



## Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 1

January/February, 2014

## From the Editor's Desk

Well, here it is, 2014. It doesn't seem like fourteen years have passed since we were worried about all kinds of terrible catastrophes. Some even feared the end of the earth, others were worried that computers couldn't handle it and would crash, taking all of the world's records with them. Our daughter, Julie, was a member of a group that worked tirelessly to correct the problems. What could cause such widespread

panic? Why, the dawning of the new millennium!!

I guess you know by now, none of these predictions came true, thank goodness. Oh, wait!! The computer fears have hit my computer. Well, maybe they were just a continuation of my not knowing how to work that thing very well.

I call my computer, Christine, in honor of the car named the same in Stephen King's book. ☐

## Musings...

It has been a very busy year for AHSGR and the Lincoln Chapter including the hiring of nearly an entire new staff. More about that later.

There were many mailings and a couple dinners that our volunteers helped with and I did not get to say "Thank you." So, here goes:

Nancy Borrell	Norma Somerheiser
Sharon Buckner	Susan Stoehr
Ed Barthule	Leslie Bill
Bob Wagner	Virginia Dietrich
Don Weber	Dale & Heidi Dinges
John & Ruby Weber	Frieda Dobler
Pam Wurst	Amy Frohn
Gail Gingrich	Gladys Herstein
Jay & Corinne Jacox	Karen Johnson
Judy Lawson	Paul Loos
Joyce & Robert Riddle	Judy Runyon
Becky Schenaman	Phil Dinges
Norma & Larry Schenkel	
Barbara Schmidt	Delores Schwartz
Helen Schwartz	Ruth White

Nancy Borrell also serves on the International Board as well as the Lincoln Chapter Board.

Jay and Corinne Jacox take care of

the Chapter's "home page" and Corinne does an outstanding job of putting information on Facebook.

Barb Schmidt and Helen Schwartz work with the quilters.

Norma Somerheiser and Judy Runion give tours of the Museum and campus.

John and Don Weber do lots of "fix-it" type work.

Ruby Weber "mans" a calling list getting help with mailings.

I could go on, but I think you get the picture.

If I have missed your name, I apologize in advance. Please give me a call so I can include you in the next newsletter.

We recently visited the Licorice International store in the Haymarket. We loaded up with G-R "soul food." Good stuff. One of the store's co-owners is Ardith Stertz. She and her husband John are AHSGR Life Members. Some of you will remember John's mother, Esther.

The Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors recently enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner at the Fireside

### MISSION STATEMENT

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants. The International foundation of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is responsible for exercising financial stewardship to generate, manage, and allocate resources which advance the mission and assist in securing the future of AHSGR.

Restaurant. We enjoyed visiting and getting acquainted with the new Heritage Center staff and spouses. Norma and I were pleased to be included. Thanks to John Weber for making the arrangements. ☐

## Live and Learn

Norma Somerheiser, Lincoln Chapter member and long-time volunteer was invited to share her personal German from Russia Christmas tradition memories on the City of Lincoln's Aging Partners television show, "Live and Learn". You can watch the interview on the 5 city TV website: <http://lincoln.ne.gov>. In the search section, type in Live and Learn. This brings you to a screen Videos on Demand. Click on Live and Learn and then the date: 12-1-13. That will open the video. The segment includes several ethnic groups. The interview with Norma is toward the end of the program. It's worth the effort. ☐



# New Year's Eve

Submitted by Becky Schenaman

I want to tell you a New Year's Eve story that is true and it happened to me.

It was New Year's Eve; I was a junior in high school.

My mom's friend asked if I could babysit for her grandchildren, while she and her family went to the Elk's New Year's dance.

I took all of my school books with me to catch up on home work. They were quite heavy.

I was two blocks from home. We did not have a phone so I could not call home and let anyone know I was coming home.

When the family returned it was around 2 am.

It had snowed so the sidewalks were covered and the moon was out, so it appeared lighter and all the homes were quiet, no lights on. There was no traffic.

They asked if they could either drive me home or walk with me.

Being foolish I said no. I had no fear; it was just two blocks.

I made it to the corner of my block and that is when I saw him. He was crossing the street by our house. He

spotted me at the same time. Fear instantly over took me, as he started to run. And I had further to go and I had those heavy books.

I started to run also. I said "God, I need to get home!" All the time knowing even if I made it I had no one waiting up for me. I also knew he just had to circle our large drive and house while I had to go the distance of the block.

My feet just seemed to fly, my heart was pounding.

I ran up the steps to the porch, there was a distance of about four feet from the porch railing to the dark front door. Just as I approached the door handle he came over the railing. At the same time the front door flew open and my brother grabbed my arm and pulled me inside. The man never said a thing.

My brother and I stood in the hallway and I said, "How did you know I was coming home?" He said he just felt something wake him and knew to come downstairs.

To this day my brother, who now lives in Virginia, and I still marvel at this story.

I will always believe that when I asked God to get me home, He did.

Why else was my brother able to be at the door at that exact moment?

The older I get and the "what ifs" come to me when I think what might have happened. I truly believe God sent angels to get me safely home.

All I know for sure is; I will never forget that night. □

## Germans from Russia Midwives

The Winter 2013 issue of "Nebraska History" includes a very interesting article by Rebecca Anderson on midwives among the Germans from Russia here in Lincoln.

The magazine is available at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at South Pointe Pavilions at 27th & Pine Lake.

□

### HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL "Happy Birthday"

#### January

Mary Frost  
Pam Wurst  
Ed Barthule  
Sharon Buckner  
Joyce Riddle  
Barb Schmidt  
Clarence Gunn

#### February

Phil Dinges  
Jack Frost  
Irene Gabelhaus  
Lenny Schneider  
Dorothy Heidenreich  
Annie Settell  
Diane Butherus  
Lillian Weber  
Dorothy Neill

### FROHLICH JUHRESTAG "Happy Anniversary"

#### January

Sid and Ken Babcock

#### February

None

(If your name has not been mentioned in the birthday or anniversary acknowledgments, please let us know. We don't want to leave you out.)

### Unsere Leute Erinnyng "Our People in Memory"

Virginia J. Stettinger  
Ruth J. Stubbs  
Ester R. Fagler  
Martin Maul

Robert J. Settell  
Melvin S. Knopp, Jr.  
Lois Ruth (Spahn) Umberger



# AHSGR CONVENTION

## July 6-12, 2014

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The AHSGR Convention will be here sooner than we think. The Planning Committee is busy working on the event. We will need volunteers to fill roles and assist staff with many activities. Below you will find some of the events that will need volunteers to assist. This list is a general over-view of the events being planned. Further details will be provided as we move along with changes as they become known. This is meant to be informative and give you an idea of the many opportunities to volunteer at the convention.

Some of the things planned so far are tours to Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Red Wing Pottery here in Lincoln, and Speedway Motors here in Lincoln. There will also be food demonstrations.

The music for the dance that is scheduled for Friday night will be provided by The Volga River Boys. The Heritage Center will be open throughout the convention with transportation available. As you can see it will be a busy week and we need your help.

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign below and return the bottom portion to AHSGR Headquarters and we will contact you.

Opportunities available:

Bookstore

Luncheons

Registration

Hospitality

Genealogy & Research Library

Quilt Raffle

Banquets

Membership

Tours

Information Booth

Workshops

Opening Night

Youth Program

Food Demonstration

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## VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

I wish to sign-up as a volunteer for the AHSGR Convention 2014. I will be happy to assist with any event either chosen or designated.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: American Society of Germans from Russia  
631 "D" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502

Thank you for volunteering.  
AHSGR Planning Committee 2014



# THE 2014 ANNUAL AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

## Adult Division

First Place Award - \$100.00

Second Place Award - \$75.00

Third Place Award - \$50.00

(Awards for ties will be prorated)

“Honorable Mentions” are 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” are also possible.

## ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2014 AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

### This completed form must accompany your story!

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

\_\_\_ I certify that this story has not previously been published in any form, or in any publication.

\_\_\_ I certify that I currently control all the copyrights to the story.

\_\_\_ I hereby grant AHSGR the rights to publish my Story and Photos for AHSGR use.

My signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of my Story: \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently an AHSGR member: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

I plan to be at the AHSGR Convention in Lincoln, NE in July 2014: \_\_\_ 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 PRINT clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed entry form, along with 5 printed copies of your story, a copy on a CD or Flash Drive (if possible), any pictures that enhance the story, a short biography and a picture of yourself, to:

Charlotte Ochs Lindsay  
2343 S. Nash Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
USA

**DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2014**

**Entries received after that date cannot be considered**

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) If submitting by mail, each entry must follow the following rules or it will be disqualified:

- Five typewritten copies of your story, double-spaced, and in clear, dark print on 8½ x 11 inch white paper with one (1) inch margins in standard 12 point font/type. Include any pictures that enhance your story, a short biography, picture of yourself, and mail to:

Charlotte Ochs Lindsay  
2343 S. Nash Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
USA

- You may choose to submit your entry electronically in Word Perfect, MS-Word, or as a RTF document. Your story should be double-spaced, on 8½ x 11 inch white paper with one (1) inch margins in standard 12 point font/type. Attach any photos that would enhance your story. **Do not submit PDF documents.** Also attach a biography and photo of yourself. Send to Charlotte Lindsay at <[nashstreet@comcast.net](mailto:nashstreet@comcast.net)>
- No story can be longer than five (5) typewritten pages.
- Contestants may submit as many stories as they wish, but each entry must be separate and accompanied by a separate and completed entry form.
- If sending by mail, send five (5) printed copies of each story.

- Photos should be 300 dpi and unedited, and **MUST** be submitted as an electronic JPEG file.
- If original photos are not available in JPEG format it is the **AUTHOR'S** responsibility to have the photos scanned into a JPEG file, and assure that good quality photos can be reproduced/printed from the JPEG file.
- Do not send **physical originals** of photos, as they will not be returned.

- **Receipt of your entry will be acknowledged via email.**

2) The name of the author/submitter should **NOT** appear on the story itself. If submitting by mail, 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 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/by the entrant.

8) Submitted copies of the story, photographs and other material will not be returned.

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 prizewinners and one or more "Honorable Mention" winners are possible in both the Adult and the Youth Divisions.

**All entries must be received by MARCH 1, 2014**



## 2014 Calendar of Events

January 20	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
February 11	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
February 17	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
March 11	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
March	Soup Supper	5:00-7:00 p.m.	WSI Hall 1430 N. 10th St.
March 17	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
April 8	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
April 21	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
April 18-20	International Board of Directors' Meeting		631 D Street
April 27	General Membership Meeting	2:00 p.m. (refreshments following)	631 D Street
May 13	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
May 19	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
May	Garage Sale		
June 10	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
June 16	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
June 30	General Membership Meeting	2:00 p.m. (refreshments following)	631 D Street
July 6-13	International Convention		Lincoln, NE
July 8	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
July 21	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
August 12	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
August 18	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
September 9	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
September 15	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
September 21	General Membership Meeting & Picnic	4:00 p.m.	Antelope Park Shelter
October 14	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
October 20	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
November	Broda Dinner		
November 11	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
November 17	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D Street
December 9	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy. 2
December 15	Board Members' Christmas Dinner		
Jan. 11, 2015	Annual Membership & Business Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Immanuel Church
	(Fellowship Hall, Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)		10th & Charleston

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR  
Larry and Norma Schenkel, Editors  
9439 Benziger Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68526  
402-438-3814



## 2014 DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues time is here again. They have not changed, just \$12 for the year. "Such a bargain." A member's resolution for the year is to get a friend to come to one of our meetings. If it is something that appeals to them, we might get some new members. Remember the membership drive motto for the International Board is "Each one, Reach one."

### Lincoln Chapter Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ German Russian Heritage?  Yes  No

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Month \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ German Russian Heritage?  Yes  No

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestral Village \_\_\_\_\_ Ancestral Names \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check for \$12 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:  
Donna Day, Membership Chair, 325 N. 25th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

