

PASSPORT

A Publication of The Friendship Force of Lincoln www.friendshipforcelincoln.org

Number 176

Lincoln, Nebraska

June 2024

FFI Service to the Cuban People Supported by Local Donors

By Pat Novak

Members of Friendship Force International (FFI) had the opportunity of lifetime to see the sights and sounds of Cuba. Pat Novak of Lincoln was a member of the group of 33, representing Friendship Force clubs in 13 states. The visit was supported by Lincoln donors and from other club locations.

Under "Service to the Cuban People," FFI visited many of the institutions that are involved in bettering the lives of Cuban people. At a health clinic, more than 200 pounds of much needed medical supplies were donated. School supplies were given to an entrepreneurial center and shampoos and hair care products were given to a cosmetology school. Muraleando (an art colony that took the remains of a water tank and converted the content to art) was the recipient of art supplies.

We also learned of the history of Cuba and Cuba/US relations. A visit from the first lady of Cuba was a surprise. Tourist sites along the way included Ernest Hemingway's finca (home), Las Terrazas

(a converted French coffee plantation), ISA (Instituto Superior de Artes), and the converted Havana Country Club, where the focus is now on the visual and performing arts in higher education.

We learned to roll Cuban cigars, and even smoked one!

Of course, the pristine cars of the 1950's and 1960's were present everywhere.

A special thanks to those who contributed to make this adventure a success and the supplies that are much needed and appreciated. Gomez Art Supply, UNL Dental College, Bryan Memorial Hospital, Madonna ProActive, Vacek Family Dentistry, Dr. J. Dwork, Dr. R. Scott, Gateway Dermatology and many others were Lincoln donors.



Murealando artists display their works donated by Gomez Art supply of Lincoln.

From the FFL President, June 2024

By Arlene Rea, President

Greetings!

In the April Passport, I indicated that the first three months seemed to have gone in a blur. Well, it was the same for the last three months. Again, I marvel at all the work and dedication that FFL members exhibit.

The Bylaws and Policies Committee have completed their work. The Board has approved both documents. We will share the Board adopted Bylaws with you before the Annual Meeting which you can discuss during the meeting. Thanks to members of the Committee: Midge Dublinske, chair; Judy Keetle, Ann Quinlan, Arlene Rea, and Brian Ridenour. In addition, the Nomination Committee will present the slate of officers for 2025.

The Diversity and Community Service Committee has continued their pursuit of learning about the Muslim community. See page 3.

Phyllis Arth and Pat King have interviewed new members DiAnna Schimek, Leslie Ryan, Prudence Coccodrilli, and Marcia Wallen on pages 4-5, 6, 8, 9.

Please SAVE THE DATES for these events:



Arlene Rea

- The Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 22 at Bess Dobson Walt Branch Library
- San Diego Inbound, September 30 October 5. Judy Keetle and her committee have planned a wonderful journey to Lincoln and the surrounding area. See page 7.
- The Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8. Julie Splichal and her committee are planning a unique event. Watch for details.

Thank you to all the other committees who are doing their work for Friendship Force Lincoln. See other articles: LEO, San Diego Journey, Journeys for 2025 and Day trips throughout the Passport June Edition. Also, if your club needs a program, contact me and I will arrange for a member to give a presentation. Please encourage friends and relatives to join you in the various activities of Friendship Force.

In friendship, Arlene

New Opportunity for a Journey to Java, June 2025

By Maxine Moul, Journey Coordinator

The planned Journey for Friendship Force of Lincoln to Yogyakarta and Bogor, Indonesia has been scheduled for June, 2025. Several conflicts developed for our Ambassadors from Lincoln and Milwaukee, and our Java hosts and Friendship Force International agreed to the one-year postponement from June 2024..

Several Lincoln members have already indicated an interest in participating in 2025, as well as members of other clubs. Our hosts have put together great potential itineraries, and I am looking forward to experiencing those.

Please let me know if you are interested in this 2025 Journey by emailing me at mmoul 1@allophone.com

Diversity Committee Works with Muslim Community

By Janet Walters, Diversity and Community Service Committee Co-Chair

Friendship Force Lincoln's Diversity and Community Service Committee aims to support Friendship Force International's mission to provide unique experiences to connect in ways that transcend boundaries that separate people. To prepare to travel nationally and internationally and to host guests in our homes, we continue to promote ways to learn about other cultures and get to know our neighbors in the Lincoln community. As we focus on the Muslim community this year, our committee offers FFL members an opportunity to tour a halal grocery store.

We visited Al Nor Market at 850 N. 27th St. on May 8th. Mahe Naseem, our Muslim community liaison, was our guide and introduced us to the family who operates the grocery store and the attached restaurant. Seven FFL members participated and shopped for halal steaks, mulberry jam, and wonderful dried lima beans among other products. Following the tour, we went to the restaurant and ordered delicious food to eat in or take home to family. Additional trips can be arranged if there is continued interest in becoming acquainted with the halal grocery stores in Lincoln. Text Janet Walters at (402) 202-4055 if you would like to request a tour.

Several members attended a Muslim gathering, Eid al-Fitr, or the "Festival of Breaking Fast." That marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.

Upcoming events planned by the committee include:

- 1) An FFL tour of the mosque in Lincoln. The date and time will be announced.
- 2) Gathering of FFL members with friends of the Muslim Community.

When: 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19th

Where: Home of Vickie McDonald and Larry Harnisch, 9021 Silver Oak Road, Lincoln, NE 68526

Details: Mahe and some of her friends will be joining FFL folks to get to know each other better. It is a unique opportunity for all. Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer to share (all food prepared with or containing meat should be halal). However, if you are busy or short on time, please just join us.

Contact: Please text Janet Walters at (402) 202-4055 if you plan to join us so we can set the tables accordingly. Also, we hope to coordinate a similar small group gathering in August at Phyllis Arth's home, which is accessible for those having difficulty with stairs.



Vickie McDonald and Diversity Committee cochairs Janet Walters and Phyllis Arth prepare for the June 14 gathering for FFL and Muslim friends.

Huskers Brought New Member Coccodrilli to Lincoln

By Phyllis Arth



Please welcome Prudence, "Prue," Coccodrilli (pronounced koko-drill-e), to Friendship Force Lincoln.

Q: What brought you to Lincoln?

A: Cornhusker football! My future husband was at the 1970 Orange Bowl for the first national championship. That cemented Claude and me as Husker Football Fans. We were living in Philadelphia. From 1976-1980 we traveled to Lincoln every time we could secure tickets. Then, we thought – "Hey, we could live here." We arranged interviews with Lincoln Public Schools - as Special Ed. teachers, we were marketable. On our trip to say goodbye to our Pennsylvania family, we watched UNL beat Penn State, at Penn State. We quit our jobs, sold our downtown condo, packed a U-Haul, hitched it to our VW Rabbit and two weeks later we were signing contracts to teach with LPS and moving onto an acreage in Seward County. The next week we were seated in Memorial Stadi-

um, watching the Huskers play Florida State. Continuing to cheer Husker football, we have also had women's volleyball tickets since 1988.

Q: What is the best compliment you ever received, and why?

A: I was a good teacher, just not a good student. It took me 10 years to graduate from college (two of those for my Master's). During my last year, I was in a Tests and Measures class with one of my favorite professors. We were exposed to and filled out several sample IQ tests. After class, my prof looked at me and said, "Prue, you really don't know how smart you are, do you?" Because I had previously flunked out twice, that remark has stayed with me all these years.

I was smart enough to be happily married for 40 years. Claude and I were both teachers for LPS from 1980-2007. We were lucky to be able to be at several schools throughout Lincoln. We loved the experiences. Claude died in 2020.

Q: What is a quote that inspires you, and why?

A: "There is no way to happiness, happiness is the way." Buddha. This saying is on a banner which greets me every morning and I start my day with a smile."

Q: What are some things you accomplished in the past of which you are proud?

A: I was a Teammate for nine years; I was with one student from her third grade until a successful graduation. I have attended OLLI classes for 11 years, on various subjects. Living on my acreage, alone, for me, continues to be a major accomplishment.

Q: Tell us a quirky thing about you.

A: I lived on the island of Alcatraz! I rode a boat to San Francisco to attend school, for my third and fourth grade years. Yes, there were times when my mother had to hurry me so I wouldn't miss the boat. Because of my father's employment for the Federal Prison System, my family and I

(Continued on Page 5)

Day Trip to Winnebago Pow Wow in July

By Judy Keetle

On Thursday, July 25, 2024, Friendship Force of Lincoln members and guests are invited to attend the 158th Annual Homecoming Celebration at the Winnebago Veteran's Memorial Park in Winnebago, NE. This Pow Wow commemorates the return of Chief Little Priest and The Ft. Omaha Company A Scouts. This will be a chance to learn about the Native American culture.

We will carpool to Winnebago, about two hours and 110 miles north of Lincoln on Highway 77. We will meet at 9:30 at the Aardvark Antique Mall at 5800 Arbor Road and leave cars not used for carpooling.

There is a \$10.00 weekend general admission fee. All Veterans are FREE with valid ID. We will arrive in time to stroll through the Native American art and craft stalls and get Indian tacos for lunch before we find seats in time for the 1:00 Grand Entry.

We will see beautiful regalia (dancers' outfits) and much dancing. When I have attended in the past, visitors have been invited to participate in dancing at a designated time in the afternoon. I've also found that the Native people are most anxious to share their history and culture with visitors.

Please let me know by Monday, July 22 if you plan to join us for this day trip. Also, let me know if you can drive your car and how many passengers you can take. E-mail me at Judy Keetle, <u>jkeetle2@gmail.com</u> Thanks.

Coccodrilli New Member Interview (continued from page 4

lived on Alcatraz from 1955-1957. The employed community was cooperative and supportive. We lived inside a fenced compound. We had churches, a bowling alley, and a canteen for groceries. Prisoners, accompanied by guards, did the groundskeeping, laundry drop-off, and pickup, trash collection, and more. They also manufactured furniture for federal prisons.

Q: What makes you lose track of time?

A: Old black and white movies and reading. I enjoy reading mysteries. One series, 'Shetland' by Ann Cleeves, led to a very interesting trip abroad. Fellow readers and I planned a trip to Scotland and extended our time to The Shetlands. We drove on narrow roads, toured Viking longhouses, saw Shetland ponies, and listened to the Gaelic language. Our B&B host was our tour guide for four days – quite an experience!

Q: What is on your To Do list that is important, but not urgent?

A: My involvement in the Lin h Quang Vietnamese Buddhist Center. My husband Claude and I started attending 15 years ago. I continue to go. I do not speak or understand the language. It provides a wonderful place for prayer, meditation and study. I am surrounded by wonderful, supportive, caring families and am enriched by inclusion into their customs and culture.

Prudence: "I am looking forward to shaking hands across the world, to be as active as I can be."

Welcome New Member DiAnna Schimek

By Pat King

DiAnna Schimek has recently joined the Friendship Force of Lincoln. Originally from Alma, DiAnna attended Colorado Women's College, the University of Nebraska, and Kearney State (now University of Nebraska at Kearney). She is married and has two sons: Sam is married and teaches at Kansas State University, and Saul is employed as a computer specialist at UNL.



Many of us remember DiAnna as a member of the Nebraska Legislature. She was elected in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004, She was term limited after the 2008 session. She championed changing Nebraska's method of apportioning electoral votes in presidential elections by congressional district. She also introduced a bill to give convicts the right to vote two years after serving their sentence. She tried multiple times to pass a bill for in-state tuition for children whose parents came to this country illegally and was finally successful.

Dianna has served on numerus boards including El Centro de las Americas, NE Applessed, Center for People in Need, the Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators, Community Health Endowment, Habitat for Humanity and Senior Foundation board.

Her awards include the Jim Wolf Equal Justice Award from NE Appleseed in 2019, the Nebraska Foundation's Distinguished Nebraskalander Award in 2011, and the National Education Association's Mary Harwood Futile award in 2010. The first award she received after being elected to the Legislature was the Outstanding Alumni Award in 1989 from the University of Nebraska Kearney.

The Schimeks have enjoyed multiple trips to Europe as well as shorter trips around the country. Her favorite was celebrating her parents' anniversary with the whole family and meeting relatives in Europe.

Happy Birthday to our FFL Club Members

Nancy Comer	July 1	Jan Sibal	August 8
Carolyn Harp	July 15	Richard Callaway	August 9
Marcia Wallen	July 16	Betty Starr	August 10
Gayle Bayer	July 18	Kathryn Neyens	August 17
Barbara Wittstruck	July 24	Carlene Keim	August 28
Sharre Jahde	July 27	Kay Straube	August 29
Midge Dublinske	August 6	Julie Albrecht	August 30

Lincoln to Host Incoming Journey from San Diego Sept. 30

By Judy Keetle, San Diego Journey Coordinator

Come join San Diego members as we learn about Lincoln and the surrounding areas. See more information in coming weeks about joining the various activities.

Monday, Sept 30, 2024

Welcome Brunch at Museum of American Speed; Afternoon, drive by public art and get a "feel" for Lincoln.

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Travel to Beatrice, NE – Homestead National Monument; Tour Homestead Museum; Lunch;

Guided tour of the prairie; Tour Shadow brook Farm and Dutch Girl Creamery on way back to Lincoln.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Innovation Campus tour; Lunch in the East Campus Union; Larson Tractor Test and Power Museum; International Quilt Museum - docent-led tour; Evening – Small Group Dinners.

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Presentation about the Nebraska Unicameral; Lunch in the Governor's Mansion; Docent-led tour of the Governor's Mansion; Tour Capital (US Register of Historic Places); Walk through the Sunken Garden and Rose Gardens.

Friday, October 4, 2024

Sheldon Museum of Art – docent-led tour; Lunch at UNL Union; Morrill Hall self-guided tour and Planetarium showing mastodon, dinosaurs, Indian exhibits, etc.; National Museum of Roller Skating.

Farewell Dinner and program at the Lincoln Indian Center.



A self-guided tour of Morrill Hall will be on the Friday, Oct. 4 agenda.

Summer Events Will Keep FFL Club Members Active

June

24-June LEO Shogun (Japanese), 5:00 pm, 3700 S. 9th

July

- July No Board Meeting
- 10-July LEO Hacienda Jalisco (Mexican), 5:00 pm, Hickman
- 10-July Articles for August Passport due
- 13-July Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th 25-July Day Trip to Winnebago (Details in the article above)

August

- 5-August FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th
- 10-August Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
 23-August Sept 1—FFI Festival of the Sea

Marcia Wallen Joins Friendship Force of Lincoln

By Pat King

A big welcome to another new member, Marcia Wallen. Marcia was born in St. Joseph, Mo., but moved with her family to Lincoln when she was six months old. She graduated from the University of Nebraska, then went to Iowa State for her Masters. Marcia is a dietician.

After seven years living in New Mexico, Florida, Iowa, and Massachusetts, Marcia returned to Lincoln. She worked for Family Service in the area of women, children and infant nutrition. She did nutrition consulting

at local nursing homes. Marcia also worked at Hy-Vee.



A devoted Husker, Marcia enjoys traveling to follow the team. Internationally, she has visited England, France, Poland, Germany and Panama. She has taken two Caribbean cruises with her granddaughter.

Marcia is very active with the Kiwanis, having served as President twice and Lt. Governor for the Nebraska/Iowa region. She enjoys Kiwanis because of its focus on children.

Marcia volunteers at Clinic with a Heart. Recently she has volunteered with Mercy Meals, helping to stuff 1,500 bags.

We are delighted to have Marcia join our organization.

Looking for a Few Good Journey Leaders

By Pat Novak, Journey Resource Chair

In September 2025 Friendship Force Lincoln will welcome the Columbia Cascade Friendship Force to our community.

In November 2025 the Friendship Force of Lincoln will be traveling to Sarasota, Florida.

The responsibilities and applications for both outbound and inbound journey coordinators are found at <u>FFLincoln.org</u> (About FF Lincoln, Club Resources, Procedure and Application.) If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me – Pat Novak <u>mutanu123@yahoo.com</u> – and I will try to address them.

If you are interested in serving as journey coordinator for either of these 2025 exchanges, let me know. I am aware these are a year away and I don't have much information from either club, but it would be nice to have an idea of who might be interested ASAP. The final decision rests with the Board and once an individual is selected, I will let the respective candidate know and the inter-club communications can begin.

Preview of Leslie Ryan, New FFL Member

By Phyllis Arth

Preview – noun, an inspection or viewing of something before it becomes generally known.

Leslie Ryan arrived in Lincoln from Philadelphia 25 years ago and now sees it is an inconvenient home for a person who is fond of ocean cruises. She is recently back from Mexico and a Caribbean cruise. In 2020 Leslie was enjoying the cruise through the Inside Passage when her roommate got COVID-19 – so, she was sent home. Upon return, she resigned her state government job.

Retirement brought some changes. She reads less now and surfs the internet more. Leslie enjoys following an online trail of breadcrumbs and may end up on a far different subject than her original search. She values her time with friends. She likes deciding to do more of this and not that.

Leslie has also enjoyed non-cruise traveling. The British Isles—Britain, Ireland, and Scotland—are favorites. She now has her eye on Japan and, of course, more cruises.

Leslie was a single parent for 18 years and raised two kids. She worked at non-profits and government jobs. She taught cat and mammal anatomy. Leslie was a student in one of the first computer classes – the kind where you submitted one line at a time, the screen was black, there were no pictures and the modem beeped.

Now, she laughs, she is smart enough not to try to teach. She is a volunteer Way Finder at Bryan Hospital, active in her church and attends a couple of meet-up groups.

Currently, Leslie can be found learning about cursing at plumbing, specifically dehumidifiers. Upon return from Mexico, she discovered her dehumidifier had stopped, mid-trip. YouTube is helpful but won't carry a machine downstairs.

Leslie is looking forward to involvement with FFL. FFL is based on trust, she says. Having strangers in your home, and extending friendship is honorable. She values FFL's combination of people and travel.

Great Opportunities for Journeys are Coming in 2025

By Pat Novak, Journey Resource Chair

- Pack your bags for some great adventures in 2025! In April, Friendship Force International will be traveling to Cuba on a special journey.
- Maxine Moul will serve as your journey coordinator for a trip to Indonesia in June.
- In September, the Columbia Cascades FF is set to visit Lincoln, another opportunity to make new friends and show off our great city.
- In November there will be an opportunity to visit Sarasota, FL a great way to escape a Nebraska winter.

So – check your calendars and await further information on these journeys.



FFL Things to Know — June 2024

Birthday Acknowledgment

JoEllen Polzien sends out birthday greetings to those who have volunteered to give their birth dates. She can be contacted at H: 402-483-1112 C: 402-202-6924 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 cell 531-207-6042

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, <u>jkeetle2@gmail.com</u>, Cell 402-432-0830

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.

Friendship Force Lincoln's website:

www.friendshipforcelincholn.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 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. 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 Cell 402-730-3340 The Membership Form can be accessed on friendshipforcelincoln.org under FFL Lincoln, Club Resources and is also on page 12 of this Passport issue.

Speakers Bureau

If you know of a group that would like a short program about Friendship Force, contact Arlene Rea. Also, let her know if you would be available to give programs to community groups.

Passport April 2024

Calendar September to December 2024

September

- 9-September FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th
- 14-September Breakfast & Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **22-September** FFL Annual Meeting, 2 pm, Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th **30 September 5 October,** Inbound Journey San Diego

October

7 -10 October FF North American Conference, Milwaukee

November

8 – 16 November Open World, Mongolia

December

8-December Holiday Party

LEO Lunches, Dinners Feature Ethnic Foods

By Bruce and Carlene Keim, LEO Co-Chairs

Our April 16th Let's Eat Out had 24 members attending at Heoya South restaurant. Minh Nguyen started Heoya as a food truck going to different spots on the UNL campus. One of his pictures on the wall was of his food truck parked in a sorority parking lot.

In 2012 they started serving at U-Stop at 33rd and Superior Street, now called the north location. Nguyen and his family started using Vietnamese recipes handed down over time, adding them to create the menu we see today. The food, including spring rolls, rice boxes, and Korean Fries, was excellent.

Our next LEO will be Monday, June 24th at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse at 3700 South 9th Street at 5:00 P.M. We hope to see everyone there as they put on quite a show with the meal.

Plan for an out-of-town dinner to neighboring Hickman, NE at Hacienda Jalisco, 1204 Park D, on July 10 at 5 p.m.





Friendship Force Lincoln members enjoy Vietnamese food at Heoya.

The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Application Friendship Force International and Friendship Force of Lincoln dues \$50 per person

Date: New Mer	mber Rene	ewing Member
Name:		
Address:		
		Zip
Home Number:	Me	obile Number:
Email Address:		
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May Friendship Force of Linco Facebook, etc. to promote the F		ograph in brochures, media articles, website, Organization? Y N
On the activities below, circle t	hose which inte	erest you.
Club supporter		Inbound Home Host
Activities Committee		Inbound Dinner Host
Open World (COIL) Committee		Journey Coordinator
Computer/Internet Skills		Officer Nominating Committee
Diversity & Community Service	e Committee	Passport Newsletter Formatting
Feature article writer for Passpor	rt or Neigh-	Speakers' Bureau
borhood Extra		Social Committee
Future Officer		Other

Make check payable to: Friendship Force of Lincoln.