



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 6

November/December 2006

The Octoberfest...

The fall season is here and our Chapter got it off in full swing with a great Octoberfest celebration held on October 7th at the Heritage Center. The weather was ideal. All the buildings on the campus were open and the Skala Family Polka Band entertained us with their music. Since the weather was so nice, they were able to play from their open-ended bus while many folks enjoyed listening and some even danced!

The homemade noodles and butterballs didn't last long at the bake sale and the homemade breads went fast. I didn't even get a loaf of Bud Dietrich's rye bread. We sold a lot of Volga Boatmen sandwiches and a lot of German sausage that we ordered from Shuster's Meats. All in all, it was a great day!

As always, it wouldn't have happened without our volunteers and all of the members that baked and donated items for the bake sale.

If I have forgotten someone, please call me so I can correct it in the next newsletter.

DANKE

Nancy Bouwens
 Sid Babcock
 Sandy Gettman
 Gail Gingrich

Mary Ann Gooding
 THE TERRIFIC TRIO:

Amy Frohn
 Joyce Riddell
 CeCe Serman

THE DYNAMIC DUO:

Barb (Babs) Schmidt
 Susan (Little Suzy) Stoehr

ALWAYS THERE:

Ann Reitz
 Norma Somerheiser

THE NEVER-FAIL COUPLES:

Phil & Irene Dinges
 Bud & Virginia Dietrich

THE TIRELESS TEENS:

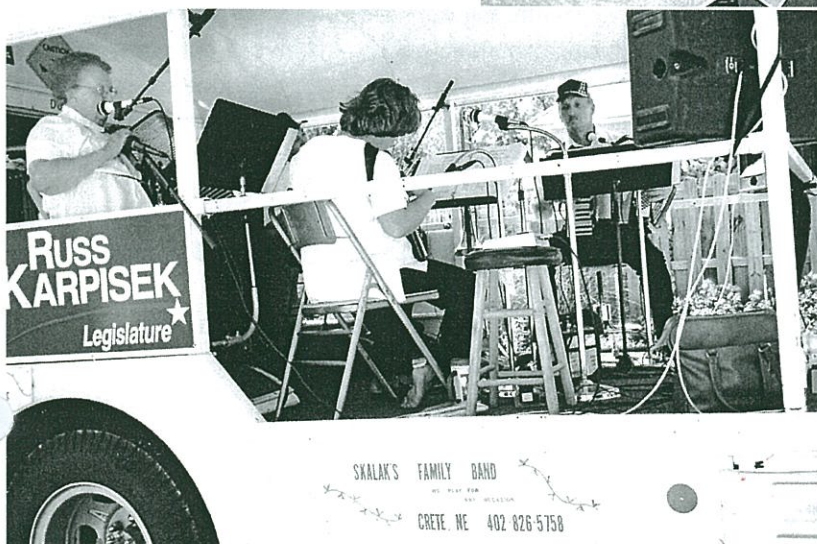
Ray Richards
 Will Richards

A WHOLE RAFT OF OTHERS:

Paul Loos
 Pam Wurst
 Leslie Bill
 Delores Schwartz
 Judy Lawson
 Annie Settell
 Ruth Mosby
 Larry & Norma Schenkel



1) Ruth Mosby sells quilt raffle tickets at Octoberfest; 2) Nancy Borrell, Gail Ginrich (staff), Ruby Weber and Barb Schmidt prepare for the bake sale; 3) Skalak's Family Band provides entertainment at Octoberfest.



SKALAK'S FAMILY BAND
 ALL PLAY FOR
 CRYE, NE 402.826.5750

The Broda

On November 3rd, a Broda dinner was held and once again was a howling success. We served around 250 dinners with very little food left over. This dinner may very well have been the last.

I say "last" because we are in need of younger members to volunteer with the running, fetching, cutting, scraping, lifting (especially lifting), and serving. I would guess the average age of the volunteers who helped this year was probably seventy-five.

As usual, I want to start out by thanking my four friends for volunteering to help. They are: Roger & Bruce Trautwein, Roger "Sugar Bear" Petersen, and John Novak. They do this, not because they're GRs, because they're not, but because they're friends. This year, Bruce was the only one who worked in the kitchen, while the others

helped with vegetable preparation, etc. Bud Dietrich gave his excellent leadership in the kitchen while Steve Bauer and Paul Loos took heed.

DANKE

Sid Babcock
Judy Runion
Leslie Bill
Nancy Borrell
John & Ruby Weber
Phil & Irene Dinges
Amy Frohn
Joyce Riddle
Larry & Norma Schenkel
Delores Schwartz
Barb Schmidt

Dale Dinges
Nancy Bouwens
Susan Stoehr
Bill & Sandy Gettman
Bud & Virginia Dietrich
Gladys Herstein
Judy Lawson
Ann Reitz
Lucille Hedges
Ruth White
Norma Somerheiser

There was a gaping hole in our midst, however, without Donnie Burbach. His brother, Melvin, was there and helped cut the meat and get everything ready in the kitchen. Thanks, Melvin.

Oops. I almost forgot Henry "Sonny" Sader. He not only helped cut up the meat but he and Bruce brought rolls for our coffee break. At lunchtime, we enjoyed wurst, supplied and prepared by Paul and Bud shared his dill pickles with us.

We had many compliments on the food so the kitchen crew obviously did their job right. I received many compliments on my dill pickles, coleslaw, and pumpkin pie. I was inundated with requests for my recipes, but, of course, had to refuse, as they are family secrets. Yeah, right!! The truth is, they were purchased at Cash-WA Distributing.

Others who volunteered there time and talents are listed in the

box.

I hope I didn't miss anyone, but if I did, please let me know.



Sandy Gettman was the lucky winner of the quilt raffle. Congratulations, Sandy.

STORYTELLING CONTEST



Please take time to read about the 2007 annual AHSGR Storytelling Contest. This has become one of the favorite parts of the Convention. Also, take NOTICE of the deadline. This is earlier than last year because the 2007 convention is earlier.

“UH-ONE-A and UH-TWO-A”

On Sunday, September 24th, the Lincoln Chapter and the Nebraska Folklife Network, co-sponsored the River Boys, a Dutch Hop Polka Band concert at the WSI Hall.

The River Boys, who play authentic Dutch Hop music, performed in June, 2006 at the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

There were quite a large number of people in attendance and most everyone's feet were tapping along with the music. Folks were invited to dance but most preferred to just sit and listen.

Their music took me back to my first memories of the Welfare Hall. It was

after WWII when my uncle Manny Luft, home from the Navy, married his beautiful bride, Evelyn. The reception was at WSI. After the concert was over, Mary Frost told me she had never seen me smile that much or that long.

I wish we had had more time to advertise so more people could have enjoyed that wonderful afternoon. And, in case you were wondering where your money goes, this is the kind of entertainment that your membership dollars help pay for.

Thank you, Gwen Meister, for all you did to get the River Boys here.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Alison Nicholaus, daughter of Jane and Lowell. Alison was selected to receive a Regents Scholarship at University of NE at Kearney as well as one from the University of NE at Lincoln. No doubt her parents are very proud of her.

Jane is one of our faithful volunteers at the Heritage Center and has just recently filled a vacancy on the International Foundation Board of Directors.

(If there is someone you know, either a family member, a friend, or an acquaintance that has been the recipient of some sort of recognition, please let me know so I can pass the good news on.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Fifty-eight new Life Memberships were purchased during the Saturday Recognition Breakfast at the Convention?

Art & Cleo Flegel offered to pay \$100 of the cost of new Life Memberships purchased that day. Thank you, Art & Cleo! You are two of the grandest people that I have met and become friends with in AHSGR.

Remember, Life Memberships costs go up in 2007 so act fast before it's too late. What a great lifelong gift a membership would be! Christmas is coming!

IFAHSGR CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

I'm not going to try to explain the gift annuity program because it has already been explained and, I think, the brochure explaining it has been sent to you. Also, you can get a brochure sent by either calling or emailing the Heritage Center.

I will tell you this, if you choose to take part in this program, it is a definite win-win situation for you and AHSGR!

THIS MAKES GOOD SENSE

In case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity, we should remember Great Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair's words during a recent interview. When asked by one of his Parliament members why he believes so much in America, he said:

“A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in....And how many want out.”

MILLIONAIRE MANIA

Once again, Erwin Ulmer is asking members send him the Millionaire Mania Bucks found in the Lincoln Journal Star. He will assemble them and try to win things for AHSGR.

He has even said he will cut them out if you just bring the papers to the Heritage Center.

Erwin asked me to remind you members to ask your family and friends to help if they aren't already saving them for someone or some organization.

This project takes a lot of time and I want to thank Erwin for undertaking it again this year. Is it worth it? Well, last year we won two items that brought well over \$100 to AHSGR.



HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

Nancy Bouwens Rodger Wurst
Robert Wagner Will Richards
Elsa Amen Diane White
Susan Stoehr Linda O'Neill
Jim Sommers
Harry Niederhaus
Lowell Nicholas
Richard Pearce
Norma Schenkel
Sidonoia Babcock
Sandra Gettman
Dorothy Sinner
Ann Reitz

DECEMBER

Marilyn Wagner
Wilbur "Bill" Amen
Gerald Schleich
Marta Paxton
Barbara Schmidt*
Larrie Schmidt
Cecelia Sherman
Ed Deines
Irene Dinges
Kirk Payne
Charles E. Jones, Jr.
Leslie Bill
Erwin Ulmer

November
None listed

December
Pam and Rodger Wurst



Celebrate!

GET WELL

Gail Gingrich

*No, we don't have two Barb Schmidts.
I mistakenly listed her in September.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS AT LINCOLN CONVENTION

When I asked folks why they never volunteered before, the usual answer is, "No one asked me." Now I know I have asked for volunteers in every newsletter! But it's not the same thing.

Every organization needs volunteers and they all advertise their need. What our volunteers are saying is that they want to know you really want them enough to make personal contact! I have heard the same thing from people I have asked to join. Not only that, but I have also heard "I didn't know AHSGR existed."

In order to get new members, you are going to have to talk to them on a "one-on-one" basis to get them to join. AHSGR is willing to reward you for your effort! So get busy and talk to people. Tell them what we're all about and ask them to join.

Enclosed is payment, US funds only, for membership in AHSGR.
Memberships are prorated through a calendar year, due each January 1.

Check one:

- \$50 Individual
 \$50 Family (husband and wife)
 \$50 Institutional
 \$75 Contributing
 \$100 Sustaining
 \$750 Life (May be paid in five annual installments)

Please fill in the correct credit card information if you are charging your payment. Signature is required to process payment.

VISA/MC/DISCOVER _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Membership Enrollment Form

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAME _____
circle one—Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., Dr., Prof.

MAIDEN NAME _____
FIRST AND LAST

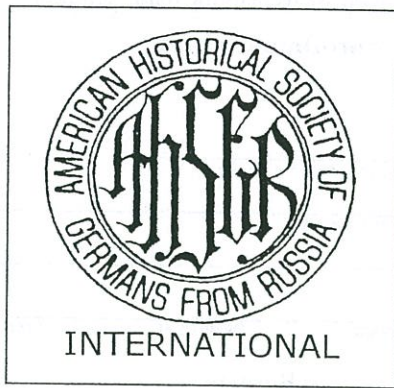
ADDRESS _____

_____ CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP (PLUS 4) COUNTRY

TELEPHONE—Home _____ Business _____

Email: _____ Referred By: _____

Mail to: **AHSGR International**
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199



3rd Annual AHSGR Membership Campaign starts at the Lincoln Convention!

**New members are critical to the continued success of AHSGR!
You can make a difference - talk to family and friends!
Buy a gift membership!**

FRUGAL GERMANS LOVE CASH!

This campaign is designed to reward AHSGR members who recruit new members for AHSGR or purchase gift memberships. The campaign will begin August 19, 2006 and end on May 15, 2007. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2007 Hayes, Kansas Convention to be held June 10-17. Pick up an application at convention or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org>

- **\$100 to the AHSGR member who recruits the highest number of new members.**
- **\$75 to the AHSGR member who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members.**
- **\$50 to the AHSGR member who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members.**
- ***In addition*, all new members who join during the campaign (either recruited by an AHSGR member or not) will have their name placed "in the hat" for a drawing. Three (3) \$25 cash prizes will be awarded.**

As the old adage says in ten, two letter words:
IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!

WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL ASSURE THE FUTURE OF AHSGR!

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Check one:

- \$50 Individual
- \$50 Family (husband and wife)
- \$50 Institutional
- \$75 Contributing
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$750 Life (May be paid in five annual installments)

Please fill in the correct credit card information if you
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process payment.

VISA/MC/DISCOVER _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Membership Enrollment Form

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAME _____
circle one—Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., Dr., Prof.

MAIDEN NAME _____
FIRST AND LAST

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE / PROVINCE ZIP (PLUS 4) COUNTRY

TELEPHONE—Home _____ Business _____

Email: _____ Referred By: _____

Mail to: **AHSGR International**
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

THE 2007 ANNUAL AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

Adult Division

First Place Award - \$100.00

Second Place Award - \$75.00

Third Place Award - \$50.00

(Ties are possible for each of the above awards)

"Honorable Mentions" also possible

Youth Division (14 years old or younger)

First Place Award - \$50.00

Second Place Award - \$30.00

Third Place Award - \$20.00

(An AHSGR Youth Membership will be included with each of the above awards)

"Honorable Mentions" also possible

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2007 AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

This completed form must accompany your story!

I hereby give my permission to allow the inclusion of the following story of mine in the Storytelling Contest of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia:

Check one only: I certify that I currently control all the copyrights to the story.

I hereby grant and assign all copyright in the story to AHSGR (the Society) for its exclusive use. I understand that in return, the Society grants to me the right to reprint the story in any book or publication of which I am the author or editor. This right is subject to my giving proper credit in the book or publication to the original publication; the credit will include the original copyright notice as it appeared.

My signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of my Story: _____

I am currently an AHSGR member: Yes No

I plan to be at the AHSGR Convention in Hays, Kansas, in June 2007: Yes No

FULL NAME: (please print clearly) _____

ADDRESS: (Street & Apt. Number) _____

CITY & STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER _____

AGE (if 14 years old or younger) BIRTHDATE (if 14 years old or younger) _____

E-MAIL Address: _____

Please send this completed entry form, along with 5 copies of your story, a copy on a computer disk (if possible), any pictures that enhance the story, a short biography and a picture of yourself, and a stamped postcard with your full name and address to:

**Tim & Rosi Kloberdanz
310 North 28th Avenue
Fargo, North Dakota 58102-1941**

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, 2007

If you are interested in entering AHSGR's Storytelling Contest, here is what we're looking for. . . . A good, interesting, unpublished story that pertains to the history, culture, folklore, language, or life experiences of the Germans from Russia.

- Examples:
- Memories of village life in the Old Country (festivals, foodways, visits by Gypsies)
 - Stories about immigration to the New World (the great voyage, Ellis Island, early hardships)
 - "Believe it or not" stories, ghost stories, humorous stories, inspiring stories, etc.

AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST RULES:

- 1) Each entry must be typewritten, double-spaced, and in clear, dark print. Entries must be on 8 ½ x 11" white paper. While a story can be only one or two pages long, no story can be longer than five typewritten pages, in standard 12 point type. Contestants may submit as many stories as they wish, but each entry must be separate and accompanied by a completed entry form. The entry form may be photocopied. Be sure to send FIVE COPIES OF EACH STORY and A COMPUTER DISK COPY IN RTF FORMAT (IF POSSIBLE), ANY PICTURES THAT WILL ENHANCE THE STORY, A SHORT BIOGRAPHY AND PICTURE OF YOURSELF, AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED POSTCARD, SO THAT WE CAN NOTIFY YOU OF RECEIPT.
- 2) The name of the author/submitter, should NOT appear on the story itself. Complete the form on reverse page and attach to your entry with a paper clip. Upon receipt, each story will be assigned a reference number (to assure fair and impartial judging).
- 3) Entrants who are 14 years old or younger must indicate their current age and their full birthdate (month/day/year). These individuals will be entered in the "Youth Division." All entrants 15 years old or older will be judged in the "Adult Division."
- 4) The title of the story (IN CAPS) should appear on the first page of each entry.
- 5) Each story must deal with some aspect of the Germans from Russia. To help put your story in context, you might want to begin with something like – *"This story is based on an actual incident that took place about 1890, in the Volga village of Straub. The story was often told by my grandfather who was born in Straub in 1875 and who immigrated to the United States in 1907."* —
- 6) If submitting a story in dialect German or Standard German, a full translation (in English) must be included. Both versions must still be within the 5 page limit.
- 7) Each entry must represent the story of the entrant. Contestants must verify this, as well as the copyright agreements on the front page with their signature.
- 8) Submitted copies of the story will not be returned. Future rights to the story will be as defined by the selected and signed copyright agreement on the front page.
- 9) All stories will be evaluated by a sub-committee of 3-4 AHSGR members. Entries will be evaluated using a score sheet and the final results will be announced at the upcoming AHSGR Convention. Three prize winners and one or more "Honorable Mention" winners are possible in both the Adult and the Youth Divisions.
- 10) **All entries must be received by March 31, 2007. Entries received after that date cannot be considered.**

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Lillian Loos
David Kahler
Ervin Hanneman
John Spomer

Donald Burbach
John George Knaub
Peter Damm

Ruth Bauer
Alex Barthule
John George Helzer

George Knaub

I don't know how many times Wesley Faust and I stopped in the little service station on 10th Street across from Memorial Stadium, but it was a lot. George always put up with our youthful exuberance and high jinks.

You were a patient, gentle man, George. Thanks for the happy childhood memories. You are remembered fondly.

Lillian "Tootsie" Loos

Lillian was an inspiration to us all. She thought having the German Singers get together one more time to sing at our convention was a great idea. She got together with Kathryn Pabst, talked it over, and got busy calling people to get them together for rehearsals and the performance.

Lillian spent the whole week at the convention as a volunteer. You would always see her with her son, Paul and Ann Reitz sitting at the table selling items for the Lincoln Chapter. She always had a smile on her face and a friendly greeting for everyone passing by.

She was at every Lincoln Chapter event, helping in any way she could. If she couldn't make the event, she helped by making many phone calls to solicit volunteers.

The following poem was found and submitted by Norma Somerheiser in honor of Lillian.

*Still everything at last must
close,
Seasons, days, the song, the rose.
And each and every form and
face
Must leave its old familiar place
To others, who will come to
grace,
The endless pageant of our race.*

*A beautiful rose has died
But still blooms in the hearts
Of those who knew and loved
her.*

(Source unknown)

Don Burbach (So long, Goom!)

Donny Burbach was my cousin, but even more than that, he was my friend.

I thought the kitchen was missing something when our buddy, Esther Steurtz, died, and it was. Now, it's missing the other half of "Eric & Frac".

Donny gave graciously of his time and talent to many organizations but he truly loved AHSGR.

I'm going to miss you, Donny, but if you and "Essie" keep the bay leaves handy, we'll cook a Broda for the angels when we're together again.

I'm taking the liberty now of putting a poem by Eddie Loos in for Donny and all the other members of our GR family.

"Leaving This World"

*When I leave this world for
good,
Shed not the tear for me.
We knew some day it had to
come,
We know it has to be.*

*Everyone will leave this world,
With this you most agree
That God has set aside a day
To come for you and me.*

(by Eddie Loos)

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



Calendar of Events

LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

December 2 - Christmas Festival - 11:30-3:00PM - 631 "D" St.
December 12 - Coffee Club - 9:00 AM - Stauffer's - 48th & Hwy 2
December 2006 - Board Member's Christmas Dinner - (Date, time
and location TBA)
January 7, 2007 - Annual Membership Meeting - 1:00 PM -
(Location TBA) - (Polluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers)



WHAT'S COMING?

December 2...Christmas Festival 11:30-3:00 p.m. - 631 D Street

The Lincoln Chapter's Festival is fast approaching. A joyous time for all that visit the Heritage Center. There will be traditional treat sacks for the children, coffee, hot cider and cookies for all. Volga Boatman sandwiches, chips and soda will be served for \$5.00. The dreaded Beltznickle (only dreaded by bad boys and girls) will be roaming around, looking for imps. But the beautiful Kristkindje will be around as well, to make things better and cheer up those who need it.

Unfortunately, Frieden's Fraueleins cannot grace us with their presence in the Chapel. These young ladies have been at the last three or four Christmas Festivals. They also sang for us at our Convention this past summer. We will miss their singing!

Christmas music will be played throughout the campus and I suspect there will be a chance to have a sing-along. And, once again, the Heritage Center will be beautifully decorated.

During the upcoming time of year, I would pray that each and everyone of you would take time to remember:

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

Jesus Christ

The American Service man or woman

One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.

Frohliche Weihnacht und Glugkliches Neu Jahr