

# The Friendship Force of Lincoln

## 2019 Annual Report

### Compiled by Arlene Rea, Vice President

**Purpose:** To provide the membership with a summary of the activities and business of The Friendship Force of Lincoln that have occurred during the year. It will serve also as a written record for reference by future boards and members.

#### JOURNEYS:

**Austin, Texas**, April 2 - 9, with coordinator **Arlene Rea**. **Eleven Lincoln members, Milt and Gayle Bayer, JoEllen Polzien, Julie Albrecht, Jim and Arlene Rea, Daniel Hawkins, Joanna Rogers, Lois Katt, Carolyn Kitterer and Kay Straube** participated in the historical, medical, and social experience. The group gave a presentation to members of the club on June 2 at Madonna Hospital, Sheridan Room.

**Georgia and Azerbaijan**, October 1 – 15, with coordinator **Wendy Horacek**. **The seven Lincoln members, Wendy Horacek, Julie Albrecht, Cathy Lund, Barbara Rothenay, Jacque Sholtz, and Milt and Gayle Bayer** participated in a life-time experience. The Lincoln ambassadors will be sharing their experiences on February 9, 2020, at The Knolls Retirement Center.

**FFI Journey: Pat Hust, JoEllen Polzien and Amy Birky** joined 150 Friendship Force friends on the Holland America Cruise beginning in Buenos Aires, sailing through Cape Horn to Montevideo, Uruguay and to Santiago Chile, February 21 – March 8, 2019. **JoEllen** continued onto the Galapagos.

**Open World: Coordinators: Julie Albrecht, Joanna Rogers, Pat King and Maxine Moul.**

FFI's mission is: To promote world peace and understanding by creating an environment where individual friendships can be established across the barriers that separate people. Friendship Force International is a non-profit organization dedicated to the principle that each person can contribute to global goodwill. Home hospitality-the heart of a Friendship Force journey-provides the opportunity for people of different countries and cultures to connect on a personal level. The ever-widening Friendship Force global network represents a powerful and growing force that can overcome differences between people and nations.

Theme: **Legislative and Immigration**, February 1 – 9, 2019

Delegates: **5 delegates from the Ukraine** with a facilitator and Interpreter.

Home hosts: **John/Barb Mackichan, Phyllis Arth, Bill Behmer/Gwen Meister, Mollie George and De Tonack**

Party Hosts: **Vickie McDonald and Larry Harnisch**

Small Group Dinner Hosts: **Cheryl and Dick Johnson, Judy Keetle, Jim and Arlene Rea**

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

##### Holiday Part 2019—Julie Albrecht-President

The 2019 Holiday Party was held on December 6 at the Ferguson House, 700 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, across from the State Capitol. The Ferguson House is on the National Historical Building Records. **Forty members** enjoyed a Charcuterie Board by caterer, Adam Dodworth. Entertainment was provided by Dan Degenhardt and Bryan McDonald. Cathy McCue, Ferguson docent, was available throughout the evening for tours of the house, which was beautifully decorated for the Holiday season. In addition, the Yazidi Community was invited to share their holiday celebration culture. Ahmad Mastto, his friend, Noah and others came and shared their experiences in coming to Nebraska as refugees, and participated in FFL's social time, including playing a game with FFL members. Gift certificates for \$10 off a 2020 FFL event were won by **Milt Bayer, Lois Katt, Bob Reeves, Marilyn Watson and Janet Walters**. Holiday quilted centerpieces designed by **Julie Albrecht** were won by **Mary Bryant, Bob Sibal, Lois Poppe and two guests**.

### **Let's Eat Out 2019 (LEO): Bruce and Carlene Keim with Sara Stephenson, Co-Host Coordinators**

LEO provides FFL members and friends an opportunity to gather four times a year to experience various ethnic foods available in Lincoln and to enjoy each other's company. The Keims and Sara are Co-Chairs and responsible for organizing and carrying out the program annually.

On March 16, **twenty-three members and guests** were treated to some very good Mexican foods at Tico's. Tico's has been serving Mexican food in Lincoln since 1976.

The next venue was Vung Tau Pho and Grill on May 21. **Eighteen members** and guests enjoyed Vietnamese food with a plethora of choices.

**Twenty-eight members** and guests took advantage of Mediterranean food at Daffodil Mediterranean Cuisine on July 25. Owner and Chef, Narges Montazer, came to the USA twenty-six years ago from Iran.

The last LEO was at Tia Lety's on October 22. The fare was Salvadoran. **Fifteen members** attended.

### **Breakfast and Conversation 2019: Linda Kistler and Brian Ridenour, Coordinators**

FFL members and prospective members meet at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at Stauffer's Restaurant, 5600 S. 48<sup>th</sup>, for breakfast and conversation. No meeting is held, just conversation and a few announcements about upcoming events and travel exchanges. No advanced reservation is required. Linda Kistler and Brian Ridenour, co-chairs, use an ice breaker to get the conversation started. A couple of ice breaker starters were: What is America's most impressive landmark? If you had 6 weeks to drive around the US, which regions would you most like to visit? Who is the most famous person you have ever met?

This past year **144 members and guests attended**. On an average this equates to 12 members/guests attended each month.

## **BUSINESS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

### **Nominating Committee 2020**

The Nominating Committee consisting of **Joanna Rogers, Lois Katt, De Tonack, and Mary Bryant** deliberated and decided on a slate to present to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

**Arlene Rea—President**

**Maxine Moul—Vice President**

**Treasurer—Milt Bayer**

**Secretary—Ann Quinlan**

### **Annual Meeting 2019—Julie Albrecht, President**

The Annual Meeting of FFL was held on August 25, 2019 at Southeast Community College. A reception was held at 4:30 p.m. with an international dinner catered by the culinary arts students and instructors at Southeast Community College. The business meeting followed the dinner.

- \*The 2018 Slate of Officers was presented by the Nominating Committee and moved by acclamation to elect **Arlene Rea as President, Maxine Moul as Vice President, Milt Bayer as Treasurer and Ann Quinlan as Secretary.**
- A PowerPoint report of the July Friendship Force International Conference in Boulder, CO was presented by **Arlene Rea, Wendy Horacek and Julie Albrecht. JoEllen Polzien, Laurie Ann and Larry Scott** also attended the conference. During the evening, **JoEllen** shared her pictures from the Austin, Texas journey.
- Members were asked to indicate their interest in participating in a strategic planning session or open world activity.

**FFI World Conference in Boulder, CO: Six members, Julie Albrecht, Wendy Horacek, JoEllen Polzein, Laurie Ann and Larry Scott and Arlene Rea,** attended the three-day conference. The keynote speaker focused on World Peace and how Friendship Force is and can be a force for change. Over three hundred delegates from around the world attended.

**By-Laws Committee:** No action as they were reviewed and adopted in 2017.

**Passports:** Four issues were available to members in March, May, August and November.

**Policy and Procedures Committee:** No action as they were reviewed and adopted in 2018.

**Strategic Planning:** A Strategic Planning Session was held October 20, 2019, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Madonna Hospital, Sheridan Room with **22 members** participating. A new **mission statement** was developed: **Open-minded people with a world perspective, who promote global understanding with world citizens, to address friendship and peace.** Members divided into four groups and brainstormed ideas to better facilitate four strategic pillars: Membership, Marketing, Leadership, Member Participation. As a result, new/redesigned committees, with more member involvement, were formed: Membership Recruitment, Mentoring, Marketing (combining website/social media/publicity) and Social. Committees met with their members to set goals and implement plans for 2020.

**Service/Diversity Committee 2019—Nancy Comer and Linda Kistler, co-chairs with Pat King, Maxine Moul and Amy Birky.**

Following the October FFL Strategic Planning meeting, **Janet Walters, Nancy Comer, Cheryl Johnson and Phyllis Arth** met to explore expanding FFL meal sharing (known previously as small group dinners and diversity dinners) to build understanding and promote friendship within our organization and within the Lincoln Community. Janet will present this to the board at the January 2020 board meeting.

As part of FFL's holiday party held at Ferguson House December 6, the Yazidi Community was invited to share their holiday celebration culture. Ahmad Mastto, his friend, Noah and others came and shared their experiences in coming to Nebraska as refugees, and participated in FFL's social time, including playing a game with FFL members.

The committee met in person and via email in 2019 to organize an event for Sunday, March 22, 2020, 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church. Its focus: trafficking of children, and young women both globally and at home in Nebraska. **Pat King**, who has ties to a global DVD, has been the impetus behind making this important topic available to members.

**Membership Committee 2019 Annual Report—Mary Bryant and Amy Birky, co-chairs**

For the 2019 Membership Year we had 130 members—27 families and 78 individuals.