. In 1989, my first BRAN, we started in Imperial, rode southern Nebraska ending at Chalco Hills Recreation area near Omaha. The weather was perfect for touring. The experience was so gratifying I did it again in 1998. We began in Gering with a strong head wind, followed by rain and hail through central Nebraska and finish with good

weather at the SAC Museum. In retirement, I've added gym workouts two to three times a week. Retirement has also gotten rid of the "work stress" which was always a pain-in-the...back.

I became a full-time volunteer with Habitat for Humanity about five years ago. I work all day, twice a week building houses. I especially enjoy siding and I'm good at clean-up. I also enjoy being an usher for Lied Center events. My wife Gayle and I have been on twelve outbound Journeys and have enjoyed every one of them. We also hosted for four inbound journeys. For 8+ years I hosted the Saturday Morning Breakfasts, where local friendships are formed.

I feel younger now at 73 than I did when I was 37!

"There are lots of things in life you can't control, but how you respond to those things is the one thing you can control."

by Judy Keetle, President, Executive Board, FFL

Judy is drawn to the objective of Friendship Force: a world of friends is a world of peace. Throughout her life she has enjoyed making new friends. As a child, Judy, sister, and parents traveled by car throughout Nebraska

and surrounding states. She made a friend in Wyoming and they were pen pals for many years. After marriage and 3 kids, the Keetle family traveled by car and plane to many great places in the U.S. and Canada. Reading books about their destination, out loud together as they drove was memorable - parents reading pages, older kids reading paragraphs, and early readers pairing with a parent to read all of the words they recognized. When Roger and Judy be-

came "empty nesters" they started to travel further from home. They joined FFL in 2010 and joined a journey to Connecticut. They also traveled to SW England and Freiburg, Germany with FF Virginia. They made great friends with their home hosts. After Roger died, their friends from Burnham-on-Sea invited Judy to accompany them on their winter getaway. She plans to meet up with their German hosts when she travels to Oberammergau next June for the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REACTED TO QUOTES CONTINUED



Passion Play. As of this fall, Judy has been to all 50 states. Now her goal is to see more of the world.

Judy is an adaptable, flexible, go with the flow person with an emphasis on “go”. Someone once said that there were three stages in life - the go-go stage, the slow-go stage, and the no-go stage. She is in the go-go stage and frustrated that travel is curtailed because of the worldwide covid pandemic. But as Yogi Berra once said, “There are lots of things in life you can’t control, but how you respond to those things is the one thing you can control.” Although we can’t control the covid situation and travel restrictions, FFL can find new ways to continue learning about people and cultures throughout the world - virtual tours, day trips, the walking group, inbound and outbound journeys, as well as enriching friendships within FFL - Breakfast and Conversation and Thursday Afternoon Club via Zoom, LEO dinners at ethnic restaurants, etc. Friendship Force International has many

opportunities too - go to my.friendshipforce.org to find out how to become a pen pal, join their book club, etc.

Volunteering has always been important to Judy. Currently she is actively involved in several church and Lincoln library programs. Last year she read 138 books and made many, many crocheted items. Walking and having lunch and dinner with friends, as well as attending her four grandchildren’s sporting and school events are her favorite pastimes. She has found that washing hands often, wearing masks, and staying 6 feet apart is really not that hard. She looks forward to a fun, educational year as President of Friendship Force of Lincoln making new friends along the way.

Maxine Moul, Vice President, Executive Board, FFL
Yogi’s admonition strikes me as especially relevant as I move into my seventies: “You can get old pretty young if you don’t take care of yourself.”

I retired from a lifetime of all-consuming work, where my free time with family did not allow me to emphasize exercise. I walked and biked, but not on a sustained and regular basis. With retirement and the pandemic, exercise in the outdoors became increas-



ingly important. I now try to walk about an hour outside every day, even on subzero days, and average about 2.2 miles. But caution keeps me off the snow and ice-laden sidewalks and streets.

I also do aerobic exercise at least twice a week in our swim spa and take advantage of my husband’s NuStep on the coldest days. Not only have I been able to retain flexibility, but my mental health has been maintained during the worst of COVID-19 and isolation. With good weather I mix social time and exercise and enjoy paddling with the Lincoln Drinkin’ Kayak Club. I have an inflatable, folding kayak and I carry it and store it like a suitcase.

And what joy there is in being out with wildlife and birds. I also have many favorite hiking and biking trails,

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REACTED TO QUOTES CONTINUED

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spots close to home and feel that Lincolmites are blessed with amazing outdoor opportunities. My favorites are in Wilderness Park, Pioneer Park and the Mo-Pac east trail. Getting away from traffic noise and the hustle and bustle of the city are blessings. I also enjoy the camaraderie with Friendship Force friends during our outdoor walks at the Nature Center and indoor walks at Gateway Mall and encourage others to join us.



**Ann Quinlan, Secretary,
Executive Board, FFL**

“You can observe a lot by watching – and you can learn a lot too.”

One of my favorite things about traveling with student groups is the opportunity it provides for seeing new places and understanding new cultures through their eyes and my own at the same time. Two experiences for the price of one!

It was the 4th of July and we were on our tour bus headed for Munich. It has been a melancholy day for

many of the students who spent their conversations reminiscing about past 4th of Julys at grandma’s house, having picnics, lighting fireworks and grilling hamburgers and wondering what their families back home were doing.

After settling into our hotel, we herded our group out for a walk to the Hofbrauhaus, the iconic German pub, to experience some local color. And who were the other customers at the pub that night? Every American service person stationed in the Munich area! With no language barrier the mood was festive and watching our students celebrate a truly American holiday with their new friends from home in a land far from home made

the world seem a little smaller. We heard more cheering for the USA and more patriotic songs there that night in Munich than I have ever heard sung on the 4th of July. We didn’t even know our students knew the words to “God Bless America” and “You’re A Grand Old Flag”.

Watching the students literally skipping back to the hotel, happy for their holiday experience, made the somber mood of the morning fade away. Choruses of “this is the best 4th of July I’ve ever had” prevailed among the group. I think it was best because we celebrated and shared it with fellow world travelers in a place that though far from the USA, felt like home.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – SECOND HALF YEAR 2021

Mary B. Verschuur, Historian

The latter half of 2021 saw a gradual, but always tentative, easing of Covid related restrictions. In September the FFL Board formulated a Covid Policy regarding meetings gatherings and travel. The FFL Board continued to meet via Zoom through November but December’s meeting was an in-person affair. The President and her husband hosted the Board for a pre-meeting luncheon.

The All-Member General Meeting in September was also an in-person event although it was held outdoors at Mahoney Park Shelter #2 with 28 members in attendance. Three Chords and a Cloud of Dust provided musical entertainment. In-person Breakfast gatherings were reinstated and drew a small but enthusiastic attendance each month. Likewise Let’s Eat Out, LEO, was able to hold several successful dinners at restaurants varying in ethnicity from Indian to Italian to Malaysian.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

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The annual Holiday Party was held in a private dining room at the Venue restaurant. The FFL Board subsidized the cost of the meal for members and OLLI's Ukulele group provided pre-dinner entertainment.

Journeys remained conspicuously nonexistent throughout 2021. FFL was offered slots on two domestic journeys organized by the San Diego and St. Louis clubs but to my knowledge no one from FFL joined either journey. Meanwhile Wendy Horacek (our journey coordinator) has been in the forefront of planning for 2022. The club has been offered an outbound to Moscow and St. Petersburg and a domestic journey to North Carolina. An inbound journey to Lincoln by a club from New Jersey is also on the calendar for FFL in 2022. Of course, all these activities are circumscribed by any Covid restrictions that come into place relative to travel next year.

The club's Newsletter Passport came out regularly each quarter, filling in the members on the club's events and activities.

Finances were a major issue as the year came to a close. When FFI raised its fees to member clubs and re-structured its fees for journeys FFL had to raise

membership fees for 2022 and beyond. FFL again solicited donations to keep the organization afloat but its financial position and its mission continues to be constrained by the pandemic.

At the All-Member General Meeting, Ann Quinlan invited the group to explore some ways to connect with local ethnic groups in Lincoln. "Be the Bridge" would be a means to get to know the customs and cultures of the Afghan and refugees making new homes in Lincoln. It would not involve travel but could be an avenue to making contact with and getting to know families with backgrounds different from our own. Volunteers for the project have shown interest but no definite plans have been formulated to date.

Another opportunity to connect with the world and its people was also discussed at the All-Member General Meeting, President Rea reported that all FFI clubs in the US have been invited by Open World and the State Department to help in its Sponsored Academic Learning Experience. This high school exchange program was cancelled in 2020 and again in 2021 and many young people lost their opportunity to spend a year with a family in the USA. These young people will be invited to visit the US

in the summer of 2022 and will be in need of host families for a few nights as they travel across the country. It was thought that FF families might prove to be suitable short term hosts to these young people.

2021 has not been an easy year for Friendship Force. It has been a year of holding on and waiting for better travel days. In many ways it seems as if the club has had to re-invent itself. The President and the Board have to be commended for their energy in exploring various ways of keeping the members engaged, despite the restraints of Covid.

FFI BOOK CLUB



By Judy Keetle

One of the things I have enjoyed for the past few months is the FFI Book Club. Each month a group of FF members from all over the world read the same book and then get together via Zoom to discuss it. Our leader lives in Sweden. Everyone speaks English. FFI members register each time

at the my.friendshipforce.org website to join in the monthly discussion.

In November 2021 I joined in when the group read their 3rd book *The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca* by Tahir Shah. In December we discussed *Out of Istanbul: a journey of discovery along the silk road* by Bernard Ollivier. On February 2 *The Puma Years* a memoir by Laura Coleman was discussed and a date was chosen by the group to talk about *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia at the next meeting. Most books are available at bookstores. I have gotten the books through the Lincoln City Library. Only the December book was not in their collection, so they got it for me through interlibrary loan from Wisconsin for a \$2.50 fee.

Through reading these books, I have learned about the authors' experiences in countries far from Lincoln. So far, the books have been non-fiction, but there are also fiction titles on the list of recommended books. What a great way to learn about other countries and their customs!

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB (TAC)

**by Dorina Mahler,
TAC Facilitator**

Friendship Force of Lincoln will host a monthly virtual happy hour via the video conference platform Zoom on a Thursday evening, between 4:30-5:30 pm every month, beginning in January, 2022 until December, 2022, with a break during the warm months. You will receive a Zoom link for the TACs a few days before each one.

The format of the meetings will be consistent: the members will introduce one another and we will discuss a topic suggested by the host in advance, subject to change at the last moment based on input from the call participants.

DATES & TOPICS:

- **January 20, 2022** - "One Word" 2022
- **February 17, 2022** - Let's talk about love!
- **March 17, 2022** - Let's talk about ancestors. Optional - wear green for St. Patrick's Day.
- **April 14, 2022** - Let's talk about Easter traditions.
- **October 13, 2022** - Let's remember dear ones that are no longer with us.
- **November 10, 2022** - What are you thankful for this year?
- **December 8, 2022** - Let's talk about winter holidays and traditions!

We will end the evening by talking about our dinner plans, and we'll end the call with a toast.

“NEWCASTLE....NEVER HEARD OF THIS PLACE”

By Laurie Ann Scott,
joined in 1981

Newcastle....never heard of this place....and yet there was a buzz about international visitors from this city “upon the Tyne” river in England! My friend Alice Moore had been tasked to help organize this mammoth undertaking in conjunction with Omaha leaders for a fledgling organization called The Friendship Force. The club structure hadn’t formed as yet, but was a wonderful solution to spread the workload of an organization that was actually about to go under due to the fact that the earliest travel was priced too cheap!

In 1981 I heard this amazing “exchange” was going to be repeated as Nebraskans were flying to Korea and Koreans were coming here. We volunteered to host a couple and were happily awaiting their arrival in Omaha with our three small daughters, all dressed alike and holding a Welcome sign they had made. No one came! One of our ambassadors had an emergency surgery, but fortunately, the young tour leader of their entourage, Lee Shinook, came home with us in their stead. We took Shinook to kindergarten show and tell, a visit to the Weaver potato chip factory, to the ETV studio, and the state capitol. Early

exchanges had much more free time.

Shortly after the Koreans left, radio announcements said people could apply for an upcoming Friendship Force exchange. I applied to go to an unknown destination, along with our oldest daughter who would be ten. It would cost \$450. It should be safe. That’s all we knew! Over the winter, one of our groups conducted weekly classes in German at Wesleyan, to help us become better guests! Ich habe ein klein geshink fur zie! (I have a little gift for you,) along with the “polite words” like guten morgen, bitte, danke.

This was to be the last direct exchange with a chartered plane full of ambassadors from one country going outbound and the plane returning with ambassadors to visit here. In order to go, you had to provide the host family for the incoming ambassadors. The chartered plane damaged a wing flap on its arrival and our group had to return home from the airport, some hosting other ambassadors. The next morning, we were off and in this day before cell phones, we encountered a group of very tired Germans, who had been waiting in a holding room at the Hanover airport this entire time!

Kara-Jean and I were greeted by our host couple holding wilted flowers! It

was late at night by the time we got home but we could read the chalk signs of welcome their children, Tini and Thies, had drawn on the sidewalk to their door. Tini was just a little younger than our daughter and five year-old Thies, went to bed with a little cassette recorder of his favorite composer, Mozart! Ines and Helmut and I were all the same age and after almost forty years, we have become the best of friends! They have visited us several times and we have visited them on subsequent trips as I took our two younger daughters individually to Sweden and Tajikistan. Larry and I have celebrated birthdays with them and connected whenever we are in Europe and consider them our Deutsch Famile! They call us “The Scotties!” We are invited to their 50th anniversary later this year and will be joining them next August to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau. We all thank the Friendship Force for providing us with this special relationship that has lasted a lifetime.



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN 2022 COMMITTEES AS OF FEBRUARY 2022

It takes many people to make any organization function. Below is a list of the 2022 committees for FFL. If you would like to help, please contact me - Judy Keetle, President jkeetle2@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

Breakfast and Conversation	Linda Kistler
Historian.....	Betty Starr
Journey Resource Coordinator	Wendy Horacek
Let's Eat Out (LEO).....	Bruce & Carlene Keim
Membership.....	De Tonack, chair
Courtesy.....	Gayle Bayer
Directory	Arlene Rea
Online birthday greetings.....	JoEllen Polzein
Newsletter/Passport.....	Judy Keetle and Arlene Rea, co-chairs
Newsletter formatting	Jim Ecklund & Dorina Mahler
Writer.....	Phyllis Arth
Open World.....	Julie Albrecht
Publicity/Marketing	
Marketing	
Print Media	Phyllis Arth
Social Media	
Website Maintenance.....	Jim Ecklund and Dorina Mahler
Scholarship. (VP) Maxine Moul, (Treas) Milt Bayer, (Non-Board Members) Marilyn Watson, Kay Straube	
Service/Diversity.....	Nancy Comer, chair Committee: Patricia King, Linda Kistler, Maxine Moul, Janet Walters
Social.....	Julie Splichal & Sara Stephenson, co-chairs Committee: Carolyn Harp, Dal Ronnau, Marilyn Watson, Jeanne Zweibel

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Audit.....	Susan Fuller & Janice Jones
Be the Bridge.....	Ann Quinlan
Budget	(Pres) Judy Keetle, (VP) Maxine Moul, (Treas) Milt Bayer (Past Pres) Arlene Rea
Day Trips.....	Lee Rockwell
FFI Liaison	LaurieAnn Scott
Nomination.....	(Board members) Nancy Comer & De Tonack (Non-Board members) Lois Katt
Review Policies and Bylaws	Brian Ridenour
Thursday Afternoon Club (TAC).....	Dorina Mahler
Virtual Tours	Sylvia Griffith
Walking	

2022 CALENDAR - FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN

*FFL Board Meetings 1st Monday of each month at 1:00, except no meeting in July
Breakfast and Conversation 2nd Sat of each month at 8:30
LEOs several times each year*

JANUARY

- 3rd - FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 via Zoom
- 8th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 via Zoom
- 12th – Day Trip, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 631 D St, 2:00
- 20th - FFL Thursday Afternoon Club (TAC) via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 24th – Walk through Antelope Park, 1:00
- 25th - Passport/Newsletter articles & photos due to Judy
- 29th – Virtual Tour – The Siege of Leningrad Series – Episode 1 – 11:00, discussion 12:15

FEBRUARY

- 7th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 via Zoom
- 10th – Walk through Antelope park, 1:00
- 12th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 via Zoom
- 15th – Passport/Newsletter sent to members
- 17th – FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 22nd – Walk through Antelope Park, 1:00

MARCH

- 7th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 via Zoom
- 12th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer's Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 17th – FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 30th – LEO at McKinney's Irish Pub, 151 N 8th St, 5:30

APRIL

- 4th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 via Zoom
- 9th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer's Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 14th – FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 25th – Passport/Newsletter articles & photos due to Judy
- 30th-May 8 – ALEX students from Slovakia/Ukraine

MAY

- 2nd – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 via Zoom
- 5th - LEO at EL PORTO, 3410 S 10th, 5:30
- 14th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer's Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 15th – Passport/Newsletter sent to members
- TBD – Open World journalists from Russia in Lincoln (May 13-21?)

JUNE

- 6th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 11th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer's Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 22nd-28th – Outbound journey to Central North Carolina

2022 CALENDAR - FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN

JULY

- No FFL Board Meeting in July
- 9th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 19th – LEO Koen Japanese BBQ and Sushi, 2601 Jami Lane, Suite 100, 5:30
- July 25 – Passport/Newsletter articles and photos due to Judy

AUGUST

- 1st – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 13th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 15th – Passport/Newsletter sent to members
- TBD – Annual Meeting to be held Aug/Sept
- (Nominations list due to board 60 days prior to annual meeting and to membership 30 days prior to annual meeting)

SEPTEMBER

- 5th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 6th – LEO, Napoli’s Italian, 5571 S 48th, 5:30
- 10th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.

OCTOBER

- 3rd - FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 8th - Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 13th - FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 24th-31st – New Jersey inbound journey
- 25th - Passport/Newsletter articles and photos due to Judy

NOVEMBER

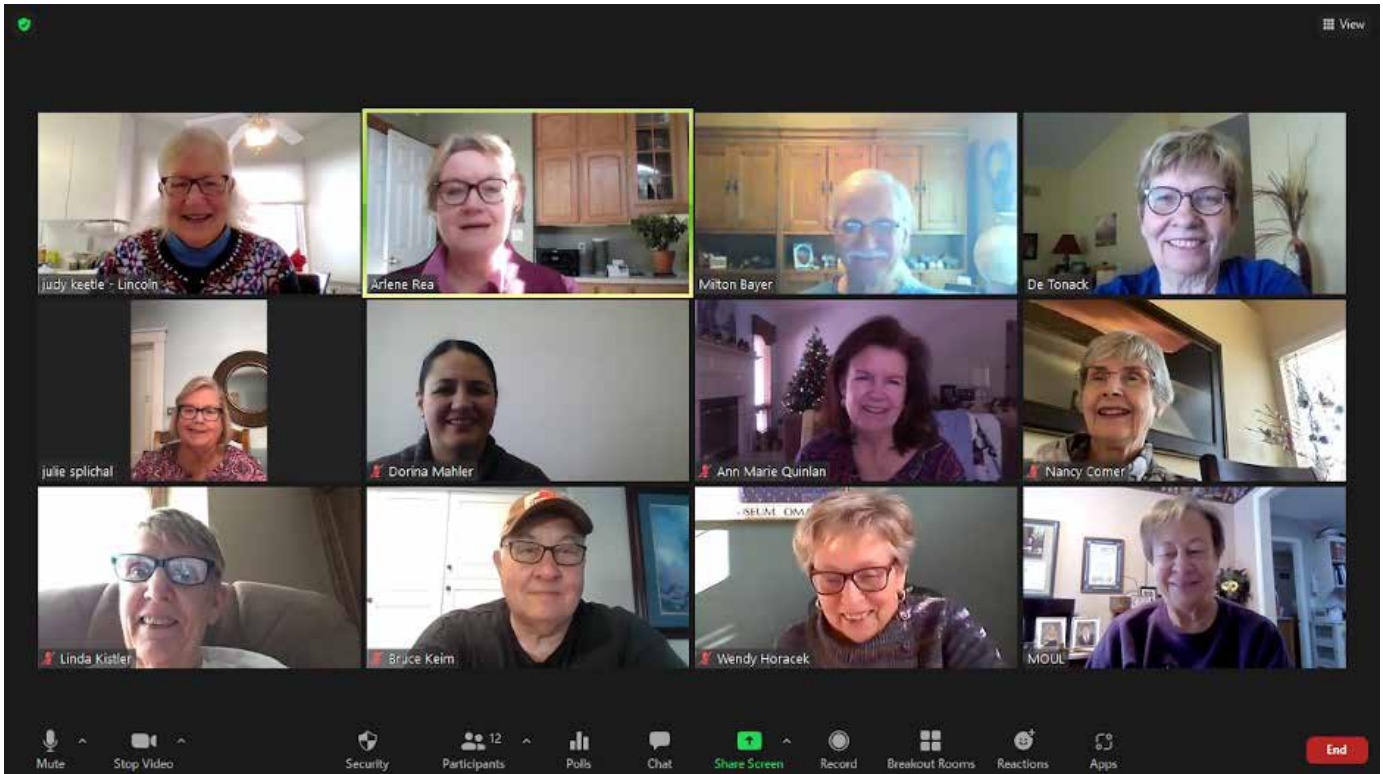
- 7th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 10th – FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 12th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- 15th – Passport/Newsletter sent to members
- TBD - LEO ?

DECEMBER

- 5th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00
- 8th – FFL TAC via Zoom, 4:30-5:30
- 10th – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 - Stauffer’s Cafe, 5600 S 48th St.
- TBD – Holiday Party

2023 dues are payable by Dec 31 Bylaws, Article IX Finances, Section 1 “The membership year shall be from January 1 to December 31; dues payable prior to January 1 of each year”

As of 1/25/22



FFL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Keetle , President, Passports.....	jkeetle2@gmail.com
Maxine Moul , Vice President.....	mmoul1@allophone.com
Ann Quinlan , Secretary.....	amquinlan33@gmail.com
Milt Bayer , Treasurer.....	mabayer48@hotmail.com
Arlene Rea , Past President, Passports, ALEX.....	arlenerea14@gmail.com
Linda Kistler , Breakfast and Conversation	ljkestler@hotmail.com
Betty Starr , Historian	bettystarr10@gmail.com
Wendy Horacek , Journey Resource Coordinator	whoracek@yahoo.com
Carlene Keim , LEO (Let's Eat Out).....	carlene33@gmail.com
Bruce Keim , LEO (Let's Eat Out).....	brucelkeim@gmail.com
De Tonack , Membership Chair.....	dtonack@neb.rr.com
Gayle Bayer , Membership Courtesy.....	bayergayle@gmail.com
Arlene Rea , Membership Directory.....	arlenerea14@gmail.com
Julie Albrecht , Open World.....	jlabrecht1@unl.edu
Publicity/Marketing	position open
Nancy Comer , Service/Diversity.....	nrcomer43@gmail.com
Julie Splichal , Social	juliesplichal@hotmail.com
Sara Stephenson , Social.....	slstephen33@outlook.com

If you know of someone who is interested in learning more about FFL, let Membership Chair De Tonack know their name(s) and contact information.