



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 5

September/October 2015

Bits and Pieces from Larry

Hello, dear members of AHSGR, Lincoln Chapter. Can it really be September already? As I write this, it is raining and the temperature is in the 60s so it feels like fall but I don't know how it happened so fast.

From what we have been hearing, the 46th annual AHSGR Convention in Billings, MT (Big Sky Country) was another success. Every day was filled with activities which included meetings, speakers, luncheons, tours, a quilt raffle, Heritage Hall, library, book store and, of course, shopping.

The convention closed with the traditional passing of the lantern to Susan Nakaji, CDC President. Jerry Siebert will lead California as they plan the 47th International Convention which will be in Concord, California.

Even though the 2015 convention has come and gone, work for next year's convention has begun. If you are planning on attending and would like to volunteer to help, there are numerous opportunities.

Many of the jobs are "sit-down" activities such as registration, raffle ticket sales, membership, and more. If you are able to do a more manual type job, those are available as well. Volunteering is rewarding and you get to meet more folks and renew past acquaintances.

If you aren't able to attend the convention, there are still things you can do to help. You can solicit prizes that can be used for raffles, the Country Store, Silent Auction, and so forth. Cash donations are always welcome. They help to defray costs that always seem to raise their ugly heads.

Having helped with four or five international conventions, I can safely say

Phil Dinges---a Man I Called "Dad"

I knew it was going to come someday but that didn't make it any easier to accept when it did. Phil was 92 and you would not have expected too many people at the funeral of a person that age. But in Phil's case you would have been wrong.

The church was full to overflowing and the ages of those in attendance ran from young adult to very senior. And as the services ended and people were leaving there were many, young and old, shedding tears.

I got to know Phil when he and I were doing volunteer work for AHSGR. Phil had been a long time member when I got involved and he, along with Bud Dietrich, took me under their wings to help guide me. Bud was one of the two men I came to call dad because of their unconditional friendship.

that any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Membership is still a major concern in AHSGR. Not unlike many organizations, our membership is declining. The new recruitment campaign for 2016 is "Keep our Heritage Alive." We each need to search out people of our heritage and encourage them to visit the Heritage Center to see what they are missing. If they would prefer not to become an international member, they can join the Lincoln Chapter to "test the ground."

Following are the names of the AHSGR Society Executive Board of Directors who were elected at the

convention:

- Dennis Reich, President; Auburn, WA
- Mike Meisinger, Vice President; Overland Park, KS
- Robert Wagner, Past President; Lincoln, NE
- Karen Soeken, Secretary; Ellicott City, MD
- Marvin Heckman, Treasurer; Kearney, NE

It should also be noted that four others from Lincoln were elected to the board. They are Nancy Borrell, Pam Wurst, Delores Schwartz and Robert Meininger.

That's quite a representation! ☐

UPCOMING EVENTS

The General Membership meeting and picnic will be held again this year at the Antelope Park Shelter on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm. The picnic will be catered by Lee's Chicken Catering and a program will follow.

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The Chapter will be participating again this year in the Trunk or Treat festivities at Norwood Park School, 4710 N. 72nd Street. The event will take place on October 31, 2015 at 6:00pm. Come volunteer and join in the fun.

## GRs in the Community

Submitted by Jay Jacox

It was better than a “fair” day on Saturday, August 8. Actually, it was a “good” day because the Lincoln Chapter was invited, and given, a free booth at the Lancaster County Super Fair. We were asked to participate in their first-ever Cultural Heritage Day.

Lincoln Chapter members Sharon Buckner, Jay Jacox, Judy Lawson and Paul Loos manned (and “womanned”) a booth alongside Native American, Czech, and Indian cultures.

At our booth children were able to make their own quilt designs out of foam shapes while we spread the word with many curious adults about both the local



and international organizations. Quite a number stopped by to say, “Hey, I grew up...” or “My mother was...” and “Do you know...”

All in all, it was a “super” afternoon at the Super Fair. ☐

## Camp Wonder

Thanks to Jay Jacox for contributing this article

The Lincoln Chapter hosted an afternoon of learning for students at AHSGR International Headquarters. “Camp Wonder” was a cooperative effort of Lincoln Public Schools, the Northeast Family Center and the Lincoln-wide Community learning Center program.

The 2015 theme was “Prairie Pioneers” and on June 24 the Lincoln Chapter members taught students what it was like for German-Russia families coming to Nebraska over 125 years ago.

There were four stations that groups of children rotated around and participated in, to learn about GR culture.

Judy Runion led the quilting station. Nancy Borrell and Barb Schmidt helped the kids make their own grebbel that they got to eat. Jay Jacox and Calvin Schultz taught youngsters to play the game “bunnock.” The final event was a village tour led by Norma Somerheiser and John Weber.

Special thanks to AHSGR for allowing us to hold this event at the Heritage Center and to Mindy Burbach from Lincoln Public Schools for allowing us to use her photos. The event was featured on the Lincoln Public Schools website and in the Omaha World-Herald Newspaper. ☐

## A Night “Under the Stars”

It’s time again to sign up for our road trip to see the Lincoln Stars hockey team in action. This season we have a Friday, October 9 night with the Stars planned as they take on the Dubuque Fighting Saints at the Ice Box.

We will all be seated in the north section of the arena in seats with padded cushions and backs. Our section is fully ADA accessible and our



special price is only \$10 per ticket, 40% off full price.

Come join us for the fun and camaraderie that only the AHSGR Lincoln Chapter and the Stars can provide. Last time we had a very good AHSGR crowd.

A registration form is included in this edition of the newsletter.

For more information please contact Jay at (402) 327-8962. See you at the Stars! ☐





*(From Eleanor Sissel, Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter)*

Put 1 cup flour into a bowl.

Add:

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. ground nutmeg

1 pinch white pepper

Mix together then make an indentation in the mix and add 2 well-beaten eggs and ¼ cup of milk. Stir until smooth.

Boil 8 cups of water. Press the dough through a Spatzle maker or a large holed sieve or metal grater. Drop a few at a time into the simmering liquid.

Some people like to use chicken broth.

Take the noodles out after about 4 minutes or at least 'til they come up to the surface. I use a slotted spoon to put them into a strainer then add finished noodles to a skillet heated with 2 tablespoons or more of butter. Brown lightly and sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of fresh chopped parsley. (I don't always add the parsley). Serve warm.

They can be kept in the refrigerator for a day or two before heating and serving.

Spatzle History—The first evidence of

Spatzle dates back to 1725. It is believed that they must be much older than this, but it is not known when and how Spatzle were invented. However, evidence shows that Spatzle used to be formed by hand or with a spoon into small pieces of dough. This version resembled a sparrow (Spatz) which is why they were called Spatzen.

Another theory states that the word Spatzle originated from the Italian word "spezzato" meaning "small pieces." It was the Swabian people that "Germanized" the word calling the noodle Spatzle. □

## FROHLICH JUHRESTAG

*"Happy Anniversary"*

**September**

(None we are aware of)

**October**

Leslie and Tom Bill

## Unsere Leute Erinnyng

*"Our People in Memory"*

Christine E. Dietz

Michael Andrew Phillips

Marvin D. Hanneman

Edward Loos

Robert R. Miller

Phil Dinges, Jr.

### Your Help is Needed

If you are aware of the death of someone who is a German from Russia, please give Judy Lawson, the Chapter Corresponding Secretary, a call: 402-420-9580.

## HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL

*"Happy Birthday"*

**September**

Nancy Borrell

Donna Day

Rich Dietrich

Barbara Hellerich

Judy Runion

**October**

Sandra Bridegam

Frieda Dobler

Paul Loos

Delores Schwartz



# AHSGR Convention 2015

Submitted by Pam Wurst

**D**elores Schwartz and I left Saturday morning, July 11, about 7 a.m. for the 46th Annual International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia which was held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings, Montana July 13-18th. A trip of 925 miles.

The Convention was attended by over 300 people. The real work started on Sunday afternoon when the truck from Lincoln arrived with all the things needed to put this convention on; many hands made short work as the saying goes. This year the truck was driven by Dean Pawelko with Sherry serving as navigator.

In a few hours most of the convention rooms were set up and we were ready for Monday morning. Of course, as usual, there were a few hitches in the program. Also helping from Lincoln Headquarters staff were Diane Wilson and Yulia Tsymbal.

Monday through Wednesday was filled with Society board meetings, but Registration, Heritage Hall, Library, Bookstore, Silent Auction, and vendors were all open for business.

There were four scheduled tours but one had to be canceled because not enough people were registered, but of the three remaining we heard nothing but rave reviews.

Each day the Hospitality Suite was open to volunteers and board members and we were treated to some very delicious treats. Fresh cinnamon rolls and cakes of different kinds, not a time to be on a diet....

Wednesday evening, before the Welcome Night festivities started, we were welcomed by a heavy rain shower as we crossed the parking lot to the Convention Center. Before the festivities started we enjoyed a sing-a-long led by Corinne Koehler and Don Shenk. The opening was given by Yellowstone Valley Chapter President, Sharon Hamill.

Thursday was the Opening Session with a welcome to the area being given

by Billings' Mayor Thomas Handel. Bob Wagner, Society President, presided over the business meeting. Staff and Society and Trustee Board members were introduced. Village Coordinators' meeting was in the later morning and the afternoon was filled with village area discussion group meetings. Each afternoon kuchen and coffee was served from 3:30 to 4 p.m. The evening program was a Memorial Service and Hymnfest led by Corinne Koehler, Don Shenk, and Dennis Reich.

Friday was filled with seminars, several of which Delores and I attended. I found the one on Adapting to the Cloud of Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease or EOAD by Grant Jackson of West Yellowstone to very informative. Out of his family of ten only two have not shown any signs of the disease. His family was from the village of Walter.

The story-telling contest was held late Friday afternoon as was a Foundation Cocktail Party with speaker Dr. Russell Schnell. The Polka and More dance was played by "Just Jim and Friends." Fun was had by all that attended but Delores and I decided to forgo this since we were leaving early on Saturday morning to return home.

Saturday's agenda included the continuation of the seminars and the banquet dinner to close the convention. This included introduction of the new officers and Society and Foundation members. Distinguished Service Awards were given and our own Norma Somerheiser received one along with Leona Mann and Mabel Kissler. The film presentation of "We (Never) Don't Forget" by Dr. Eric Schmalz was shown.

Our Saturday was started by a stop at the battlefield of Custer's Last Stand. What an awesome feeling to be where history took place. We did not have time to take the tour bus and a guided tour but did do the 7.5 mile self-guided road tour with markers along the way to tell of what happened.

Our next stop was in Moorcroft, Wyoming to pick up a birthday present

for Skip. Delores had found someone to make a metal figure of the Wyoming seal, the Bucking Bronco Rider. This was a 42" figure we fitted into the car with the rest of our belongings, then on to Casper for the night. It was a long, two-day trip, and we were glad to be home on Sunday evening. All in all it was a very good convention. □

## AHSGR Staff & Support Staff

### AHSGR Staff:

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# Garage Sale Roundup

Submitted by Jay Jacox

Our annual Lincoln Chapter garage sale was held on June 12th and 13th in northeast Lincoln in conjunction with the Meadow Lane Area annual garage sale event. Many folks donated great items to the cause.

Some of the items offered for sale were bedroom sets, microwaves, clothing, books, table place settings, cookware, artwork, unused shoes, holiday items, and the like.

The best deal of the day, however, was putting John Weber up for sale. No one made an offer on him, much to Ruby's relief. (Perhaps she paid others off so she could keep him.) [??]

Any items that were left over were donated to charity. A good amount of money was raised, much of which was in turn donated at the next board meeting to our partners at International Headquarters to help in the cleanup and restoration of their recent mold issues.

Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered to help make the garage sale another success. ☐



## 2015 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY – LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

**OFFICERS:**

|                  |                            |                         |              |                         |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| LOOS, Paul       | 400 Fletcher               | loospaul@hotmail.com    | 402-477-3978 | President               |
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| DAY, Donna       | 235 N. 24th Street         |                         | 402-484-5589 | 2nd Vice President      |
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| LAWSON, Judy     | 4811 S. 55th Ct.           | heyjudene@aol.com       | 402-420-9580 | Corresponding Secretary |
| BUCKNER, Sharon  | 4821 S. 55th Ct.           |                         | 402-466-4786 | Historian               |

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| WEBER, John          | 6201 Normal Blvd.   |                    | 402-488-2313 |

## 2015 Calendar of Events

|                    |                                                                              |                    |                                                        |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| September 8, 2015  | Coffee Club                                                                  | 9:00 am            | Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2                          |
| September 20, 2015 | General Membership Meeting & Picnic                                          | 4:00 pm            | Antelope Park Shelter                                  |
| September 21, 2015 | Board Meeting                                                                | 7:00 pm            | 631 "D" St.                                            |
| October 13, 2015   | Coffee Club                                                                  | 9:00 am            | Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2                          |
| October 19, 2015   | Board Meeting                                                                | 7:00 pm            | 631 "D" St.                                            |
| October 31, 2015   | Trunk or Treat                                                               | 6:00 pm            | Norwood Park School, 4710 N. 72 St.                    |
| November 6, 2015   | Broda Dinner                                                                 | 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm | WSI Hall, 430 N. 10th St.                              |
| November 10, 2015  | Coffee Club                                                                  | 9:00 am            | Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2                          |
| November 16, 2015  | Board Meeting                                                                | 7:00 pm            | 631 "D" St.                                            |
| December 8, 2015   | Coffee Club                                                                  | 9:00 am            | Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2                          |
| TBA                | Board Members' Christmas Dinner                                              |                    |                                                        |
| January 10, 2016   | Annual Membership & Business Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers) | 1:00 pm            | Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall 10th & Charleston Sts. |

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR  
Larry and Norma Schenkel, Editors  
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Lincoln, NE 68526  
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## *Life in the North Bottoms*

by Becky Schenaman, North Bottoms

I cannot believe it is almost fall. My spring and summer have flown by so fast. It started in April when my dog, Shorty, broke his back and needed surgery at Kansas State University. He has been recuperating since then.

The doctors there thought his recovery would be six months to a year. He is starting to put weight on his left hind leg but reverts back to raising it and doing a little hop motion. But with rest and time maybe his normal walk will return. But he is otherwise his normal self.

I was lucky enough to win tickets to the Antique Road Show which was held in Omaha, but later during the early morning hours my sister, Donna, fell and broke her left arm in several places. She was in the hospital a few days and had surgery.

So I have been staying at my new home and going back to my home in

the Bottoms also. So it has been a hectic past few months.

Thankfully I have a good brother who lives a few houses away and very watchful neighbors at both houses. This year has not been anything that I would have planned it to be.

I am going to mow the yard today in the North Bottoms. I am a person who mows at least twice a week. A few years back a couple was headed to a Nebraska Football game and they stopped and introduced themselves. They told me they always parked in the area and enjoyed walking past my home.

We talked about flowers and the neighborhood. I explained how beautiful the Bottoms were when I was a child and how I was taught to enjoy the beauty of a well-kept home. And that I still swept the curbs and put the dirt and gravel back into the alley beside

my house.

As it turned out they were with the Lincoln Garden Club and they asked if I would host the Club and local garden people at their next Garden Show the following spring, which I did and over 100 people were in attendance. I was happy to show the North Bottoms in a positive light.

But this year has been hectic starting with all the rain and the near flooding of this historical neighborhood. With the University starting the fall semester, this will bring the opening of that enormous apartment complex that the city allowed to be built from 10th to 12th on "Y" Street.

How the traffic will get in and out of this neighborhood has me very worried, but as with all things, only time will tell. It is just another change for this historical German village.

Mocks Goot ☐

# It's AHSGR night at the Stars again . . .



**Come join in and celebrate with us as we cheer on our own Lincoln Stars hockey club at the Ice Box.**

**When: Friday, October 9, 2015 7:05 start Don't be late!**

**Where: AHSGR will have our own area in the north section at the Ice Box. Our section is fully ADA accessible and seats have padded cushions and backs.**

**Fee: \$10.00 per reserved seat (almost 40% off of regular price)**

**Come for the fun, camaraderie, excitement and special surprises that only AHSGR Lincoln Chapter and the Lincoln Stars can dish up.**

**Registrations should be received by Friday, September 25 to be assured a seat with the group.**

**Questions? Call Jay Jacox at (402) 327-8962 for more info.**

**Mail the registration form below and payment to Jay Jacox, 1000 North 81<sup>st</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68505.**

**\*\*Make checks payable to AHSGR Lincoln Chapter.\*\***

**clip and mail**

**I just can't pass up seeing the Stars in October with AHSGR. Sign me up.**

**Contact (1<sup>st</sup>) person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_**

**2<sup>nd</sup> person: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> person: \_\_\_\_\_**

**4<sup>th</sup> person: \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> person: \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_**

**I will need wheelchair accommodation \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail this registration form and payment to:**

**Jay Jacox, 1000 North 81<sup>st</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68505.**