



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 6

November/December, 2007

Lincoln Chapter Picnic and General Membership Meeting



Our fall General Membership meeting and picnic was held September 16th at the Antelope Park Shelter house. We had an excellent turnout and a glorious day that was just meant for a picnic in Nebraska!

A special ceremony was held, where our Chapter President, Paul Loos, presented Dorothy Schwartzkopf with the International Board of Directors' Distinguished Service Award for her late husband, Ed.

The chicken was super, as were the beans, potato salad and other various picnic foods. If the folks attending didn't get enough to eat, it was their own fault.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and a lot of "gemutlichkeit" was going around.

For those of you who did not, or could not attend, we hope you will be able to join us next year.

Membership Drive Imperative

Membership is becoming a critical issue. Each and every year, for whatever reason, our numbers go down

The Central California Chapter had a total of 348 members as of July 2, 2007. I know, you're probably saying, "But they have a greater population." True, the general population is greater but I don't believe there are any more Germans from Russia there than we have right here in our own backyard. We need to find out what California's doing that we are not and we need to do it NOW! I'll bet they aren't sitting around saying, "We can't do that anymore."

They have a fundraiser where they take orders for bierocks (aka runza) at \$25.00 per dozen. They will only take orders for a total of 6,000! Yes, that is 6,000 bierocks.

They have an Oktoberfest where the doors open at 4pm. Dinner is served from 5pm to 7pm only. The menu includes Bierocks, German

sausage, potato salad, cole slaw, Kuchen and coffee. Other refreshments are sold separately. Then there is dancing from 6pm to 10pm.

If we can't do this anymore (and I don't believe that), then we need to work our tails off to get more members so we can do this kind of activity.

Bruce, Roger, Bear and John are not members but they will come and help because they are my friends and I ask them to help. Do you have friends or spouses who would help? The friends may not want to join, but they might not be opposed to helping with one or two of our activities.

You have to ask them! They are not going to ask you!

If we adopted a motto like, "Each One—Reach One" can you imagine how many members we would gain? Or, if not members, volunteer help. A good example is John Weber's brother, Don. Don isn't a member, but often helps John with repairs, etc at the Heritage Center.

International Boards of Directors Meet at Heritage Center

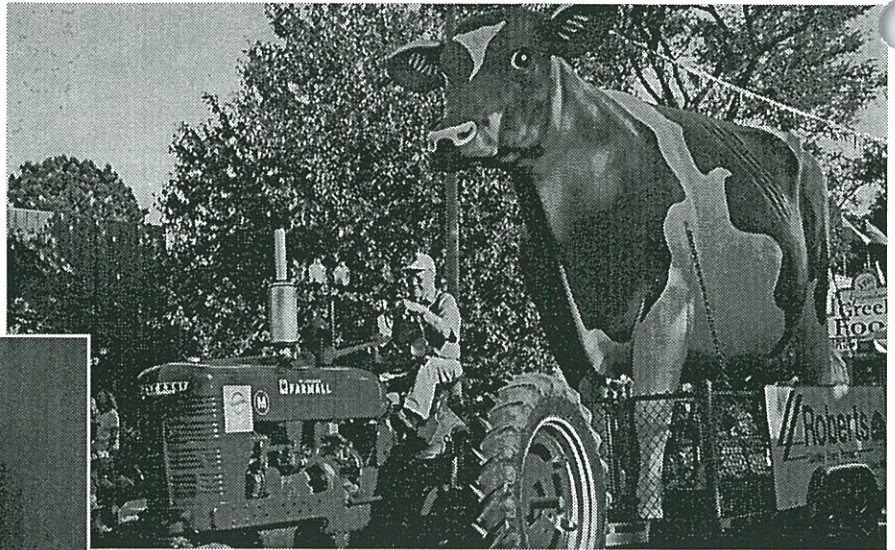
As this newsletter is being written, the members of the International Boards of Directors for the Society and Foundation are meeting here in Lincoln. The meetings are being held for three days and will be covering many items.

I plan to have some information about the meetings in the next newsletter.

Two Members Busy at the State Fair

That good-looking rascal driving the Farmall and pulling that big cow, is none other than our own Phil Dinges. Phil participated in the parades during the State Fair.

The other member at the Fair was Erwin Ulmer. His gladiolas won the Blue Ribbon and the Purple Best of Show. Congratulations, Erwin!



Chapter Election of Officers

The election of officers for the Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors will be held on January 13, 2008 at the Annual Membership Meeting. We are in need of help from any of you who are willing to serve on the Board. Please contact our President, Paul Loos or any of the other Board members.



Christmas Is Coming

The Lincoln Chapter is again hosting a Christmas Festival to be held on Saturday, December 1, beginning at 11:30am until 3:00pm at the Heritage Center, 631 "D" Street.

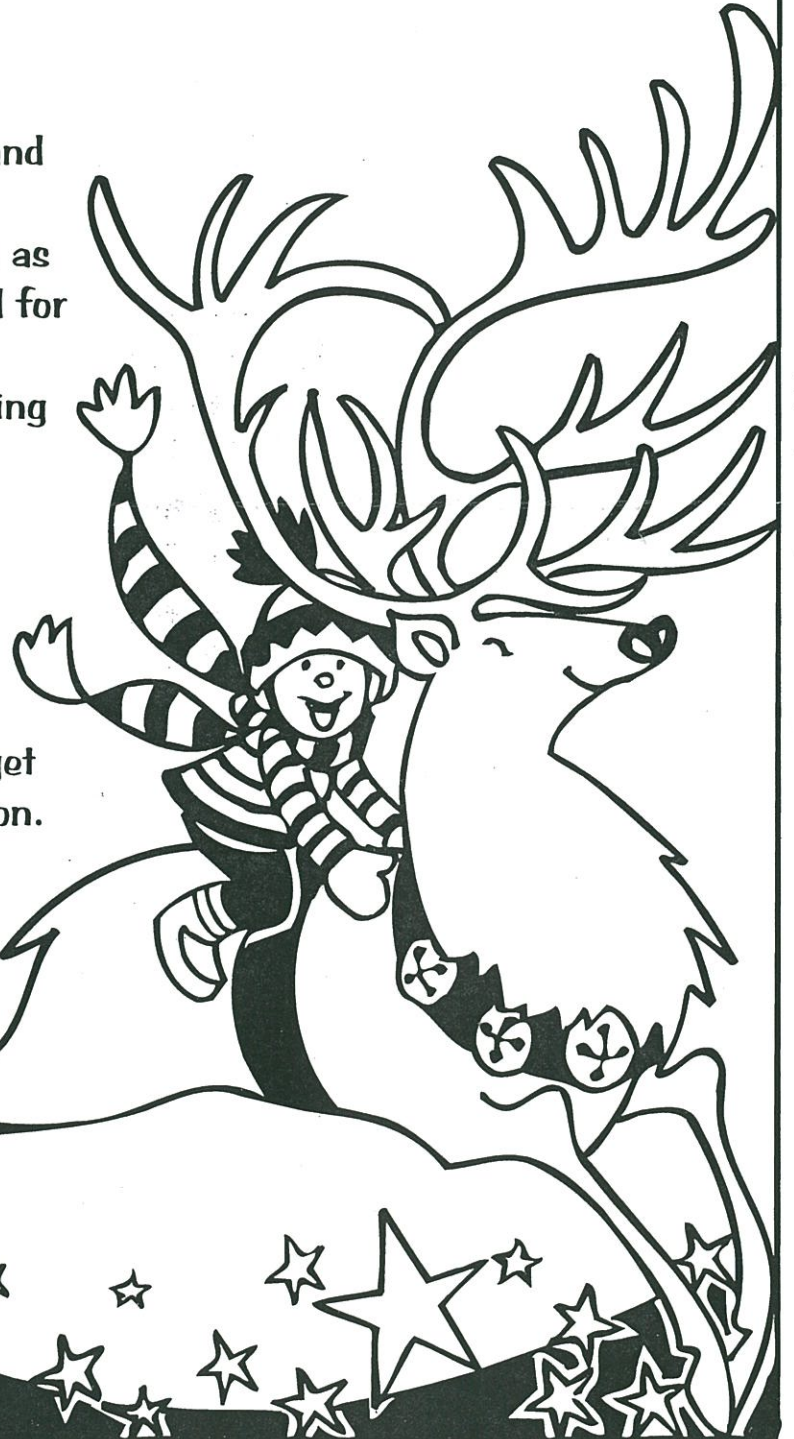
There will be free coffee, cider, and cookies. Volga Boatman sandwiches, chips and soda, as well as hotdogs, will be offered for a minimal fee.

There will be community singing in the Chapel and strolling musicians to entertain you.

Please plan to attend and to bring your entire family, as well as friends and

neighbors. A Christmas Festival is a great way to get into the spirit of the season.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season.



2007 Board Member Directory Lincoln Chapter - AHSGR

AMEN, Bill	4737 South 52nd Street	Lincoln NE 68516	488-3746
BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372	792-2175
BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506	486-0596
BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Drive	Lincoln, NE 68506	489-2583
BOUWENS, Nancy	1121 N. 79th Street	Lincoln, NE 68521	435-3052
DINGES, Dale	1609 S. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506	488-5154
GRENEMEIER, Henry	7200 Van Dorn, #128	Lincoln, NE 68516	486-1673
HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th Street	Lincoln, NE 68528	475-8221
HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Drive	Lincoln, NE 68510	489-5976
LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521	477-3978
REITZ, Ann	4121 S. 30th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502	489-5462
RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Circle	Lincoln, NE 68516	423-3853
SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430	423-4212
SOMERHEISER, Norma	2675 S. 11th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502	476-8976
WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516	488-2313
WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Circle #7	Lincoln, NE 68542	423-4345

(Mail to: PO Box 23095, Lincoln, NE 68516)

Officers are elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. However, if you are interested in serving for a shorter period of time, you could ask about a one-year appointment, to determine if it would be something you would enjoy doing.

2007 OFFICERS

President Paul Loos	Treasurer Norma Somerheiser
1st Vice President . . Sidonia Babcock	Corresponding Secretary . . .
2nd Vice President Dale Dinges	Lucille Hedges
Recording Secretary Nancy Bouwens	Historian Leslie Bill

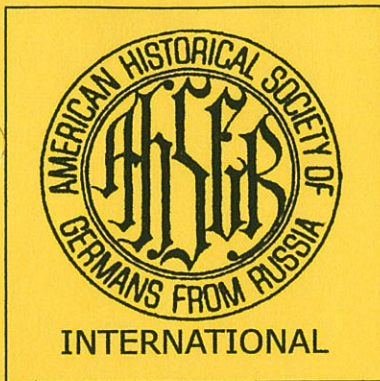


Calendar of Events

November 13, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
November 19, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 1, 2007	Christmas Festival	11:30AM-3:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 11, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
December __, 2007	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		(Date, time and location TBA)	
January 13, 2008	Annual Membership Meeting	1:00PM	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall	(10th & Charleston Sts)
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)			



F A L L



4th Annual AHSGR Membership Campaign starts at the Hays, Kansas 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!

UP, UP AND AWAY!

This campaign is designed to reward AHSGR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit new members for AHSGR or purchase gift memberships. The campaign will begin June 16, 2007 and end on July 15, 2008. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2008 Casper Convention to be held July 28 – August 3. Additional prizes for AHSGR Chapters have been added this year. Pick up an application at convention or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org>

- **\$100 to the AHSGR member AND \$200 to the AHSGR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members.**
- **\$75 to the AHSGR member AND \$150 to the AHSGR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members.**
- **\$50 to the AHSGR member AND \$100 to the AHSGR Chapter 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 MOVE OUR MEMBERSHIP
“UP, UP AND AWAY” TO ASSURE THE FUTURE OF AHSGR!**

THE 2008 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 2008 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:

**Ken Koehler
7831 Lewis Court
Arvada, CO 80005**

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 15, 2008

**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 April 15, 2008. Entries received after that date cannot be considered.



HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL / HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

Nancy Bouwens
Robert Wagner
Elsa Amen
Susan Stoehr
Jim Sommers
Harry Niederhaus
Cecelia Sherman
Ed Deines
Irene Dinges
Kirk B. Payne
Charles E. Jones, Jr.
Leslie Bill
Erwin Ulmer
Joyce Riddle
J. Scott Nelson
Teri Nelson

December

Marilyn Wagner
Wilbur (Bill) Amen
Gerald L. Schleich
Marta Paxton
Barbara Schmidt
Lowell Nicholas
Richard E. Pearce
Norma Schenkel
Sidonia Babcock
Sandra Gettman
Dorothy Sinner
Ann Reitz
Rodger Wurst
Will Richards
Diane White
Linda O'Neill

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

Doris and Donald Taylor

December

Pam and Rodger Wurst

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Frieda Koch
Otto G. Schleiger
Lydia Schwartzkopf
Donna Mae Walter
Mildred Burbach
Marjorie Gabelhouse

Wilma I. Froscheiser
Clarence C. Reinhardt
Frieda Havel
Gertrude Louise Schmidt
Lillian Kramer
Paul Robert Griess

Journal Mailing

Thank you to these volunteers who helped with the Journal mailing:

Barb Schmidt
 Suzie Stoehr
 Annie Settell
 Norma Somerheiser
 Judy Lawson
 John & Ruby Weber
 Wes Klein
 Phil & Irene Dinges
 Virginia Dietrich
 Larry Schenkel

And, of course, the staff was there working like little beavers, sacking all of the stuffed envelopes by state and Zip code.

Wes Klein kept many of us entertained with one joke after another. There was a lot of fun and fellowship had by all of us who were there.

If I left anyone off the list, it was not done on purpose and I apologize. If I did leave you off, call me at 438-3814 and I will get your name in the next newsletter.



Membership

Well, the time is coming to renew your membership in the Lincoln Chapter. Since Christmas is just around the corner, this might be a good time to pay for someone's membership for a Christmas gift. Chapter dues are only \$12.00 for a year. What a bargain!

How about giving a gift of a membership to the International AHSGR organization? Those dues are:

Life Membership—\$750-\$1050 (ask for ages)
Youth Membership—\$8 age 14 and under
Student Membership—\$15 age 15-24
Individual/Family Membership—\$50 prorated per quarter

Giving your children or grandchildren the gift of family history about their own unique Heritage. Who else will carry your history and traditions on? The time to start is before it's too late. (Much of this I have taken from the Saginaw Valley Chapter newsletter, with their permission.)

Special Poem for Senior Citizens!

A row of bottles on my shelf
 Caused me to analyze myself.
 One yellow pill I have to pop
 Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
 A little white one that I take
 Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
 The blue ones that I use a lot
 Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
 The purple pill goes to my brain
 And tells me that I have no pain.
 The capsules tell me not to wheeze
 Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
 The red ones, smallest of them all
 Go to my blood so I won't fall.
 The orange ones, very big and bright
 Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
 Such an array of brilliant pills
 Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
 But what I'd really like to know...
 Is what tells each one where to go!

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

The History and Origin of Veterans' Day

Several years ago, I tried to list in the newsletter, all of our people who went to war in World War II. It was to honor them for their service. Now, here we are again with Americans fighting and dying on foreign soil.

To all of our veterans, wherever and whenever you served, we thank you. To those now engaged in a war zone, may God bless you and keep you in the palm of His hand and bring you safely home.

[The following is from an Internet website.]

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers that survived the war marched in a parade through their hometowns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, twenty years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the previous war would not be the last one. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veterans' Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by a Kansas

congressman renaming the federal holiday to Veterans' Day.

The Uniforms Holiday Bill was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that



these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and soon, on September 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97, which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, begin-

ning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veteran's service organizations and the American people.

After the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, the emphasis on holiday activities has shifted. There are fewer military parades and ceremonies. Veterans gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. to place gifts and stand quiet vigil at the names of their friends and relatives who fell in the Vietnam War. Families who have lost sons and daughters in wars turn their thoughts more toward peace and the avoidance of future wars.

Veterans of military service have organized support groups such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. On Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, these groups raise funds for their charitable activities by selling paper poppies made by disabled veterans. This bright red wildflower became a symbol of World War I after a bloody battle in a field of poppies called Flanders Field in Belgium.

Veterans' Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans' Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans' Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526



**Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
Annual Christmas Festival
Saturday, December 1
11:30am-3:00pm
Heritage Center
631 "D" Street
(more info on page 3)**