



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2000

Notes from Ruth

by Ruth White, President

The Broda dinner was successful! Many expressed their appreciation for the setting and the location. We hope all of you had a nice Thanksgiving.

We give thanks for our blessings.

We, the board, give thanks that we have volunteers so that we may serve you dinners, etc. Elsewhere in this letter we listed the wonderful people who made the Broda dinner possible. Thank you!

We say a sincere thank you to: Hugh Dobler for serving as Editor for the past year; Settell's Printing, especially Carol Settell Chappelle for the assistance in printing the newsletter (without friends we could not achieve the impossible); Gladys Herstein along with Ed provided help with general meetings even though it was not on her committee description.

On Saturday, December 9, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., we will have our Christmas Festival. This will be a time for all of us to visit one another and possibly renew some friendships. Please plan to come!

The year 2001 will be here soon. We will have many projects in the coming year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**AHSGR
Headquarters
will be closed
January 2-13,
2001**

Raffle & Quilters

For those of you who saw the quilt, I am sure you will all agree that it was one of the most beautiful quilts done by our Lincoln quilters yet. I don't know if we have ever acknowledged our quilters by name (I think we probably have). They are: Mary Froescheiser, Judy Runion (Mary's daughter), Helen Schwartz, Lois Sorenson, Opal Sitzman, Donna Thompson, Edna Becker, Gerry Shuster, and needle threader extraordinaire, John Schneider.

The quilters have been making their quilts for many years and donated them for the Broda raffle and for the quilt raffle held for the convention each year. I would like to thank Helen Schwartz (especially this year) as she donated all the material: top, back, batting, binding, and even the thread, so we had no expense on the quilt. I know Mary has done this in the past and perhaps other quilters also. If so, thank you, too.

The quilt was won this year by Patti Bretzer from San Francisco. Patti is one

of the members of the International Board of Directors and she bought her tickets while she was here for the fall board meeting in October. Congratulations, Patti.

Before I forget, thanks to Jake Sinner for making and donating the tickets for the raffle. Jake has done this for a number of years and it saves the Lincoln Chapter money by not having to pay for the printing of the tickets.

Many people left the Broda with smiles from having won a turkey or one of the many other prizes we had for the raffle. A number of people gathered items to use for prizes and the Lincoln Chapter bought 15 turkeys to be given away. I hope those of you who won turkeys have had an unforgettable Thanksgiving dinner.

I also want to thank all of you who bought raffle tickets and those who came to the Broda. All of your support helps us get ready to start thinking about and planning for next year.

**NEXT GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Annual Meeting of Lincoln Chapter
AHSGR is
Sunday, January 14, 2001
1:00 p.m.
Immanuel Fellowship Hall
10th & Charleston
POTLUCK!!!



This 'n' That

by Larry Schenkel

Since this will not reach you all before Thanksgiving, I hope you all had a wonderful time with your families and that you have recuperated from all of the wonderful food. Sometimes we forget what we are giving thanks for because the retailers have commercialized all of our holidays to the point that it has just become another day to spend more money, or a day off from work, or both.

I think we are partly to blame, too. How many of us took the time to teach our children what the holidays meant? Look at the dwindling membership of AHSGR. Are we teaching our children to be thankful for the sacrifices their grandparents or great-grandparents made to create a better life for their families? Just a little food for thought.

Our Broda dinner is an excellent time to do a little teaching and, speaking of the Broda, I think we had another good one. We had only one complaint that I know of and almost all of the volunteers had at least one, or more compliments. (How do you like the way I got around to the volunteer part? Sneaky, ay? The "ay" is for Unser Leute in Canada.)

Before our volunteer thanking, we will take a brief pause for a commercial break:

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the Broda, call me at 438-3814. Did you like having it at the Shriners' building? Should we have it somewhere else? Anything. If you would like to volunteer to help with next year's dinners, call me or any of the board members. I know President Ruth would love to hear from you and so would I. Okay, the commercial is over. Now, back to our regular program.

I want to thank everyone for all of the help and support it took to get the Broda on the table. It didn't just magically happen on that day. It started in January when the new Board of Directors set the date and appointed

people to the food committee. I won't bore you with all that happened in between then and the last week, but I will give you some idea of what the last week was like.

Since I can't drive yet, I spent most of my time on the phone, trying to get the best groceries available, and at the best price. Then I have to get people to pick everything up. Thanks go to Bud Dietrich, Phil Dinges, my wife, Norma, Norma Somerheiser and Ruth White for picking up.

On the day of the Broda, we needed people to prepare potatoes, etc., to cook the meal, to set the tables, to serve the

meal, to conduct the raffle, and to clean up afterwards. And after that, we needed someone to go back the next day, pick up our cooking and serving utensils and anything else we had there. Good old Phil Dinges picked up on Saturday and my Norma picked up what was left on Monday. (We had so much stuff Phil couldn't get it all in his pickup for one trip. When he went back, everyone was gone and the building was locked.)

Now I suppose you know me well enough by now to know this is my sneaky way to get around to thanking

(continued on page 4)

International Foundation of AHSGR Notes

by Mayor Flegel, Chair, Fund Raising and Grants Committee, IFAHSGR

I encourage you to read the articles on the 2000 in 2000 campaign in the recent AHSGR newsletters. They described the fund-raising program developed by the Foundation for this year. Contributions can be anywhere from 2000 pennies through 2000 dollars and up. Contributions can be directed to the Endowment Fund, the Operating Fund, or to specific projects.

You may ask, "Why should I give more when I already am paying annual dues?" First, there is so much more that could be done if funds were available. I personally, am making my donation to the Endowment Fund to help assure that the organization will have funds available to provide the help and service that my grandchildren's grandchildren, etc., will want in the future; this is even more important now, as an anonymous donor has stepped forward and pledged to match the donations, up to \$175,000 to fill the gap that we have in reaching the \$1,000,000 goal by Convention time in 2001.

I ask, "If one member feels so strongly about the future of AHSGR, can't we all participate, to some degree in the 2000 in 2000 campaign to help reach the goal: However, feel free to support

any of the many special projects or the AHSGR Operating Fund, as these funds are needed, too.

We also announced a Visa card program. This is a no annual fee, low interest card (of course, no interest if bills are paid within the grace period), which will help provide funds for the general operating fund of AHSGR. This is one way of Proudly Supporting Our Heritage without it costing you one cent. Every time the card is used, a portion of the fees that the bank collects will be paid directly to AHSGR. Please see me at the meetings for application brochures.

I am pleased to see the progress that AHSGR is making in improving. By carefully spending on priority items. AHSGR finished in the black for the first time in several years. The Presidents of the Society, Nick Bretz, and the Foundation, Harley Behm, along with the Directors and Trustees and the Headquarters staff have worked hard to improve the organization.



Christmas Festival — Price of Admission FREE...

But, if you would care to bring a dozen or two of your favorite Christmas cookies, or just your favorite cookies to share with everyone, we encourage you to do so.

Won't you please join us at the Heritage Center on Saturday, December 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the coming of Christmas? And, please bring your children or grandchildren along. We will have many surprises for you and the children. Santa Claus will be in the Amen Museum with the traditional German Christmas sack of goodies for all children, as well as a sympathetic ear to listen to wishes and dreams.

Mrs. Claus will be in the summer kitchen to answer questions about our heritage and to wish all the happiest of holidays. Knowing Mrs. Claus, I wouldn't be surprised if she found a piece or two of candy to share. She may even relay wishes to Santa.

The general store will be open, where you can find a steaming aromatic cup of hot cider and maybe a cookie or two.

There will be cookies, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate in the Heritage Center, as well as a storyteller. Our storyteller will be Ed and Gladys Herstein's granddaughter, Andrea Herstein. The Heritage Center will not be open for you to do research at this time, but you will be able to purchase books and other items for last-minute Christmas gifts.

The chapel will be open and there will be a display of beautiful, hand-made quilts. There may be a surprise here, also. Jan Roth is trying to get carolers to come and lead all in Christmas carols. Norma Somerheiser is going to bang out that old, traditional, favorite Christmas carol, "There is No Place Like Nebraska," on her dulcimer. (If she is able to get it tuned by then. If she does get it to working right, I am sure

we can prevail on her to play other songs, too.)

All of the buildings will be festively decorated for the season and there may still be some decorating going on. If you want to jump in and help, you are encouraged to do so.

I know many of you are wondering if there will be



enough "sacks" for everyone to have one. That depends on how many people show up. We have no way of knowing how many to make as this is open not only for our members but to any guests you wish to bring. There may be people who come who are not connected with AHSGR. If you take a good look around, you will see that the old South Bottoms is becoming the welcoming home for a whole new ethnic culture of immigrants. The history of immigrants coming to America is a never-ending story. I suggest that, before you get upset about what is happening you ask yourself: was English the language spoken in my parents' or grandparents' house? If you are not a Native American, where did your parents or grandparents come from?

Sorry for the editorializing, but, considering what we are celebrating, and the old social studies and history teacher coming out in me, I have to

speaking out once in awhile, to get people to examine their own roots before criticizing others. And what better time than now, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. (No, it isn't to celebrate the birth of Toys R Us, although I sometimes think that is what advertisers would like us to think.)

Now, what is there are leftover sacks and cookies? Member of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chapter will take them to people of Germans from Russia descent who are in hospitals, nursing homes, or otherwise shut-in. If we still have some left, they will be given to nursing homes or retirement centers until they are all gone.

So, if you have any questions, suggestions, know anyone in any of the above categories or anyone that's just too old or frail to leave their home or apartment if the weather's bad, call one of the members on the committee and talk to them. If you would like to volunteer to help decorate (we are looking for people young and spry enough to climb up and down ladders for outside decorating), please give us a call. We are an equal opportunity outfit. Young or old, we use 'em all.

Want to help? Know someone shut in or ill? Have suggestions or questions? Call one of the following people who are on the committee:

Delores Schwartz...435-3636
 Lucille Hedges...475-8221
 Gladys Herstein...489-5976
 Norma Somerheiser...489-8976
 Allison Rye...476-1202
 Larry Schenkel...438-3814

By the way, Delores Schwartz is the chairperson of the Christmas Festival Committee and she has spent many hours organizing it. If you see Delores, you might just say thanks or give her a pat on the back. She deserves it.

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American Historical Society of
Germans from Russia
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Planned Giving ... An Opportunity For YOU

The Trustees of the International Foundation of AHSGR adopted a new Charitable Planned Giving Program at the convention last June. The objective is to strengthen the financial underpinnings of our Society so that the important work of AHSGR can continue long into the future. As a member, you received a special brochure about the program to help you consider how you can help your society while helping yourself at the same time.

And that's exactly what you can do through charitable planned giving. You can turn non-earning assets into earning ones, often increasing your income. You can avoid paying capital gains taxes on highly appreciated assets. Put that money to work for you during your lifetime, rather than paying it to the tax collector. You can secure a significant charitable contribution income tax deduction, which sharply reduces your income tax burden. There are so many ways you can help yourself through planned giving that it is often called the "win-win" way to give your charitable support.

Planned giving can sometimes seem complex and confusing. Our Board of Trustees unanimously approved the selection of John F. Boomer, President of John Boomer Consulting Services,

Inc. of Lincoln to administer this program and to be available for consultation with members who wish to consider a planned gift. The brochure tells about him and several ways to reach him. He will help you understand the many options for planned giving and

how you can turn your unique situation into a real benefit to both you and AHSGR. You are encouraged to call John Boomer at 800-836-0445 to explore planned giving opportunities with him. There is no cost or obligation for you to do so.

This 'n' That (continued)

our volunteers. How many people does it take to put on a Broda? Read the following list:

Phil & Lois Sorenson, Ed & Gladys Herstein, Hermann & Helen Reifschneider, LeRoy & Diane Butherus, Bud & Virginia Dietrich, Lefty & Molly Grenemeier, Judy & Roger Runion, Marion Mueller, Allison Rye, Phil Schenkel, Henry "Sonny" Sader III, Henry "Heine" Sader IV, Ann Reitz, Delores Schwartz, Helen Schwartz, Lucille Hedges, Norma Somerheiser, Phil & Irene Dinges, Dale Dinges, John Schneider, Barb Schmidt, our president Ruth White, and myself and my wife, Norma. I am sure Donny Burbach was there in spirit, if not in body, and one last person, that no one probably saw but me, my teacher, mentor and beloved friend, Esther Stuert, telling me, "You've got a lot to learn, kid." Thanks Essie. (I suppose she's

telling that to someone in heaven while she makes noodles and cooks Kraut and Brei and Broda dinners.) And thank you volunteers, one and all, from the bottom of my heart. I pray I haven't forgotten anyone. If I have, please believe me, it was not intentional and forgive me. With that, I also want to apologize to Ed and Gladys Herstein and Lucille Hedges for omitting their names for the Oktoberfest volunteers.

I also thank Helen Reifschneider for letting me know I did not have Hermann's name listed for my salute to veterans. I also got a lovely note from Amy Frohn telling me her brother (a member of Emmanuel Reformed Church) was in the Navy during WWII. I add those names, Hermann Reifschneider and Harold Frederick Hock, to those lists and again, to any and all I may have missed, I apologize and I salute you for the sacrifices you made.

P.S. I also did not have Ed Herstein's brother's name listed. Sorry.