



# PASSPORT

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

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February 2024

## Holiday party features Asian culture, Lion Dancers

A trip to Southeast Asia is being planned by Friendship Force of Lincoln for June. Appropriately, an emphasis on Asian culture was the theme of the club's annual holiday party. The 2024 Lunar Year is the Year of the Dragon.

Asian dancers kicked off the event Dec. 2 at the Bethany enclosed shelter at 65th and Vine streets. The Lion Dance and Martial Arts groups are from the Asian Community and Cultural Center in Lincoln and are accompanied by a percussion group. Their colorful costumes contributed to the festive air.

Asian Fusion catered the luncheon, and attendees participated in a Chopstick Challenge. Julie Spichal, social chair, was in charge of the event.

This year's FFL president, Judy Keetle, introduced the new 2024 president, Arlene Rea. A report focused on the planned June Lincoln Friendship Force visit to two communities in Java, Indonesia, where Lincoln members will stay in the homes of local hosts. This will be the first international trip for the Lincoln group since before COVID-19. Anyone interested in the trip can contact coordinator Maxine Moul at [mmoul1@allophone.com](mailto:mmoul1@allophone.com).

**Lion dancers entertain FFL**



## From the FFL President February 2024

By Arlene Rea, President

Four years ago, we were in the midst of the COVID epidemic. I had started my first year as president and within two months, we were no longer meeting in person. As a result, we improvised a lot and were able to survive as an organization.

Now, as I embark on a second presidential term, I am grateful for the leaders of the Friendship Force of Lincoln. Judy Keetle has ended two wonderful years as president with superb leadership. She brought us back together by meeting in person and edged us back to meeting the world when we hosted guests and traveled. Many of the board members are back, as well as some new leaders. See a picture and listing of the 2024 FFL Board of Directors on page 3.

Now in 2024, we are striving to travel and to receive guests. Our outbound journey to Indonesia has been artfully coordinated by Maxine Moul. See Page 4 for more details. We still have time to realize the trip to a gorgeous part of the world.

In early August, we are anticipating an Open World (COIL) group from Georgia to learn about climate change and women entrepreneurs. In late September, Judy Keetle is coordinating an inbound group from San Diego. See the article on page 4. October 7 to 10, the FFI North American Conference will be held in Milwaukee. See article and photos on Page 5. Think about joining Vice President Dublinske and me as it will be a fun time.

Living the FFI motto of “a world of friends is a world of peace,” our Diversity International Service committee, under the capable leadership of Janet Walters, Phyllis Arth, and Nancy Comer, has met and is planning some exciting events hosting Lincoln residents originally from Pakistan and other Muslim countries. Watch for upcoming events.

In the last four years, the organization has found new ways to operate and still fulfill our mission. The Bylaws and Policy Committee, under the leadership of Midge Dublinske and Brian Ridenour, has begun the task of reviewing both the bylaws and policies. There will be some changes that the membership will review and vote on at the Annual Meeting in September.

Did you know that Friendship Force of Lincoln has a website? It is in the process of being updated. Please check it out at [friendshipforcelincoln.org](http://friendshipforcelincoln.org).



**Arlene and Jim Rea in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a FFI journey after the World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia.**

Continued on Page 3

## Board of Directors for Friendship Force of Lincoln, 2024



**Front Row:** Ann Quinlan, secretary; Milt Bayer, Treasurer; Arlene Rea, President; Midge Dublinske, Vice President; Maxine Moul, Journey Coordinator, Publicity and Passport **Back Row:** Vickie McDonald, FaceBook; Pat Novak, Journey Resource Coordinator; Phyllis Arth, Historian, Diversity International Service Co-Chair; Gayle Bayer, Courtesy; Janet Walters, Diversity International Service Co-Chair; Julie Splichal, Social Chair; Marilyn Watson, Membership and Breakfast and Conversation Chair; Julie Albrecht, COIL (Open World). **Absent:** Judy Keetle, Past President, San Diego Journey Coordinator; Bruce and Carlene Keim, LEO Chairs; Nancy Comer, Diversity International Service Co-Chair; and Brian Ridenour, audit committee.

### President's Letter (continued from page 2)

We are recognizing 10 new members who joined in 2023 and 2024 with a brunch on February 24 at the home of Vickie McDonald and Larry Harnisch. LEO's are scheduled for March and April. See the calendar on page 7.

As always, Breakfast and Conversation, is every second Saturday of the month at Stauffer's Café and Pie Shop, 5600 S. 56th.

Friendship Force of Lincoln is an organization of many moving parts. I am glad to be your leader. Note: Vice President Midge Dublinske has been working diligently since the first of January to make FFL strong and viable.

**In Friendship,  
Arlene**

## Lincoln to host Incoming Journey from San Diego

### By Judy Keetle, Past President

Friendship Force members from San Diego, California will be visiting Lincoln Monday, September 30 through Saturday, October 5, 2024. Several FF Lincoln members have indicated an interest in assisting with this journey on the 2024 membership form and the survey. Home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, itinerary planning, welcome and farewell events, etc. will be needed.

The committee will be meeting soon to start detailed planning. If you would like to help out, contact Judy Keetle, Journey Coordinator, at [jkeetle2@gmail.com](mailto:jkeetle2@gmail.com)



Judy Keetle

## Bogor and Yogyakarta invite Friendship Force of Lincoln to Java

Please join the Friendship Force of Lincoln for an international Journey to two communities in Java, Indonesia in June 2024. Lincoln participants will stay in local homes and experience the cultures of their hosts.

The first community is Yogyakarta (English: /ˌjoʊɡjəˈkɑːrtə/Jogjakarta), the capital city of the region in the south-central part of the island of Java. As the only Indonesian royal city still ruled by a monarchy, Yogyakarta is regarded as an important center for classical Javanese fine arts and culture such as ballet, batik textiles, drama, literature, music, poetry, silversmithing, visual arts, and wayang puppetry.

Yogyakarta will be visited June 1 to 7. The second community being visited June 8-14 is Bogor in the West Java province, Indonesia. Located around 60 kilometers (37 mi) south of the national capital of Jakarta, Bogor is the 6th largest city in the Jakarta metropolitan area and the 14th overall nationwide. The city has a presidential palace and a botanical garden (Indonesian: Kebun Raya Bogor) – one of the oldest and largest in the world. It bears the nickname "Rainy City" (Kota Hujan), because of frequent rain showers, even during the dry season.

We will be limited to 15 Ambassadors. Ambassadors may add pre and post visits to Bali, Japan or South Korea. Watch for future information from FFL's emails and Passports. Please indicate your interest to Journey coordinator Maxine Moul ([mmoul1@allophone.com](mailto:mmoul1@allophone.com)). [ebook.com/FFLincoln](http://ebook.com/FFLincoln). Registration deadline is March 1.

## Milwaukee will host North American Conference in October

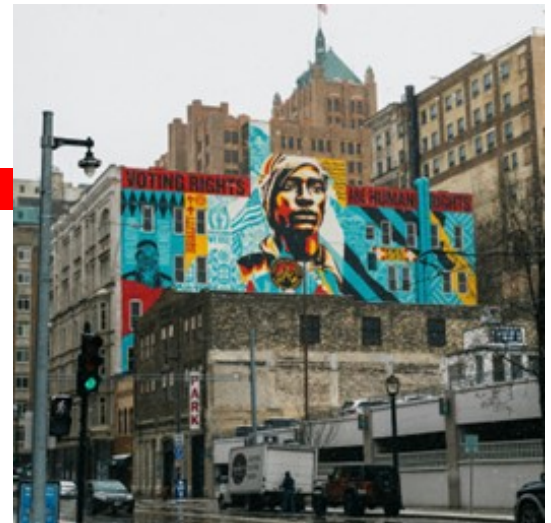
The Friendship Force North American Conference will be in Milwaukee, October 7 – 10, 2024. If you are interested in attending, please contact President Arlene Rea. Her contact information is [arlenere-a14@gmail.com](mailto:arlenere-a14@gmail.com).

She and Vice President Midge Dublinske are planning to attend. Watch for news about the conference and for the details and registration. You will receive this and other announcements when you have logged into [my.friendship.org](http://my.friendship.org)



Milwaukee skyline courtesy of Wei Zeng

A Milwaukee streetscape courtesy of Tom Barrett



Birthdays are special days to celebrate you! The FFL Virtual Birthday Greetings Chair, JoEllen Polzien, will be sending you an ecard for your birthday and other holidays. Please let her know at [jwpolz1@gmail.com](mailto:jwpolz1@gmail.com) if you do not want to receive these emails. Consider sending a birthday card or email to a friend.

<b>Larry Harnisch</b>	<b>6-Feb</b>	<b>Dianna Schimek</b>	<b>21-Mar</b>
<b>Thomas Higley</b>	<b>7-Feb</b>	<b>Prudence Coccodrilli</b>	<b>23-Apr</b>
<b>Arlene Rea</b>	<b>9-Feb</b>	<b>John Comer</b>	<b>27-Apr</b>
<b>Nikki Scott</b>	<b>11-Feb</b>	<b>Jacque Scholz</b>	<b>5-May</b>
<b>Lois Katt</b>	<b>26-Feb</b>	<b>Bridget Disney</b>	<b>9-May</b>
<b>Kay Rockwell</b>	<b>28-Feb</b>	<b>Larry Scott</b>	<b>10-May</b>
<b>Ann Quinlan</b>	<b>4-Mar</b>	<b>Wendy Horacek</b>	<b>17-May</b>
<b>Jane Kinsey</b>	<b>0-Mar</b>	<b>Linda Kistler</b>	<b>18-May</b>

## 2023 Annual Historian Report, Friendship Force Lincoln

### Friendship Force Lincoln - By The Numbers

**1 Motto:** A world of friends is a world of peace.

**1 of 364** clubs affiliated with Friendship Force International.

FFL celebrated our **43nd year with FFI.**

**1 website** – <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org>

**1 Facebook page** – [facebook.com/FFLincoln](https://facebook.com/FFLincoln)

**1 FFIInternational webpage** – [friendshipforce.org](https://friendshipforce.org)

**1 members' only webpage** – [my.friendshipforce.org](https://my.friendshipforce.org)

**1 link to all Passport issues** - <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org/newsletters/>

**69 members**

**1 Annual Meeting**, September 24, at The Grand Lodge. About 35 attended.

**11 Board Meetings** held the first Monday of each month, except July, at Gere Branch Library. 12 -20 usually attend.

### 19 Standing Committees

**1 Audit** Susan Briggs and Susan Grieger audited financial records for 2022 that were approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

**12 Breakfast and Conversation Sessions**, Linda Kistler shifted chair duties to Judy Keetle. Members met the second Saturday, for all 12 months, at Stauffer's Cafe, 8:30 Saturday mornings. About 6-12 members faithfully attended.

### 1 COIL (Congressional Office for International Leadership)/Open World

In October, Julie Albrecht directed six journalists from the nation of Georgia who studied Open Source Investigative Journalism, meeting with members of Nebraska's traditional and digital media. There were two home hosts. The COIL delegates shared information with FFL members about their club and positions as journalists, over dinner at The Venue. They shared again at Sheridan Lutheran Church, which was open to the public. Julie has successfully coordinated Open World visits for about 10 years.

The July COIL/Open World group from Romania was cancelled due to a COIL programming hold.

**1 FFI Liaison** Laurie-Ann Scott was the field representative.

**1 Historian** Phyllis Arth compiled this Annual Report.

**1 Journey Resource Coordinator** Pat King announced the Outbound Journey to Java, Indonesia for June 2024.



**Phyllis Arth**

**Continued on Page 7**

## Historian's Annual Report continued from Page 6

**1 Inbound Special Journey** In August, Arlene Rea coordinated, **8** guests from **5** states and Alberta, Canada focusing on the theme “Farm to Table: Better Living Through Food and Agricultural Innovations.” Participants gave high marks to their experiences. **30** FFL members were directly involved. **30** Community experts presented informative sessions. About **30** people attended the farewell gathering, a wine tasting at Capitol View Winery. Extra funds from this Journey were used to purchase a sound system to be used for future Journey programming and meetings.

**Outgoing Journey** to Connecticut was cancelled due to Connecticut's club inability to host.

**LEO (Let's Eat Out)** Co-chaired by Carlene and Bruce Keim. Gathering about every other month, they selected **5** culturally interesting local restaurants, with about **20** members happily attending each meal.

**Membership** Chair De Tonack organized activities. “Speed Traveling,” in March, was enjoyed by about **20** members. They circulated through **7** stations presented by **7** members sharing memories and mementos and travel advice. Also, Marilyn Watson organized “Bunko Afternoon” in April, with **12** players enjoying.

**9 new members were welcomed:** Christine Emra Buckholz, Prudence Coccodrilli, Midge Dublinske, Susan Grieger, Gary and Karen Heusel, Patricia Novak, DiAnna Schimek, Marcia Wallen and Leslie Ryan..

Our Club was saddened by the death of Larry A. Kluck, February 14; and Gwen Meister, October 16.

Annual Dues changed to **\$50** per person; **\$30** to FFI/**\$20** to FFL.

**1 Membership Directory** was updated, organized and distributed via email by Arlene Rea.

**Membership Facebook** Vicki McDonald reinvigorated our page, providing many photos and reports on activities. She is alert to keeping current with ongoing events. See [facebook.com/FFLincoln](https://facebook.com/FFLincoln).

**Membership On-line Birthday Greetings** – JoEllen Polzien sent **100's** of electronic cards. She sent Jackie Lawson musical cards for known birthdays, major holidays, solstices and the equinox.

**Membership Media/ Publicity** – Maxine Moul worked with Channel **8** and the Lincoln Journal Star's Neighborhood Extra to market Lincoln FFL events. She published **3** lengthy articles in the LJS detailing COIL, the Farm to Table Inbound Journey, the Holiday Party and events anticipated for 2024. Each of the **5** LEO gatherings were also publicized.

**4 Passport Newsletters** Dorina Mahler oversaw the publication and distribution of **4** Passport issues. She formatted two issues, Jim Ecklund formatted the August issue. Maxine Moul formatted the November issue. Dorina found a free program to replace the costly, previous service. The newsletter has become the major source of information for our club. For past editions, see: <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org/newsletters>.

**Service/Diversity** co-chaired by Nancy Comer, Phyllis Arth and Janet Walters. This was a planning year, preparing for upcoming events.

**Scholarship** was not active this year.

**4 Social events**, chaired by Julie Splichal. The August Farewell Dinner for Inbound Journey ambassadors and members was attended by about **45** people. The September Annual Meeting drew **35** members. The December Holiday Party celebrated the Lunar New Year, featured **2** Lion Dancers and catering by Asian Fusion. About **45** members attended the party.

**Guests are always welcome.**

## Calendar February to June 2024

### February

- **24-February** New Member Reception, 10:30 a.m. Invitation only

### March

- **4-March** FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm, Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th
- **9-March** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48<sup>th</sup>
- **23-March** LEO, Mazatlan (Mexican), 11:30 am, 211 N. 70<sup>th</sup> St

### April

- **1-April** FFL Board Meeting, 2 p.m. Walt Library, 6701 S. 14<sup>th</sup>
- **10-April** Articles for May Passport due
- **13-April** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48<sup>th</sup>
- **16-April** LEO, Heoya South (Asian), 5:00 pm, 1501 Pine Lake Road

### May

- **6-May** FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14<sup>th</sup>
- **11-May** Breakfast and Conversation

### June

- **1 - 14, June** Outbound Journey to Indonesia
- **3-June** FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St
- **8-June** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48<sup>th</sup>
- **24-June** Shogun (Japanese), 5:00 pm, 3700 S. 9<sup>th</sup> **29-August** LEO TBD

## Ethnic Restaurants highlight LEO dinners, Lunches

### By Bruce and Carlene Keim

We will start out our LEO 2024 with Mexican at Mazatlan Restaurant at [211 North 70th Street](#), Lincoln. It's one of five Morales restaurants. Lunch is Saturday March 23 at 11:30 a.m. A special is Arroz Con Pollo, boneless chicken breast sauteed in a sauce of mushrooms and onions over a rice and garnished with tomatoes, green onions and Parmesan cheese.

Heoya restaurant will be our next LEO stop on Tuesday April 16 at 5:00 p.m. The website states "Whether you crave freshness of seafood or the boldness of Korean and Japanese cuisine, Heoya is the perfect destination to embark on a remarkable gastronomic adventure" Hope to see everyone at the Asian Fusion restaurant Heoya located at 1501 Pine Lake Road on April 16.

Shogun Japanese restaurant will be the LEO for Monday June 24. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. Shogun is located at 3700 south 9th Street. The chef always puts on a good show there. Watch for emails closer to the dates and remember to RSVP to Bruce at [brucelkeim@gmail.com](mailto:brucelkeim@gmail.com) so the restaurant will be ready for us.



## FFL Things to Know – February 2024

### **Birthday Acknowledgment**

JoEllen Polzien sends out birthday greetings to those who have volunteered to give birth dates.  
[jwpolz1@gmail.com](mailto:jwpolz1@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:bayergayle@gmail.com)

### **Day Trips**

If you have ideas for a day trip where members of Friendship Force of Lincoln can learn and enjoy the company of those with like interests, please contact Judy Keetle. [jkeetle2@gmail.com](mailto:jkeetle2@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. [Independent Journeys – friendshipforce](#)

### **Friendship Force Lincoln's website: [www.friendshipforcelincoln.org](http://www.friendshipforcelincoln.org)**

It has been updated by Arlene Rea, Midge Dublinske, Pat King, and Jim Ecklund. The previous updates, except for the calendar, were before COVID. You will find the listing of the members of the Board of Directors, important upcoming dates, the ambassador application form, the FFL membership form, a listing of clubs in Friendship Force International, and much more.

**Member-only Website.** If you have not been receiving notices of journeys, book clubs, pen pals, etc. from Friendship Force International (FFI), you may not have logged on the members-only website. Go to [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org). Enter your name and e-mail address. Then click on SIGN-UP. Follow the steps.

### **Membership**

If you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about Friendship Force, get their contact information to Marilyn Watson, Membership Chair. [mkwats@windstream.net](mailto:mkwats@windstream.net) The Membership Form can be accessed on [friendshipforcelincoln.org](http://friendshipforcelincoln.org) under FFL Lincoln, Club Resources

### **Speakers Bureau**

If you know of a group that would like a short program about Friendship Force let Arlene Rea know. Also, let her know if you would be available to give programs to community groups. [arlenerea14@gmail.com](mailto:arlenerea14@gmail.com)

# The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Application

**\$50 per person**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Friendship Force of Lincoln may use my photograph in brochures, media articles, website, Facebook, etc. to promote the Friendship Force organization. Check one. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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 Marilyn Watson at 402-423-9152, 402-730-3340 or [mkwats@windstream.net](mailto:mkwats@windstream.net)

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

- Activities Committee
- Computer/Internet Skills
- Future Officer
- Inbound Day Host Inbound Dinner Host
- Nominating Committee
- Speakers Bureau
- Club supporter
- Feature article writer for Passport or Neighborhood Extra
- COIL (Open World) Committee
- Diversity/International Service Committee
- Future Board Member Inbound Home Host
- Journey Coordinator
- Passport Newsletter formatting
- Social Committee
- Other

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

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