

BRIDGING THE

GAP

Through Knowledge, Education, Understanding & Insight

August / September 2009, Issue 17



NEBRASKA'S FIRST FEMALE BRIGADIER GENERAL

Page 4



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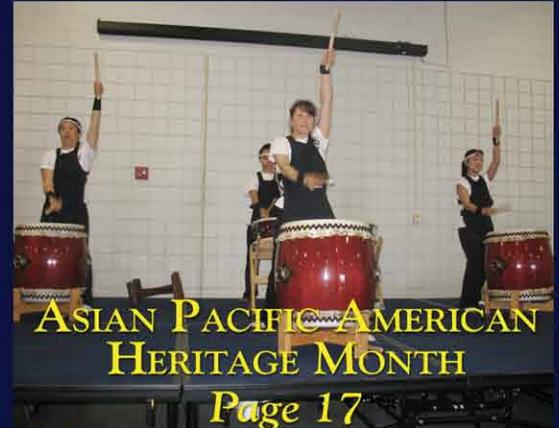
WHAT DOES DIVERSITY MEAN TO ME? BY BILL NELSON

KEYS TO SUCCESS

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

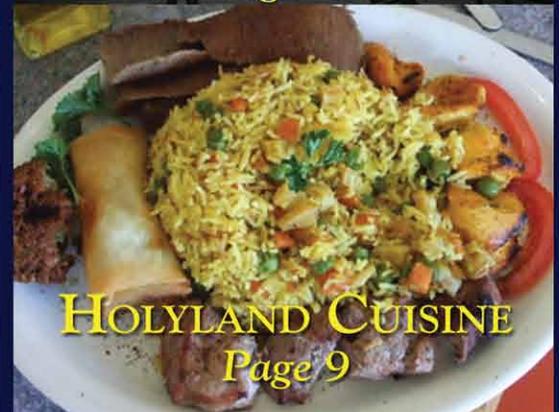
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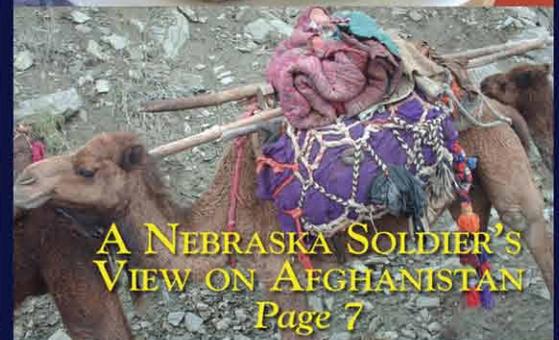
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Page 17



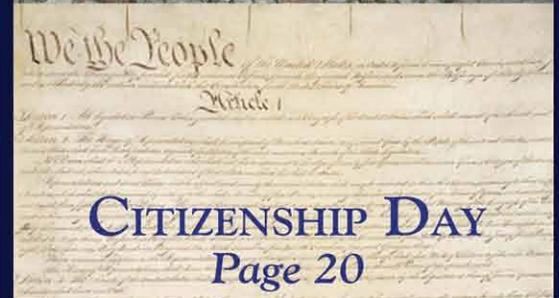
HOLYLAND CUISINE

Page 9



A NEBRASKA SOLDIER'S
VIEW ON AFGHANISTAN

Page 7



CITIZENSHIP DAY

Page 20

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What Does Diversity Mean to Me? by CW5 (ret) Bill Nelson	3
Roma Amundson Receives Brigadier General Star	4
Brigadier General Roma Amundson Interview ..	4
A Nebraska Soldier's View on Afghanistan.....	7
Restaurant Review: Holyland Cuisine	9
Keys to Success by CSM Eli Valenzuela.....	10
The Women's Army Corps.....	11
Website Review: The Department of Interior Office for Equal Opportunity	13
Trivia: The 1960s	13
Hidden in Plain View: The Formidable Strength of the Weaker Sex	14
Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration	17
What is Women's Equality Day?	18
Children's Book Review: Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah	19
Citizenship Day - September 17th.....	20
Diversity Dates	21
1960s Trivia Answers.....	21
Book Review: Eat, Pray Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia	22
Army Policy on Diversity.....	22
Diver-cipe Corner: Chicken Tikka Masala	23
Upcoming Events	23

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THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

The purpose of the SEP Group is to work with leadership and management in carrying out their joint responsibility to identify barriers to the recruitment and advancement of special emphasis groups, devise solutions, and draft plans to implement the solutions.

In addition, the SEP Group provides opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness.

NOTE FROM THE SEP GROUP

Welcome to Bridging the Gap Issue 17!

We are pleased to present an exciting new look to our Military Department diversity publication. We have changed the cover of Bridging the Gap (BTG) to provide a more aesthetically pleasing look, reflecting the growth of our original idea of a small newsletter to a larger magazine-like publication with thirty pages or more per issue.

When we began talking about a diversity newsletter, we weren't sure where it was going to take us or what we were going to do with it. Since the release of our first issue in December 2006, this publication has transformed and taken on a life of its own due to the imagination of our numerous contributing authors. Each month we have brought you informative, positive, and celebratory articles on diversity in the workplace, the military, Nebraska, the United States and the world.

Our focus was and is to help readers understand that diversity is not something

to fear, but rather something to leverage, and to embrace peoples' differences. Our intention is to celebrate the power of cultural diversity: the richness of ideas, traditions and understandings between people. Another function of this publication is to bridge the gap between different people to find similarities in our diversity, and to honor those similarities and differences. It is what makes this country and world so fascinating.

We welcome comments and suggestions on the articles and the publication in general, as well as ideas for future articles (see below). Please let us know how we are doing, what we could do to improve, and if there is anything you would like to see in the future.

Our goal is to continue to bring you an extraordinary publication represented in first-class articles on this vast subject of diversity.

Enjoy!

Bridging the Gap welcomes your submissions of article ideas and written articles.

To have your upcoming event published in Bridging the Gap, please notify us by August 28, 2009 for the October-November 2009 issue.

All submissions, due August 7, 2009 for the above issue, will be considered for publication.

We reserve the right to edit submitted material.

Please send your submission to Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez at m.schmidtrodriquez@us.army.mil

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Interested in becoming a member of the SEP Group? Please contact one of the members with an email address listed above.



WHAT DOES DIVERSITY MEAN TO ME?

By CW5 (Ret) Bill Nelson (Nebraska Army National Guard)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve - Executive Director

What does diversity mean to me? When asked if I would be interested in providing Bridging the Gap an article about diversity, I agreed, thinking "it would be a breeze." But sitting here with a severe case of brain failure has spurred me to consider what diversity really does mean to me. I am a retired military officer and currently work as a contractor. I've been exposed to diversity most of my life, both in and out of uniform. Have I seen changes? You bet! Growing up in the Sandhills pretty much isolated me and my family from any diverse cultures other than the Native Americans who lived and worked in my hometown. So before we move on, let me give you a brief background of my experiences.

During my first job working on a haying crew in grade school and junior high, my brother and I worked alongside Native American men whom my boss had also hired for summer help. They were great guys, but we did not socialize outside of the ranch and the bunkhouse in the evenings. About the only things I learned about the Oglala Sioux culture were some of the more colorful words and phrases they taught us.

When my family moved to Omaha, we entered into a brand new culture. In the early 1960s, going from a rural setting to a big town was a culture shock for me. Suddenly, we had a whole new set of rules, regulations and cultural expectations to live by, not only in school, but in public as well. My first locker-mate in junior high was a young



African-American who was very tall, polite and not very talkative. We got along well, and my folks even told me to invite him home for dinner one evening. But, 1960s culture being what it was, that never happened.

When I joined the Army, diversity was readily evident in all phases of my basic and advanced training. Young men from all walks of life and cultures

were suddenly forced to get along to survive the rigors of learning how to be Soldiers. You adapted or you perished. I chose to adapt! One learned quickly that the color of someone's skin was not an indicator of a person's leadership ability or skills. It became very easy to see a Soldier for his abilities, not particularly his race or creed. There were no female Soldiers in any unit I was assigned to, so working with members of the opposite sex was not even considered at that time. Much later when I joined the National Guard, working with women was an easy transition, because I had learned that Soldiers are Soldiers, no matter what.

During my career in the Guard, I had the opportunity to attend the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The most interesting part of the course was seeing other service members coming into the course with chips on their shoulders about their treatment by certain members of their units. Some complaints were valid, some were not. The challenge was sorting out which was which. I also had the great fortune to work with CW3 Rudy Peralez, Equal Opportunity (EO) Manager, prior to his retirement. Rudy dedicated his career

to ensuring EO was the by-word in the Nebraska National Guard, and I learned a great deal from him.

Now, having set the stage, I can begin to answer the question I posed at the beginning - what does diversity mean to me? At its most basic, I think diversity is nothing more than different folks living and working together in harmony. Now, I'm not such a Pollyanna to believe this happens all the time. Does it most of the time? Depends on when and where, I suspect. I would suggest that, here in Nebraska, we are probably the model of a society living and working together in relative harmony. Do we have our problems? Sure, every society does. Have we learned from our past? I would like to think we have.

Today, we seem to live in a society less encumbered by gender and racial barriers than ever before. From what I see it makes little difference what your personal make-up or background is when it comes to being accepted in today's society. People are being judged more and more on their skills and abilities as opposed to where they came from or who they are. Diversity to me means the ability to share skills with each other, learn from each other and accept each other for who we are. Conversely, diversity does not mean waving a flag and saying "I'm diverse, look at me!" Diversity starts in the heart and soul of every individual. When you can look inside and see that your neighbor and co-worker deserve the same respect as yourself, then in my book you have met the goal of being diverse.

Hopefully, I've been able to share a little bit with you about my thoughts and ideas on diversity. We are truly blessed in the National Guard (and the military as a whole) to be well versed on the subject. We have some of the best folks in the nation who work with diversity on a daily basis and ensure we know what it's all about. Let's keep it going to show everyone that Nebraska truly is "the good life." Thank you. 



ROMA AMUNDSON RECEIVES BRIGADIER GENERAL STAR

By LaVonne Rosenthal



Dawn Amundson, 1LT Justin Amundson, BG Roma Amundson, and LTC (ret) Randy Amundson

Among family, friends, honored guests and fellow military members, Roma Amundson received her official appointment as Nebraska's first female Brigadier General on Saturday, July 11, 2009.

The ceremony opened in the tradition of many military promotion ceremonies, with the playing of *Ruffles and Flourishes*, followed by the singing of the national anthem. MG Kadavy, The Adjutant General, praised BG Amundson for her accomplishments, and also praised

her family for their unwavering support. The symbolic removal of old rank and placement of new insignia by family members onto BG Amundson's uniform was met with resounding applause.

"Isn't this a party?!" were the first remarks from Nebraska's newest general, and she spoke the truth as the rest of the event became a celebration of accomplishments, not only for BG Amundson,

but for women who have served and are currently serving in the Nebraska National Guard. The first women who enlisted in the Guard were presented coins and recognized on stage in front of the crowd. Other firsts were recognized: the first women deployed to a combat zone during Operation Desert Storm and the first women commanders in a combat zone. The celebration turned somber for a moment as BG Amundson recognized those Nebraska women who lost their

lives in the lines of battle – MSG Linda Tarrango-Griess and SSG Trish Jameson.

The stage couldn't have held many more comrades, yet there was room for SGT Jennifer Bos, the first female Nebraska National Guard soldier who received the Bronze Star with "V" for valor for her heroic actions in Iraq. This rounded out the span of thirty years and three generations of firsts. BG Amundson stressed the value of diversity and recognized 1LT Haidar Hamoud, from Iraq, as one of our newest citizens to serve in the Nebraska National Guard.

In her remarks recognizing those who impacted her career, BG Amundson quoted Sir Isaac Newton – "If I have seen further it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants." Some of the giants she recognized on this July morning were the retired generals in attendance who supported her during her career.

The long reception line was filled with well-wishers, congratulating our new general at the conclusion of the ceremony. Attendees received American flags in recognition of the importance of service and patriotism to our country.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROMA AMUNDSON: NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S FIRST FEMALE BRIGADIER GENERAL AND ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL - ARMY

Interviewed By CW2 Robrenna Redl

We gain in-depth and personal insights into the early development of BG Roma Amundson's career through a personal interview.

CHIEF REDL: *What part of your childhood do you think prepared you for your military career?*

BG AMUNDSON: As a baby boomer, I had many family members who served in the military; three uncles that served, one in Europe and two others in the Pacific. That's when I first realized how much veterans

bond with each other when they talk about their experiences with one another. My uncles would talk about encounters they had in Germany and the Pacific. My great uncle served in World War I in Chateau Thierry and talked about that often. Also, my dad had

books on airplane identification that I found fascinating. Later when I was in high school and college, my brother served in Vietnam as a Marine. He enjoyed

serving so much he extended his tour in Vietnam twice. I remember one hot August day, the generations came together and discussed their experiences with each other. In addition, I grew up in the Midwest where I find people to be supportive of the military. All influenced me in some way.

CHIEF REDL: *What book(s) have you read that influenced you?*

BG AMUNDSON: In the book called *The Stuff of Heroes*, author William A. Cohen discusses the eight universal laws of

"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you." Althea Gibson

Continued on Page 5



BG Roma Amundson Continued from Page 4

leadership. The laws are as follows:

1. Maintain absolute integrity.
2. Know your stuff.
3. Declare your expectations.
4. Show uncommon commitment.
5. Expect positive results.
6. Take care of your people.
7. Put duty before self.
8. Get out in front.

One way I incorporate these thoughts is through what I call walkabouts. I like to get out and see the Soldiers and let people know I'm interested in them. One of the best things you can do as a leader is to authentically show that you want to serve and like to serve. I gave a talk once at an Officer Candidate School (OCS) class that affirms what I call the Four E's of Leadership, which means to envision, entrust, enable and expect. I define it as:

- Envision - clearly state your vision.
- Entrust people with the mission.
- Enable people by providing equipment, training, education and support.
- Expect excellence.

I want people to know I am open-minded and approachable... I am a person who really wants to know what people are really thinking, and then I can do something about it.

It's important to allow Soldiers to do the mission and recognize and reward excellence. Former Nebraska National Guard Adjutant General Roger P. Lempke was a great example of this. He once tracked down a Soldier who saved three Iraqis from a burning tent. The Soldier was recommended for an award which was downgraded, and for some reason the Soldier never received even the downgraded award. General Lempke heard about the incident, searched for the Soldier and ensured that he not only received an award, but he received the proper award befitting the act.

CHIEF REDL: *How would you describe your leadership style?*

BG AMUNDSON: I want people to know

I am open-minded and approachable, although I expect the chain of command to be followed. I am a person who wants to know what people are really thinking, and then I can do something about it.

However, if someone wants to talk to me, I expect that he or she be allowed to talk to me without being screened. I believe that if someone screens which people can see a leader, then communication about issues doesn't occur.

CHIEF REDL: *In other words, screening hinders communication.*

BG AMUNDSON: I recall something General Zink once said: "The star belongs to the command and the Soldier. It is to support and enable Soldiers; to serve them. It's used to back the Soldier and to communicate concerns. The star does not belong to the officer, it is only the officer's privilege to wear it before it moves on to another person."

CHIEF REDL: *What historic figure has influenced your philosophy on leadership and why?*

BG AMUNDSON: During World War II, General George C. Marshall made a statement that still applies to all Soldiers today. He said "The Soldier is a man; he expects to be treated as an adult, not a schoolboy. He has rights; they must be known to him and thereafter respected. He has ambition; it must be stirred. He has a belief in fair play; it must be supplied. He has imagination; it must be stimulated. He has a sense of personal dignity; it must be sustained. He has



*BG Roma Amundson and LTG (NE) (ret) Edward Binder
MG Timothy Kadavy (in back)*

pride; it can be satisfied and made the bedrock of character once he has been assured that he is playing a useful and respected role. To give a man this is the acme of inspired leadership. He has become loyal because loyalty has been given to him."

CHIEF REDL: *General Colin Powell is quoted as saying "Luck tends to come to people that are well prepared." What are your thoughts on that statement?*

BG AMUNDSON: I agree with that statement, however, I'd like to expand on that a bit. Luck comes to individuals who are prepared through education, training and experience to recognize opportunities. People who are prepared can discern when opportunities arise and know how to mold them and when to grab them. I also believe individuals must be positive; I don't think a negative person can progress.

CHIEF REDL: *Did you have a mentor who made a significant impact on the choices you made in your military career?*

BG AMUNDSON: I've had several who have made huge impacts.

The first is General Binder. Even when I was a brand new Second Lieutenant he always listened to me, trusted me, supported me, encouraged me and made decisions based on what I told him. He gave me my first command in 1982. He stated in the *Prairie Soldier* "it's time a female had a command." (Side note: This was the seed that planted the opportunity for this young lieutenant to become the first female commander in Nebraska, a necessity for her to continue to advance in her career.)

Second is Colonel Kenneth Love,

Continued on Page 6

BG Roma Amundson Continued from Page 5

Assistant Director of Personnel Administration (DPA) at the time, who

gave me a career road map. I think young officers need to have one. Everyone should map out when to go to Officer Basic Course (OBC), seek the first command, attend Intermediate Level Education (ILE) Program,

etc. Identify from the beginning what it is you would like to accomplish. At the time I was a Platoon Leader he asked me "would you like to be a commander?" "Yes," I answered. He said, "You know, opportunities are very limited for a female. You realize it will be very difficult for you." At the time, units were mostly combat units. He asked what my aspirations were. I told him I wanted to make Colonel and command what was then known as the Nebraska Military Academy. Eventually I obtained a detachment command, staff position, Executive Officer position and a Battalion Command. Then I became Colonel. However, the command I obtained was of 92nd Troop Command instead of my original vision of the Military Academy.

Third is General Derman. He always smiled, he was a positive person. He never seemed to become angry; he was calm, cool and collected. He was focused on the welfare of the Soldier—have they been fed, how's the billeting, do they have all the equipment they need to complete the mission, etc.

Fourth is General Heng. He was always concerned about family, and he was cheerful. He helped shape my career by assigning me my first Battalion Command. This was an essential requirement to get to Colonel. If it hadn't been for him recognizing that I was ready for that command, I'd still be a Lieutenant Colonel or I would be out due to the mandatory retirement date guidelines.



Most recently, General Lempke was a very significant mentor for me. He assigned me a Brigade Command. He

trusted me, encouraged me and included me in decision making. He was very supportive of my decisions. I am impressed by the passion he had toward Guard members. He supported the Soldiers and Airmen. I'm also impressed by his combativeness in how he stood firm for Soldiers and Airmen. I remember when I went to Camp Shelby to pay a visit to one of our units. Morale was very low and the unit's mission was changed to something they were not prepared for in training, equipment, etc. I reported the information to General Lempke; he made a phone call right away and spoke to one of the regular Army Generals. He wanted to know what was happening. He received the information about the mission being changed, and after learning that, General Lempke ensured the unit received the training and everything they needed for the new mission.

What I've taken from my mentors is you have to be willing to initiate things; don't wait for them to come to you. Ask for it and you just might get it. Each time I was ready, willing, trained and capable. Most importantly I am a Soldier.

CHIEF REDL: *How do you think mentors can shape young Soldiers in the Guard today?*

BG AMUNDSON: Mentors have wonderful opportunities directly and indirectly. Directly by talking to Soldiers, encouraging, advising and supporting

them. Indirectly, by being an example and doing things right. A mentor must walk the talk. You can't have dissonance between what you say and what you do. Many leaders don't realize as they are walking around they are setting an example. I've spoken to Generals Zink, Lempke, Bailey and many others as they are retiring about what they believe about leadership. What they've said is that the Soldier should be the focal point, as every Soldier individually is the most important asset the military has.

CHIEF REDL: *In your opinion, what qualities make a great leader?*

BG AMUNDSON: Setting the example, walking the talk, doing what you tell others to do, being out in front and doing walkabouts, as I discussed earlier. You can't know what a Soldier is about unless you do those things that put you in contact with the Soldier; you can't

lead from a swivel chair. In order to know what a Soldier is thinking, feeling or experiencing, you have to talk to him or her. Then you must delegate and trust the work will get done. Soldiers are the most important asset to the military. I like to come in during the week on a different day from drill to do "mundane" work when the Soldiers are not around. The most important thing to do is to be out there with the Soldiers when they are here.

Leaders must make Soldiers feel appreciated and valued. Recognize a Soldier when they do a good job and tell

them by presenting coins and awards. Once again I refer to the book, *The Stuff of Heroes*, and the eight laws. Also the *Leaders Leading* course by General Lempke really crystallized it for me. I believe you have to be courageous and overcome being hurt, tired or hungry and just keep going. Qualities such as integrity, commitment, interest in Soldiers, being capable, appreciating





A NEBRASKA SOLDIER'S VIEW ON AFGHANISTAN

By MSG Reynold Castaneda



When I was approached to write about my experiences in Afghanistan, I wasn't sure which route I should take on the article. I could have written specifically through the eyes of a Soldier, but that would have meant recounting a lot of negative things. Instead, I chose to write as though I was a regular person, because I saw a lot of beauty in a country that has been ravaged by war for the past thirty years. With that in mind I will share about the country as a whole, the people, and my work with the Afghanistan National Army.



The most striking thing I noticed about this country is the extreme poverty. I got a bird's eye view of it when we flew from Kabul to Gardez. Kabul, the capitol of Afghanistan, looks like any other metropolitan city, until you reach the outskirts and notice thousands of mud buildings. Soon you realize that these mud structures are peoples' homes. I personally did not have an opportunity to go inside one of these homes so I can

only imagine what they look like inside. As I went on missions, I saw that these same mud homes (kalats) dominate the country. Many of these homes stand inside walled compounds, the entrances of which consist of brightly painted steel or wooden doors, which are considered a luxury in this country.

Most of the vehicles that people drive are Toyota Corollas. We would crack jokes because we would get intelligence reports to be on the lookout for a white Corolla, and that's all you saw on the road. Within the cities quite a few people own their own cars, but the further you get away from the city, the common means of transportation changes; from a car to a motorcycle to a bike, all the way down to a donkey or camel. Almost every means of transportation is jingled up with fancy decorations or bells (which is where the term jingle came from). Laughingly we often wondered how the driver could see with all the streamers covering the windows.

Another sign of widespread poverty is the presence of graves all over the city and country, outside of designated graveyards. The people bury their own by digging a shallow grave and putting rocks over it. It isn't unusual to see a person buried alongside a road.

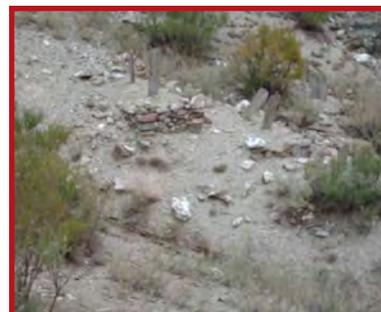
Even though poverty is everywhere leading to a certain amount of ugliness, I couldn't help but notice the vast amount of beauty Afghanistan possesses. The sun setting behind the mountains, the green scenery in the north, the droves of pomegranate trees along the road between Khost and Gardez, and the acres of corn fields stretching into the distance made me realize that this truly is a beautiful country.

Afghanistan has a deeply rooted, remarkable history. One of the things I was fortunate to see was a fort in downtown Gardez, built during the reign of Alexander the Great. It's hard



to imagine how a structure that is over 2,300 years old could still be standing. During some missions, I also saw relics from the Soviet Union's invasion during the 1980s.

While traveling along the roads, I was privileged to observe the diverse people of Afghanistan. When picturing an Afghan citizen, the stereotype is probably someone Middle Eastern, with dark skin and dark eyes. While there are quite a



few people with these features, I noticed many men had green eyes. I also saw many people with Mongolian features,

young girls with red and blonde hair and I even saw one man who looked like a California surfer. This variety can be attributed to the many nations that have dominated the country at one time or another.

In Kabul the dress is quite westernized, but the further you get away from the city, the more traditional the dress becomes. You see women wearing their burqas (an enveloping outer garment worn for the purpose of cloaking the entire body) and men in their chapans (a coat worn over clothes, usually during the cold winter months). Usually worn by men, these coats are adorned

Continued on Page 8



A Soldier's Viewpoint Continued from Page 7



with intricate threading and come in a variety of colors and patterns. The young boys dress like their fathers, but the young girls wear bright pretty dresses. I even saw some of these little girls with makeup. I thought it strange that a father would allow his young daughter (four to ten years old) to wear makeup and pretty clothes but later on require her to wear a burqa.

Praying is a daily ritual, and it isn't uncommon to see someone, in the middle of nowhere, praying towards Mecca.

One sad thing I noticed about this country was the aged look of the people. Most people look ten to twenty years older than they actually are. I attribute this to the hard lives they live.

One band of people who are prevalent in this country are the koochies or gypsies. They are nomads who travel with their families and belongings, as they go from one place to another, set up their tents and tend to their flocks of livestock, usually goats and camels. If you saw this in the United States you might scratch your head, but this is very common here.

One thing that did strike me was the experience of driving down a road and having people wave at you, and ten minutes farther down the same road,

receiving looks from people that made you think they wanted to cut your head off. Even though there are those who hate Americans, the majority of people I encountered in Afghanistan seemed to appreciate the American military.

As an Embedded Team Trainer (ETT) I worked side-by-side with my Afghan counterparts. The structure within their Army closely replicates ours. They have the Battalion Commander, his staff, and the

companies with their Captains, First Sergeants, Lieutenants and Platoon Sergeants. I was assigned to the 5-1-203rd Corps and my counterpart was Command Sergeant Major Barat. Although a tiny man, he commands much respect. All the enlisted personnel look up to him; likewise the officers.

The Afghan Soldiers are good Soldiers and do the best they can with what they have to work with. I would see the Soldiers doing physical training, practicing drill and ceremony, and training on their specialties. Their living conditions aren't the best, probably better than what they had in civilian life. For the most part, the majority of the Soldiers have beds to sleep on, but every now

and then someone sleeps on a wooden board or cot due to a lack of mattresses. The one thing that the Afghan Soldiers

are careless about are their driving habits. These guys drive like nuts.

It wasn't unusual to hear about someone being transported to a hospital with head injuries after being thrown out of a truck involved in an accident. Rear ending someone while driving forty to fifty miles per hour is not a pretty picture but it happens.

One good thing about the Afghan Army is that they are always willing to help out their North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) counterparts in any way they can. Numerous times we had vehicles that were stuck or disabled, and our Afghan brothers came to the rescue. I personally wasn't involved in a firefight, so I wasn't able to witness the Afghan war fighting skills. I did hear stories about certain Afghan Soldiers who were so ticked off about being shot that they broke

formation and went after the people who shot them, with little regard for their own lives. Something else I observed was that the Afghan Soldiers had outstanding climbing abilities, and scaled the rugged mountains with apparent ease.

There is so much I could write about my deployment, but

it would probably turn into a novel. I have tried to focus on the positive instead of the negative. As I look back, I try not to think about the terrible things that happened while I was there, but instead about the native beauty this country possesses and how much potential it has. I also remind myself how proud these people are of themselves. With so much at stake in Afghanistan, I hope that soon the people will be able to find peace and enjoy all that their country has to offer.

The majority of people I encountered in Afghanistan seemed to appreciate the American military.



RESTAURANT REVIEW: HOLYLAND CUISINE

MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN RESTAURANT AND HOOKAH BAR

313 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503; 402-477-3636; www.HolylandCuisine.com

By BG Roma Amundson

If you're hungry and have a yen to try new foods, then head right on over to Holyland Cuisine. My husband Randy and I conveniently had such a yen on a day when I had little time to cook, so maybe for self-preservation on Randy's part, he suggested we go. We did, and had a most pleasant dining experience!

All we knew when we went there was that the Holyland Cuisine is a relatively new restaurant, having just opened in 2006, and that it features Middle Eastern foods. What we learned when we were there was that all foods are prepared under the critical eye of owner Yahya Farhan, an Iraqi from Baghdad whose father and grandfather were both restaurateurs in that city. They taught young Yahya Farhan that their success came from taking care of the customers and making sure that they were happy with food and service, and whether one is in Baghdad or Lincoln, those principles serve as a foundation for success in business.

In regard to service, Yahya met us as we entered and showed us to our table. He gave us the menus and let us look them over while he brought out water. We looked at the menu: biryana, gyros, sambrosa, hummas, shish kabob, falafel, fool dip, fata'r, kubba, and much more. We knew we were in for an adventure in dining!

When he came back, he asked if we were familiar with the foods, and of course, as we were more than just a little clueless, he described the menu offerings to us and suggested possibilities for us. Upon his recommendation, we each selected a combination meal that consisted of rice, lamb, chicken and beef takas (sliced portions of each type of meat), vegetable kabobs, falafel (deep-fried vegetable mixture), sambrosa (eggroll), and lentil soup. I chose Iraqi hot tea while Randy selected iced tea.

As we waited for our food, we looked around and saw that the restaurant was

simply furnished, but very comfortable, clean and provided a relaxing place to eat. Pictures from the owner's homeland were on the wall, and pleasant music was playing in the background.

The food was outstanding in taste and much more than an ample amount! One of the main dishes would have been enough for both of us. But that was okay, as we could take the rest home. We found the food to be very fresh, prepared with spices new to us, and excellently presented on the plate. We began with lentil soup and fresh bread dipped in olive oil, continued with the main meal, which was like a buffet of choices with all the food on the plate, and finished off with baklava for dessert.

We could tell that the food came fresh from preparation, as it was hot, colorful, crisp and tasty. The meats were tender, with the chicken and lamb cut in chunks and the beef cut in very thin slices. Vegetables were tender, falafel was crispy, the rice was spicy, and the sambrosa was absolutely delicious. As any good restaurant owner does, Yahya Farhan came to the table to ask if we had any comments or concerns about the food. Instead of concerns, we had questions, and he shared with us not only some of the characteristics of the Middle Eastern and African dishes offered in his restaurant, but also a bit about himself.

We learned that Holyland Cuisine is the only hookah bar in Lincoln and offers either inside or sidewalk dining. He is proud of the fact that all dinners are cooked fresh daily and specifically



for each guest of his restaurant. There is no "mass production" of meals in his restaurant. The vegetables, meats and breads for each meal are prepared fresh every morning.

He does not subscribe to the fast food idea, as he believes that meals are to be enjoyed at a leisurely pace – so, if you are looking for a quick meal, then this is

not the place for you. Rather, Holyland Cuisine is a place where we Americans can experience the slower pace of taking time to enjoy the adventure and social pleasure of eating out.

In visiting with him, we also learned that he arrived from Iraq in 2002, and four years later opened this restaurant. When asked what the characteristics of life here that he appreciates the most, his answer was "freedom" and "safety." Here, he says, he and his daughters can live their lives without fear, and here he can continue the restaurant tradition of his family.

So, our advice is this: if you enjoy casual and unhurried dining and the experience of eating new offerings of food brought in by our immigrant citizens, then the Holyland Cuisine should be the place for your next dinner out. The restaurant is open seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and reservations are accepted. Carryout and free delivery are also available. But first, be more prepared than Randy and I were when we went there, and check out the menu online to familiarize yourself with the selections. Then, go and enjoy. You won't be disappointed! 🌍



KEYS TO SUCCESS

By Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Eli Valenzuela

This is the first in a series of articles that will give us insight into the personal accomplishments of a variety of individuals, and the keys that allowed them to rise to their current positions in the organization. The authors will provide a glimpse into the barriers they may have faced and tell us about those mentors who had a positive impact on their career.

This article will focus on leadership, mentorship and keys to success. I was asked to write this in part because of the command position I occupy as well as having the distinction of being the first Hispanic Soldier in the Nebraska Army National Guard to attain the rank of Command Sergeant Major. I will tell you my success was NOT because I was Hispanic; rather, it has everything to do with keys to success that all Soldiers can use to be successful in any endeavor.



All three are terrific topics in and of themselves and condensing them all into one article is a difficult task. But in the process of sharing the major keys to my own success, some discussion about leadership and mentorship will naturally follow.

The first key to success is to have a goal(s). If you stop and think about it, that statement is, to borrow an Army catch phrase, "too easy." Nothing would ever get done if someone wasn't thinking, "This is what I want to do" or "This is where I want to be." Goal setting may seem easy, but more often than not it is NOT forward thinking enough. Sure, short term goals are easy but long term goals require much more thought. Your long term goals should look 10, 15 or 20 years into the future. They should be realistic enough to have a reasonable expectation of accomplishment. Only you know, based on your experience and the organizational goals, if your long term goal is truly realistic. Once the goal

is set, seek those opportunities that work toward that goal. If that means stepping out of your comfort zone for the experience, then that is what you need to do. If you forsake those opportunities, I'm not saying bad things will happen to you, but good things probably won't. As for me, my goal was to attain the rank of First Sergeant in twenty years. For a traditional Soldier that seemed

attainable. I made it in eighteen years. So then what? Time to set new goals. Goals are a work in progress. When life changing events occur, it's probably time to set new long term goals. When goals are achieved, it's definitely time to set new long term goals. Bottom line: Have a goal!

The next key to success is mentorship. A mentor is defined as a loyal friend, wise advisor, teacher and coach. I categorize mentors into two areas: The Accidental Mentor and The Deliberate Mentor. Let me give you an example of each. When I was a young Private First Class and new to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 1-168th Field Artillery (FA) I had a Staff Sergeant who took me under his wing. He didn't do anything special except provide purpose, direction and motivation. Sound familiar? That's the book definition of leadership. For a new Soldier, that's mentorship for the short term. SSG Gary Shires wasn't asked to be my mentor or sponsor, nor would he say he did anything out of the ordinary. However, he set in motion the drive to be like him and succeed.

Accidental Mentors are individuals who have a tremendous amount of influence based on their experience in guiding young Soldiers. If you are a senior leader, you have been someone's Accidental Mentor whether you realized it or not.

CSM Larry Austin was my Deliberate Mentor. As my CSM at the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy, he was the first Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) to "Career Path" my military future. He ensured that I had goals in place and helped create the conditions to attain those goals. In our quarterly meetings we discussed my leadership strengths and weaknesses and at times he was quite frank on my shortcomings. I'll tell you that I didn't always like what I heard, but it's what I needed to hear. That's the job of a mentor. We also discussed my attendance at Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) courses. He was big on knocking out schools for the next higher position. He would say, "Get that ticket punched before you need it so when a position becomes available you're ready for it." I'm quite certain that both these Soldiers, SSG Shires and CSM Austin, would say that they didn't do anything special, but I wouldn't be where I am today without their mentorship!

Attitude is the third key to success. It has been said that a person can go further in life with a positive attitude than skill alone. I believe this to be true. I also believe people underestimate the influence attitude has on their work performance. Let me give you a real world example from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). As the 867th Corps Support Battalion's (CSB) Command Sergeant Major based out of Camp Taji Iraq, I gave the in-briefing to every incoming company assigned to us. I covered topics such as General Order Number One and Uniform Policy to

Continued on Page 20



THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS: 3 JULY 1943 – 30 SEPTEMBER 1978

By BG Roma Amundson

The definition of WAC:

(1) Women's Army Corps,
(2) name referring to a female who is a member of the Women's Army Corps.

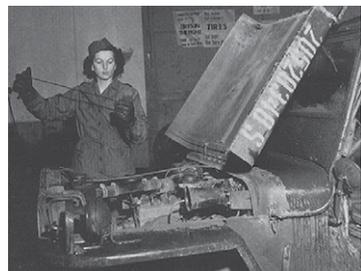
D-Day occurred 65 years ago on June 6, 1944. On that same day, German V-1 and V-2 missiles began landing in London as the Germans retaliated, and only ceased when the Allied ground forces removed them from German launch sites off Cherbourg Peninsula. On July 3, a V-1 bomb hit the living quarters of American Soldiers and WACs in London. WACs served as first responders by providing medical aid, drove wounded Soldiers to hospitals in jeeps and set up and operated a mess area for civilian relief workers.

On July 14, 1944, 49 Women Army Corps members (WACs) landed in Normandy and took over the switchboards formerly under German control. They worked in tents, cellars, prefabricated huts and switchboard trailers to support communications of the Army field forces moving forward in Germany. Their work was crucial to the success of the men in the field as they pushed the Germans back.

These two snippets of WAC activity introduce the involvement of women warriors in wartime settings during World War II (WWII). Around 150,000 women served as Soldiers during WWII and fulfilled roles, other than as nurses, for the first time. Prior to the establishment of the Women's Army Corps, the Army Nurse Corps had been the only avenue for women to enter the military. Because of the shortage of men available for service in a two-front war, women's service in the military was seen as imperative if victory was to be achieved.



A WAC armorer repairs a 1903 Springfield rifle, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, 1944. (National Archives)



WAC mechanic repairs Army truck. (National Archives)

WACs served in roles such as executive secretaries, cryptographers, photo interpreters, switchboard operators, clerks, motor pool drivers, translators, telegraph and teletype operators, radiographers, supply managers and general clerks. In fact, by WACs serving in the military, over seven divisions of men were made available for combat.

General Douglas MacArthur called the WACs "my best Soldiers," and publicly said that they "worked harder, complained less, and were better disciplined than men." General Dwight D. Eisenhower said that the WACs'

"contribution in efficiency, skill, spirit and determination are immeasurable."

The history of the WAC began in 1941 when Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts initiated a bill to establish a women's corps separate and distinct from the Army Nurse Corps. The sentiment of the public for such a corps was generally positive, and as a result, the Army leaders decided to work with Rogers to develop an organization that would "constitute the least threat to the Army's existing culture."

While Rogers wanted the women's organization to be recognized as part of the Army in order for women to receive equal pay, pension and disability benefits, the Army leaders did not want to accept women directly into the Army's

ranks. A compromise of sorts ensued, as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established to work with the Army "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill and special training of the (nation's) women." Conditions for the establishment of the WAAC were set as follows:

- The Army would provide living quarters, training, food, uniforms, pay and medical care for no more than 150,000 "auxiliaries," as the women Soldiers were called.
- Women officers could not command men.
- Highest rank for a woman would be major.
- WAAC Third, Second and First Officers would hold rank equivalent to First Lieutenant (1LT), Second Lieutenant (2LT), and Captain (CPT) respectively, but would receive less pay than the male officer. A female First

Officer with the equivalent rank of CPT would receive the pay of a male 1LT.

- WAACs would not be considered eligible to receive overseas pay, government life insurance, veterans medical coverage, death benefits, or coverage under international agreements for Prisoners of War (POWs), all of which were normally granted to Regular Army Soldiers.
- Any woman who became pregnant would be immediately discharged.

Rogers introduced the bill in May 1941, but it was a bill that was on Congress' "back burner" until after December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Shortly thereafter, it was introduced into Congress, and on May 14, 1942, the bill was passed. The Women's Auxiliary

"It isn't just my brother's country, or my husband's country, it's my country as well. And so the war wasn't just their war, it was my war, and I needed to serve in it." Beatrice Hood Stroup, MAJ, Women's Army Corps, WWII

The Women's Army Corps Continued from Page 11

Army Corps came into being. President Roosevelt set 25,000 as the recruiting goal for the first year. This goal was met in November 1942, and when Secretary of War Henry Stimson realized that the recruiting of women was occurring more rapidly than imagined, he immediately authorized the full WAAC enrollment of women to 150,000.

The first director of the WAAC was Oveta Culp Hobby, chief of the Women's Interest Section in the Public Relations Bureau at the War Department. She had testified in favor of the bill, and because she filled all the requirements that were believed necessary for the position, she was assigned as director with the rank of major. She was politically astute, involved in the War Department, and a perfect example how a lady could also be a military member. This combination of lady and military member was particularly important to Congressional members, as they wanted to portray that type of woman as the one they envisioned as belonging to the WAAC.

In less than one year, the WAAC was recognized to be an outstanding success. In fact, in an amazing change of view, by March 1943 Army leaders wanted to incorporate the WAAC into the Regular Army. Women were also offered the protection granted to POWs if captured, and benefits if injured, equivalent to their male counterparts. All pay, privileges, benefits and protection for women would be equal to that granted men. This was an acknowledgement of the tremendous contribution that women made to the Army and that it needed them.

As a result, the Women's Army Corps (WAC) bill (Public Law 110) became law on July 3, 1943; the WAAC was dissolved

and the WAC came into existence. Effects of that change meant that the WAAC Third, Second, and First Officers became First and Second Lieutenants and Captains, with equal pay as men. Major Hobby, as the director of the WAC, was promoted to Colonel.

After the incorporation of the WAAC into the WAC with all benefits and protections as were afforded to male counterparts, WACs were assigned to such places as North

Africa, the Mediterranean, Europe, the Southwest Pacific, China, India, Burma and the Middle East.

The Southwest Pacific Area

Command was probably the most challenging for WACs. Even though women were sent to this area as drivers and mechanics, the lack of skilled office workers in this command caused many of the WACs to be placed into

clerical and typist positions, which forced them to learn new skills very rapidly. Of the 5,500 WACs that served in the Southwest Pacific Area of Command, 70% eventually worked in administrative and office positions, 12% in communications, 9% in stockrooms and supply depots and 7% in motor transport pools.

After V-E Day, May 8, 1945, Colonel Hobby resigned from the WAC, and was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Westray Boyce, Deputy Director of the WAC and former Staff Director of the North African

Theater. After V-J Day in August 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Boyce oversaw the redeployment and demobilization of the WAC.

Awards received by WACs as a result of WWII included: one Distinguished Service Medal; 62 Legion of Merit awards; three Air Medals to WACs assigned to aerial reconnaissance mapping team in the China-Burma-India theater; ten Soldier's Medals for heroic actions; 16 Purple Hearts as a result of enemy action; and 565 Bronze Star Medals for meritorious service overseas.

Early in 1946, the Army requested that Congress establish the Women's Army Corps as a permanent part of the Regular Army. What this request showed was that the Army's leadership again publicly recognized the success of the WAC and saw the need for the skills women could provide to the military. On June

12, 1948, the Women's Army Corps became a separate corps within the Regular Army and remained part of the United States Army organization until September 30, 1978, when it was abolished and women were assimilated into all but the combat branches of the Army.

After 1978, women in the United States Army served in the same units as men with the exception of some combat units. In 1994, they were allowed in or near combat situations when Defense Secretary Les Aspin ordered the "removal of substantial risk of capture" from the list of reasons for excluding women from certain military units.

WACs paved the way for modern military servicewomen in today's Army. WACs overwhelmingly and eagerly assumed the sacrifices of separation, dangerous duty and hardships pertinent to their time in the service, not the least of which

"Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom. That our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us. And with victory our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast – that the tears fell just as hard for those we left behind." Unknown US Army Nurse, WWII

"The ground they broke was hard soil indeed. But with great heart and true grit, they plowed right through the prejudice and presumption, cutting a path for their daughters and granddaughters to serve their country in uniform." Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, June 22, 1995, at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Women in Military Service Memorial



WEBSITE REVIEW: <http://www.doi.gov/diversity/>

Review By Susan Stevens

Unsure of which aspect of diversity to focus on for my website review, I did what most people do today, I turned to Google. To my amazement, the initial search of the keyword *diversity* resulted in over six million hits. The first lesson I learned is that to effectively research diversity, your search criteria must be specific.

Since many of our readers work for government agencies, I chose to research the official website for the Department of the Interior Office for Equal Opportunity. The web page was easy to read and follow, and itself exemplifies diversity. At the top of the home page is a link that reads "click here to translate this page to another language," which takes you to Yahoo's "Babel Fish" translation tool. This tool not only allows you to translate from English to other languages,

it also translates from other languages back to English and to other languages as well.

The site offers links to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Offices, Complaints Processing, Government Diversity Training Requirements and EEO status information and reports. I found the site very user friendly and it covers a wide variety of diversity subjects. It offers links to the laws for public civil rights and how to file a public civil right complaint. It has an extensive section with Workforce Diversity information and another devoted to EEO tools. There are links to a variety of EEO reports and employment opportunities, and several links to specific EEO speeches, subjects and events.

This website is easy to use and makes



it easy to search for specific information, saving time and frustration. The site shows the enormous variety of topics encompassed

within diversity and EEO. During the course of my research, I discovered that diversity not only refers to race, ethnic groups and gender it also includes religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, education, geographic origin and skill characteristics.

I recommend this site as a good starting point in your research of many diversity-related topics. It will benefit anyone who wishes to expand their knowledge of the vast subject of diversity.

TRIVIA: THE 1960S

Compiled by Capt Amy Johnson

- What toy car was introduced in 1968?
 - Match Box Cars
 - Hot Wheels
 - Johnny Lightning
 - Tonka Trucks
- When was President Kennedy assassinated?
 - December 22, 1963
 - September 22, 1963
 - November 22, 1963
 - October 22, 1963
- What city hosted the 1967 World's Fair?
 - Montreal
 - Moscow
 - New York
 - Rome
- What was the date of the first moon landing?
 - July 4, 1969
 - July 29, 1969
 - July 20, 1969
 - July 16, 1969
- The first Super Bowl was in 1967. The Green Bay Packers won; who lost and what was the score?
 - Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10
 - New York Jets, 21-10
 - Miami Dolphins, 35-7
 - Pittsburgh Steelers, 21-20
- "I guess that's so, we don't have a pot, but at least I'm sure of all the things we got" are lyrics to what song?
 - "It Ain't Me Babe" – by Bob Dylan
 - "I Got You Babe" – by Sonny and Cher
 - "California Dreamin'" – Mamas and Papas
 - "Good Vibrations" – Beach Boys
- What year were zip codes introduced?
 - 1968
 - 1961
 - 1964
 - 1963
- In 1967, what game outsold Monopoly?
 - Sorry
 - Candy Land
 - Operation
 - Twister
- In 1964, Jonas Grumby was the Captain of what ship?
 - SS Minnow – "Gilligan's Island"
 - Pacific Princess – "Love Boat"
 - Tempest – "Fantasy Island"
 - Enterprise – "Star Trek"
- What Nobel Prize winner killed himself in 1961?
 - William Faulkner
 - T.S. Eliot
 - John Steinbeck
 - Ernest Hemingway

Trivia Answers on Page 21

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW: THE FORMIDABLE STRENGTH OF THE WEAKER SEX

By Cheryl Zwart

The following article is the second half of the presentation given by Mrs. Zwart at the Nebraska Military Department's 2009 Women's History Month Celebration. It is a brief history of women in the defense of the United States from post-Revolutionary times to the present. The first half, focusing on the Revolutionary War, was featured in Issue 16.

Women continued to play a major role in the development and defense of our country. In 1850, when the South threatened to secede from the Union, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a series of articles, ultimately totaling forty, for the National Era magazine. These articles were later compiled into the book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This book is widely regarded as putting a human face on the abomination of slavery and convinced many that slavery undermined the moral code and family values of not only the whites who profited from it, but those who tolerated it. The book was so influential in turning the public tide that when President Lincoln was introduced to Stowe, he referred to her as "the little lady who made this big war."¹



Harriet Beecher Stowe

Women also served in the military during the Civil War. It is widely known that Harriet Tubman liberated hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad. What is less known is that she served in the Union's intelligence service for three years during the Civil War. She was a Union spy, and organized a network of escaped slaves to operate behind Confederate lines.²

Clara Barton was a shy school teacher and a United States Patent Office clerk when the Civil War began. When she heard nurses were urgently needed, she went to the Union battlefield to assist the field surgeons. After the war, Clara



Clara Barton

Barton coordinated the effort to locate soldiers missing in action, and she ultimately founded the American Red Cross.³

One of the doctors Clara Barton may have assisted was Mary Walker, a physician and Civil War field surgeon, and the first woman recipient of the Medal of Honor.

She was one of the first women in the United States to receive a medical degree and volunteered to work in the civil war battlefields. She requested, but was denied, a military commission because women could not legally join the military until 1901. She volunteered anyway. When the war was over, she lectured throughout the United States and abroad on women's rights, dress reform, health and temperance issues, and sexual and political equality. She wore pantsuits, advocated for woman's right to vote, and actually predicted that someday women would marry and keep their own surnames. As a result of her overly assertive and outspoken conduct, her Medal of Honor was revoked. Her Medal of Honor was not reinstated until 1977, fifty-eight years after her death, when the Army acknowledged she was the victim of sex discrimination.⁴

By the time World War I began, the Army and Navy allowed female nurses to enlist, and women could also enlist in the Navy and Coast Guard

as office personnel and telephone operators. Women also served in civilian organizations to provide war relief, transportation and nursing. In all, about 33,000 women served in World War I.⁵

X-ray machines were available at the front during World War I thanks to the skill and contribution of Marie Curie, a French physicist. Pierre and Marie Curie discovered and studied radioactivity, and received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1903. Three years later, Pierre was killed in a carriage accident. Marie published the Treatise on Radioactivity in 1910 but was denied election to the French Academy of Sciences in 1911 because "women could not be part of the Institute of France." She received a second Nobel Prize that same year. When



Marie Curie

World War I broke out, she used her Nobel Prize earnings to equip ambulances with portable x-ray equipment, drove the vehicles to the front lines, and ultimately established two hundred permanent x-ray installations in France and Belgium.⁶

Edith Nourse Rogers was a volunteer Red Cross worker during World War I, but her efforts on behalf of the military did not end when the war was over. Following the war, she became the presidential representative in charge of assisting disabled veterans for presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. When her husband died in office while serving as a congressman, Rogers finished her husband's term, and was re-elected to that position seventeen times, becoming the longest serving woman in the history of the House of Representatives. While in office, she drafted the majority of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and she introduced

Hidden in Plain View Continued from Page 14

the legislation establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (the WAACS) at the beginning of World War II.⁷

Almost 400,000 women served in the Armed Forces during World War II. The jobs they were permitted to fill expanded throughout the war. As the pool of qualified male draftees dwindled, it became clear that for every woman recruited, one less man needed to be drafted. At the start of World War II, General Eisenhower strongly opposed women's units, and Admiral Nimitz was a doubter. However, in the end, both had changed their mind. General Eisenhower later fought for a permanent place for women in the United States Armed Forces.⁸

During the 1950s, the percentage of women in the military declined. The military offered women much fewer opportunities than were afforded during World War II. Basic training included classes on makeup and etiquette. The 1951 Army recruiting pamphlet promised:

In authorizing job assignments for women, particular care is taken to see that the job does not involve a type of duty that violates our concept of proper employment for sisters and girlfriends. In the military transport field, for example, women do not drive trucks.

Childbirth ended a career; marriage could end a career; and women with children under eighteen could not join. Males were offered better family military housing and medical care. As a result, women stayed away from the military.⁹

However, in 1967 a bill to promote

military women to star rank was signed into law. Elizabeth P. Hoisington was promoted to Brigadier General in June 1970. In 1971, Major General Jeanne Holm became the first Air Force woman to be promoted to Brigadier General. Interestingly, General Holm began her military career as a truck driver in the WAACs during World War II, a job she would not have been allowed to perform a decade earlier.¹⁰

As of November 14, 2008, there were twenty-one female general officers in the Army. As of that same day, Ann E. Dunwoody became the first female four-star general. She grew up wanting to teach physical education, and she graduated with that degree. But she joined the

Army's women's officer program in college for the money--\$500 per month during her senior year in exchange for only a two-year commitment. She received her Army commission when she graduated in 1975, and all she really wanted to do was jump out of airplanes. Since the Army Quartermaster Corps would allow her to do that, she joined the Quartermaster Corps. She was obviously unique to

the Army. Despite having the first name, "Ann," when she arrived at jumpmaster school, she was assigned a male roommate. Years later, when she arrived at the 82nd Airborne

Division, only two percent of the division was female, and she was the only woman among the majors and colonels. However, within the 82nd Airborne Division, she found Army leaders who were willing

to open doors for Soldiers who proved themselves, regardless of gender. On November 14, 2008, she became a four-star general.¹¹

The military's view of women is not unique, but rather a reflection of society's views of women in the workplace, and the proper role of women in society. For example, during the 1950s, when the military was requiring female enlistees to learn etiquette and makeup in basic training, Sandra Day O'Connor, who later became the first female United States Supreme Court Justice, graduated from law school. Justice O'Connor entered Stanford University at the age of sixteen, and graduated third in her class from Stanford Law school in 1952. At that time, only one in thirty law students was female. Despite her sterling credentials, no law firms in California would hire

her because she was a woman. During an interview at one firm, she was told "We've never hired a woman and, frankly, I don't think we ever will."

After offering to work for free, Sandra Day O'Connor landed a paying job with the district attorney of San Mateo County, California. The district attorney was an Italian

immigrant, familiar with discrimination, and dedicated to judging people by who they are or could be and not by gender or the color of skin. Justice O'Connor stayed in that job for only a short time because her husband, a military attorney, was assigned to duty in Europe. She then worked as a civilian lawyer for the Quartermasters Corp in Germany. When her husband's tour in Germany was complete and she returned to the United States, no law firms in Arizona would hire her because she was a woman. So she started her own firm, later becoming an assistant Attorney General for the State



Edith Nourse Rogers



General Ann E. Dunwoody

She was ultimately appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan.

Continued on Page 16

Hidden in Plain View Continued from Page 15

of Arizona, an Arizona Senator, and a justice for the Arizona Superior Court and Court of Appeals. She was ultimately appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan. In that position, she was a moderate conservative, and often the swing vote, especially in the areas of employment discrimination and women's rights.¹²

Whether it's a brass ceiling or a glass ceiling, it takes strength and tenacity to break through. The truly excellent women discussed in this article steered their own course, made their own decisions, and to the extent they were allowed, decided their own destiny. They knew what they wanted, plotted a course, and marched forward to get there. They were not paralyzed by indecision or deterred by public criticism. They were unwilling to be hidden in plain view.

Their histories reveal other common threads. The women of the revolution worked side-by-side with their spouses. In all the wars, women and men serving in the military were facing a common threat, focused on a common goal, and everyone was truly needed. Education made a difference. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Marie Curie were both encouraged and allowed to receive an education, and ultimately Stowe's ability to write and Curie's aptitude in science were used to alleviate human suffering.

General Dunwoody's father was an Army general who expected great things from his daughter. As she states, she grew up in a family that didn't know what glass ceilings were. Her sister became the third female helicopter pilot in the Army. General Dunwoody's husband was an Air Force colonel, who "always knew she had special gifts. It was always a matter of whether she would get the opportunity to use them." Both General Dunwoody



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

and Justice O'Connor received those opportunities through the help of male mentors who judged them by their work ethic, qualifications and ability, not by their gender. For all of the women discussed in this article, when a job needed to be done, it never occurred to them that gender was relevant. As explained by Justice O'Connor, she was surprised when she could not find a job as a lawyer because, being raised on a ranch, no one cared if she was a girl just as long as she could do the job.

For these women, it never occurred to them that they could not be what they wanted to be and could not have both a family and a career. It never occurred to them that their opinion was irrelevant, or that they would be unwelcome in a male-dominated profession. And it never occurred to them that they were entitled to or needed special treatment merely because they were women.

May these things never, or never again, occur to you.

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KOKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS RAISE THE NOISE LEVEL AT PENTERMAN ARMORY DURING THE 2009 ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

By LaVonne Rosenthal

If you were anywhere in Penterman Armory on Tuesday, May 19, you may have heard the reverberations of drum beats resounding throughout the building. And these weren't just any drums – they were special Japanese drums used by the Kokyo Taiko drummers to represent their unique culture in honor of Asian Pacific American heritage month. Some of you may remember when we first introduced you to the Kokyo Taiko drummers in May 2006, as they performed for that year's heritage event. This year's performance was an enhancement of their past presentation.

Over 100 Military Department employees, members and guests attended this year's event, led by our master of ceremonies Senior Airman Winston Sanniola. The menu, catered by Hy-Vee at 27th and Superior Streets, included cashew chicken and beef and broccoli along with rice and fortune cookies. Hy-Vee continues to support the National Guard through heritage luncheons and other special events, as they willingly adapt to the special menu items we request. While members of our Special Emphasis Program (SEP) Group attempt to find local restaurants who serve culturally representative food items, it is difficult to find ones with enough catering experience to meet our specific needs. Thus, Hy-Vee partners with us to provide reasonably priced meals that represent the featured ethnic group.

The program began with a Japanese greeting from Maureen Brase-Houchin, the group's leader. Throughout the program, attendees were given language lessons with audience participation. The Kokyo Taiko drummers were initially brought together through the leadership of Ms. Brase-Houchin, who had the strong desire to bring this Japanese art style to Nebraska. This group, the only Wadaiko group in Nebraska, is fortunate and proud to share this dynamic, thunderous and powerfully choreographed cultural art with people of all ages and backgrounds. Ms. Brase-Houchin noted that when she was

learning this unique drumming art form in Japan, her teacher (a Japanese elder) suggested as a woman she dress in a kimono and dance to the rhythm. Ms. Brase-Houchin gently emphasized her desire to be a drummer and not a dancer. The physical stamina needed to stay energized throughout the performance was evident through the unrestrained arm movements made by our four drummers – all women.

Ms. Brase-Houchin provided a fascinating history lesson about each of the songs they performed. Our own National Guard soldiers – Colonel Kevin Neumann, Major Steve Collins, Colonel Scott Gronewald and Master Sergeant Reynold Castenada – and two young boys from the audience donned traditional Japanese garb and were given the opportunity to play along with the drummers, receiving abbreviated lessons from Ms. Brase-Houchin while the audience watched and supported them all.

Major General Timothy Kadavy, The Adjutant General, closed the celebration with comments relating to the wonderful tapestry of our state, and how we all contribute to the colorful threads that make up the work of art we call the United States.



Special thanks to our hosts at Troop Command (Lieutenant Colonel Garner, Master Sergeant Griffith and others) for setting up and taking down the tables and chairs. These logistical tasks, while tedious, create a welcome environment for our guests as they arrive. Special thanks also goes to Master Sergeant Aaron Aulner for pulling together the necessary details to get the stage set up for our performers. The raised

platform gave them plenty of room to regale us with their dynamic movements and made it possible for attendees to see all of the action.

Feedback from attendees reinforced the importance of these luncheons and the education they provide members who may not have had opportunities such as this before. One area for improvement is to have culturally

representative background music playing while guests enjoy their meal, prior to the start of the formal program. Thank you to everyone, who attended this event. Your support encourages the continuation of such programs. We look forward to seeing you in upcoming celebrations! 🌍

WHAT IS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY?

By *LaVonne Rosenthal*

In the recent past we have become so accustomed to our freedoms we have forgotten how they came to be. History lessons of our youth have faded into memory. So, here is today's history lesson on Women's Equality Day.

On July 13, 1848, five women met for tea in upstate New York. Having commiserated about the lot of women in American society, they did something brash and wonderful...

they sent off a notice to the local newspaper announcing "a convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious conditions and rights of women" to be held just six days later in Seneca Falls. No one could anticipate the number of women and men who would arrive at the quickly planned event. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as she composed her remarks, mused upon the anticipated small turnout with such short notice. Three hundred people were waiting outside the church, which was locked. A young boy was hoisted through a window to open the door from the other side. This conference would prove to be a historical beginning on a long, winding road marked by over seventy years of dedication to a special cause for women.

One woman who attended that convention was Charlotte Woodward. She was nineteen at the time. In 1920, when women finally won the vote throughout the nation, Charlotte Woodward was the only participant in the 1848 Convention who was still alive to cast her vote. Ninety-one years old, she proudly cast her vote.

Other women warriors in this battle were Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Sojourner

Truth, Lucy Stone and many others. These women risked their lives and their families to stand up for their right to vote, to have a voice in democracy.



Carrie Chapman Catt

During World War I, women took up jobs in factories to support the war, as well as taking more active roles in the war than in previous conflicts. After the war, even the more restrained National American Woman Suffrage Association, headed by Carrie Chapman Catt, took many opportunities to remind

President Woodrow Wilson and the Congress, that women's war work should be rewarded with recognition of their political equality. Wilson responded by beginning to support women's suffrage. In a speech on September 18, 1918, he said, "We have made partners of the women in this war. Shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of right?" Less than a year later, the House of Representatives passed, in a 304 to 90 vote, a proposed Amendment to the Constitution:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any States on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power by appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this article.

On June 4, 1919, the United States Senate also endorsed the Amendment, voting 56 to 25, sending the amendment to the states. Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan were the first states to pass the law; Georgia and Alabama rushed to pass rejections. The anti-suffrage forces, which included both men and women, were well-organized, and passage of the

amendment was not easy.

When thirty-five of the necessary thirty-six states had ratified the amendment, the battle came to Nashville, Tennessee. Anti-suffrage and pro-suffrage forces from around the nation descended on the town, as the final vote was scheduled for August 18, 1920. One young legislator, 24-year-old Harry Burn, had voted with the anti-suffrage forces up to that time. But his mother had urged him to vote for the amendment and for suffrage. When he saw that the vote was very close, and that his anti-suffrage vote would result in a 48 to 48 tie, he decided to vote as his mother had wished: for the right of women to vote. And so on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th and deciding state to ratify.



Harry Burn
Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville

Anti-suffrage forces used parliamentary maneuvers to delay final ratification, trying to convert some of the pro-suffrage votes to their side. But eventually their tactics failed, and the governor sent the required notification of the ratification to Washington, D.C. On August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution became law, and women could vote in the fall elections, including the Presidential election.

While this hard-fought battle for women's equality was won in 1920, many women (and men) take this gift for granted, not voting in local, state or federal elections. This sad fact is even more disturbing when our global neighbors wage bloody civil wars in order to gain the opportunity to vote. I urge you, when the ballots open in whatever election may come next, please take the time to walk in the steps of our forefathers and foremothers and let your voice be heard.

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CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW: MRS. GREENBERG'S MESSY HANUKKAH

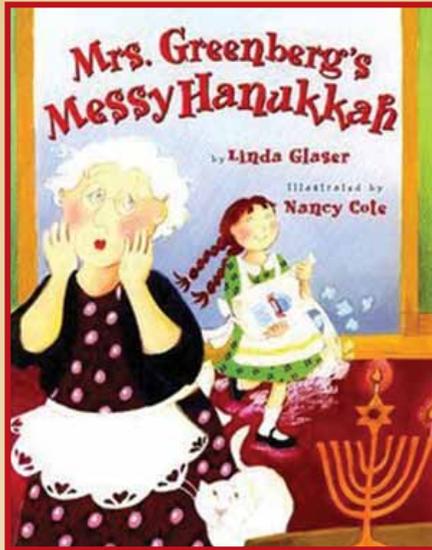
Written by Linda Glaser, Illustrated by Nancy Cole;
Publisher: Albert Whitman; September 2006

Book Review by Denise Anderson

Although I purchased Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah for my daughter, it is one of my favorite books, for it is about one of my favorite subjects: food.

The book is about a little girl named Rachel who wants to make latkes for the first night of Hanukkah. Her mom is too busy, so Rachel decides she will make them with her next door neighbor, Mrs. Greenberg. When her parents leave to run errands, Rachel invites herself over to Mrs. Greenberg's house.

Once there, she asks if they can make latkes together. Mrs. Greenberg reluctantly agrees, even though she lives alone and her house is spotless. They go into the kitchen and start grating the potatoes and Rachel makes a mess. She tries to clean it up but makes it worse. Next come the eggs, onion, flour, and salt, and with each added ingredient, the mess gets bigger and bigger. By the time they start putting the latkes in the oil, the kitchen is a complete disaster and Mrs. Greenberg is exhausted.



When Rachel's parents arrive they are very upset at what they see. But Mrs. Greenberg lets them know what she has come to realize - it is really a wonderful mess, because now the house feels lived in. They finish making the latkes, and everyone sits down to enjoy them together.

Having young children of my own,

I have seen how much they love to help in the kitchen, and true to the book, it is usually a complete disaster when they are done. (Making pizza from scratch can be a wonderful adventure!) I especially enjoy Mrs. Greenberg's attitude about it all, because it reminds me of my parents. When my daughters visit them, it doesn't matter how spotless the house is, keeping it neat and tidy takes a back seat to sharing quality time with their grandkids. They know the truth that some messes truly are wonderful.

Below is a recipe to help you create some messes of your own.

Potato Latkes (for 4 or 5 people)

6 medium-sized potatoes
1 egg
1 small onion
3 tablespoons flour, matzo meal, or bread crumbs
1 teaspoon salt
Oil – enough to almost cover latkes in frying pan

Scrub and peel potatoes. Grate potatoes and onion. Pour off extra liquid. Add egg, flour, and salt. Mix. Drop potato mixture into hot oil with tablespoon. Fry both sides until golden brown. Drain on clean towel. Serve hot with applesauce or sour cream. 🌍

BG Roma Amundson Continued from Page 6
people, supporting the Soldier, and the willingness to serve the Soldier enable them to do the mission.

When I was the Commander at 92nd Troop Command I distributed a poster that I required all subordinate units to display. I have tweaked it a bit to state the following:

Pride as a Soldier, a Leader, an American

P- Plan your work

R-Respect others and honor differences

I-Incorporate teamwork

D-Do the mission

E-Expect excellence

A-Abide by Army Values and Warrior Ethos

S-Safety is important

A-Accent the Positive

...Soldier...Leader...American

CHIEF REDL: *Although Soldiers serve in the Guard, their families are significantly impacted by the Guard's Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO), to determine how busy they are. What would you say to our Families who serve the Guard in a different way?*

BG AMUNDSON: Thank you. The Families sacrifice so much, which includes time away from their Soldier. They fill the empty chair. While a Soldier is deployed their primary focus is the mission; Families have so many different things to focus on. The Family is key in supporting the Soldiers. If Soldiers don't have the support of the Family, there is a good chance the Soldier won't stay in the Guard.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM CHIEF REDL: *It was an honor to interview BG Amundson. I found her to be humble yet confident in relating her accomplishments and appreciative of those who contributed to her reaching this level in her military career. Although I consider her somewhat of a trailblazer, she recognizes the work of many others. While she was ready, willing and capable for each opportunity that arose, she knows it took those in leadership positions, who at the time happened to be male, to recognize her abilities and see the possibilities for her career. 🌍*



CITIZENSHIP DAY - SEPTEMBER 17TH

By Pam Makovicka

Citizenship Day celebrates being a citizen of the United States of America, which in my humble opinion is the greatest country the world has ever seen. This special day is for all citizens, both native born and those who chose to become Americans. It is a day to be proud to be an American. It is a

day to appreciate being a citizen of this country and the rights and freedoms it brings. America is filled with outstanding citizens, many of whom have played a direct or indirect role in making this country so successful and in contributing to what it stands for - a beacon of hope, promise and success!

Every September 17th, Citizenship Day, also called Constitution Day, is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. This is one of the newest federal holidays to be established by Congress, and was created in just 2004. Citizenship Day was the



name given to the holiday prior to its official designation.

However, the roots of Citizenship Day stretch much farther back, beginning in 1940 when Congress initiated the establishment of *I am an American Day* and a few U.S. citizens chose September 17th as the day it should be celebrated. In

1952, Olga T. Weber of Ohio successfully convinced her municipality to name the date Constitution Day. The next year she went a step further and petitioned the Ohio government to celebrate the holiday statewide as Constitution Week from September 17-23 and the motion was soon passed.

Today we think of Constitution Day as a birthday for our country and it serves as a means for American citizens to express pride in their citizenship. Constitution Day also designates a time to honor the Constitution of America and learn more about the famous document. The

Act that established the holiday also requires that federally funded schools are required to provide lessons on the U.S. Constitution during the holiday.

I would suggest that today, and every day, you express your citizenship in some way. It's the sum of all of the actions and deeds by every citizen that makes this country so great. Consider your rights and responsibilities as an American citizen. The rights you may take for granted are denied in other countries and were secured for you by our Constitution, our founding fathers, our current and past governments, and the men and women who sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedoms. Thank a United States Military serviceman or woman for their commitment to upholding our nation's Constitution. Display your flags on flag poles, in your yard, on your vehicle and anywhere you can.

To each and every American citizen, I wish you a very Happy Citizenship Day!



Keys to Success Continued from Page 10

name a few. The second to the last topic was on attitude. I would tell them that their attitude was going to get them through their deployment. I would go on to say that if they came to Iraq thinking that it was going to be absolutely terrible, then it was going to be terrible, because THEY would make it so. They would turn that negative attitude into a self-fulfilling prophecy. On the other hand, if they came with the right frame of mind expecting things to be tolerable then they would be. Yes, conditions were worse than what we are accustomed to; yes, it was hot; yes, our fellow Soldiers got on our nerves; but it was only going to be for one year. We can do anything for 365 days if we see a light at the end of the tunnel. Most military assignments, like deployments, are temporary in nature. Keep it all in perspective and have a positive attitude in whatever you do.

A strong support system is essential. We as Soldiers cannot succeed without the support of our family. I didn't get

to where I am today because of CSM Valenzuela. I'm where I am today because I have a spouse that supported me being a Soldier when it didn't pay as well as it does now. She supported me when Annual Training always fell on my birthday and Father's Day. She supported me when I missed family gatherings and she supported me even when I left her by herself when deployed to Bosnia and Iraq. I take every opportunity to remind our deployed Soldiers that those we leave behind also serve.

The last and most important key to success is, never forget where you came from. As decision makers, we establish policies and develop guidance that affects a great majority of our Soldiers, whom for the most part are traditional, volunteer, citizen Soldiers. As leaders we must remember that though we may hold an elevated rank, we work for the Soldiers. Without them, we wouldn't have a command or a National Guard for that matter. As leaders we must take into consideration how our decisions

will affect the Private First Class who works in a lumber yard, the Sergeant who works at a manufacturing plant, the Specialist struggling through college and as in my own case the Private First Class who stocked shelves in a grocery store. Truly, they don't need us; we need them. This year, 2009, has been designated The Year of the NCO, and special attention is being given to the Creed of the NCO. One line with significant meaning reads, "My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers." In times of peace this task is easy but in times of war becomes difficult. As leaders it is incumbent on us to do everything possible to accomplish our mission AND take care of our Soldiers.

As you can see, being successful is not an individual accomplishment. I was fortunate that I had a goal, had great mentors, kept things in perspective and have always had a great support system. Those were the keys to my success. 



DIVERSITY DATES: AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

August 1.....	Confederation Day (Switzerland)
August 1.....	Emancipation Day (Trinidad and Tobago)
August 1.....	Lughnasadh or Lammass Day (Celtic, Pagan)
August 2.....	Illinden or National Day (Macedonia)
August 3.....	Independence Day (Jamaica, Niger)
August 3.....	Summer Bank Holiday (Republic of Ireland)
August 3.....	Verslunarmannahelgi (Iceland)
August 4-5.....	Shab-e-Barat (Islamic)
August 5.....	Independence Day (Burkina Faso)
August 6.....	Independence Day (Bolivia)
August 9.....	National Day (Singapore)
August 10.....	Independence Day (Ecuador)
August 11.....	Independence Day (Chad)
August 13.....	Independence Day (Central African Republic)
August 13.....	O-Bon (Japan)
August 14.....	Independence Day (Pakistan)
August 14.....	Jamshatami (Hindu)
August 14.....	V-J Day (U.S.)
August 15.....	Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
August 15.....	Brazzaville (Congo)
August 15.....	Independence Day (India)
August 15.....	Korea Liberation Day (North and South Korea)
August 16.....	Restoration of the Republic (Dominican Republic)
August 17.....	Proklamasi Kemerdekaan (Indonesia)
August 21-22.....	Ramadan (Islamic)
August 23.....	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)
August 24.....	Independence Day (Ukraine)
August 25.....	Independence Day (Uruguay)
August 26.....	Women's Equality Day (U.S.)
August 27.....	Independence Day (Moldova)
August 30.....	Victory Day (Turkey)
August 31.....	Independence Day (Trinidad and Tobago)
August 31.....	Merdeka (Freedom) Day (Malaysia)
August 31.....	Solidarity Day (Poland)
August 31.....	Summer Bank Holiday (United Kingdom)
September 2.....	Independence Day (Vietnam)
September 6.....	Somhlolo (Swaziland)
September 7.....	Independence Day (Brazil)
September 7.....	Labor Day (U.S.)
September 7.....	Labour Day (Canada)
September 8.....	International Literacy Day (United Nations)
September 11.....	Enkutatash (Coptic and Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)
September 11.....	Patriot Day (U.S.)
September 13.....	Grandparents Day (U.S.)
September 14.....	National Boss/Employee Exchange Day (U.S.)
September 15.....	Hispanic Heritage Month begins (U.S.)
September 15.....	Independence Day (Central America)
September 15-16.....	Lailat ul-Qadr (Islamic)
September 16.....	Fiesta Patrias (Mexico)
September 17.....	Citizenship Day (U.S.)
September 18.....	Independence Day (Chile)
September 18-19.....	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 19.....	Oktoberfest (Germany)

Continued on Page 23

Continued from Page 13

1960s TRIVIA ANSWERS

- b. Hot Wheels. Hot Wheels is a brand of die cast toy car, introduced by American toymaker Mattel on September 7, 1968. It was the primary competitor of Johnny Lightning and Matchbox until 1996, when Mattel acquired rights to the Matchbox brand from Tyco.
- c. November 22, 1963. The assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the thirty-fifth President of the United States, took place on Friday, November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, at 12:30 p.m. central standard time in Dealey Plaza. Kennedy was fatally wounded by gunfire while riding with his wife, Jacqueline, in a presidential motorcade.
- a. Montreal. It is considered to be the most successful World's Fair of the 20th century, with over 50 million visitors and 62 nations participating. It also set the single-day attendance record for a world's fair with 569,000 visitors on the third day. Expo 67 was Canada's main celebration during its centennial year. The fair was originally intended to be held in Moscow to help the Soviet Union celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution but, for various reasons, the Soviets decided to cancel, and it was awarded to Canada in the fall of 1962.
- c. July 20, 1969. The Apollo 11 mission was the first manned mission to land on the Moon. It was the fifth human spaceflight of Project Apollo and the third human voyage to the Moon. It was also the second all-veteran crew in manned spaceflight history. Launched on July 16, 1969, it carried Mission Commander Neil Alden Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin Eugene 'Buzz' Aldrin, Jr. On July 20, Armstrong and Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon, while Collins orbited above.
- a. The Kansas City Chiefs lost to the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl I, 35-10. Super Bowl I was played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California on January 15, 1967.
- b. "I Got You Babe," written, arranged and produced by Sonny Bono, it became a 1965 number-one hit single.
- d. 1963. Zoning Improvement Plan (ZIP) Codes were invented by Robert Aurand Moon in the 1950s although they didn't come into use by the post office until 1963.
- d. Twister.
- a. SS Minnow from the television show Gilligan's Island was captained by Jonas Grumby. The Skipper was played by Alan Hale, Jr.
- d. Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1899. Hemingway spent the first half of 1961 fighting depression and paranoia, seeing enemies at every turn and threatening suicide on several occasions. On the morning of July 2, 1961, Hemingway rose early, as he had his entire adult life, selected a shotgun from a closet in the basement, went upstairs to a spot near the entrance-way of the house and shot himself in the head. It was little more than two weeks until his 62nd birthday. 



April 1967 aerial view of Île Sainte-Hélène on the left and Île Notre-Dame on the right, with most of the Expo 67 site in view, except Habitat 67 and the rest of the pavilions on la Cité du Havre.



BOOK REVIEW

“EAT, PRAY, LOVE: ONE WOMAN’S SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING ACROSS ITALY, INDIA AND INDONESIA”

Written by Elizabeth Gilbert; Penguin Group (USA); February 2006

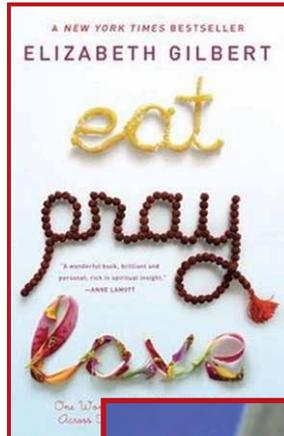
Book Review by Kari Foote

Eat, Pray, Love is an absorbing memoir of the author’s year-long spiritual odyssey that takes her around the world. I found it thoroughly enjoyable and engaging. The simple writing style allowed me to read it in one long weekend.

The book is organized into three parts, and each contains 36 stories. The total of 108 stories has significance. The author explains in the introduction that throughout India, a traveler will often see devout Hindus and Buddhists wearing japa malas, which are a string of 108 beads used in prayer.

Ms. Gilbert begins the book with the impetus for her travels – her realization that the life she has built, complete with perfect job, house and husband, is not fulfilling. After six years of marriage, she and her husband are trying to start a family, but she has grown to dread the prospect of being a mother. Her job as a magazine writer takes her to assignments all over the world, and one day she realizes that, as she puts it, “until I can feel as ecstatic about having a baby as I felt about going to New Zealand to search for giant squid, I cannot have a baby.” She then begins to see that she doesn’t want to be married, or live in their house, or continue living the life that she has built.

After agonizing over the decision, she decides to begin divorce proceedings, and is stunned at how painful and ugly the split becomes. During this time, she dates a man that she feels is her soul mate, but the relationship is unhealthy and emotionally draining, and she begins to believe that she is actually searching for something much bigger. She decides



to take a year off from her “life,” which she readily admits is an enviable option not available to most people, and go to three places which she’s always wanted to visit.

She first lives in Italy for three months, where she gives herself an assignment to learn how to enjoy life, and to learn to speak Italian. She

then moves to India for four months, and lives in an Ashram to study spirituality and learn to pray. She ends her journey in Indonesia, where she met a Balinese medicine man a few years prior. He invited her back to visit him so that she could teach him English and he could teach her everything he knows.

The journey is largely centered on lessons in spirituality and growth, and may not appeal to everyone. However, those who choose to read this book will be pleasantly surprised by the congenial tone, and the overall hilarity that the author uses to describe her time in each country. While her culturally diverse travels are primarily for the purpose of self understanding, she truly engages the reader with her descriptions of unique characters and elegant imagery. She writes with a genuine respect for the people she meets and the countries and customs she is exposed to, and she writes with a wit that only mocks herself. It would be easy for this book to become either a simple travelogue or a heavy-handed spiritual manifesto, but Gilbert is somehow able to navigate between the two and writes a simple, profound memoir of personal growth. 🌍

ARMY POLICY ON DIVERSITY



Men and women who serve our great Army come from all walks of life. While each thinks differently and brings different attributes and

characteristics, together they make up the best Army in the world. Army diversity is defined as the different attributes, experiences, and backgrounds of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members that further enhance our global capabilities and contribute to an adaptive, culturally astute Army.

Diversity is a major strength of our Army. Our Army is the strength of this Nation. Our reflection of the Nation’s diverse talent and our commitment to Army Values empower us to achieve the Army’s Diversity Vision: The National leader in embracing the strengths of diverse people in an inclusive environment. We will achieve this vision by investing in and managing talent, valuing individuals, and developing culturally astute Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members who support our communities, and who embrace the human dimension of leadership. Leaders must promote a common understanding of this vision and make it a reality; doing so strengthens our Army and continues our legacy of sustaining a high quality, All Volunteer Force.

Leaders must lead the Army’s diversity efforts. As we continue to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the diversity within our ranks, not only will our strength, versatility, and efficiency be amplified, but we will be more effective at understanding the cultures and environments where we serve. We expect all leaders to develop and maintain an inclusive environment that will sustain the Army as a relevant and ready Force. We share in this commitment as a team.

Signed by: Kenneth O. Preston, Sergeant Major of the Army; George W. Casey, Jr., General, United States Army Chief of Staff; and Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army 🌍

BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNERCHICKEN TIKKA
MASALASubmitted by
SrA Winston Sanniola

Lately I've been burdened by work and school, which means having little time to cook. I've been eating at The Oven on 70th and Pioneers for quite some time. One of my favorite dishes there is the chicken tikka masala. So recently, on a day I had free, I decided to try and cook this dish using an internet recipe I happened to stumble upon. Even though I am a bachelor and cooking usually isn't considered a man's forte, I do enjoy cooking. I haven't met anyone yet who enjoys the cleaning. This dish has zing and great flavors, combining cream, jalapenos, ginger, cumin and cinnamon together in one dish. I was able to pick up all the ingredients with just a single trip to the grocery; no special trips to any special markets were needed.



Thanks to my mother, I have a rice cooker at home that I've permanently borrowed, so it's a little bit easier to cook rice on demand. Instead of using one type of basic rice, I use two types of rice: Basmati (aromatic and short) and Jasmine (a bit starchy with aroma and long). Mixing both of these rices gives the dish a fluffy beautiful smelling rice which doesn't soak up too much of the sauce created from the chicken dish.

Ingredients

1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken, cut in 1 inch cubes

Marinade

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground red pepper
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 piece minced ginger (1-inch long)
- 6 bamboo skewers (6-inches)

Sauce

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon garam masala (available at an Indian market if not at your local supermarket)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Make marinade, mixing all ingredients together and pouring into shallow pan.

Thread chicken on skewers, and place in marinade (in the refrigerator) for an hour or so. Discard marinade. Grill or broil chicken, turning occasionally, to cook through, about 8 minutes.

For sauce, melt butter on medium heat. Add garlic and jalapeno; cook 1 minute. Stir in coriander, cumin, paprika, garam masala and salt. Stir in tomato sauce. Simmer 15 minutes. Stir in cream; simmer to thicken - about 5 minutes.

Remove chicken from skewers; add to sauce. Simmer 5 minutes.

Garnish with cilantro. Serve with basmati rice, naan or pita bread.

Serves up to 4

Recipezaar.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS****Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta**

September 17, 2009
Featuring Mariachi Luna y sol
Catered by La Paz

Native American Heritage Month Celebration

November 2009

Diversity Dates Continued from Page 21

September 20-21 Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)
September 20 National Deaf Awareness Week (U.S.)
September 21 Independence Day (Armenia)
September 21 International Day of Peace (United Nations)
September 21 Keiro-no-Hi (Japan)
September 22 Mabon (Celtic, Pagan)
September 24 Heritage Day (South Africa)
September 24 Our Lady of Las Mercedes Day (Dominican Republic, Peru)
September 27 Maskal (Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)
September 27-28 Yom Kippur (Jewish)
September 28 Confucius's Birthday (China, Taiwan)
September 30 Botswana Day (Botswana)



Women's Army Corps Continued from Page 12

was a degree of discrimination against them, and opened the doors for military service for women. Today's servicewomen follow in their footsteps, irrepressibly and enthusiastically assuming the sacrifices of separation, dangerous duty and hardships for the privilege to serve their nation.

In 1942, Major Oveta Culp Hobby challenged the women when they enlisted into the WAAC. At the end of her time as Director of the WAC, she summed up women's service in a quote that is engraved forever on the granite of the WWII War Memorial in Washington, D.C. "Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women. This was a people's war, and everyone was in it."

Sources:

Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, TX 77005.

Oveta Culp Hobby and the Women's Army Corps, Fondren Library.

Life Magazine, September, 1942.

Women's Army Corps.

Wikipedia, Women's Army Corps

