



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 6

November/December 2012

From Your Chapter President

Fall is here and the trees and shrubs are so beautiful.

We had a great General Membership meeting and picnic on September 16 at Antelope Park with delicious food from Famous Dave's. The new by-laws were read and accepted.

The International Board of Directors held their annual fall meeting in Lincoln October 11-13. I'm sure, by now, you have all received your 2014 membership renewals and have noticed the changes in the levels of membership dues. Also, membership renewals are now available online. Just go to the AHSGR website: www.ahsgr.org

There are more new materials and information becoming available out of Russia and more translations are being done.

The plans for the 2013 convention in Ft. Collins, CO on July 8-14 are being fine-tuned and it is sure to be a great convention, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Manifesto. Also a contract was signed for the 2014 con-

vention at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln on July 7-13.

Some news from campus is that we have all new gutters and downspouts on our buildings. Several downspouts had been stolen (they were copper) so it was time to replace them all before more were stolen. Also, new carpet was approved for the first floor of Headquarters and it will be laid starting the last week of October.

Remember to pay your \$12 Lincoln Chapter dues. Let's all see if we can "each one, reach one" for 2013 and let's all bring in a new member to AHSGR.

In order to keep our printing and postage costs down we are going to be sending the newsletter by e-mail to as many of you as possible. Please keep me notified of any e-mail changes. Also anyone who is receiving the Newsletter by regular mail, and would prefer to receive it by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to me at nborrell1940@aol.com. ■

Nancy

Belznickel

by Timothy Kloberdanz

[Taken from the Central California Chapter Newsletter December 2011]

Masked god of our ancient past,
friend of the frightened children,
when will you forgive us and return?
Sometimes the old folks speak
of how you magically appeared
on frozen Christmas Eves.
A crumpled hat, a mask of cloth,
a hefty coat and gloves
disguised your secret form.
The door would open wide
to quiet the children's screaming.
"Pray" you told the little ones
giving peanuts to the pious
and spankings to the rest.
How many snows have melted
since you rapped upon a kitchen
door
with your wooden paddle?
Perhaps you still come by,
pausing near each home
yet are afraid to enter.
Afraid you will remind those
who have tried to forget
their earth-kissed heritage.
Surely you peek in the window
and see the aluminum tree,
electric wreath and plastic
mistletoe.
Belznickel with the precious human
eyes,
forgive my people who have
forgotten
and left you standing in the cold. ■

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR Broda Dinner

Friday, November 2, 2012

5:00-7:00 p.m.

WSI Hall • 1430 No. 10th Street

Adults: \$10.00 each

Children (12 and Under): \$5.00 each





Baking Day at Gramma's

Welcome to a Saturday in Gramma Dellos basement kitchen. My grandparents John and Katherine Dellos lived on Claremont Street in the North Bottoms German-Russian neighborhood of Lincoln Nebraska.

Every Saturday was baking day. And if you were lucky enough to be there on Saturday you could watch and learn how Grandma made the best white bread, coffee cakes, and apple pies. But my very favorite, besides the white bread, were her pie dough birds, which were covered with ample amounts of sugar and cinnamon.

She used the scraps of pie dough and whatever pie dough was left in her large crockery bowl to shape bodies and heads along with delicate wings. She then put them into enamel pie plates to bake.

Her pie crust just melted in your mouth. I liked it when the apples in the pies were a little juicy and some juice would seep into the pie crust edge and get a little brown and sticky.

Grandma always baked at least ten loaves of white bread each week. The crusts were always a little chewy and the bread was soft and wonderful.

The smell in the kitchen must be what heaven smells like.

Grandma got up very early on Saturday mornings to start her bread dough. She used a big enamel wash pan and by midmorning it had risen into a huge ball of dough that smelled delicious. I liked to eat a pinch of it when grandma was not looking. Yum.

She then kneaded it and rubbed her hands with lard and greased her bread tins then made loaves to put in each tin. She covered the tins with white flour bag tea towels. These were all set on top of her old iron cook stove in the kitchen. My Dad and Mom had bought her a gas stove before Dad went into the Army for World War II.

My dad was Henry Bridegam Jr. He married our mom Hilda Dellos and during the war my sister Donna, myself

[Becky] and our brother Ronnie lived in our grandparents attic. So we ate a lot of Grammas pies, coffee cakes and our special "pie birds".

It was hard to convince Grandma to get a gas stove but once she had it she soon learned to enjoy baking in it.

Grammas kitchen was also the nightly meeting place for Grandpa's old country village friends. Here they came to roll their cigarettes with their papers and small white drawstring sacks of tobacco they carried in their bib overalls or coat pockets.

They turned on the radio and listened to the war news then they would talk in German about what they had heard and I always sat at Grandpa's feet and listened to the stories of the old country and the worries they had for family and friends and neighbors left behind.

Sometimes Grandpa would cross his legs and let me get a horsy ride on his ankle. This was great fun.

After the men left we would gather in the kitchen for our bedtime snack. In the kitchen pantry always sat a case of assorted Nehi pop. We could each have a whole bottle. I always took either grape, strawberry or cream soda, then we could have a cookie or pie or a bird, if they were not all gone.

Upstairs we went to get washed up with a nightly sponge bath, then into our night clothes and off to bed, always with a kiss from Grandma and "Now I Lay me down to sleep" in German.

Oh, to smell that kitchen again and to eat that heavenly bread along with those "pie birds". And to hear Grandma say goodnight and say our prayers in German.

Growing up in a simple German-Russian neighborhood was truly heaven on earth. ■

—Contributed by Becky Schenaman

Spice of Life—Living the German Russian Culture

[Taken from the Central California Chapter Newsletter December 2011]

Are you interested in German-Russian culture, heritage, foods memories...? If so, you will want to check out this website:

<http://judyfrothinger.blogspot.com>

Judy Frothinger, the daughter of German-Russian immigrants, was born and raised in western South Dakota.

She has a degree in psychology from Sonoma State University in California, is the author of the novel, "A Stranger to Myself," published in November 2009, and is currently working on another novel and a book of short stories. She also has a blog on the Internet where she shares her personal stories about our heritage. Check it out.

Judy is a three-time winner of the Storytelling Contests that is held during the National AHSGR Conventions. ■

*The editors of the
Lincoln Chapter
Newsletter would like
to wish all of you a
Happy Thanksgiving,
Merry Christmas,
and a very
Happy New Year.*

Wishes for a New Year (Neues Jahr)

Wir wunschen Eich
Ein glickseliges neies Jahr;
Langes Leben, Gesundheit,
Griede und Einigkeit,
Nach Eirem Tod
Des Himmelsreich!



We wish you all
A blessed new year,
Long life, health,
Peace and unity.
And after you death (may you enjoy)
The kingdom of heaven!

* * *

Das neue Jahr hat eingefangen,
Der liebe Gott hat uns geschenkt.
Viel hundert Jahr sind hingegangen,
Dass er an seine Menschheit denkt.
So viel Gluck und so viel Segan,
Wie die Tropfen in dem Regen,
Wie die Flocken in dem Schnee.
Das soll alles neu sein.
Guten Morgen—ich wunsch Euch
Ein gluckliches neues Jahr;
Gesundheit, Frieden und Einigkeit!

The new year has begun
That the dear Lord has given us.
Many hundreds of years have passed
That He has thought of His people.
So much luck and so many blessings
As there are drops in the rain,
As there are flakes in the snow,
Everything shall be new.
I wish you a good morning
(And) a happy new year;
Health, peace, and unity!

These traditional New Year's wishes were known to many of the Germans from Russia. Both verses and translations are from the book *Thunder on the Steppe: Volga German Folklife in a Changing Russia* by Timothy J. and Rosalinda Klobberdanz ■

A Reminder...

The annual membership and business meeting will be held January 6, 2013 at 1:00 pm at the Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall. This will be a potluck dinner and election of officers.

This is a very important meeting. We will be nominating and electing members for the offices of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chapter. We are really in need of some volunteers who are willing to allow themselves to be nominated.

Please consider running and contact one of the Board members so your name can be put on the ballot. Or you can step up at the January meeting and be nominated from the floor. Either way we will appreciate your dedication to the Lincoln Chapter and to AHSGR. ■

Chapter Dues are Due

Once again it's time for all of us to pay our Lincoln Chapter dues. The dues are only \$12 per year and are due on January 1st and delinquent after March 31st.

These dues do not cover your membership in the International AHSGR.

Please consider renewing your Lincoln Chapter membership, and come and enjoy the fellowship with your friends at AHSGR. If you are not a member, please complete the membership form below and return it along with your check. ■

Membership Information

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your birth month _____

Spouse's birth month _____

GR Ancestral Village _____

GR Surnames _____

Make check for \$12.00 payable to
Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:

Dale Dinges
1609 S. Cotner Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-488-5154



9th AH\$GR Membership Campaign

June 15, 2012 - May 15, 2013

EACH ONE - REACH ONE

The Membership Campaign rewards AH\$GR members and chapters who recruit new members for AH\$GR or purchase gift memberships for new members. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2013 Convention. Membership Data Forms are available through Chapters or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

- *\$100 to the AH\$GR member AND \$200 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the largest number of new members*
- *\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd largest number of new members*
- *\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd largest number of new members*
- *A \$25 cash prize to 3 new members selected at random.*

New Members are Critical to the Growth and Success of AH\$GR

Every Member Counts - Talk to your Family & Friends - Tell your community about AH\$GR - Buy a Gift Membership for someone

79% of New Members Join Because Someone Asked Them!

<p>If EACH ONE of us strives to REACH ONE new AH\$GR member, we help to assure the future of AH\$GR</p>

See the reverse side for a Membership Data Form – Copy and Recruit

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL *"Happy Birthday"*

November

Robert Wagner
Susan Stoehr
Jim Sommers
Norma Schenkel
Sidonia Babcock
Sandra Gettman
Rodger Wurst
David Huls
Jay Jacox
Roseline Wudel
Ruth White
Sharon Spellman
Tom Buecker
Gail Gingrich
George Horst
Donald Taylor

December

Marilyn Wagner
Barbara Schmidt
Cecelia Sherman
Charles Jones, Jr.
Leslie Bill
Erwin Ulmer
Joyce Riddle
Scott Nelson
Teri Nelson
Henry Schmidt
Judy Lawson
Ray Zeisset
Ardith Stuertz

We'd like to wish Frieda Dobler a Happy 90th Birthday. Frieda has been one of our most faithful and willing volunteers. Here's wishing you many more, Frieda.

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG *"Happy Anniversary"*

November

Doris and Donald Taylor

December

Pam and Rodger Wurst

Unsere Leute Erinnyng *"Our People in Memory"*

EJeanette I. Rieke
Donald L. Hill
Joseph Schwabauer

From the Mailbox

Earlier this summer, we received a nice note from Sid Babcock. She said they had "officially, finally" moved in August and were having the electrical wiring done in their 1920's brick home. (To quote her: "Ach! Du! Lieber!")

She said their post office is one that is scheduled to be closed so they have to have both street and post office box numbers listed for their address. Again to quote her, "Just have to love it!"

It was nice to hear from her and we hope she'll keep in touch. She asked that we say "Hi to all." ■



2012 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

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A New Year's Wish

Wir wuenschen euch ein (We wish you a)
Glueckliches Neues Jahr, (Happy New Year)
Ein langes Leben (a long life)
Gesundheit, (good health)
Friede und Einigkeit, (peace and goodwill)
Und nach dem Tod, (and after death)
Die ewige Glueckseligkeit. (eternal happiness)



2012 Calendar Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

November 2	Broda Dinner	5pm-7pm—WSI Hall	1430 No. 10 Street
November 13	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
November 19	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
December 11	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
December 17	Board Member's Christmas Dinner	TBA	
January 6, 2013	Annual membership & Business meeting Fellowship Hall (potluck dinner & election of officers.)	1:00pm—Immanuel Church	