



PASSPORT

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July 2026

Friendship Force Clubs of Lincoln and Greater Omaha Meet

By Judy Keetle

It was a warm and sunny day on Saturday, June 6. The Ashland Brewing Company, located between Lincoln and Omaha, was the destination for FFL and GOFF members. Twenty-two of us enjoyed lunch and beverages together. The food/drink was good and the service was great, although a couple of cars were sent down the road to another restaurant before they returned.

We had so much fun meeting and visiting with new FF friends and reconnecting with friends we already knew. "We should do this more often" was a frequent comment. Perhaps this should become an annual event.



Lincoln and Greater Omaha members visit.

Calendar July 2026 to December 2026

July 25, Sat. LEO, Ginger Grill, 6055 Apples Way, 11:30

August 3, Mon - Board Meeting, Walt Library, 2:00

August 9, Sun - ANNUALMEETING, 1:00, Walt Library, [6701 S. 14th St](#)

August 16-19, Sun-Wed - Outbound Journey to Des Moines

August 24, Mon - LEO, Pinot Style Filipino American, 1601 Q St, 5:00

August 29, Sat - Cultural Bazaar, Asian Center, 144 N. 44th St, 10 am-1 pm

September 14, Mon, Board Meeting at Walt Library, 2:00

September 18-26, Fri-next Sat - COIL/Open World, Hungary, topic Local Leadership

September 26, Sat - Harvest Moon Festival, Antelope Park, 4-7 pm

December 6, Sun - HOLIDAY PARTY

From the FFL President, July 2026

By Judy Kettle, President

Something has become very apparent to me – members of Friendship Force in Lincoln and throughout the world are very special people. They are friendly, gracious, life-long learners, peace-loving, welcoming, and all-around nice people who are very proud of their families, their homes, and their cultures. They are also very willing to share the highlights of their parts of the world. You and I should be very glad we are part of this international organization promoting unity through cultural exchange, hosting, and meaningful friendships.

This year FFL is trying to give more people more opportunities to be more involved with FFL. As President, I am constantly consulting with Ann, the VP and Arlene, the past-president to make decisions. Most committees have co-chairs this year. It has been so encouraging that when members are asked to help out, they are most often willing and able. Be sure to let us know your interests, so you can be included in things that interest you.



Judy Keetle, President

As we all know, the more involved one is, the more rewards come their way. Getting to know other FFL members in small groups is one way to do this. The FFL bridge group has been going for several months. The day trip committee is making plans. Small group dinners, wine lovers, and game night committees will be meeting soon. Tell us if you have an idea for a small group.

Many journey opportunities are available to FF members throughout the year. FFL has some great journeys planned for 2027. See the list of journeys listed in this Passport. None of these journeys can happen without journey coordinators to organize the details of each trip. Training is available for journey coordinators, and part of their expensed are paid by FFL. Consider taking on this fun responsibility.

Our ANNUAL MEETING is always a time for all of us to get together to learn about the current year and plans for the future, as well as enjoy some entertainment and snacks. This year we will meet on the afternoon of Sunday, August 9 at the Walt Library, 6701 S 14th Street. Watch for details via email closer to the event.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Watch for emails about FFL. There are exciting things happening.

Judy Keetle, 2026 President

Happy Birthday to our Friendship Force Members

Nancy Comer	July 1	Richard Callaway	August 9	Judy Keetle	September 27
Carolyn Harp	July 15	Betty Starr	August 10	De Tonak	September 29
Marcia Wallen	July 16	Kathryn Neyens	August 17	Sylvia Crilly	October 1
Gayle Bayer	July 18	Carol Johnstone-Horning	August 22	Julie Splichal	October 27
Sharre Jahde	July 27	Carlene Keim	August 28	Laurie Ann Scott	October 29
Midge Dublinske	August 6	Julie Albrecht	August 30	Milt Bayer	October 31
Jan Sibal	August 8				

FFL attends Asian Center's Heritage Festival



Judy Keetle and Thuy Ngoc Ho connected at the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Festival.

By Phyllis Arth

Arlene Rea, Judy Keetle, Maxine Moul and Phyllis Arth attended the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Festival. It took place at the Sandhills Global Events Center, May 2, 2026. The Diversity and Community Service Committee has been coordinating evening gatherings and activities with the Asian Community and Cultural Center, so it was rewarding to greet several of our new friends as FFL members walked through the Festival. Many cultures sold delicious food – in addition to free treats. Audiences enjoyed dancers from several cultures performing in traditional clothing and a young group shared a modern hip-hop routine. The facility was joyfully decorated with strings of lights and Chinese lanterns. Many booths represented countries and cultures.

Board of Directors and Committees 2026

President – Judy Keetle
 Vice-President – Ann Quinlan
 Secretary – Carol Johnstone-Hornig
 Treasurer – Milt Bayer
 Past President – Arlene Rea

Standing Committees

Breakfast & Conversation – Chairs: Marilyn Watson & Leslie Ryan
 COIL (Open World): Chairs: Julie Albrecht & Wendy Horacek
 Diversity and Community Service: Chairs: Janet Walters, Phyllis Arth.
 Historian –Phyllis Arth
 Journey Resource Chair – Pat Novak
 Sand Hill Crane Journey – Coordinators: Arlene Rea, Eloise Hiatt, Judy Keetle, Midge Dublinske
 St. Louis Outbound – Coordinators: TBD
 LEO (Let's Eat Out) – Chairs: Carlene & Bruce Keim
 Membership Chairs: Eloise Hiatt, Vickie McDonald.
 Directory: Chair: Arlene Rea

Courtesy: Chair: Gayle Bayer
 Passport Newsletter and newspaper articles: Maxine Moul
 Scholarship: Ann Quinlan (chair), Milt Bayer, Wendy Horacek (1 year), Leslie Ryan (2-year), OPEN (3-year)
 Social: Chair: Julie Splichal

Ad Hoc Committees

Audit: De Tonack, Dorothy Anderson
 Budget: Executive Board
 Bridge Group: Nancy Comer, Marilyn Watson, Jane Kinsey, Dorothy Anderson, Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Pat Novak, Judy Keetle
 Day Trips: Ann Quinlan, Marilyn Watson, Arlene Rea, Dorothy Anderson
 FFI Liaison: Laurie Ann Scott
 Game Day/Night: Marilyn Watson, Ann Quinlan, Arlene Rea, Judy Keetle
 Nominations: Nancy Comer (chair), Midge Dublinske, Wendy Horacek, Bruce Keim, Arlene Rea
 Policies and Bylaws Review: Chair: Ann Quinlan
 Speaker's Bureau: Wendy Horacek, Judy Keetle, Arlene Rea
 Wine Lovers: Marilyn Watson, Judy Keetle

Attend the FFL Annual Meeting August 9

By Julie Splichal, Social Committee Chair

Mark your calendar for the Friendship Force of Lincoln's Annual Meeting at 1 p.m., Sunday, August 9, at the Bess Dotson Walt library, 6701 S. 14th St. in Lincoln. The Asian and Pacific Island Dancers will grace us with a beautiful performance. This female troupe was established at the Asian Community and Cultural Center.

Take advantage of your opportunity to elect a new slate of officers for the upcoming year. And review activities and accomplishments of the past year while learning about the upcoming journeys and events. Treats will be served as you have a chance to catchup with members.

Watch for emails with more details as we get closer to the meeting. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!

Slate of Nominees for FFL 2027 Officers

By Judy Kettle, President

Thanks to the FFL Nominating Committee for presenting a great slate of officers for the FFL 2027 Board. The Nominating Committee members were Nancy Comer, Chair; Midge Dublinske; Wendy Horacek, Bruce Keim; and Arlene Rea. The nominees who will be voted on at the FFL Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 9 are:



President
Midge Dublinske



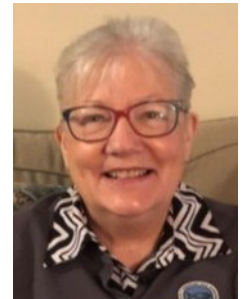
Vice-President
Ann Quinlin



Secretary
Carol Johnstone-Hornig



Treasurer
Milt Bayer



Past President
Judy Keetle

Lincoln Members Travelling to Des Moines, St. Louis and Bavaria

There are three Journeys in 2026 that involve Lincoln FFL Members. Domestic Journeys are to Des Moines August 16-19, including to the famous Iowa State Fair, and to St. Louis October 25-29. Eloise Hiatt and Phyllis Arth are serving as coordinators for Iowa. Journey Resource Committee Chair Pat Novak is looking for someone to lead the St. Louis Journey as coordinators.

Friendship Force of Lincoln members Milt and Gayle Bayer and Maxine Moul will be participating in a Journey to Bavaria in late July. They are joining the Friendship Force club in Austin.

Welcome Back Renewing Member Marie Hitz



We are glad to have Marie Hitz back as a member of Friendship Force of Lincoln. Marie had other responsibilities for a few years and is now back with FFL.

Marie was an insurance agent with Farm Bureau in her working career. She retired in 2015. She has four children. Her three daughters live in Florida; Steamboat Springs, CO; and Denver Co. Her son lives in Lincoln.

Having traveled a lot in the US and Europe, Marie is looking forward to traveling to Asia. She especially enjoys the US national parks. Marie finds beauty everywhere she goes and is fascinated by the various cultures throughout the world. Marie lives on a lake, and enjoys kayaking and biking.

Marie on the Cowboy Trail Bridge at Valentine.

LEO Diners Visit Japanese, Mexican, Thai and Milford Restaurants

By Bruce Keim, LEO co-chair

On March 18th LEO was held at the Japon Bistro a nice little place in the Williamsburg shopping area. Fifteen members attended and heard Eddie the co-owner tell us about his restaurant. The Japon name was used in Europe during WWII for JAPAN. They also own a location in Kearney Ne. The menu had a very large selection of items. I had the fish bowl and it was excellent: lightly crusted cod fish, veggies and rice. Some members had dishes with lobster and crab included.

The April LEO was held at EL Chaparro Mexican on Thursday April 23rd. A small but mighty group of five attended. Prudence said that it was a lovely time that allowed her to meet some of the new members. It was a very busy place, and the owners did not have time to give our group the story of their restaurant.

May 19th was for lunch and a day trip to the Main Street Market in Milford Ne, It's a family market owned by Craig and Karen Bon-tager. Karen told us that traveling to the Pennsylvania Dutch areas allowed them to bring many Mennonite traditions and foods back to the Milford, Nebraska area. They have a nice neat and very new building on Highway 6 in Milford. It included lots of items to buy, and we had some really great sandwiches for lunch. A local bakery supplies them with fresh cinnamon rolls, breads and KO-LACHES!!!! LEO celebrated Thai food on Thursday June 25th at the Asian Taste Thai Restaurant at 501 West A street, Lincoln, Ne.

The next LEO will be Saturday, July 25, at Ginger Grill, 6055 Apples Way, 11:30 p.m. Please RSVP to brucelkeim@gmail.com. Hope to see everyone there.



Carol Johnstone-Horning shows her dish at the Japon Bistro in Williamsburg shopping area.

2027 Domestic and International Journeys Announced

By Judy Keetle

Friendship Force International has notified FFL of our journey assignments for 2027. They are:

Inbound – April, San Antonio to Lincoln

We will also be hosting the Des Moines club in 2027, no dates set yet.

Outbound – June, Lincoln to Pecs, Hungary and Sibiu, Romania

October – Lincoln to Western North Carolina

Journey coordinators (training provided) are needed for all of these journeys. Expenses for the journey coordinators are reduced.

The journey coordinators for the Hungary/Romania journey are Julie Albrecht and Judy Keetle. There are 10 FFL members and three FF members from other clubs who have already expressed interest in this journey.

If you are (1) interested in going on one or more of the journeys; or (2) are interested in becoming a journey coordinator; please let Journey Resource Coordinator, Pat Novak, know ASAP at mutanu123@yahoo.com.

Friendship Force's North American Conference at Memphis

By Julie Albrecht and Judy Keetle

If you've been to a Regional, National, or International Friendship Force Conference, you know it's a great opportunity to see a part of the world you may not be familiar with. You can connect with FF friends from past journeys. And, most importantly, it is open to new ideas, networking for journeys, and meeting FFI staff in person. The Memphis Conference. April 24-25, did a great job of touching on all of these points.

Here are a few general observations. While networking, you realize there are many ways to manage the FF community. There is no one right way to do things. If anything, this conference asked more questions than it answered - so much to think about. How will we, as in all of us, maintain and expand our local FF chapters? How will FFI survive the travel slow downs and bans, fuel shortages, inflation? How will FFI manage financially, especially beyond the first year of the three year rollout of dues in line with each country's GNP? There are always opportunities to donate to FFI, especially for those of us who could donate through our annual Required Minimum Distribution, tax-free.

Back in our hometowns, what can an individual do to work toward the common goal of 'Building Global Unity One Friendship at a Time'?

Maybe start with an assessment? SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats. Then prioritize: Membership/Recruitment, Hosts/Journeys, Leadership/Succession, Mission/Identity or whatever your community needs to address today.



Julie Albrecht, FFL; Taryn Roberts, FFI; and Judy Keetle. FFL at Memphis.

Continued on Page 7

Memphis Conference Challenges FF Members continued from Page 6

Are you a regular at Activities? Leadership? Club Advancement?

Is Friendship Force known in your area? Partnerships with other community groups and engaging in community events are good starting points for this initiative.

Will your FF link with other chapters in your region, perhaps to plan a themed journey in 2027? Will you personally invite your worldwide FF friends? Will your club zoom with FFI chapters worldwide? If clubs do nothing else this year, become more visible in your community and continue to network!

Memphis convention attendees were welcomed to the FFI gathering.



2026 Officers, Committee Chairs Nearing End of Term



FFL Board and Committee Chairs are, front row, Ann Quinlin, Milt Bayer, Arlene Rea, Midge Dublinske, Maxine Moul. Back row, Vickie McDonald, Pat Novak, Phyllis Arth, Gayle Bayer, Janet Walters, Julie Splichal, Marilyn Watson, and Julie Albrecht. Not pictured are officers President Judy Keetle and Secretary Carol Johnstone-Hornig and several committee chairs and co-chairs.

Help Wanted: Formatting for the FFL Passport

FFL Passport Editor Maxine Moul has used Microsoft Publisher for several years, but Microsoft is ending its support in October 2026. Does anyone have another similar program they use to create newsletters like the Passport? Please call Maxine at 402-432-1386 or email her at mmoul1@allophone.com.

The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Application

Dues: Friendship Force International, Friendship Force of Lincoln

\$20 per person for Lincoln chapter

**Beginning in 2027, Dues for Friendship Force International will be paid
on-line to FFI (\$100 per person)**

Date: _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: Month ____ Day ____ Would you like to receive an electronic birthday greeting? Y N

Does Friendship Force of Lincoln have your permission to use your photograph in brochures, media articles, website, Facebook, etc. to promote the Organization? Y N

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 Committee

Passport Newsletter Formatting

Feature article writer for Passport or Neighborhood Extra

Speakers' Bureau

Social Committee

Future Officer

Other _____

Make check payable to: Friendship Force of Lincoln.