



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 2003/JANUARY 2004

Neujahrswunsch

Weil das neue Jahr is 'kommen,
Hab ich mir das vorgenommen,
Euch zu wiinschen in der Zeit,
Friede, Glück and Einigkeit,
So viel Tröpfchen in dem Regen

So Viel Glück and und so viel Segen,
Soll Euch Gott der Höchste geben.
In diesem neuen Jahr!
Guten Morgen!

Ich bin ein kleiner König,
Gebt mir nich zu wenig
Lasst mich nicht zu lange stehen,
Ich muss noch ein Häuschen weitergehn.

It's a German- Russian Christmas

Saturday, December 6, 2003
1-3 p.m.
631 D Street • Lincoln, NE

Activities may include visits from Christkindje and the scary Belznickel. Christkindje and Belznickel were the traditional Christmas Eve visitors on the Volga River. They're not like our well known Santa Clause. Singing and holiday treats will also be offered during the afternoon. Come and learn more about this folklore and history of Christmas traditions.

According to George J. Walters in his book, *Wir Wollen Deutsche Bleiben, The Story of the Volga Germans* (p.137): "It was custom to give children gratuity when they wished their elders a Happy New year." The poem to the left combines a New Year's wish with a request for something. And for those of us who are German-language challenged, we include the English translation below:

*Since the new year has arrived,
I have made a resolution,
To wish you at this time,
Happiness, luck, and harmony,
As there are drops in a rain.*

*So much luck and so many blessings,
May God the Highest bestow you,
During the new year!
Good Morning!*

*I am a little King,
Don't give me too little,
Don't let me stand too long.
I still have yet to go to another house.*

FRÖHLICHE WEINACHTEN
Season's Greetings
Good Health &
Good Luck in 2004





Broda Success Means Lots of Help

For those of you who didn't come to the Broda, you missed a great meal. A great bunch of volunteers enjoyed a day and one-half of fellowship and *gemutlichkeit*. Now, I am not going to say there was any exaggeration going on, but I did hear someone say that you could always tell how one of the more eloquent speakers of the day was lying. Someone asked, "How?" "Why, his lips are moving," was the reply.

We did have a good time and I want to thank Berneice Booth, Ann Reitz, Frieda Dobler, Molly and Lefty Grenemeier, Phil and Irene Dinges, Dale Dinges, Tom Lutz, Nancy Borrell, Helen Schwartz, Ed and Gladys Herstein, Norma Somerheiser, Susan Stoehr, Lucille Hedges, Barb Schmidt, Delores Schwartz and Jim Hempel. (Jim is one of our newest members and he helped peel potatoes, carrots, and onions on Thursday). John Novak (not a member but an awfully good friend) was there all day Friday helping with odds and ends. This bunch of great people did all of the dozens of tasks, except cooking, that makes the Broda a success. To all of you, "*Herzliches dankeschon!*"

Then there were the cooks. Under the masterful direction of Don "You've got a

lot to learn kid" Burbach (trained by Esther Stuertz for years and years), my brother, Jimmy, and two of the best friends anyone in this world was ever blessed with, Roger and Bruce Trautwein, cooked the meal. The only time there was a problem in the kitchen was when my wife, Norma, was putting bay leaves in for seasoning. She had a pretty good handful of bay leaves, and still had a half dozen or so left after putting them in the roasters. As she was withdrawing her hand, something seemed to grab her by the wrist, pull her forward over the roasters, forcing her hand open so the bay leaves fluttered down on to the meat. Then, to the amazement of us all, several bay leaves floated up out of their container and one dropped into each of the roasters. We knew Esther was there!

You may have noticed two names, that are almost always listed with the other volunteers, were missing. Bud and Virginia Dietrich. Bud had to have laser heart surgery and was not able to help. Needless to say, Virginia was where she should be, at Bud's side, taking care of him. If everyone had a nurse like her, we'd all stay home sick, getting her tender care. He is recuperating, and should be back up to speed in the near future.

By the way, Roger and Bruce are not members either. As I said, they and John Novak have helped because I have been asking them to. They are not Germans from Russia. But, when we can't get the volunteers—no, let me change that. When we can't get volunteers young and strong enough from our own membership, we have to look elsewhere. That is not right.

All of the volunteers I have listed, time after time, are from the age of mid- to late-fifties to ninety. (Lefty Grenemeier is the 90 year old.)

I can't...no...I won't, keep asking my friends to do this. It is not fair to our friendship. So, unless we start getting some of our younger members to learn how to prepare these traditional meals, we may not be serving them much longer. By the time you get this newsletter, we will have discussed the future of the dinners at the upcoming November board meeting, but, if you have any response to this, or suggestions, please call me at 438-3814.

Thanks for listening.

Larry



How you can help without taking any money out of your pocket!

Turn Trash Into Cash

Don't throw away your used Inkjet or Laser printer cartridges. They're worth money to AHSGR. Outside the Lincoln area call 1-800-368-5881, (within the Lincoln area call 474-3363, or just take the cartridges down to the Heritage Center) and identify yourself as being with AHSGR. You will be sent an envelope to use in returning the cartridge. The cartridge gets recycled and AHSGR gets a check from the recycling company.

Giant Garage Sale

Check your garage or attic for items you are willing to donate to AHSGR. Your treasures will be seen by thousands of people and become someone's big find on Ebay, the Internet auction service. These items can include antiques, collectibles, pottery, glassware, sports cards, household items, etc. etc. Contact George Miller, phone:630-357-2572, email: miller227@aol.com

Get Up To \$15 Cash In Your Pocket

for new AHSGR VISA card holders. Upon receiving your card, you will receive a \$5 voucher good toward your 2004 AHSGR International membership and a \$10 credit balance on your new card provided by the bank. This is a no-fee card with the lowest interest rate around and if you pay in full within the 25 day grace period after the billing date, there are no charges. This is really a win-win deal. AHSGR gets part of the charge that the bank collects from vendors—it doesn't cost you a cent. A great convenience, and a great way to support your society.

Broda Dinner Captured on Video

Diners at the November 7th AHSGR Broda Dinner, held at Lincoln's WSI Hall on North 10th Street, may have noticed an unusual addition to the festivities.

Folklorist Gwen Meister, Director of the Nebraska Folklife Network, and ideographer Mike Keating spent most of the day and part of the evening interviewing the cooks and documenting the preparation and serving of the traditional meal of oven-roasted beef and vegetables. Mike's daughter helped with the video and even got in on serving dinner. The videotape was being created for a traveling educational exhibit on cultural traditions of Nebraska's Germans from Russia that Meister is creating, with advice and assistance from AHSGR staff and volunteers. The trunk-sized traveling exhibit, called a cultural encounter kit, is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC). The NHC will circulate one copy of the kit to schools, libraries, museums, and other educational organizations throughout Nebraska. A second copy is slated to be housed at the Lincoln AHSGR headquarters for use in the organization's educational programs.

The Nebraska Folklife Network is a newly formed non-profit educational organization that is dedicated to documenting, preserving, and publicly presenting the many varieties of folk arts and cultural traditions that are found in Nebraska. The purpose of these activities is to help preserve these traditions for future generations and to promote increased understanding between cultural groups. The Network is a collaborative project between the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Plains Humanities Alliance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is also supported by the UNL College of Education and Human Science and the Nebraska State Historical Society. Gwen Meister can be contacted at (402) 420-5442 or plainsculture@inebraska.com for information about the encounter kits or about the Nebraska Folklife Network's other activities.



Volunteers

We just finished putting together a mailing of the International Newsletter and Journal. "We" means the Lincoln Chapter volunteers. We met in the lower level of the Heritage Center with the first people arriving before 8:30 am and the last arriving about 10:00 am. Some folks came early and left before we were through, because of other commitments, and some had early commitments but still came. Point is, this isn't one of those, "If you aren't here when we start, don't come," deals. Times are flexible, as your schedule demands.

What we do at a mailing is gather together one of each item to be mailed and stuff them into pre-addressed envelopes. Then we help sort them into states and Zip Codes. After everything is done, Diane hauls them to the post office. Money earned? None! Money saved by doing it ourselves? I don't know. *Gemutlichkeit*, fellowship, and stories shared? Priceless! Well, I guess we do get paid. Diane always has coffee and rolls for us!

How many volunteers joined together for these festivities? Seventeen, if I didn't miss anyone. "Who were they?," you ask. My wife, Norma and I, Virginia Amen, Phil and Irene Dinges, Berneice Booth, Susan Stoehr, and Phil Sorensen. Lincoln Chapter board members were Judy and Roger Runion, Molly and Lefty Grene-meier, Nancy Borrell, and Delores Schwartz. And guess who else was there!

Bud and Virginia Dietrich! I couldn't believe it, when I walked in and they were sitting there stuffing envelopes!

It was two weeks from the day Bud had his laser heart surgery done and here he was, volunteering for the organization. Why? Pride in his ancestor's story. Pride in what has been accomplished to preserve that story and heritage. Bud and Virginia are not genealogists; they are preservers and storytellers. Their love for this organization helps keep them going, but more important than that is their desire for others to hear the story and have somewhere for it all to be brought together. If that means cooking, stuffing envelopes, mowing, or any other way to save money so it can be used to preserve our heritage, then that's what they do.

I also want to thank one more volunteer who was helping, Dennis Zitterkopf. Dennis is a member of the International Board of Directors and has been spending several days here in Lincoln, working on things at the Heritage Center but he was, also, helping with the mailing.

I have said it before and I tell you, Chapter members, again. You are getting an awful lot of service from the people on the two International Boards. And it is all at their own expense, unless their local chapters choose to help them out.

Some people seek happiness—others create it!



Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

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**2003 Board Members Directory
Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR**

- 489-2583 Borrell, Nancy
- 476-3600 Burbach, Donald
- 488-1421 Butherus, Leroy
- 488-5154 Dinges, Dale
- 486-1673 Grenemeier, Henry
- 475-8221 Hedges, Lucille
- 489-5976 Herstein, Gladys
- 477-3978 Loos, Paul
- 489-5462 Reitz, Ann
- 423-3853 Runion, Judy
- 423-4212 Sader, Henry
- 438-3814 Schenkel, Larry
- 435-3636 Schwartz, Delores
- 423-8209 Schwartzkopf, Ed
- 423-0602 Sinner, Jake
- 423-4345 White, Ruth

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Christmas Fest

Saturday, December 6th, Noon to 3:00pm
631 "D" Street, AHSGR Heritage Center

Board Meeting/Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 15th, 7:00 pm

**Annual Membership Meeting/Potluck Dinner
Election of Officers and Board**

January 11, 2004, 1:00 pm, Immanuel Fellowship Hall
10th and Charleston Streets

Board Meeting

January 19, 2004, 7:30 pm, 631 "D" Street

AHSGR Convention

July 5-11, 2004, Modesto, CA
Make reservations early and mention the
AHSGR convention to get the special rate of \$79.
Doubletree Hotel Modesto, 1150 Ninth Street,
Modesto, CA 95354
Telephone: 1-209-526-6000, Fax: 1-209-526-6096



Lincoln Chapter Membership 2004

Name _____
Spouse _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
GR Ancestral Village _____
Your Birth Month _____
Spouse Birth Month _____
GR Surnames _____

Make checks for \$12.00 payable to
Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
and mail to: Nancy Borrell
2221 Devonshire Drive
Lincoln, NE 68506

We are always looking for volunteers to help out and run
for office. If you want to help, you can find our phone
numbers or emails in the newsletter.