



PASSPORT

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ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS, TRAVEL TREASURE SHOW & TELL, & HOMEMADE PIE

By Julie Splichal,
Social Chair

On Sunday, September 24th the FFL Annual Meeting will be held at the Grand Lodge, 4400 South 80th St, at 2pm. Following the business meeting, sip hot coffee or tea and enjoy homemade pie during the Travel Treasure Show and Tell.

Survey your home for your most cherished gift or souvenir from a journey or other travels. Members will have a chance to show one of their treasures, briefly tell where and how they acquired the

item, and explain why it has a special place in their heart. There will be time to mingle and ask more in-depth questions about the treasures that piqued your interest.

The pies being served are extra special, they have homemade crust, filling, and meringue. Choose from coconut cream, sour cream raisin, pecan, chocolate cream, triple chocolate mud, or chunky peanut butter.

Don't miss this opportunity to elect the upcoming FFL officers, hear the latest news, and show off your travel treasure.

CELEBRATION AT THE LINH QUANG BUDDHIST CENTER

The 15th Anniversary of the creation of the Linh Quang Buddhist Center at the beautiful campus outside of Lincoln was celebrated August 3-6. People from all over the U.S. participated. Singing, lion dancing, crafts, and lots of delicious food were in abundance during this celebration.

FROM THE FFL PRESIDENT AUGUST 2023



Judy Keetle, President

Summer always seems to go faster than the other seasons. Now school starts in August. When I was young, we went back to school after Labor Day. Things change. We must be flexible.

As you can see, the format of the FFLincoln Passport newsletter has changed this month. The subscription to the costly program we were using expired and we decided to be thrifty and not renew. Our wonderful newsletter chair, Dorina Mahler, found a free program that we will use until a better option is found. Because Dorina is unable to work on the August newsletter, Jim Ecklund has stepped up to do the August issue. At one time the newsletter was mailed to each member/household and was the best way to communicate about things going on with

FFL. Now we have email, facebook, the FFLincoln webpage, and the FFLinternational webpage (my.friendshipforce.org) where members can get information much faster. The newsletter has become more of a permanent record of the FFL happenings.

August 24-31 will be full of activity for FFL. FF visitors from the US and Canada participating in this Special Journey will learn about Farm to Table: Better Living through Food and Agricultural Innovations. FFL members will host, attend events, and assist journey coordinator Arlene Rea in many ways. Check your email for details.

October 13-21 FFL will host an Open World group of journalists from the country of Georgia. Open World Chair Julie Albrecht and her committee are working on the program, finding home hosts and other details. Contact Julie if you can help. Watch your email to get information as details are finalized.

The FFL 2024 outbound journey is to Java, Indonesia. Maxine Moul and Ann Quinlan are the journey coordinators. The first two weeks of June 2024 we will be hosted in the communities of Yogyakarta and Bogar. Watch for emails with details as they

develop. The San Diego club will be incoming in 2024. We need a journey coordinator, and details are still being worked on.

The ongoing activities continue monthly throughout the year: (1) Breakfast and Conversation, (2) Let's Eat Out. The Thursday Afternoon Club is on hold until further notice.

The FFL 2023 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, September 24 at the Grand Lodge at the Preserve, 4400 S. 80th St, at 2:00. Members are asked to bring a memento from a favorite trip with FFL or on your own. Be prepared to share information about the object with the group.

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Holiday Party** to be held on **Saturday, December 2 or Sunday, December 3.** Social Chair Julie Splichal is working on the details.

Betty Starr, Arlene & Jim Rea, and I are planning to attend the **FFI Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia October 2-5.** FFI is working on the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan for the organization. We hope to bring lots of information back to you to be included in the November Passport newsletter.

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The climate is changing, the ways to communicate are changing, we can meet in person or via Zoom, working in the office or at home are now options, and **FFI and FFL are changing**. We are living in exciting times with lots of changes happening. **But people are still much the same**. As the FFI motto states “a world of friends is a world of peace”. How wonderful that FFL members can contribute to this!



FFL – 2024 JOURNEYS

By Pat King, Journey Resource Coordinator

Now that Covid is over (we hope), Friendship Force exchanges (now called journeys) are ramping up. We have an exciting outgoing journey to Java and at least one incoming journey from San Diego. Now all we need is members to step up.

1. Have you led a project in a past life?
2. Do you have budgeting experience?
3. Are you comfortable sending emails?

4. Are you familiar with Lincoln and the surrounding area?

5. Are you a friendly person who likes helping out?

If you can answer **YES** to any of these questions, we need you to serve on the Welcoming Committee for the incoming exchange from San Diego.

Serving on a committee is a great way to get better acquainted with club members, meet new people, make our visitors feel welcome, and have fun!

Please contact Journey Resource Coordinator, Pat King, patfking123@gmail.com if you would consider serving on the committee. I will set up a convenient date to meet and start our planning.

friendship force international FUN FACT

President Jimmy Carter announced the formation of The Friendship Force on March 1, 1977 at a White House conference with state governors. President Wayne Smith and Executive Director Wade Seal then worked with a small staff in Atlanta to arrange the “maiden exchange” and to create support for The Friendship Force worldwide. The first exchange (now called journey) was to Newcastle upon Tyne, England.



friendship force
LINCOLN

DID YOU KNOW...

by Jim Ecklund

Friendship Force of Lincoln created the first club website in 1997? FFL purchased the domain name friendshipforce.org before Friendship Force International had theirs. I created a website for my company in the early days of the internet and needed a place to hone my web-building skills. In 2004 I helped FFI create the 2nd version of their website which was hosted in Lincoln. I now help other clubs in Canada and the US create their websites with 20 to date. I was asked by FFI to help clubs adapt the new logo colors for all the world wide clubs. So far I have completed 165 new club logos. In the coming weeks Judy Keetle and I will be working on bringing friendshipforcelincoln.org up-to-date. Should anyone wish to help in this process, or even learn how to maintain the website, I would be happy to teach you. It’s easy and kinda fun.

GET TO KNOW THE 2024 FFL OFFICER NOMINEES

Thanks to the nominating committee - Julie Albrecht, Gwen Meister, Kathryn Neyens, Julie Splichal, and Marilyn Watson - for finding an outstanding group of people to lead FFL in 2024. The FFL membership will vote on these nominees at the September 24 Annual Meeting.

The nominees were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What is your favorite thing about Friendship Force?
2. Why do you want to be an officer of the Friendship Force of Lincoln?
3. What do you like to do in your spare time?
4. What is/was your career path?

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT - ARLENE REA



1. Jim and I joined Friendship Force in 2012. Since then, we hosted ambassadors, joined them on the Lincoln journey activities and hosted small group dinners. Later, I became more involved by leading an outbound journey to Austin and coordinated an international inbound Crane Journey. In 2022, I coordinated two incoming ALEX (American Leadership Experience) groups from Slovakia and Hungary and another from Kyrgyzstan.

My favorite thing about Friendship Force was the opportunity to work with the young people through ALEX. In addition, I am always amazed at the number of FFL members who are willing to help with any of the tasks and experiences.

2. In 2020 and 2021, I was honored to be asked to be President of Friendship Force of Lincoln. Unfortunately, or maybe even fortunately, COVID closed all in-person activities during the two years. As a club, we learned to be resourceful. We learned we could continue to meet by Zoom, so we didn't lose touch with each other. We conducted board meetings, an annual meeting, travel log journeys, afternoon clubs and one-on-one meetings all by Zoom. We did not travel, nor did we host ambassadors in our homes. By September of 2021, we held our annual meeting outdoors. It was the first time many of us had seen each other since March of 2020.

Again in 2024, I have been asked to lead FFL. This will be a new experience without COVID. Judy Keetle has done an outstanding job leading FFL in 2022 and 2023. I hope to emulate her work.

3. In my spare time, I take classes in watercolor and paint, travel to visit our two sons and their families, read, garden and play mahjong. I am also an officer (treasurer) in the Nebraska State Education Association-Retired.

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4. My career path always led to being a teacher. I was a middle school math teacher for 30 years, 10 years in Hastings and 20 years in Lincoln. In addition, for nine years while our two boys were young, I worked as a volunteer coordinator for the Crisis Center in Grand Island, an instructor of adults at Central Community College and as a director of religious education at our church. When we moved to Lincoln, I taught at primarily at East and Lux Middle Schools.

NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT – MIDGE DUBLINSKE



1. I joined FFL in January 2023 because other friends have been members and were seeking possible hosts for a journey in October 2022. It was a very enlightening experience to meet and host the students from Kyrgyzstan, and to learn about their culture and educational opportunities. While I may not travel very often, I do enjoy meeting the visitors who journey to Nebraska and working with other Friendship Force of Lincoln members to make these journeys possible.

2. I accepted the nomination as Vice-President as I was quite honored that another member thought I possessed the capabilities to carry out the duties of VP and future duties that may arise. Beginning with Brownie Girl Scouts in second grade until the present, I have intentionally and sometimes magically found myself in a position to serve the organization. I rarely just join an organization without contributing to its success.

3. In my spare time since retirement, I enjoy being a master gardener and a master naturalist. I also spend time doing genealogical research, cooking, reading, swimming, golf and traveling off the beaten path.

4. I have been retired for 10 years as of August 1, 2023. I had three fantastic and rewarding careers. First and foremost, I am the mother of an outstanding daughter who makes me smile very day because of the person she is and the career path she has chosen. I raised her as a single parent since she was three years old, and she is a strong, confident, independent, caring, intelligent human being who has a great sense of humor and makes a difference in peoples' lives every day. She is an LiMIHP (License-independent Mental Health Practitioner) and owns her own business as part of Lincoln Wellness Group. My second career was that of a public-school teacher, coach, and athletic director for 18.5 years. I taught K-12 physical education, 7th grade life science, 8th grade earth science, 10th grade biology, and 11-12th grade advanced biology. I coached girls volleyball, basketball, and track at the junior high and high school level and was an athletic director. As a result of that, I wanted a "sane" career and took a position with the Nebraska State Education Association as a UniServ Director for another 18.5 years until I decided that I no longer wanted to drive the 36,000 miles per school year. I retired early which was the best decision I ever made.

NOMINEES CONTINUED



NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY – ANN QUINLAN

1. My favorite thing is having an opportunity to share travel experiences and interact with people from other places in the world and in our community.
2. I can contribute my time and ideas for the benefit of FFL.
3. I love to travel (and during the pandemic that meant traveling to different Lincoln neighborhoods for my daily walk), read, and I have recently revisited a previous past-time of sewing.
4. I taught English at the middle school and high school levels and currently supervise student teachers for Doane University and UNL.



NOMINEE FOR TREASURER – MILT BAYER

1. Being able to travel to parts of the world I would probably not travel to if not for Friendship Force.
2. It's not a matter of wanting, but rather a matter of seeing a need that I can fill.
3. When I actually have spare time, I like to bicycle.
4. I was an accountant.

FFL THINGS TO KNOW – AUGUST 2023

Courtesy

When an FFL member achieves something noteworthy, is ill, experiences the death of a loved one, etc, let Gayle Bayer, FFL Courtesy Chair know so she can send a card. bayergayle@gmail.com

Friendship Force International – Individual Journeys

FFI has started a new program. Individuals can contact FF members who have volunteered to host individuals or families visiting their town. A list of interested FF members willing to host is kept by FFI. This is an effort to meet the needs of FF members who are unable to participate in scheduled club-to-club journeys. The host and the traveler(s) decide how the journey will be structured.

Membership

If you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about Friendship Force, get their contact information to De Tonak, Membership Chair at dtonak@neb.rr.com.

Speakers Bureau

If you know of a group that would like short program about Friendship Force let Judy Keetle know at jkeetle2@gmail.com to make arrangements. Also let her know if you would be available to give programs to community groups.



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\$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(s) _____
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
 - Future Board Member
 - Home Host
 - Day Host
 - Dinner Host
 - Journey Coordinator
- Other _____

LET'S EAT OUT (LEO) JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD & GREAT COMPANY



(LEO) AT FLORIO'S

By Bruce Keim

Florio's Italian Restaurant at 7300 south 13th Street was the July 18th Let's Eat Out location. Eighteen Lincoln Friendship Force members attended with a wide variety of Italian options on the menu to choose from. Florio's dishes are made from fresh ingredients every day. Dama Bianca was Carlene's choice. It is a chicken dish with Italian spices and served in a brandy cream sauce over fettuccine. Another dish I saw around the table was the Spinach Ravioli. It is ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta then simmered in a marinara sauce. All the items seemed to come in large portions with to-go boxes and lunch for the next day the norm. For the next LEO we will be trying Thai food at Asian Taste Thai Restaurant located at 501 West A. Street. We will be having lunch there at 11:30 A.M. on Saturday October 14th. Notices will come out closer to that time. Hope to see everyone there.



Damabianca-with-chicken-at-Florio's



(LEO) AT GREEN GATEAU

By Bruce Keim

The Green Gateau on South 10th Street was the site for our June 13th Let's Eat Out. Thirteen Lincoln Friendship Force members attended. The menu offered Contemporary American cuisine with a European atmosphere. My choice that evening was the Pork Normandy which was a bone in pork chop served with caramelized pears, cranberries and served over Yukon Gold mashed potatoes. It was an excellent choice.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN MEMBERS.

August birthdays were in the May Passport newsletter. Each person will receive an on-line birthday greeting from our FFL chair JoEllen Polzien.

SEPTEMBER

- 21st – Gary L. Heusel
- 21st – Judy Keetle
- 22nd – De Tonak

OCTOBER

- 1st – Cherrie Beam Calloway
- 17th – Bruce Keim
- 23rd – Barrie Marchant
- 27th – Julie Splichal
- 29th – Laurie-Ann Scott
- 31st – Milt Bayer

NOVEMBER

- 2nd – Brian Ridenour
- 4th – Karen Heusel
- 7th – Sandra Zieg
- 16th – Lois Purtzer

2023 CALENDAR - FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN

AUGUST

- 5th – Linh Quang Buddhist Center, 2:30 pm
- 7th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 pm at Gere Library
- 12th – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 am
- 24th-31st – Inbound Farm to Table Special Journey

SEPTEMBER

- 9th – Breakfast & conversation, 8:30 am
- 11th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 pm at Gere Library
- 16th – FFL Walking Group
- 24th – ANNUAL MEETING, 2:00 pm

OCTOBER

- 2nd - FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 pm at Gere Library
- 7th – LEO, Asian Taste, 11:30 am
- 14th – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 am
- 21st – FFL Walking Group

NOVEMBER

- 6th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 at Judy Keetle’s house
- 11th – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 am

DECEMBER

- 2nd or 3rd – FFL Holiday Party
- 4th – FFL Board Meeting, 1:00 pm at Gere Library
- 9th – Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 am
- 2024 dues are payable by December 31, 2023

2024 dues are payable by Dec 31.



friendship force
LINCOLN

FUN FACT

There are now 350 local Friendship Force clubs around the world.

FUN FACT

The Friendship Force of Lincoln (FFL) started in 1980, and has been named United States Outstanding Club of the Year twice.

FUN FACT

FFL currently has 75+ members.

2023 FFL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Judy Keetle
Vice President	Wendy Horacek
Secretary	Ann Quinlan
Treasurer	Milt Bayer
Past President.....	Arlene Rea

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Breakfast & Conversation	Linda Kistler
COIL (Open World)	Julie Albrecht
Historian.....	Phyllis Arth
Journey Resource Coordinator	Pat King
LEO (Let's Eat Out) Co-chair	Bruce Keim
LEO (Let's Eat Out) Co-chair	Carlene Keim
Membership.....	De Tonack
Membership-Courtesy	Gayle Bayer
Membership-Directory	Arlene Rea
Membership-facebook.....	Vicki McDonald
Membership-Media	Maxine Moul
Membership-Online B-days.....	JoEllen Polzien
Passport - newsletter	Dorina Mahler
Photographer	open
Service/Diversity co-chair	Nancy Comer
Service/Diversity co-chair	Janet Walters
Social.....	Julie Splichal
Website Maintenance.....	Jim Ecklund

AD HOC COMM CHAIRS

Activities.....	open
Audit.....	Susan Briggs
Audit.....	Susan Grieger
Bylaws & Policies	Brian Ridenour
FFI Liaison	LaurieAnn Scott
Nominating.....	open
TAC (Thurs Afternoon Club)	Dorina Mahler
Walking/Fitness Group.....	Kathy Spahr