



# PASSPORT

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

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MAY 2023

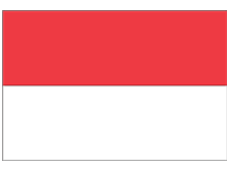
## Friendship Force of Lincoln 2024 Assigned Journeys

BY PAT KING, JOURNEY RESOURCE COORDINATOR

**A**fter Covid and various delays, FFI has assigned FFL an exciting outbound journey. Check your maps and the internet, we are going to JAVA, Indonesia in March 2024.

We will fly into Jakarta in northern Java, then proceed to BOGOR. Bogor is considered a bedroom community of Jakarta. It is about one hour from Jakarta and much cooler. It is known for its extensive botanical gardens, zoological museum, and agricultural school. It is known for fresh fruits, sour vegetable salads, and, surprisingly, apple pies and baked macaroni.



 The second homestay will be YOGYAKARTA. It is in central Java and is considered the arts and culture center. Expect to find batik textiles, wayang puppetry, and silver goods. Yogyakarta is near the Bobobudur and Prambanan archeological centers.

Java is mostly a Muslim country; however, it is a safe and welcoming country. Other than Bali on the southern tip, the country is very affordable.

A Journey Coordinator will be appointed soon. In the meantime, if you are interested in going or serving on the committee, please email Pat King, [patfking123@gmail.com](mailto:patfking123@gmail.com).

We have also received an incoming journey from San Diego, CA to be arriving in July, 2024. This should give everyone time to let their California friends consider coming for a visit.



*Image: Temple of Prambanan, near Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia*



## From the FFL President May 2023

### JUDY KEETLE, PRESIDENT



*Photo: Judy Keetle in NZ showing the silver underside of a leaf of a Silver Fern, which is the NZ national symbol.*

Spring is such a great time of the year - birds singing, flowers blooming, leaves coming out on the trees, longer days, and warmer temperatures. It is easier to get out and about without wearing heavy clothing. FFL is going strong holding regular, on-going events, including the FFL Board meetings on the 1st Monday of each month; TAC Zoom meetings meets on the 2nd Thursdays of each month; Breakfast and Conversation on the 2nd Saturday of each month; and LEO Let's Eat Out lunches and dinners at ethnic restaurants are enjoyed monthly during the "warm" months.

In February a few FFL members met to brainstorm ideas for activities FFL could do came up with lots of good ideas such as

(1) Speakers Bureau – FFL members are available to present 15–20-minute programs for community groups. At this time FFL programs are scheduled in May and August. (2) Bunko afternoon; (3) Trivia game; (4) FFI Bingo; (5) Lasting Friendships – zoom meetings with friends made through FF journeys, (6) game night, (7) meet at cultural centers. Other ideas are welcome.

On March 5, De Tonak organized a "Speed Traveling" event at the Lincoln Public Libraries Eisely branch.

On April 16, Marilyn Watson organized a "Bunko Afternoon" at the Lincoln Public Libraries Gere branch.

My FFL roommate Sharre Jahde and I traveled to Australia and New Zealand with the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City FF Club in March/April. We had a WONDERFUL journey and plan to present our experiences at an FFL meeting soon.

The Connecticut FF club is unable to host us in June/July. The disruption in the COIL office will postpone the group of Open World educators coming to Lincoln.

A highlight is the Special Journey "Better Living Through Food and Agricultural Innovations" hosted by FFL during August 24-Sept 1.

FFI has sent us the 2024 journeys assigned to FF Lincoln. We will be hosting the inbound journey from San Diego, CA, and we are invited to participate in the outbound journey to the Java island in Indonesia.

I hope to see you soon at a FFL event!

In friendship,

Judy



## Open World/COIL Program on Hold

BY JUDY KEETLE, PRESIDENT

**M**embers of Friendship Force of Lincoln have been preparing for a visit from Pre-school and Kindergarten Principals from Romania, July 28 – August 5, 2023, and we recently learned that this visit is now on hold.

I received an email from Taryn Roberts, the newest member of Friendship Force International team working very closely with Dana Jackson on Open World Programming, on April 17, 2023.

“We received a very unexpected announcement from COIL that they are putting all programming from July 1 to October 1 on hold. This has never happened in the history of the program and Dana and I were very very surprised. We immediately requested a meeting with COIL officers so we could get some more information. We were told that a variety of factors happened to coincide that drastically impacted their cash flow (inflation, transportation rental cost increases, and doubling of the cost of refundable plane tickets). They are temporarily suspending programming during Q3 as a stopgap measure.

Unfortunately, COIL does not have all the details in regards to what this means for FFI and for the local host communities. They are unsure if the programs will be re-scheduled. They also mentioned that they may be able to start programming back on September 1. I wish that we had more information to share with you at the time. We will continue to update you as we are able. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to me or Dana by email or phone. We might not have the answers but we will do our best to help navigate this tricky and unprecedented situation.”

FFL is disappointed by the delay and we will await more information regarding the Romanian educators’ visit to Lincoln.



**Y**our birthday is a day to celebrate you! Consider sending a card or an email to someone who has a birthday between June and August. May Birthdays were in the previous newsletter.

### June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Susan Pierce
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Lee Rockwell
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Susan Grieger
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Dal Ronnau
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Cathy Lund
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Dorina Mahler

### July

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Comer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Richard Spencer
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Jim Ecklund
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Gayle Bayer
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Whittstruck
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Sharre Jahde

### August

- 6<sup>th</sup> – Midge Dublinske
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Richard Callaway
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Betty Starr
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Kathryn Neyens
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Carlene Keim
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Kay Straube



## FFL Special Journey in Late August

BY ARLENE REA, SPECIAL JOURNEY COORDINATOR

**T**he planning committee has planned a spectacular week for visitors with the theme: “Better Living Through Food and Agricultural Innovations”. The proposed itinerary is available here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12KTJv6Tyk3mJlXHt1iHVQCsUuYdtJgGhW08a7nZtz98/edit?usp=sharing>

### **FFL is asking for help from members — we need ambassadors!**

At this point in time, nine ambassadors have signed on. We want and need fifteen ambassadors to come to Lincoln. Do you have Friendship Friends who might be interested? Friends and/or relatives who might want to learn all that is happening with food production and distribution? Yourself? Please contact them and encourage participation.

This Special Journey is open to FF members throughout the world August 24-September 1. Participants will hear from UNL staff to learn about research being done; attend the Nebraska State Fair; visit the Nebraska State Capitol; hear Governor Pillen and Nebraska Director of Agriculture Vinton; visit and learn about different aspects of farming: dairy, fish, organic, fruit, meat production, and grains; see the latest in farm equipment; and enjoy meals which showcase food grown in Nebraska.

The link to sign on to this journey is: <https://forms.gle/StH5V1HAS7pLYjVp6>

Contact Arlene Rea at [arlenerea14@gmail.com](mailto:arlenerea14@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## Better Living Through Food and Agricultural Innovations

**D**o you ever wonder how the food you eat gets to your table? If you do, you are invited on a Special Journey to Lincoln, Nebraska (USA) in the heart, approximate center, of the United States. Nebraska is a major contributor of foods to the United States and to the World. Nebraska's pioneers and immigrant farmers provided the foundation for food production, but technology and science have changed the landscape for today's farmers.

Some of the activities on our itinerary:

- A visit to the University of Nebraska, a land grant university, to hear about their research in the environment and climate change to sustain farming in Nebraska and in the world.
- We will attend the Nebraska State Fair and visit the Nebraska State Capitol, an architectural wonder of the world.
- Visit and hear about the different aspects of farming: dairy, organic, fruit, meat production and grains.
- See the latest in farm equipment and climb into the "cockpit" of a combine. We will also learn the costs of sustaining agriculture.
- We will strive to provide our ambassadors with meals which showcase foods grown in Nebraska.

**Better Living Through Food and  
Agricultural Innovations in Lincoln,  
Nebraska (USA)  
-Special Journey-  
Journey #23154**

August 24 - September 1, 2023

\$750 USD

Journey Coordinator:  
Arlene Rea: arlenerea14@gmail.com



Source: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXxoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.g1f0685bb566\\_0\\_17](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXxoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.g1f0685bb566_0_17)



## Ten Ways to Participate in FFL Without Leaving Your Town

1. **Practice your welcoming skills.** Host one or more persons in your home for up to a week when they visit our club and city from other states or countries.

2. **Don't have a guest room?** Host a small group dinner, be a day host for a working host, or just attend the club welcome and farewell dinners for incoming Journey participants.

3. **Open up your world.** Serve on a committee to plan the week's activities for the incoming ambassadors; or help with an Open World visit of Russian delegates who want to learn about democracy and how it works.

4. **Travel by proxy.** Attend the All-Member Meeting featuring a recent Outbound or Domestic Journey. See their slides, taste the food from that country, and hear about our members International experiences.

5. **Get out of the house.** Attend diversity events held in Lincoln to meet people and learn about other cultures; for example, a picnic with the local Sudanese community.

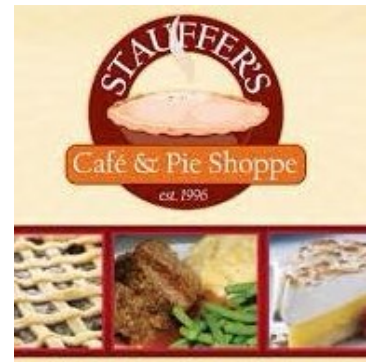
6. Build local friendships. Serve on a committee working to build friendships among people of other ethnicities, cultures and religions in our community.

7. **Be an FF leader or a coordinator.** Work on a Committee that could result in you as a Journey Coordinator for an incoming group; or help coordinate local activities with other organizations such as OLLI or diversity groups.

8. **Learn more about Lincoln.** Represent Friendship Force visibly at city events that have similar goals. Maybe volunteer to help with World Day on the Mall or attend a Mosque to learn about Ramadan.

9. **Be a community Leader.** Work with the Lincoln Council for International Friendship or a similar organization to assist in finding hosts for international visitors and students who want to experience a home stay or have dinner in an American home.

10. **Let's party!** Participate in social events for members of Friendship Force. We have breakfast once a month, Let's Eat Out, holiday parties, game nights, and quarterly meetings, all at different locations around Lincoln.



## FFL Members Play Bunco

BY JUDY KEETLE, PRESIDENT

**M**arilyn Watson organized an afternoon of Bunco for FFL. On Sunday, April 16 FFL friends gathered around three tables at the Gere branch of Lincoln Public Library to play Bunco - a game of dice.

**Let's Roll!**



Bunco is an easy game to learn and it is a great mixer. The game is generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice in a series of six rounds. A bunco is achieved when a person rolls three-of-a-kind and all three numbers match the round number.

We had snacks to eat while playing. Marilyn Watson awarded prizes for high, 2nd, and low scores at the end of the game.



*Photos taken by Dorina Mahler*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TXxx7Wcc5kjbvx9P9>



## May 2023 LEO at Abbie's Place

BY BRUCE AND CARLENE KEIM

**M**ay LEO took place in Butler County, Nebraska, in the small town of Abie with a population of 69 people at Abie's Place—a bar/restaurant/bakery located in the town's old elementary school. We ate in what Tonette the owner called the 'Half Gym'. On weekends, Abie's hosts Polka bands and dances. Friday nights are fish fry nights and once in a while, she will open on Sundays and make a special Duck dinner.

*Photo: FFL members dining in the 'Half Gym' at Abie's Place in Abie, NE*



When we entered the restaurant, we passed by a counter full of homemade Kolaches and some loaves of rye bread. Poppy Seed, Prune, Apricot and Cherry are the most popular Kolaches fillings in the Czech community.

Tonette said the local community of Abie was very supportive of her business with many from the community helping out when asked where her employees come from.

The meal at Abie's included a lettuce salad, Roast Pork, sauerkraut, dumplings, gravy and homemade rye bread. Tonette added a Kolache to our group as we finished up our meal. Abie's is a great stop getting to see small town Nebraska at its best!

The next LEO outing will be on **Tuesday, June 13th at 5P.M.** We will be at **The Green Gateau** located at 330 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE. We hope to see everyone then!



*Photos:*

*The Green Gateau by Michael Kahn*

*Beignets with lemon curd and fresh creme*





## Get to Know New FFL Member Susan Grieger

BY JUDY KEETLE, PRESIDENT

**S**usan Grieger joined The Friendship Force of Lincoln in January, 2023. She jumped right in becoming an involved member. She has attended several FFL events and, along with Susan Briggs, she audited the FFL 2022 financial records.

Susan remembers reading several articles about FFL in the 1980s - the fun activities they hosted and the interesting places they traveled. She made a mental note to remember this group when she retired.

Susan retired in December 2021 without much of an exit strategy. She spent a year exploring things she could do in retirement while she had a hip replaced. Then in January of 2023 Susan read about the FFL Breakfast and Conversation gathering at Stauffer's.

She was the first person to arrive that morning and she really enjoyed meeting and talking with the FFL members who attended. One of the people in attendance, Maxine Moul, had even been a neighbor of Susan and her family at one time. Things just 'clicked' and she was 'hooked'.

Susan grew up in Chicago, IL. She met her future husband Mike Grieger while she was attending the University of Iowa. Mike talked her into transferring to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln where she graduated with a degree in Spanish. They were married while they were still in college. Before retirement, Susan worked as a Mortgage Loan Officer and Mike was a Realtor and Developer. They have two children. Son P.J., an Investment Banker, and his wife Elizabeth and son Henry, age 10, live in Omaha, NE. Daughter Emmary Lunberry, who teaches at Northeast High School, and her husband Ryan live in Lincoln, NE.



*Photo: Susan and Mike Grieger visiting Mexico during Easter 2023.*

In addition to their challenging careers, Susan and Mike owned Gentry Limousine Company for 3-4 years in the 1970s. Her 'impulsive' husband bought a navy-blue limousine and asked Susan to figure out how they were going to pay for it. Over time their company grew to 11 limousines - 1 red, 1 white, and the rest black or blue. They drove celebrities - including Johnny and June Cash, members of the rock group KISS, and Elvis Presley and others - all over the Lincoln area.

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Currently Susan’s preferred hobby of choice is cooking and baking. She just started playing around with bread art. Last weekend she created this bread art.

We look forward to spending time with Susan and enjoying her vivacious personality, energy, competence, creativity, and great ideas. Susan is a great addition to the FFL membership!



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## FFL Things to Know — May, 2023

### Courtesy

If an FFL member achieves something noteworthy, is ill, experiences the death of a loved one, etc., please let Gayle Bayer, FFL Courtesy Chair, know at [bayergayle@gmail.com](mailto:bayergayle@gmail.com) so she could send a card.

### Membership

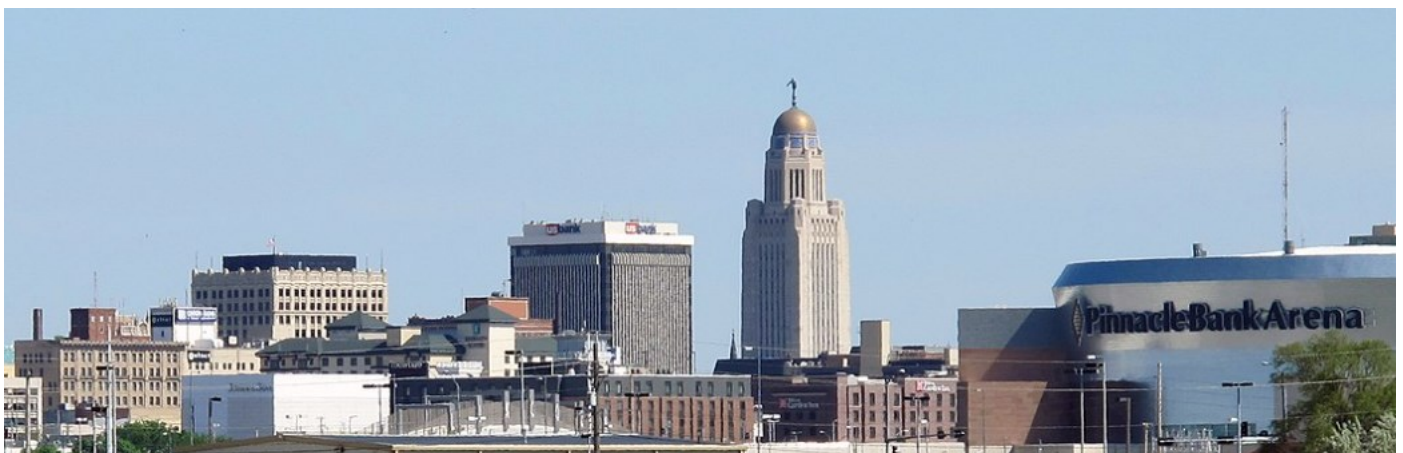
If you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about Friendship Force, get their contact information to De Tonak, FFL Membership Chair at [dtonack@neb.rr.com](mailto:dtonack@neb.rr.com) or 402-525-4264.

### Speakers Bureau

FFL members are available to give programs about Friendship Force for community groups. If you know of a group that would like a short program, contact Judy Keetle at [jkeetle2@gmail.com](mailto:jkeetle2@gmail.com) to make arrangements.



*Image: Lincoln, NE skyline contributed by Hanyou23 to Wikimedia Commons*



## 2023 Calendar - Friendship Force of Lincoln

FFL Board Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 1:00 pm, except no meeting in July  
Breakfast & Conversation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of each month at 8:30 at Stauffer's  
Let's Eat Out (LEO) several times each year

Passport newsletter articles and photos due to Judy by Jan 25, April 25<sup>th</sup>, July 25, Oct 25  
Passport newsletter, 4 times each year - Feb 15, May 15, Aug 15, Nov 15

### May

1<sup>st</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library  
3<sup>rd</sup> – LEO, Abies Place, 101 Ash Street, Abie, NE, 11:30 am  
11<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm  
13<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer's

### June

5<sup>th</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library  
8<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm  
10<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer's  
13<sup>th</sup> – LEO, Green Gateau, 330 S 10<sup>th</sup> St, 5:00 pm

### July

No Board Meeting in July  
8<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer's  
13<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm  
18<sup>th</sup> – LEO, Florio's, 7300 S 13<sup>th</sup> St, 5:00 pm

### August

7<sup>th</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library  
10<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm  
12<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer's  
24<sup>th</sup> – Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – Inbound Farm to Table Special Journey  
TBD – Annual Meeting to be held in Aug or Sept  
*Officer nominations list due to board 60 days prior to annual meeting and to membership 30 days prior to annual meeting.*

## 2023 Calendar - Friendship Force of Lincoln — Continued

### September

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Departure for Farm to Table Inbound Journey
- 4<sup>th</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer’s
- 14<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- TBD – Annual Meeting to be held in Aug or Sept

### October

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library
- 7<sup>th</sup> – LEO, Asian Taste, 501 West A St, 11:30 am
- 12<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer’s

### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Gere Library
- 9<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer’s

### December

- 4<sup>th</sup> – FFL Board Meeting, 8:30 at Gere Library
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 at Stauffer’s
- 14<sup>th</sup> – TAC via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- TBD – Holiday Party
- 2024 dues are payable by Dec 31, 2023*



## FFL Board Members 2023

*Contact information can be found in your 2023 Directory*

**Judy Keetle**, President.....

**Wendy Horacek**, Vice President.....

**Ann Quinlan**, Secretary .....

**Milt Bayer**, Treasurer.....

**Arlene Rea**, Past President, Directory.....

## Standing Committee Chairs

**Linda Kistler**, Breakfast & Conversation .....

**Julie Albrecht**, COIL (Open World).....

**Phyllis Arth**, Historian .....

**Pat King**, Journey Resource Coordinator.....

**Carlene Keim**, LEO (Let’s Eat Out) .....

**Bruce Keim**, LEO (Let’s Eat Out) .....

**De Tonack**, Membership Chair .....

**Gayle Bayer**, Membership Courtesy.....

**Vicki McDonald**, Membership Facebook.....

**JoEllen Polzien**, Membership, Online Birthday Greetings .....

**Nancy Comer**, Service/Diversity .....

**Janet Walters**, Service/Diversity.....

**Julie Splichal**, Social Chair.....

**Jim Ecklund**, Website Maintenance.....

**Dorina Mahler**, TAC (Thursday Afternoon Club), Newsletter, Photographer.....

## Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs

**Lee Rockwell**, Day Trips.....

**Laurie-Ann Scott**, FFI Liaison.....

**Brian Ridenour**, Review Policies & Bylaws .....

**Kathy Spahr**, Walking / Fitness Group.....

Past editions of ‘Passport’: <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org/newsletters/>



## The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Application 2023

**\$50 per person**

**Friendship Force International (\$30) and Friendship Force of Lincoln (\$20)  
2024 Friendship Force dues are due by December 31, 2023**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_ Renewing member \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members receive a complimentary name badge:

Check your choice. I prefer Pin Closure \_\_\_\_ or Magnetic Closure \_\_\_\_

Name on the badge \_\_\_\_\_

If renewing members need a new name badge contact Membership Chair, De Tonack, 402-525-4264

**Make check payable to: Friendship Force of Lincoln**

**Send to: Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503**

Ways I can help: (check as many as you like)

Activities Committee

Social Committee

Nominating Committee

Future Officer

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Future Board Member

Home Host

Day Host

Dinner Host

Journey Coordinator