

BRIDGING

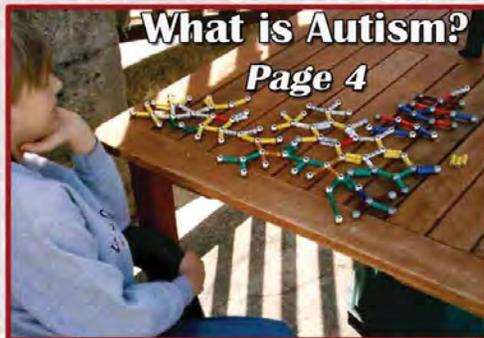
THE GAP



ISSUE 21 ❖ APRIL - MAY 2010



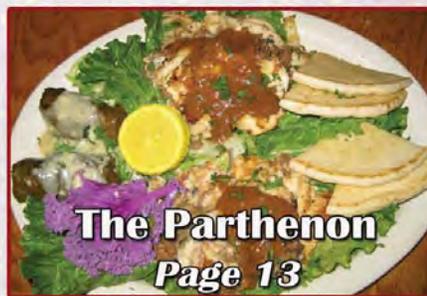
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**THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT
VALUES DIVERSITY**

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SEP GROUP

It is wonderful to see how far we have come with *Bridging the Gap (BTG)* from the seed of an idea when we first started talking about this publication to where we are 21 issues later. To be honest, we didn't realize at that time how much time and effort it would take to bring our potential readers such a good quality publication. We also didn't realize how much it would be more like a magazine than a short newsletter. We give much of the credit to our outstanding authors, editors and proofreaders, without whom none of this would be possible. *It has been worth it!*

This issue brings more changes to our look. We have finally given you the look we've been striving for during this four-issue process of changes to our layout. The changes are more aesthetic as the quality of the articles is still high and we continue to be excited about putting together each issue. We hope you like the new look to our cover and the slightly new look to each page of the publication.

We are doubly excited as one of our very own SEP members and National Guard employees won **BOTH** the Nebraska and the National Excellence in Diversity Award - Pam Makovicka.

If you happen to see her in your travels through the Military Department, please wish her a hearty congratulations as she is very deserving of this award (see page 6).

As always we are open to your comments and suggestions on the articles included in this and every issue. We also welcome ideas for future articles (see below for instructions on submitting an article or a proposal). We are also open to publicizing your future diversity events (please see below for deadline on the next issue).

We are also excited that 2010 has been designated the *Year of Diversity* in the National Guard. During this year we will continually strive to bring you quality luncheons and informative and engaging articles for each issue of BTG.

We also welcome new members into the SEP group. So, for those of you who love to discover the differences and similarities between various groups of people, please contact one of the members listed below who has an email address.

Enjoy reading and learning!

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 May 3, 2010 for Issue 22: June-July 2010.

All article submissions, due April 14, 2010 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.



DIVERSITY DISCUSSIONS AT LUNCH

By MSgt Mary Baker

155th Mission Support Group First Sergeant

There are some people who come and ask you to do something for them and for many unknown reasons you cannot tell them no. LaVonne Rosenthal, the State Equal Employment Manager, is one of those people for me. So when she asked me in the Fall of 2008 to join a group of Air and Army Guard personnel on a diversity team I couldn't say no; and I'm glad I didn't. I am privileged to be a part of a team that meets once a month to discuss diversity in our Guard family. I know some people hear the word diversity and think of mandatory training that we are forced to take in the military, and for some people it is an endurance event rather than a chosen topic for discussion. Our team does not see the topic of diversity in such a light, but rather embraces the many facets of the word and what it really means for us today as a military force of the future. For our team, diversity includes many things such as multiformity (defined as having many shapes, forms and appearances), purpose and distinctiveness; all of which are traits that enhance our state militia and help prepare us for the future.

In our diversity team discussions we regularly address the multiformity of the Air and Army National Guard and the constantly changing demands and missions our personnel experience daily. Multiformity is what diversity is truly about. I am glad we work for an organization where not everyone looks the same or thinks the same or acts the same, because as a team it is in our differences that we truly find we are stronger. Now we are not knocking uniformity at all, and our team readily acknowledges that in some instances the military cannot and will never do away with uniformity in many areas for many



Members of the Diversity Discussion at Lunch group led by BG Judd Lyons include (from left to right) CW1 Robrenna Redl, SFC Christine Gonzales, MSgt Mary Baker, TSgt Clashaud Robbins, Col Rick Evans, LTC Donald Kneift, CSM Eli Valenzuela.

Other members are LTC Shawn Edwards, CW2 Gena Hegemann, SrA Winston Sanniola, TSgt Sharon Okra-Goll and SSgt Jarell Roach.

reasons. For example, having English as the primary language of choice will likely always be the norm, even though many of our Soldiers and Airmen are bi-lingual and in some cases multi-lingual. Having Guard personnel who can speak different languages is a strength and in some cases a military mission necessity. This strength enhances our teams and units and their overall effectiveness. The bottom line is we all need a common language with which we proficiently communicate to have mission uniformity, and ensure the communication process is operating as efficiently as possible.

Oftentimes we readily see the differences in others around us, and because we are unfamiliar with these characteristics we tend to step away from them. Rather, we need to go toward them, to embrace and learn what the differences are actually about. For the Nebraska National Guard we need to see our multiformity as a source of strength, not weakness, as we learn about the differences in shape, form and appearance that our fellow Airmen and Soldiers are equipped with all around us. It truly is in our differences where we can find some of our greatest and most untapped strengths that can take our

teams to the next level for the next generation of Soldiers and Airmen.

A second theme of our discussions is purpose, in particular the innate purpose that each Airman and Soldier brings to our teams and organizations. Our organizational purposes are generally spelled out in our mission statements, goals and priorities that are set forth by our Adjutant General, the brigade, wing and company commanders. But when we look from the bottom up, how do our Soldiers and

Airmen fit into these priorities and goals?

If we truly want to function as a "can-do" organization, we need to emphasize what our personnel bring to the table in terms of their strengths in achieving not only our missions, but also in achieving fulfillment and self-accomplishment in what they do to complete the mission. If we have jobs that require certain skill sets and abilities, but have personnel occupying these positions that have very few of these traits, how can we ever expect them to succeed, personally or organizationally? We may have personnel who are totally skilled in numbers and metrics, but we have them in a job where they seldom use their talents. True, they may be achieving their mission objectives without too many difficulties, but are we really using that individual to their full purpose and potential? Just think how much more efficient and successful our organizations would be in completing their goals if we truly plugged people into places where their strongest skill sets are optimized. Not only would we as organizations accomplish our missions in better fashion, but we would be helping

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WHAT IS AUTISM?

By LTC Byron Diamond and
Denise Diamond

Our son was first diagnosed with autism when he was three and a half years old. As parents, the word autistic was a devastating blow. Both of us asked ourselves “What did we do wrong?” “Was our son exposed to an outside source that caused this?” or “Did we not do something right as parents?”

We are friends with several couples who have autistic children. As early as two years of age, our friends began subtly and kindly mentioning to us that our son was beginning to show signs of autism. As any parent, your first reaction is “They have got to be wrong – my child cannot have autism” and with this comes resentment and anger that our friends would make these suggestions.

However, after the initial pain, shock, embarrassment and anger subsided, we began to do research into this disorder and ultimately had our son checked by an autism specialist. This diagnosis was the beginning of our education into autism, what this spectrum disorder means and the proactive steps that we have taken since then to help to make our son’s life as complete and fulfilling as possible as he grows older.

What is autism? Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first two to five years of life and affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. Thus, it is possible to be bright, verbal and autistic or mentally retarded, non-verbal and autistic. The most significant shared symptom is difficulty with social communication (eye contact, conversation, taking another’s perspective, etc.).

It is estimated that one in every 150 children in the United States has autism

(more alarmingly, the incidence is 1 in every 94 boys) – and the number of diagnosed cases continues to rise. Today there are over 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with the effects of autism spectrum disorder.

If you’ve seen *Rainman* or a television show about autism, you may think you know what autism looks like. In fact, when you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve only met *ONE* person with autism. Some people with autism are chatty; others are silent. Many have sensory issues, gastrointestinal problems, sleep difficulties and other medical problems. Others may have social-communication delays - and that’s it.

Many children show signs of autism as babies and others may develop normally for the first few years but then suddenly become withdrawn, aggressive, or lose language skills they have already acquired. Here are several characteristics to look for:

Social Skills

- Fails to respond to his or her name
- Has poor eye contact
- Appears not to hear you at times
- Resists cuddling or holding
- Appears unaware of others’ feelings or needs
- Seems to prefer playing alone – retreats into his or her own world

Language

- Starts talking later than other children
- Loses previously acquired ability to say words or sentences
- Does not make eye contact when making requests
- Speaks with an abnormal tone or rhythm – may use a singsong voice or robot-like speech



Repetitively stacking or lining up objects may indicate autism.

- Can’t start a conversation or keep one going
- May repeat words or phrases verbatim, but doesn’t understand how to use them

Behavior

- Performs repetitive movements, such as rocking, spinning, chewing nails or hand flapping
- Develops specific routines or rituals
- Becomes disturbed at the slightest change in routines or rituals
- Moves constantly
- May be fascinated by parts of an object, such as the spinning wheels of a toy car
- May be unusually sensitive to light, sound and/or touch and yet oblivious to pain

The media is full of stories about autism, and many of those stories are less than accurate. For example, you may have heard that people with autism are cold and unfeeling, or that people with autism never marry or hold productive jobs. Since every person with autism is different, such “always and never” statements simply are not true.

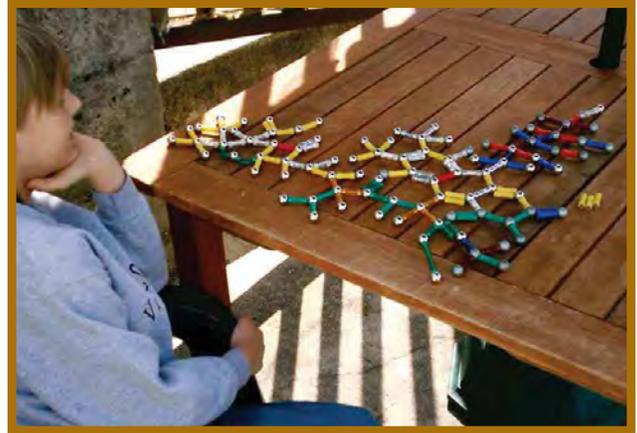
*Autism Continued from Page 4*

As far as medical science is aware, there is at present no cure for autism. That's not to say that people with autism don't improve, because many improve radically. But even when people with autism increase their skills, they are still autistic; which means they think and perceive differently from most people. Children with autism may receive many types of treatments. These treatments may be biomedical, sensory, behavioral, developmental or even arts-based. Depending upon the child, certain treatments will be more successful than others. However, the first step is to begin working with an Autism expert as early in the child's life as possible.

You may have seen or heard news stories about possible causes of autism. Theories range from mercury in infant vaccines, to genetics, to the age of the parents, or to almost everything else. At present, most researchers think autism is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors - and it's quite possible that different peoples' symptoms have different causes.

Autism is a lifelong diagnosis. For some people, often (but not always) those who receive intensive early intervention, symptoms may decrease radically. People with autism can also learn coping skills to help them manage their difficulties and even build on their unique strengths. But a person with autism will probably be autistic throughout their lives.

You may have heard of a wonderful autism school, or read of a child doing amazingly well in a particular type of classroom setting. While any given setting may be perfect for any given child, every child with autism has unique needs. Even in an ideal world, including a child with autism in a typical class may not be the best choice. Decisions about autistic education are generally made by a team of parents, teachers, administrators and therapists who know the child well.



People with Asperger's often display intense interests, such as this boy's fascination with molecular structure.

As we have found, autism is not the end, but a different path that is walked by not only the affected child but by family and friends as well. While our son has certain weaknesses that he must learn to deal with and control for the rest of his life, he has also been blessed with unexpected gifts with his disorder.

Source:

http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about_home

DIVERSITY DATES: APRIL - MAY 2010

April 1..... All Fool's Day (International)
 April 1.....Maundy Thursday (Christian)
 April 2..... Good Friday (Christian, Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 2..... Sizdebadar (Iran)
 April 2..... World Autism Awareness Day (International)
 April 3..... Easter (Pascha) (Christian, Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 4..... Independence Day (Senegal)
 April 5..... Easter Monday (Christian)
 April 5..... Qing Ming Festival (China, Taiwan)
 April 5..... Sham el-Nessim (Egypt)
 April 6..... Chakri Day (Thailand)
 April 6..... National Tartan Day (Canada, U.S.)
 April 8..... Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
 April 11..... Yom Ha-Shoah (Jewish)
 April 13..... Buddhist New Year (Buddhist)
 April 13..... Vaisakhi (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)
 April 14..... Pan American Day (Latin America)
 April 15..... Income Tax Pay Day (U.S.)
 April 16..... De Diego's Birthday (Puerto Rico)
 April 17..... Independence Day (Syria)
 April 18..... Independence Day (Zimbabwe)
 April 18..... Yom Hazikaron (Israel)
 April 19..... Yom ha'Atzma'ut (Israel)
 April 20..... Festival of Ridvan (Baha'i)
 April 21..... Administrative Professionals Day (U.S.)
 April 21..... Tiradentes Day (Brazil)
 April 22..... Discovery of Brazil Day (Brazil)
 April 22..... Earth Day (International, U.S.)
 April 22..... Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (U.S.)

April 22-24 Gathering of Nations Powwow (U.S. Native American)
 April 23..... National Sovereignty Day and Children's Day (Turkey)
 April 23..... St. George's Day (Christian)
 April 24..... Armenian Martyr's Day (Armenia)
 April 25..... Anzac Day (Australia, New Zealand, Samoa)
 April 25..... Festa della Liberazione (Italy)
 April 25..... Sinai Day (Egypt)
 April 26..... Union Day (Tanzania)
 April 27..... Freedom Day (South Africa)
 April 29..... Showa-no-Hi (Japan)
 April 30..... Beltane (Celtic, Pagan)
 April 30..... Koninginendag (Netherlands)
 April 30..... National Arbor Day (U.S.)
 May..... Flores de Mayo Month (Philippines)
 May..... Jewish American Heritage Month (U.S.)
 May..... Older Americans Month (U.S.)
 May..... Asian American Heritage Month (U.S.)
 May 1..... International Labor Day (International)
 May 1..... Lei Day (Hawaii)
 May 1..... May Day (U.S.)
 May 1..... Vappu (Finland)
 May 3..... Kempo Kinen-Bi (Japan)
 May 3..... May Bank Holiday (Republic of Ireland, U.K.)
 May 3..... Swieto Trzeciego Maja (Poland)
 May 4..... Hana-to-Midori-no-Hi (Japan)
 May 5..... Cinco de Mayo (Mexico, U.S.)
 May 5..... Dutch Liberation Day (Netherlands)
 May 5..... Kodomo-no-Hi (Japan)
 May 5..... Urini Nal (South Korea)

May 7..... National Day of Prayer (U.S.)
 May 8..... V-E (Victory in Europe) Day (U.S.)
 May 9..... Mother's Day (U.S.)
 May 9..... Victory Day (Russia)
 May 10..... Golden Spike Day (U.S. Asian America)
 May 15..... Armed Forces Day (U.S.)
 May 15-16 Independence Day (Paraguay)
 May 17..... Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education Decision (U.S.)
 May 17..... Syttende Mai (Norway)
 May 18..... Shavout (Jewish)
 May 19..... Atatürk Commemoration and Youth and Sports Day (Turkey)
 May 20..... Independence Day (Cuba)
 May 20..... National Day (Camaroon)
 May 22..... National Day (Yemen)
 May 22-23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
 May 23..... Labour Day (Jamaica)
 May 23..... Pentecost (Christian, Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 May 24..... Independence Day (Eritrea)
 May 24..... Victoria Day (Canada)
 May 25..... African Freedom Day (International)
 May 25..... Independence Day (Jordan)
 May 25..... Revolution Day (Argentina)
 May 26..... Independence Day (Guyana)
 May 27..... Vesak (Buddhist)
 May 28..... Day of the Republic (Azerbaijan)
 May 28-29 Ascension of Baha'ullah (Baha'i)
 May 30..... Trinity Sunday (Christian)
 May 31..... Memorial Day (U.S.)
 May 31..... Spring Bank Holiday (U.K.)





2009 EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD WINNER Ms. PAM MAKOVICKA

By *LaVonne Rosenthal*

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD AND NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

The Fiscal Year 2009 Award for Excellence in Diversity in the Nebraska National Guard was presented to Ms. Pam Makovicka by BG Judd Lyons on December 17, 2009. She was recognized for her dedication to commemorating diversity through a plethora of venues.

Long before diversity had the emphasis it has today, Ms. Makovicka was educating others on the value of inclusion and monitoring potential barriers to the advancement of women in the Nebraska National Guard. In 1992, she was appointed as the Federal Women's Program Manager, and has remained fervently dedicated to diversity throughout the years.

Ms. Makovicka currently serves as President of the Federally Employed Women (FEW) Heartland Chapter in Lincoln, Nebraska. The fledgling group began with nine members and, under her leadership, has grown to 27 members. Even with growth, the original nine members who began the chapter continue to be actively involved. Ms. Makovicka guides the group through successful fundraising efforts that benefit local organizations such as Friendship Home and Peoples' City Mission.

Other federal government agencies are impacted by Ms. Makovicka's work in educating fellow Federal Women's Program Managers throughout Nebraska and our five-state region (Iowa, Kansas,



BG Judd Lyons (The Adjutant General) and Pam Makovicka

Missouri, Illinois, and Nebraska). Her peers have entrusted her with managing the treasury as well as the FEW Compliance Program. Through her attentiveness to fairness and equality, women who had been restrained from completing their duties as Federal Women Program Managers in their workplace received appropriate support from their supervisors following an investigation.

Training programs designed by Ms. Makovicka for the annual FEW training day have focused on enhancing knowledge about discrimination and diversity. Educators brought in for training events provide the most current and up-to-date information for attendees on subjects such as Microsoft Outlook, health care issues, family care issues,

as well as improving job performance skills. Advancing one's education is further endorsed by Ms. Makovicka as she coordinates scholarship awards to worthy recipients. This year's scholarship recipient will complete her degree in business, thanks to the support of the Heartland FEW Chapter and Ms. Makovicka.

Under Ms. Makovicka's tutelage, performing one's American duty to vote was made easier for numerous Lincoln voters prior to the presidential election. Training was provided to local FEW members to qualify them to register voters at various locations in the city. Members were posted at malls and grocery stores, where a large number of citizens were conveniently offered the opportunity to register to vote.

As a vital member of the Nebraska Military Department's Special Emphasis Program (SEP) Group, Ms. Makovicka provides historical references to illuminate current events. She authors numerous articles for each edition of the *Bridging the Gap* newsletter, highlighting not only gender equality, but also broadening readers' knowledge in eastern European cultures. Ms. Makovicka's ability to research relevant topics and compose articles adds tremendously to the newsletter's success as a premier educational tool for diversity.

Within the Nebraska National Guard community, Ms. Makovicka willingly volunteers to assist our Family Program in numerous activities. She has donned a Halloween costume to greet ghouls and goblins at the annual Haunted

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Excellence in Diversity Continued from Page 6

Armory Event for military members and families, as well as assisted with registration and organization of the Family Program annual Operation Hidden Egg each spring. Her provisions of supplies and treats aid greatly in the success of each of these events. Also, Ms. Makovicka has assisted with the State Family Program Conference by training Family Readiness Group leaders to establish balance through time management. Members of the Family Program Office rely on Ms. Makovicka's selfless service as they conduct their family programs.

Ms. Makovicka's accomplishments were compiled and forwarded to National Guard Bureau for consideration of the



Excellence in Diversity Award at the national level. The award winners were announced at the diversity conference in Atlanta, Georgia on March 11. We are proud to announce that Ms. Makovicka won the national Individual Army National Guard Excellence in Diversity Award. She was presented a beautiful crystal award by BG Dittig, chair of the NGB

EO-Diversity Committee. The surprise in being selected was evident in Ms. Makovicka's response to the announcement. She was chosen from a group of National Guard members, and to have a civilian selected was quite noteworthy. Those from Nebraska who were able to share in the excitement were myself, BG Roma Amundson, Col Dave Zwart and CPT Dale Burrage.

This annual award is open for nominations in the fall of each year. In addition to individual awards, Army National Guard and Air National Guard units may submit a nomination package to Ms. LaVonne Rosenthal, State Equal Employment Manager, for consideration. These awards are established to recognize individuals and organizations (units/wings) that have displayed superior performance and made significant contributions in the area of diversity, impacting the Nebraska National Guard.



CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW: I, MATTHEW HENSON, POLAR EXPLORER

Written by Carole Boston Weatherford and Illustrated by Eric Velasquez;

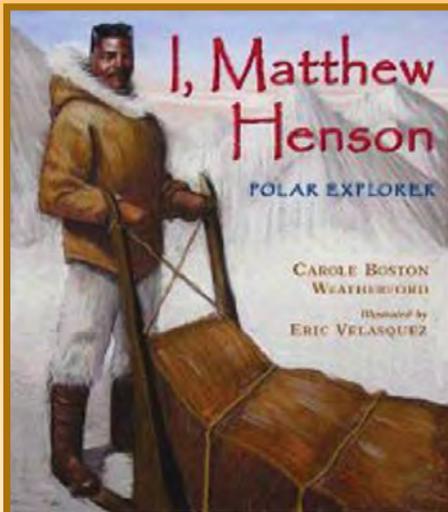
Publisher: Walker & Company; December 2007

Book Review by Denise Anderson

At my daughters' school book fair I found a wonderful book about one of the first people to make it to the North Pole, Matthew Henson.

Matthew Henson was born in 1866 to freeborn Black sharecroppers. The family lived in Nanjemoy, Maryland then moved to Washington, D.C.

When his parents died Matthew and his siblings were left living with an uncle. In Baltimore, Maryland he worked at a restaurant listening to stories about the sea and he decided to become an adventurer.



At thirteen years old, he met Captain Childs, the captain of the ship Katie Hines. He sailed the seas with him, starting as a cabin boy and progressing to able-bodied seaman visiting five continents prior to the captain's death. He then left the Katie Hines and sought work on another ship, but quit because he wasn't being treated equally by the crew.

He next worked at a men's store where he met Robert Perry, an officer in the Navy. Robert Perry asked Matthew Henson to be his manservant while they explored the tropics. He accepted the position because he loved adventure, and gained enough experience to become Robert Perry's

right-hand man.

Their next goal was to become the first to journey to the North Pole. Seven trips to the North Pole were attempted from 1891 to 1909. Finally on April 6, 1909, Robert Perry, Matthew Henson and four Eskimos finally succeeded.

I enjoy reading this book to my daughters because you can tell Matthew Henson loved to explore, was always willing to learn new skills and wasn't willing to be mediocre. Quite a few of the pages start out "I did not..." because he knew he was better than the challenges he had to face. His life as a Black man was not easy. He was treated badly because of the color of his skin, but it didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. He was a true hero.

For more information about Matthew Henson go to: <http://www.unmuseum.org/henson.htm>



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY AND THE UNITED STATES DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

BG Roma Amundson

“I decided to devote my life to telling the story because I felt that having survived I owe something to the dead, and anyone who does not remember betrays them again.” ~Elie Wiesel

By 1945, the Nazis killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the “final solution,” which was to murder all Jews in Europe. State-sponsored persecution and murder led to the deaths of approximately 6,000,000 Jews and others that the Nazis considered expendable and wanted out of their community, such as Roman Gypsies, Russians, Poles, Communists, Socialists, Jehovah’s Witnesses and homosexuals.

Given that there are those in our world today who deny that the Holocaust occurred, the United Nations adopted a resolution on November 1, 2005, that declared the Holocaust as a historical event and condemned any and all manifestations of violence and discrimination against groups and individuals based on ethnicity and religious belief. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the official International Holocaust Remembrance Day. January 27 is the anniversary of the liberation by the Allies of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and probably the most renowned of all Nazi death camps.

The United States officially commemorates the

Holocaust during Days of Remembrance, which is held each April, marking the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, built as a permanent living memorial to the victims, is mandated by the U.S. Congress to lead the nation in commemorating this day. In 2010, the Day of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, April 11.

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising occurred in April of 1943. In 1940, the Nazis began placing the over 3,000,000 Jews living in Poland into ghettos in the larger cities in order to control them. The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest, having within it approximately 300,000 – 400,000 people. Under such conditions, thousands of Jews died due to the twin problems of

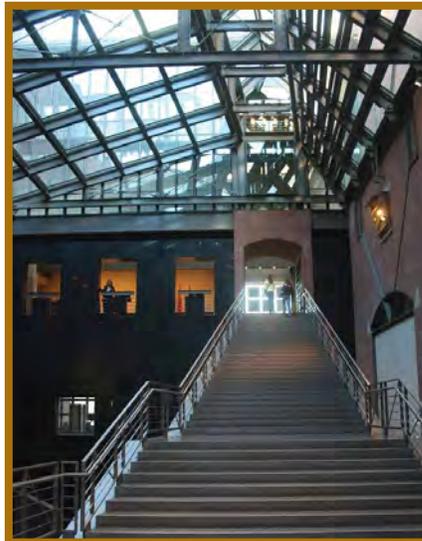
disease and starvation found in the Ghetto. The Nazis began deporting many of the Warsaw Ghetto residents to Treblinka, also a death camp that has a horrendous history.

When the deportations to the Treblinka extermination camp first began, many members of the Jewish Resistance movement that was developing within the ghetto believed the Jews were being

sent to labor camps and so did not resist the SS (Schutzstaffel - Protective Squadron). By the end of 1942, however, it became known to Ghetto inhabitants that the deportations were part of an extermination process. Many of the remaining Jews decided to resist.

In April of 1943, the Jewish Resistance movement began fighting the SS soldiers, and while the fighting was at times fierce, the SS soldiers eventually overcame the resistance fighters.

Approximately 13,000 Jews were killed in the Ghetto during the uprising (some 6,000 among them were burnt alive or died from smoke inhalation). Of the remaining 50,000 residents, most were



*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Hall of Witness*



Jews captured and forcibly pulled from dugouts by the Germans during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The photo is from Jurgen Stroop’s report to Heinrich Himmler.



Diversity Discussions Continued from Page 3

our personnel to find a measure of fulfillment in doing their part in the end product. All of us need to look around at the Soldier or Airman beside us and help them learn what their strengths and purposes are. In finding this knowledge we stand to gain not only a better understanding of each other but of how we all can better contribute to the mission and goals of the Nebraska National Guard (NENG).

One of the coolest things about being a member of the NENG is that no matter where you travel or deploy, people know who we are and what we stand for as an organization. The saying goes that our "reputation precedes us" and that is really a good thing for the Soldiers and Airmen from Nebraska. There are potentially many things that set us apart and make us distinct as an organization, such as a strong work ethic, personal pride in all we do and a predominantly positive outlook on life. But our organizations are only as distinct and varied as our members; and it is in this individual distinction that we can really enhance our teams and their overall ability to achieve their goals and missions to the best of their capabilities. The fact that our Airmen and Soldiers are vastly different should never be a hindrance to mission accomplishment, but rather a catalyst to its achievement. It is like putting a puzzle together with no two pieces being the same shape. It may take time to plug everyone into the right place, but once we do the picture is crystal clear. In bringing our differences to light we will enable our teams to truly use all their personnel to the best of their abilities, and by capitalizing on our member's innate strengths, we will continue to have an organization that is known the world over for being above the rest in nearly every category.

Diversity is not just a buzz-word from past classes or training. Diversity stands for all the ways our members are unique and different, and how all of those dissimilarities actually enhance our

"People need to see that, far from being an obstacle, the world's diversity of languages, religions, and traditions is a great treasure, affording us precious opportunities to recognize ourselves in others."
***--Yousou N'Dour,
 Musician.***

organizations in every way possible. In the NENG we have Airmen and Soldiers of every size, shape, form and appearance, and without this multiformity we will potentially be one-dimensional. An organization that is one-dimensional in this world will not be viable in the future and that is a chance we, as the Nebraska Militia, can never afford to take. So we need to take a chance on our Soldiers and Airmen and find their strengths and talents, and harvest them as we would a bumper crop. For it is in the harvesting of our individual distinctiveness that we will continue to be a multi-faceted organization that is ready for the future and whatever changes it may throw our way. The battle on the horizon will potentially be huge from outside of our organizations, so it stands to reason that we cannot afford to have struggles within our units at such a time of great synergy and change. I truly believe that it is in our individual distinctiveness that we stand to not only better our organizations, but to ensure that our teams and units are functioning at their optimal ability to best face our military missions of the future.

As a team defined by the title Diversity, we discuss many topics; only a few are outlined above. We meet once a month with The Adjutant General, Brigadier General Judd Lyons for lunch and brief him and other key members of the Nebraska National Guard leadership on how we, as military units, are doing in the many dimensions that diversity entails for our organizations. Diversity for our team is not just a way to the future, but it is the future of the Nebraska Militia. 

Holocaust Continued from Page 8



Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

captured and shipped to concentration and extermination camps, in particular to Treblinka.

SS Brigadefuehrer, Jürgen Stroop, wrote the following report on May 16, 1943:

"180 Jews, bandits and sub-humans, were destroyed. The former Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no longer in existence. The large-scale action was terminated at 20:15 hours by blowing up the Warsaw Synagogue. The total number of Jews deaths was 56,065, including both Jews caught and Jews whose extermination can be proved. Apart from eight buildings (police barracks, hospital, and accommodations for housing working-parties) the former Ghetto is completely destroyed. Only the dividing walls are left standing where no explosions were carried out."

Commemorating the Holocaust, one of the harshest periods of time in world history, will cause people to remember that "the lessons of history are invaluable in determining the course of the future, and those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it." (George Santayana)

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www.1.yadvashem.org

www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor

<http://history1900s.about.com/cs/holocaust/a/yombashoah.htm>

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BOOK REVIEW

THE NAZI OFFICER'S WIFE

Book Review By BG Roma Amundson

HOW ONE JEWISH WOMAN SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST

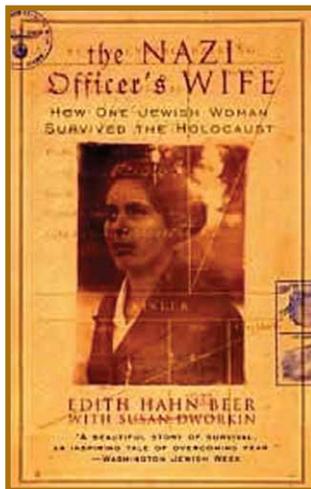
*Written by Edith Hahn Beer with Susan Dworkin
First Perennial Edition, HarperCollins Publishers, 2000*

During the 1920s, Vienna was a city of sunny sidewalk cafes offering Kaffee und Strudel, music of Mozart in opera houses, walkways of flowers in the Volksgarten and Burrgarten, and carefree days of laughter with friends and family. For a young Viennese girl, life was wonderful and full of promise and adventure.

But the only absolute reality in life is that change occurs.

Edith Hahn Beer was a young teenage Jew living in Vienna at the time of the Anschluss, when Austria came under the control of the Nazis. As she was growing up, she was aware that the Jews were the targets of discrimination by the so-called "master race," or the German or Aryan race. However, she had been able to lead a reasonably "normal" life of a well-educated, middle-class Jewish young lady studying law at the university in Vienna. After the Anschluss, she wrote of the conditions of life in Vienna:

"How can I describe to you our confusion and terror when the Nazis took over? We had lived until yesterday in a rational world. Now everyone around us – our schoolmates, neighbors, and teachers, our tradesmen, policemen, and bureaucrats – had all gone mad. They had been harboring a hatred for us which we had grown accustomed to calling prejudice. What a euphemism! In fact, they hated us with a hatred as old as their religion; they were born hating us, raised hating us; and now with the Anschluss, the veneer of civilization which had protected us from their hatred was stripped away" (pg. 56).



From that time on, Edith Hahn Beer's life changed, and she essentially became a slave to the Nazis, working in work camps, famished for food, living under horrible conditions, and being driven wild with worry over what was happening to friends and family. She wrote of this time:

"Rumors drove us wild with worry. We heard that the Nazis, in their zeal to 'purify the race,' were

actually killing the retarded, the insane, and the senile with poison gas... We heard that people in the concentration camps were literally dying from overwork, that sadistic guards conceived inhuman tortures..." (pg. 116).

People with whom she worked were taken away, and nothing was heard of them again. Edith tells of her friend Kaethe:

"When all the Jews in this north German area were ordered to prepare for deportation to Poland, I went to Kaethe's house to help her pack... She was taken with more than a thousand others from Magdeburg to the Warsaw ghetto. I wrote to her there. It struck me as very strange that my good friend did not write back" (pg. 119).

Her account of the working and living conditions and relationships with other Jewish people provides us a picture of the austere conditions that could have given rise to hopelessness and apathy, and could have killed her spirit. But Edith was a fighter. The reader is riveted by the descriptions of her experiences

in the work camps, her eventual return to Vienna, the German people who befriended and helped her survive, and her love relationship with a German painter and artist who was eventually drafted into the German Wehrmacht. For those of us now in this time of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, her recounting of his return and the difficulties they experienced in their reunion after war, the tough decisions they made and dealing with their children, make this a most contemporary reading.

Written simply but with great detail, Edith's story is a true account of one woman's experience during the Holocaust. Her records, photographs, documents, and every scrap of information she could save from that time period are part of the permanent collection at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. This book is her personal remembrance of that time period, captured in 305 pages of exceptional reading.

As she completed her tale, one of the lines she wrote is this, "We must never forget those who have helped us..." (pg. 304), and the final chapter is an expression of her triumph in living and a gracious thanksgiving to those who helped.

A documentary film produced by the Arts and Entertainment channel based on the source material and starring Hahn-Beer herself was released in 2003. A film adaptation of *The Nazi Officer's Wife* is reported to be in production. Directed by Mike Figgis and starring Eva Green, Thomas Kretschmann and Alexandra Maria Lara, it is scheduled for release in 2011.

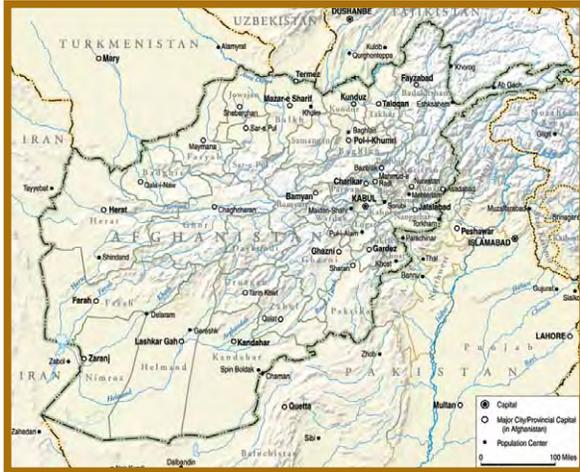
**TRIVIA: THE 2000s***Compiled by Denise Anderson*

1. Who was the first Spaniard to win all three Grand Tours of road cycling (i.e. Tour De France, Giro d'Italia, and Vuelta a España) in 2007?
 - a. Alberto Contador
 - b. Fermín Cacho
 - c. Federico Bahamontes
 - d. Joane Somarriba
2. In 2008, who became the first female four-star general in the United States military?
 - a. Kristin Lund
 - b. Ann Dunwoody
 - c. Anna May Hayes
 - d. Jeanne M. Holm
3. On September 18, 2006, this individual became the first Iranian and Muslim woman "space tourist" to ride on the Russian Soyuz TMA-9 capsule.
 - a. Sunita Williams
 - b. Simin Nikbin Meydani
 - c. Maryam Mirzakhani
 - d. Anousheh Ansari
4. In 2007, who became the first woman president in Harvard University's 371-year history?
 - a. Charlotte P. Armstrong
 - b. Jane Lakes Harman
 - c. Drew Gilpin Faust
 - d. Elizabeth Strong
5. In 2002, this first African American female U.S. athlete won a gold medal in a Winter Olympics. What was her name? (Hint: She won the gold in the women's bobsled event on February 19th.)
 - a. Vonetta Flowers
 - b. Wilma Rudolph
 - c. Debi Thomas
 - d. Edith McGuire
6. In 2002, who was the first African American female to win an Oscar for Best Actress? (Hint: Monster's Ball)
 - a. Maya Angelou
 - b. Angela Bassett
 - c. Lisa Bonet
 - d. Halle Berry
7. Who was the first African American Secretary of State? (Hint: 2002 under President Bush)
 - a. Colin Powell
 - b. Condoleezza Rice
 - c. Paul Harris
 - d. Winsome Sears
8. In 2003, who became the first U.S. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security?
 - a. Janet Napolitano
 - b. Michael Chertoff
 - c. Alan Bersin
 - d. Tom Ridge
9. Who was the first woman to win an Indy Car Race? (Hint: the Indy Japan 300 in 2008)
 - a. Erin Crocker
 - b. Sarah Fisher
 - c. Danica Patrick
 - d. Allison Duncan
10. In 2007, who was the first Muslim member of the U.S. Congress (Hint: He took the ceremonial oath with a Quran once owned by Thomas Jefferson.)
 - a. Andre Carson
 - b. Hank Johnson
 - c. Mazie Hirono
 - d. Keith Ellison
11. In 2003, who became the first openly gay Bishop in the Episcopal Church in the U.S.?
 - a. Rev. V. Gene Robinson
 - b. Rev. John L. Kirkley
 - c. Rev. Canon Mary Douglas Glasspool
 - d. Rev. Josefina Beecher
12. Who was the first African American coach to win a Super Bowl? (Hint: in 2007)
 - a. Turner Gill
 - b. Anthony Kevin "Tony" Dungy
 - c. Sylvester Croom
 - d. Randy Shannon
13. What famous activist and "the mother of civil rights" in America died in October 2003 at the age 92?
 - a. Corrine Brown
 - b. Rosa Parks
 - c. Alex Haley
 - d. Virginia Hamilton
14. In 2005, this wheelchair racer and Paralympian was made a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth. What is her name?
 - a. Chantal Petitclerc
 - b. Lisa Franks
 - c. Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson
 - d. Shelly Woods
15. Tiger Woods became the youngest-ever career grand slam winner in 2000, when he won the British Open. What was his age?
 - a. 25
 - b. 24
 - c. 18
 - d. 26



A NEBRASKA SOLDIER'S VIEW ON AFGHANISTAN

By MSG Rey Castaneda



In Issues 17 and 19 of Bridging the Gap, I wrote articles about Afghanistan where I touched on many different aspects of my experiences in the country and on the Afghani people. In this final article I will focus on the countryside.

I first arrived in Afghanistan at Camp Phoenix in Kabul to a gorgeous day. It was around 65 degrees and everyone on my team was thrilled to be away from Ft. Riley and the below zero training days we endured during January and February. It was hard for me to get a feeling for the country as I was confined to a base with ten foot walls. All I know is that there were mountains to the east and south of the base and a dark haze was in the air. I really didn't appreciate the beauty of these mountains because my mind was more focused on the mission I would be doing and the nervousness of my first time in a combat zone. I initially thought the haze was just a gloomy, cloudy sky, but I soon found out it was due to all the trash burning that takes place in this city. We stayed at Camp Phoenix for a week before heading to Camp Lightning at Gardez. It was on this leg of my deployment that I got a quick view of what this country is like.

We departed Forward Operating Base (FOB) Phoenix via two cramped helicopters and arrived at FOB Lightning. Being afraid of heights I didn't want to look out the window, but when I did all I saw were mountains and kalats (mud homes). Upon arrival I was able to see Gardez City (in Paktia province, about 45 miles from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border) which was about three miles to the west. Mostly

all I saw were buildings, but about a mile away from the FOB was a lookout tower that was built during Alexander the Great's lifetime. There's also an actual fort from this time period, but I couldn't see it from the FOB. I finally got my marching orders to my FOB, Camp Clark and took another helicopter ride. The scenic view was the same: more mountains and more kalats. It wasn't until I arrived at my FOB and started going on missions that I had a chance to see the countryside.

My first mission took me quite a distance to Ghazni. On one of the legs of the journey we went through the Khost to Gardez (KG) pass. We traveled by humvee and got a good feel for just how



Gardez, Afghanistan



unforgiving these mountains are. We traveled on a two-lane dirt road, noticing all the potential ambush spots and the steep drop-offs of the mountains. One thing about the roads in Afghanistan was that there were no guard barriers, so if you slipped up it was your life. It was hard enough for humvees to travel this terrain yet we always saw jingle trucks with full loads and I asked myself, "How do these vehicles do it?" The KG pass was one of the most treacherous passes and the Russian army took a beating when they occupied this country. It was early spring on this mission and the scenery didn't really impress me. It was the same thing, mountains, mud kalats and trash all over the place.

My next mission took me up north of Gardez and this is when I truly saw the beauty in this country. We traveled once again through KG pass, but this time the trees were in bloom and the valleys contained small plots of freshly planted corn. The further north of Gardez we traveled the greener everything was. What impressed me though was a canal that was used to irrigate the crops. I never thought that a canal would be in such a desolate country. To my surprise, I was told that Afghanistan contains a primitive

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Review By Jessie Bockelman

*5500 South 56th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516-1878
402-423-2222*

RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE PARTHENON



I've never been one to shy away from trying out new foods, and when my husband and I took our honeymoon and stopped in Greece I fell in love...with Greek food, of course. So naturally I was excited to learn that Lincoln had a Greek restaurant that has received rave reviews. We've been going there a few times each year since our wedding.

We started our dinner with a spanakopita appetizer. This is a buttery pastry with cheese and spinach filling. The cheese was primarily feta, but I believe this had some ricotta mixed in as well. It was very cheesy and the pastry was nice and airy.

I decided to order a combination platter so that I could experience things I hadn't ordered previously. My dinner consisted of mousaka, pastitsio and dolmathes. Mousaka, from the Parthenon, is an eggplant casserole that has layers of eggplant, zucchini, potatoes and seasoned ground beef topped with a cream sauce and oven-baked. Slight variations in preparing mousaka include a Greek three-layer recipe, the bottom layer consists of aubergine slices sautéed in olive oil, the middle layer is ground lamb and the top layer is a béchamel sauce or egg custard.

Pastitsio is Greek lasagna, which is similar to Italian lasagna in that they both have layers of meat and noodles, but the seasonings are very different. Dolmathes are grape leaves filled with rice and ground beef, topped with a lemon sauce. This was probably my least favorite dish as I thought the spices and lemon were a bit overwhelming, but still very good. My husband played it safe and got a gyro platter with Greek potatoes. This was very delicious and highly recommended for someone who isn't an adventurous eater.

Since I knew I was writing an article about this restaurant, I really wanted to give my readers the full experience of dining at the Parthenon, so I managed to have the strength to order a dessert. The Parthenon has a wide variety of pastry-style desserts, cookies and cakes. We finally settled on ordering a baklava sundae and it was very delicious. Baklava is layers of phyllo dough stuffed with honey and walnuts. Ours had a few scoops of caramel ice cream with walnuts and caramel drizzled on top. It was the perfect way to end the meal.

One aspect of our dining experience that we left out was the drinks. The Parthenon has a very good wine and beer selection if you are interested in alcoholic beverages. Some are even Greek beers and wines to really give you an authentic experience.

The Parthenon did bring back memories of dining on a beachside café in Santorini; I just had to close my eyes and pretend I saw waves crashing on the shore, rather than a snow-covered parking lot. 



Spanakopita



Combination Plate



Gyro Platter



Baklava Sundae



NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

By Kari Foote

National Tartan Day is a day to recognize the accomplishments and contributions that Americans of Scottish descent have made to the United States. It was first recognized in a single-year U.S. Senate Resolution in 1997. The following year, the Senate resolved to recognize National Tartan Day on a permanent basis, and a companion bill was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005, which officially created a permanent designation of National Tartan Day on April 6 of every year.

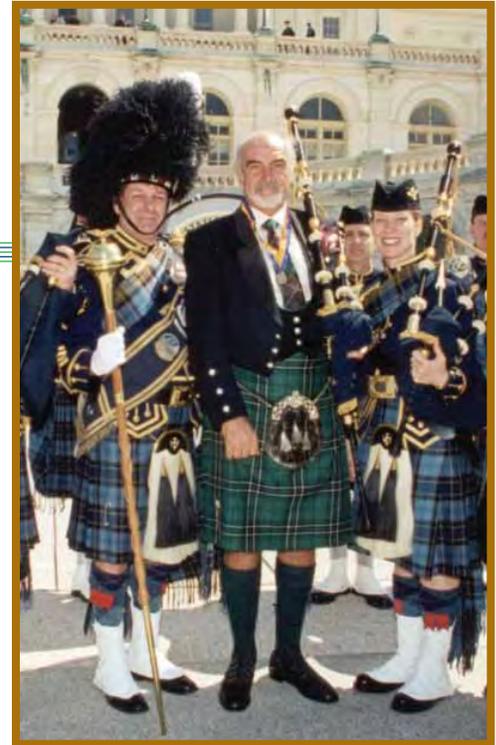
National Tartan Day is celebrated on April 6 in recognition of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims and was a model for the U.S. Declaration of Independence. An unofficial observance of Tartan Day on April 6 has been kept in Canada since 1986.



Tartan Day parade in New York City.

Scottish influence in America can be found in many areas. Towns with a prefix 'Mc' or 'Mac' are almost sure to have someone of Scottish descent among the founding members.

Sports such as golf and curling originated in Scotland, and Scottish influence can be found in many modern day track and field events. One of the largest mainline Protestant religions in the U.S., Presbyterianism, was brought to America by Scottish immigrants. The Scottish Reformation stressed the need for education among all classes, so that everyone could have access to the Bible, which meant Scottish emigrants to the U.S. were, to a large extent, a highly literate group. The tutor of Thomas Jefferson was a Scottish immigrant, and Princeton University was established by Scots.



Sean Connery at a Tartan Day celebration in Washington D.C. with members of the USAF Reserve Pipes and Drums.

One of the largest Tartan Day observances in America is the New York Tartan Day Parade, which features thousands of drummers, bagpipers, and Scottish groups in an event that caps off New York City's Tartan Week. This week-long observance features Scottish fashion shows, whiskey tasting, and an annual post parade party among other things.

Resources:

www.tartanday.org

www.tartanweek.com



APRIL FOOL'S DAY HOAXES

<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest

1957: The respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

San Serriffe

1977: The British newspaper *The Guardian* published a special seven-page supplement devoted to San Serriffe, a small republic said to consist of several semi-colon-shaped islands located in the Indian Ocean. A series of articles affectionately described the geography and culture of this obscure nation. Its two main islands were named Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. Its capital was Bodoni, and its leader was General Pica. *The Guardian's* phones rang all day as readers sought more information about the idyllic

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WEBSITE REVIEW: BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

Review By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

<http://www.bpwfoundation.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

Curiosity drove me to the website Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation, since it sounded like it might have some good information for working women. Although it was not quite what I was expecting, I wasn't disappointed. My first impression of the site was that it looked professional, due to the header and colors of the site – light blue and black. Many websites I visit are overdone with multicolors and discourage me from reading further. The first page on this site does what it needs to by telling the first time visitor what the group is about, and does it with nice soft colors.

The opening page states: "Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation is partnering to create successful workplaces by focusing on issues that impact women, families and employers. Successful workplaces are those that embrace and practice diversity, equity and work-life balance. Through its groundbreaking research and unique role as a convener (to come together as a body) of employers and employees, BPW Foundation strives to redefine today's workplace. The work of BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses."

There are five tabs at the top of each page that list the main topics covered on the site: Successful Workplaces, Green/Sustainability, Women Veterans, Young Careerists, and Public Policy and Advocacy. The information throughout the site is focused, relevant and up-to-date. Even though there are a few minor spelling errors, it is well written and very informative.

For the purpose of this review I will focus on two of the tabs, Women Veterans and Public Policy and Advocacy and provide a general overview of the site.

The Public Policy and Advocacy tab starts out by listing Issues (Pay Equity, Work-Life Balance, Green Jobs, Women Veterans, Retirement Security, Small Business, etc.), Events (National Business Women's Week, Equal Pay Day, and Policy and Action Day), Take Action (Advocacy Center), and Resources (Research, Press Releases, Advocacy Tools, etc.) for the various issues they focus on. All have informative links talking about each topic.

In addition, this page also lists the BPW Foundation policy focus areas:

- Equal Pay for Women — Forty-six years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, the average woman working full time still earns 22 cents less than the average man. BPW Foundation supports the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 12/S 182) which will update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, closing loopholes and improving the law's effectiveness.
- Work-Life Balance — One-third (1/3) of women believe that the difficulty of combining work and family is their biggest work-related problem and nearly three-fourths (3/4) think
- the government should do more to help. BPW recognizes that this is a family issue and proposes attacking it from all sides – through workplace standards legislation, by developing employer tools and by empowering working women. That is why BPW Foundation supports the Healthy Families Act (paid sick leave) and the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (paid parental leave). Paid sick leave, paid parental leave, workplace flexibility and affordable child care are all necessary tools in the quest for work-life balance.
- Working Women in the Green Economy — BPW Foundation is developing research and programs to dispel myths about women and green jobs, help to identify jobs, and broaden the capacity of workforce, education, and community organizations to make sure women have access and take advantage of career opportunities in the green economy.
- Women Veterans in Transition — BPW Foundation was the first organization to research women veterans transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce and





Website Review Continued from Page 15

“BPW Career Center provides career opportunities for a range of experience levels from young careerists to executives. It is a customized job board featuring employers with policies that support women and veterans like you.”

provide support to them. BPW Foundation's extensive research on the needs of women veterans and how to ensure their successful re-entry and advancement in the workplace is especially critical as veterans become an increasing percentage of the workforce.

- Successful Workplaces — For the first time in history, there are four generations in the workforce at the same time. That presents new challenges and opportunities. How do we mobilize, motivate, and mentor young women and men (Generations X and Y) and provide them with the tools for success in the workplace? Since 2005, BPW Foundation has studied inter-generational workplaces and the resulting issues. As a neutral convener of employers and employees, BPW Foundation is in a unique position to support research and programs to tackle this emerging issue.

The Women Veterans tab is very interesting as “More than two million women have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and there are currently 1.8 million women veterans. As part of the ongoing commitment of Business and Professional Women's Foundation to support women veterans, BPW Foundation has conducted research, centralized resources and developed programs to help our ‘sheroes’ and their families as they transition into civilian professional life.”

There are many informative PDF files throughout the site. There are several that caught my attention which focus on Women Veterans in Transition.

There are two top ten lists for women veterans and employers. The first focuses on their *Top Ten Recommendations for Employers to Support Women Veterans in the Workplace* which includes:

1. Promoting a positive attitude and appreciation toward military service.
2. Employers and workplaces should understand the unique skills and knowledge that women veterans possess and determine how to tap these skill sets and how to transfer them to benefit your organization.
3. Educate the human resources department, management and workplace about how to successfully provide access to employees with disabilities.

The second list is the *Top Ten Recommendations to Support Women Veterans*. This includes:

1. Women veterans need to network and seek mentors; join veterans' service organizations and professional organizations.
2. Provide an extended time frame for transition support to secure success.
3. Partners and employers must collect and share success stories and lessons learned.

Other informative articles include *Building Strong Programs and Policies to Support Women Veterans* and *Understanding the Complexity of Women Veterans' Career Transitions*. The articles are supported by data from surveys taken by former military women and give information about current policies and suggested policies to help women veterans.

Another list on the site is an article titled *Successful Workplaces Guidelines: Valuing Equity, Diversity and Work-life Balance*. This list is a good read as it applies to everyone - men, women, young and old - everyone across the board.

- Flexibility. Employers should offer their employees the tools

- telecommuting options, shift exchanges, compressed work weeks and predictable schedules - to better manage their life inside and outside of the workplace.

- Diversity. Diversity should be inclusive so define it as broadly as possible for a competitive advantage: race, age, gender, orientation, disability, religion.
- Equity. It currently takes sixteen months for a woman to earn what a man makes in twelve months without factoring in one's race. Make equity a priority - in pay and access for positions and promotions.
- Sustainability. Eventually we will all have green or greener jobs. Be it working as a wind turbine technician or a bus driver operating a clean-fuel vehicle, it is everyone's responsibility to work more efficiently. As the return on investment for going green becomes clearer, businesses will find that taking steps to protect the environment will directly minimize operational costs.
- Care giving. Mothers are not the only ones tending to the needs of their families. Care giving applies to the grandmother watching her grandchildren. Or the uncle watching over his injured niece coming back from Afghanistan. Or the son whose father joins his household. Allow for flexibility and compassion and your employees will reward you in productivity.
- Wellness. Paid sick days allow for those who are sick to be sick. Employees should not have to choose between infecting co-workers, prolonged health problems and food on the table. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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- Multigenerational. There are four generations in today's workforce including Generation Y and they can all learn from one another. Generation Y is 80 million-strong, and poised to transform the workplace; they are tomorrow's leaders. They want to impact the world, they are mission driven and they need the support of their employers and co-workers. Give it to them.
- Social spaces. Use social media to reach new audiences quickly and efficiently. Companies scoring the highest on an engagement scale experienced significant revenue growth. Brands with the least engagement saw revenue decline. Find your voice and your message and your "friends" will follow.
- Retention. Want to keep your most promising and knowledgeable staff? Provide mentoring, professional development, career advancement planning and continuing education to keep your talent working for you.
- Practice. Work-life balance is important to men, women, families, care-givers, donors, stakeholders and employers that want to keep their competitive edge. Use policies, don't just have them on the books. Everyone should embrace them, from the CEO to the staff assistant.

The last segment I want to talk about is *Forces Impacting 21st Century Workforces and Workplaces*, which is a collection of "discussion topics for use in WOMENomics® Forums or small-group discussions on issues important to workingwomen and employers. Conversations should be focused on enabling workingwomen, policymakers, and employers to find common ground around the challenges facing them and to develop solutions that will help create successful workplaces that empower workingwomen (and men) to achieve their full potential. WOMENomics® is a signature grassroots program that brings together local businesses, government, educational institutions, and civic organizations in the community to identify, act on, and resolve the everyday

issues that challenge workingwomen and their employers. This model program is an outgrowth of the BPW Foundation's extensive experience bringing together key figures from all sectors to create solutions to workplace issues."

The discussions are timely and relevant to workingwomen and men in our society today. As BPW discovers new trends, they update these discussions to reflect what is happening in our society at that moment in time. I feel these discussions will benefit employers and employees to start up in their businesses and/or with other businesses in their community as they may assist in making the workplace environment a more pleasant and productive climate in which to do business.

The About Us section of the site states what they are all about: "BPW Foundation transforms workplaces by strengthening the capacity of organizations and businesses to create work environments that are inclusive and value the skills and contributions of working women. A Successful Workplace, as defined by BPW Foundation, is one that practices and embraces work-life balance, equity and diversity."

BPW has been around for many years. "While mobilizing for World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need for a cohesive group to coordinate identification of women's available skills and experiences. A Women's War Council, financed through a federal grant, was established by the War Department to organize the resources of professional women. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was founded on July 15, 1919. The organization later filed to 'do business as' (dba) Business and Professional Women/USA (BPW/USA). Throughout the years, three major issues shaped BPW/USA's legislative agenda: elimination of sex discrimination in employment, the principle of equal pay, and the need for a comprehensive equal rights amendment." 

Afghanistan Continued from Page 12

yet effective canal system used to water their crops.

This area north of Gardez was one that probably wasn't occupied by the Russians. The mountains were full of trees whereas the KG pass mountains were barren. From what I read the Soviets destroyed quite a bit of foliage to prevent ambushes. The crops in this area were bountiful and my take on it was that the locals were growing food not just for their families but as a means of income. Standing on top of a mountain and looking down at a green peaceful valley is a sight to see in a war zone. There were acres upon acres of corn and the fields were being worked with old tractors. In KG pass most of the farm fields you saw were small, worked by hand and probably used just to feed the immediate families and their livestock.

Even though there are areas in the country that are green and beautiful, for the most part this country was a disheartening place. It is sad that this country is so poor and the basic things we take for granted don't exist. The roads are dirt, and dust was always being kicked up when we traveled. There is no sanitation system so trash litters the countryside. Graves are all over the place, even off of major roads, instead of in local cemeteries. Some of the means of transportation are camels and donkeys so it isn't a shock to see these animals on the streets. If you saw that in the United States you would think Ringling Brothers Circus was in town. The homes are made out of dirt whereas in the U.S. the last time people lived in dirt homes was over 150 years ago. The markets are open with hanging meat instead of your friendly Hy-Vee store with refrigeration. Even though it is a disheartening place to see, I still couldn't help but envision the beauty this country could possess if her inhabitants lived in peace. I could picture ski resorts, biking and hiking trails. I could picture beautiful homes surrounding lakes in the mountains like those in the Rockies. Maybe one of these days the violence will cease and the true beauty of the mountains will show. 



TET CELEBRATION AT THE ASIAN COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER

By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

Happy Lunar New Year! Chuc Mung Nam Noi!



The Asian Community and Cultural Center (ACCC) was the site for the annual Tet Celebration in Lincoln. The Tet Celebration

is the Chinese and Vietnamese celebration of the lunar new year and the most important holiday in China and Vietnam. This year, 2010 is the Year of the Tiger.

The celebration at the ACCC was very festive. I attended with my five year old

son and he was very excited when he saw the delicious food spread out for our enjoyment. There were Vietnamese Spring Rolls (I liked them so much I could have made a whole meal out

of them), Chả Lua (Vietnamese sausage – Josh loved this so much I asked one of the ladies that worked there where I could buy it!), sweet sticky rice (coconut flavored and reddish pink in color), fried rice, green rice cake and a wonderful assortment of candy. A gentleman heard me inquiring about the food and where I



might be able to purchase some of it and he told me of a Vietnamese church in Lincoln that sells it every weekend (Immaculate Heart of Mary). I will be trying this out soon.

Upon arrival, all the children were

given a fancy red envelope with lucky money in it.

The festivities began with a sudden and very loud explosion of fireworks just outside a door of the room where we all gathered. Immediately following

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Asian-Nation website's explanation of Tet and the Lunar New Year

Tết Nguyên Đán literally means the first morning of the first day of the new period. More simply known as Tết, it is Vietnam's version of the Lunar New Year and is celebrated by millions of Vietnamese all around the world.

Families believe that their activities during Tết must involve happiness, joy, and good luck. That's why even before the beginning of Tết, it's customary for families to prepare by cleaning and even painting their home in anticipation of spring, settle old debts and disputes, and pledge to behave nicely and work hard in the new year. People also traditionally buy new clothes to usher in the new year.

Paying homage to one's ancestors is another important component of Tết as families pray at temples, churches, and pagodas. The night before the new year, families perform a ritual where incense sticks are burned, inviting the

spirits of their ancestors to join them in celebration. This is also a time to bid farewell to the family's Kitchen God (Ong Tao), who then returns to heaven to report on the family's behavior in the past year to the Jade Emperor.

Houses are also decorated with several things, such as a Cay Neu, a small bamboo tree planted in the front of the house; Hoa Mai, a yellow blossom that represents spring; and red banners on the front door as it's believed that red wards off evil spirits from entering the house. Adults also give fancy red envelopes to children full of Li Xi or "lucky money," always in even denominations since odd numbers are considered bad luck.

The Lunar Year holiday was originally brought to Vietnam by the Chinese, who were Viet Nam's traditional nemesis for almost 2,000 years. In times when

the Chinese ruled Viet Nam, they also brought with them their own policies, culture, and traditions. The Lunar New Year was passed to the Vietnamese people and has stayed relatively intact through the centuries, despite uneasy and often hostile relations between the two countries. Nonetheless, one of the differences between the two traditions concerns the Lunar calendar itself. The main difference between the Chinese and Vietnamese lunar calendars is that the Vietnamese replace the Ox, Rabbit, and Sheep in the Chinese calendar with the Buffalo, Cat, and Goat, respectively.

Along with many other Asian countries, both the Chinese and the Vietnamese recognize the Lunar calendar as part of their cultural tradition. It's a calendar that incorporates a zodiac of twelve animals in rotation. As a new lunar new year begins, the "year" of a new animal also begins.



APRIL FOOL'S DAY

By Pam Makovicka



*The first of April, some do say
Is set apart for All Fool's Day;
But why the people call it so
Nor I, nor they themselves, do know,
But on this day are people sent
On purpose for pure merriment.*



Unlike most holidays, the history of April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day is not clear. There really wasn't a first April Fool's Day pinpointed on the calendar. Some claim that April Fools' Day began in 1582 when the Gregorian calendar took over from the Julian calendar. Pope Gregory XIII ordered the Gregorian calendar with the changed New Year's Day to be celebrated on January 1. Ancient cultures celebrated New Year's Day on or around April 1. According to one popular explanation, many people either refused to accept the new date or did not learn about it. People who had accepted the change began to make fun of these traditionalists and eventually this practice spread throughout the land.

Another explanation of the origins of April Fool's Day was provided by Joseph Boskin, professor of history at Boston University. He believed the practice began during the reign of Constantine. A group of court jesters and fools told the Roman emperor that they could do a better job of running the empire. Constantine was amused and allowed a jester by the name of Kugel to be king for one day. Kugel

passed a proclamation that called for absurdity on that day and the custom became an annual event. It started as a serious day, since in those times, fools were really wise men and

the role of jesters was to put things in perspective with humor.

Wherever or whenever the custom began, it has since evolved on lore and sets of unofficial rules. Superstition has it that the pranking period expires at noon on April 1. Any jokes attempted after that time will call bad luck down on the head of the joker. Additionally, those who fail to respond with good humor to tricks played on them are said to attract bad luck to themselves.

The style of April Fool's pranks have changed over the years. Sending the unsuspecting on pointless errands was an especially prized practical joke during the early times. It is now a tradition to pull jokes of a harmless variety on those near and dear to us. Current tastes seem to run more to a funny phone call and media-driven extravaganzas. An example of this came in 1998 when Burger King published a full page advertisement in

USA Today announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper," specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new Whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the left-handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone to restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right-handed' version." Isn't it amazing how we can be tricked into believing what we know can't be true? If you would like to see more of the Top 100 pranks pulled for April Fool's Day, check out the website <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

April Fool's Day is a for-fun-only observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or take their significant other out to eat in a fancy restaurant. No one gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain ever vigilant, for you may be the next April Fool!



2009 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION RECAP

PLACING YOUR STAKE IN THE GROUND

By SSgt Jarell Roach

The SEP Group held this year's African American Heritage Month Celebration in conjunction with Black History Month on February 10, 2010. The luncheon was a success in terms of attendance, fellowship and the enthusiastic feedback received from those who attended. By far, one of the most anticipated moments of the event was to hear from the keynote speaker, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Tight Ends Coach Ron Brown. The audience left very encouraged by the speech he delivered as was evidenced by the standing ovation he received in closing. It was a brief experience with history, faith and personal reflection. Comments from attendees included "Excellent speaker, excellent food, excellent message," "Great speaker and even greater message," "I love diversity, Coach B rocks" and "Great role model."

Ron Brown is a highly recognized member of the Huskers college football team, serving and coaching for nineteen seasons overall. Not only is he known for his ability to coach, but he is also an esteemed Minister of the Gospel, as he so well stated, "My message will never change."

Mr. Brown and former Husker Stan Parker are co-founders and co-directors of a statewide Christian ministry called Mission Nebraska. This ministry stewards numerous Christian radio stations and translators across Nebraska, along with



Ron Brown and BG Judd Lyons

facilitating a host of other endeavors that are near to Brown's heart.

The 53-year-old Brown spent the four years in between coaching the Huskers serving as the Nebraska State Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). While he relinquished that duty to return to the Cornhuskers, he continues as a regular columnist for FCA's National Magazine *Sharing the Victory*. Brown also hosts a national weekly one-minute sports feature called, *I Got Jesus, Who You Got*.

During his time away from coaching, Brown also worked as an internet, television and radio college and high school analyst for ESPN and Sports Spectrum.

Coach Brown shared with the audience ten profiles of Black history. These were profiles of ten people in his life who stood out and have impacted him and others. In his speech he embraced great crusaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., inventors like George Washington Carver, athletic giants like Jackie Robinson, the notable coach Tony Dungee, and the astute woman we know as Sojourner Truth. These people he described as being mentors and difference-makers in his life and the lives of others. In closing, he drew the hearts of his audience near



CPT Dale Burrage receiving the Strength in Diversity Award from BG Judd Lyons

as he enlightened us on the final three individuals who impacted his life; his biological mother (who gave him up for adoption) and his adoptive parents who raised and nurtured him.

His articulation of each character pulled at the drawstrings of the audience's hearts, souls and minds. It is imaginable that as the listeners sat attentively, profiles of heroes in their personal lives began to surface in thought and memory.

In his remarks, Mr. Brown expounded on the concept of *placing your stake in the ground*. As military personnel we were reminded of the very core values that have been conducive to our careers. "Those that hold true to their convictions are the ones that push the margins in this world," Brown said. As a military member I comprehend concepts like wingman and battle-buddy, and therefore it registered within me as he expounded on the significance of having people in our lives who inspire us in "holding true to our convictions." Integrity is about learning to be true no matter where we are in life.

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FIRST WOMAN BECOMES ARMY PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

*Story by Jeffrey Castro, USACIDC Public Affairs; Photo by Jeffrey Castro
Reprint from Fort Belvoir, Virginia (Army News Service, January 15, 2010)*

Brigadier General (BG) Colleen L. McGuire assumed responsibility as the first woman Provost Marshal General of the Army and also took command of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) in a ceremony on Thursday, January 15, 2010, at Fort Belvoir.

McGuire succeeds BG Rodney L. Johnson, who is retiring after 33 years of service. She assumes the Army's top law-enforcement position after serving since March as head of the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force.

McGuire is the tenth commander of CID since it was first established as a major command September 17, 1971, and the thirteenth provost marshal general of the Army since 1941. She is the first woman in both positions.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army General Peter W. Chiarelli hosted the ceremony at Well's Field House on Fort Belvoir and during his remarks noted how the Army's military law-enforcement team contributes to the Army mission, in theater and worldwide.

"You [Army law enforcement] should be incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished on behalf of your Army and our Nation," Chiarelli said. "You have a significant and lasting impact. However, much work remains to be done. And, I absolutely believe Brigadier General Colleen McGuire is the right person to lead you in the challenging days ahead. She is a proven, gifted leader - both in garrison and combat."

McGuire most recently served for about two years as the director, Senior Leader Development Office, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army, while also leading the

Army Suicide Prevention Task Force established ten months ago. She assumes command of CID as the organization enters its 39th year as the Army's premier investigative agency for felony-level crime.

"I am honored to be given this privilege to command and lead," McGuire said. "The greatest honor for any Solider is to command the sons and daughters of America. It is a particular honor for me, a military police officer, to command at this level in a time of war."

Following the change-of-command ceremony, McGuire took the oath to assume responsibilities as the Army's Provost Marshal General. The position was first established in 1776 during the Revolutionary War, but was abolished after the war. During its long history, it was usually established during major combat, but discontinued shortly after the conflict was over.

In line with history, the Secretary of the Army at the time, Thomas White, approved the re-establishment of the office, effective September 26, 2003, during the Global War on Terrorism.

McGuire concluded her comments with a reminder to all that the work of the Army's law-enforcement team is never done.

"We are truly an expeditionary force," she said. "Our military police, criminal investigators, corrections experts, civilian police and support team need to maintain their edge under conditions of



Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli swears in Brig. Gen. Colleen McGuire as the Provost Marshal General of the Army

uncertainty and change regardless of the operational environment. To do that, we need to be, and will remain grounded and pure in our doctrine, our organizations, our training and our operations."

McGuire is a 1979 graduate of the University of Montana where she was commissioned in the Military Police Corps. During nearly thirty years of active service, she has been assigned in key command and staff billets from platoon level to the Army staff. Her initial assignment was to Germany where she served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, and Battalion Logistics Officer with the 709th Military Police Battalion.

In March 1989 she began her first of multiple tours in the Washington, D.C. area when she was assigned as a staff officer in the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Pentagon, and later, as the Battalion operations officer, Law Enforcement Battalion, Fort Belvoir.



SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

SSGT CASEY SVITAK

NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD SERVICES TECHNICIAN

When I was a boy, I spent a lot of time on my great grandparents' farm. We would climb trees, jump from hay bale to hay bale, and stuff ourselves with kolaches. While enjoying some of the fruit filled pastries, we

would sit at the table and look at a glass case full of crystal and other items that my grandmother had brought brought during her annual trip to Czechoslovakia. My mother told me where they had come from and I would sit and stare at them. I would sometimes sit and wonder about the faraway place they had come from. Every once in awhile, she would get a phone call from a family member and speak in Czech.

I once asked my grandmother if she would teach me Czech. She declined and said that I was in America and that



I needed to speak English. I later found out that when she was younger, she had been treated in a negative way when she was a little girl because she couldn't speak English.

She was just trying to save us from her experiences.

After my grandparents passed away, I realized that a link to my heritage was gone as well. This is why learning about diversity is so important to me. I had a wealth of history and tradition that was available to me but I didn't take advantage of it. I ended up as an empty kolache without any fruit filling. I am doing the best I can to learn from others, filling myself with samplings of various cultures and experiences.

I joined the Air National Guard in 2000. When I arrived at basic training, I was amazed at the diversity of the people I found there. The Airman next to me was from Guam and I asked him so many questions he called me an investigative reporter. I was excited to immerse myself in an environment where I could meet a wide range of people, and enjoy a wide range of career opportunities.

I have been full time in the Air National Guard for nearly ten years. For the first eight years I was in Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE). AGE is powered and non-powered support equipment used on the flight line for maintenance of aircraft. About a year ago I made a drastic change when I moved into Air Force Services. A career in services is quite diverse in itself – Food Service, Lodging, Fitness, and Mortuary Affairs. I work primarily with Food Service and Fitness.

I have two boys, Patton, three and Kenner four, who love football and baseball. My wife is a Speech Pathologist at Crete Elementary School. She enjoys working with kids and helping kids with special needs and speech problems. 

TET Celebration Continued from Page 18

the fireworks, the Lion Dancers began playing their drums for the dancers to join us in the celebration. I always enjoy this part of the festivity as the Lion Dancers are so full of energy and enthusiasm and the lion costumes are always so beautiful and colorful.

In addition, there were two speakers who gave short talks on the Tet Celebration. The rest of the evening was spent eating and socializing



with others in attendance, including one of Josh's classmates from kindergarten and his mother whom we invited to the event (Mom and Dad are originally from China). Kids and adults alike had a very good evening.

For more information on the Tet celebration see the following websites:

<http://www.asian->

[nation.org/tet.shtml](http://www.nation.org/tet.shtml)

<http://www.thingsasian.com/stories-photos/1253>

<http://goseasia.about.com/od/eventsfes6/al/tet.htm>

<http://www.adoptvietnam.org/vietnamesel-tet-links.html> 





SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

KAREN JORDAN-ANDERSON

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE 155TH AIR REFUELING WING OF THE NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Karen began her journey with the Nebraska Air National Guard (NEANG) in May of 2008.

Karen describes her position as a one-stop-shop for information, resources, and referrals; she is a non-military, approachable person that military members and their families can call when they have questions or need support. And Karen loves her job!

"I thoroughly enjoy helping people navigate through the challenges that life throws their way," Karen states. And she has been doing that for better than ten years now, mostly working in the non-profit arena. Just prior to coming to the NEANG, Karen was the Program Director for the Individual and Family Support Services for the Arc of Lincoln/Lancaster County.

"The missions of my former position and my current position are remarkably similar. At the Arc, I helped people discover their abilities, as my program was designed to work with people with developmental disabilities and their

families. Like at the Arc, my job with the Nebraska Air National Guard is about arming people with information and resources, empowering them, and looking forward. It is about community awareness and building relationships. It's all about supporting the people I serve, working with a much broader community, with a more diverse set of challenges."

Karen brings a wide range of knowledge and experience to the NEANG and to the SEP group. The Arc offered her the opportunity to navigate the Health and Human Services system, the educational system, and explore community resources to assist her customers. Prior to that position, Karen was the Director of Certification for the Organic



Crop Improvement Association, International. Though based in Lincoln, Karen had the opportunity to travel and work with organic farmers and manufacturers from all over the globe. She has had some experience as a military family member since her father was a career Navy man, so she traveled some as a child, starting school on base in Japan. Her husband did a stint in the Navy as well,

so she knows what a deployment is like.

All in all, Karen believes that she has found her niche. "All of my experience and my passion for supporting people has led me to this place, to this position, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the military members and their family members who sacrifice so much for the rest of us." 

African American Celebration Continued from Page 20

Within ourselves, integrity causes us to be non-negotiating, as opposed to living a double-standard lifestyle. Therefore, we not only had the chance to commemorate and admire the African American heritage, but we also, when looking into such dynamic and influential people in history, were challenged to examine self.

When interviewing Ron Brown after his presentation, there was one thing



in particular he mentioned that struck a newer level in my personal ideology. He reminded me of a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., which expressed that we must learn to recognize man not necessarily

by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character. "Whatever paradigm you live in will cause the questions that

you ask, to resolve in the answers you receive," Brown said. Therefore, are we placing our stake in the ground and holding true to our convictions with diligence and integrity to our convictions? Many African Americans, both past and present have held true to theirs; being non-negotiating, thus,

generating an immense echelon of perseverance throughout history that has positively influenced our culture today. 





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2000s TRIVIA ANSWERS

“The most exciting breakthroughs of the 21st century will not occur because of technology but because of an expanding concept of what it means to be human.” -- John Naisbitt

1. a. Alberto Contador Velasco (born December 6, 1982 in Pinto, Madrid) is a Spanish professional road bicycle racer for International Cycling Union (UCI) ProTeam Astana. He was the winner of the 2007 Tour de France with the Discovery Channel team, and the 2008 Giro d'Italia, the 2008 Vuelta a España, and the 2009 Tour de France with Astana. He is the fifth racer in history, and the first Spaniard, to win all three Grand Tours of road cycling.



2. b. Ann Dunwoody, a native of New York, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1975 after her graduation from State University of New York in Cortland. She also holds graduate degrees in national resource strategy and logistics management. She became the Army's top-ranking woman in 2005 when she received her third star and became Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Logistics. On June 23, 2008, President Bush nominated Lieutenant General Ann E. Dunwoody to serve as head of the Army's supply arm. She was confirmed by the Senate on July 23, 2008 and promoted to General on November 14, 2008.



3. d. Anousheh Ansari (born September 12, 1966 in Mashhad, Iran) is an engineer and the Iranian-American co-founder and chairman of Prodea Systems, Inc. and a spaceflight participant with the Russian space program. The Ansari family is also the title sponsor of the Ansari X PRIZE. On September 18, 2006, a few days after her 40th birthday, she became the first Muslim female in space. Ansari is the fourth overall self-funded space tourist, and the first self-funded woman to fly to the International Space Station.



4. c. Drew Gilpin Faust was named the first female president of Harvard University. She took office as Harvard's 28th President on July 1, 2007. Faust, an historian of the Civil War and the American South, is also the Lincoln Professor of History in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Previously she had served as Founding Dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, a post she took on January 1, 2001.



5. a. Vonetta Flowers was born on October 29, 1973 in Birmingham, Alabama. She was a member of the Gold Medal-winning two-woman bobsled team. Flowers also became the first African American athlete to win a Gold Medal at the Winter Games.



6. d. Best Actress winner Halle Berry gave an emotional speech as she spoke from the heart about what the award meant to her and to African American actresses. On March 24, 2002, Halle Berry became the first Black woman to win an Oscar for a starring performance. The honor left the *Monster's Ball* star in tears and unable to speak for nearly a minute. “This moment is so much bigger than me,” she finally choked out, ticking off the names of other Black actresses. Given the sign to wrap up her acceptance speech at the 74th annual Oscars, she protested, “This is 74 years here; I’ve got to take this time.” Berry went on to say “This moment is for all the nameless, faceless women of color who now have a chance because this door tonight has been opened.”



7. b. Condoleezza Rice was born on November 14, 1954, in Birmingham, Alabama. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1974 from the University of Denver, her Master's Degree in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 1975, and her doctorate in political science from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981. Condoleezza Rice was nominated for Secretary of State by George W. Bush on November 14, 2004, and assumed office on January 26, 2005. She served for four years, leaving the position on January 20, 2009. She was the first African American woman to serve as Secretary of State.



8. d. On January 24, 2003, Tom Ridge became the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Ridge stepped down as Secretary in February 2005. Born August 26, 1945, in Pittsburgh's Steel Valley, Governor Ridge was raised in a working class family in veterans' public housing

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Trivia Answers Continued from Page 24

“You got a dream, you got to protect it. People can’t do something themselves, they want to tell you that you can’t do it. You want something? Go get it.”~ The Pursuit of Happiness

in Erie. He earned a scholarship to Harvard, graduating with honors in 1967. After his first year at The Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as an Infantry Staff Sergeant in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star for Valor. After returning to Pennsylvania, he earned his law degree and was in private practice before becoming Assistant District Attorney in Erie County. He was elected to Congress in 1982. He was the first Congressman to have served as an enlisted Soldier in the Vietnam War, and was overwhelmingly re-elected five times. Ridge served as Pennsylvania’s Governor from 1995 to 2001.



9. c. Danica Patrick became the first female winner in Indy Car history, taking the Indy Japan 300 after the top contenders were forced to pit for fuel in the final laps. Patrick finished 5.8594 seconds ahead of pole-sitter Helio Castroneves on the 1.5-mile Twin Ring Motegi oval after leader Scott Dixon pitted with five laps left and Dan Wheldon and Tony Kanaan came in a lap later.



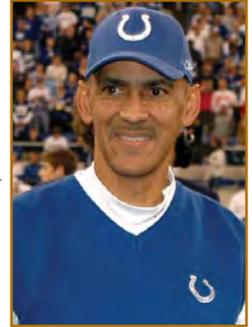
10. d. In November 2006, Democrat Keith Ellison comfortably won the race for the Fifth District U.S. House seat, beating both the Independence Party and Republican candidates by around 30 points. Ellison campaigned heavily against the war in Iraq and put environmental and health care issues at the top of his list of priorities. Ellison is the first Muslim to be elected to Congress.



11. a. Reverend V. Gene Robinson was elected Bishop in 2003 and entered office in March 2004. The Episcopal Church of the United States gave its landmark approval to the election of an openly gay bishop, a day after an eleventh-hour investigation abruptly postponed the historic decision. Bishops of the church, by a 62-43 vote, with two not voting, consented to the election of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson to become Bishop of New Hampshire.



12. b. In 2007, Anthony Kevin “Tony” Dungy led the Indianapolis Colts to a 29-17 victory over the Chicago Bears and became the first African American coach to win a Super Bowl. Dungy joined Mike Ditka and Tom Flores as the only men to win Super Bowl titles as both players and coaches. Dungy, a former University of Minnesota quarterback, was a backup safety for the championship Pittsburgh Steelers in 1978.



13. b. Rosa Parks, whose act of civil disobedience in 1955 inspired the modern civil rights movement, died Monday, October 24, 2003 in Detroit, Michigan. She was 92. She was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama, on February 4, 1913. Her marriage to Raymond Parks lasted from 1932 until his death in 1977. Parks’ moment in history began in December 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.



14. c. Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson was born with spina-bifida on July 26, 1969. Tanni is considered to be one of the most successful athletes with a disability in the United Kingdom.



Although she was christened Carys Davina, when her two-year-old sister, Sian, first saw baby Carys, she lovingly called her “tiny” or as she pronounced it, “tanni” and the name stuck. Young Tanni had to wear callipers and first used a wheelchair at the age of seven. From the outset, her parents were supportive and encouraged her independent streak. Teachers at Birch Grove Primary School remember her as a little girl determined to find out for herself what she could and could not do. It wasn’t long before Tanni was an accomplished all rounder at sports, enjoying swimming, archery and horse riding. Tanni has played an active part in the promotion of sports in Britain and has been a Board



Trivia Answers Continued from Page 25

Member on the following organizations: Sports Council for Wales and Elite Cymru / Sportlot panel; Sport England Lottery Awards Panel; and UK Sport, and Vice-Chair of the Lottery Awards Panel. Tanni was also a member of the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games Organising Council and has twice been Chair of the British Wheelchair Racing Association. An eleven time Paralympic Gold Medal winner, Tanni was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2005.



15. a. Tiger Woods became the youngest-ever career grand slam winner in 2000 at age 25, when he won the British Open. Born Eldrick Woods, December 30, 1975, in Cypress, California, he legally changed his name to "Tiger" in the late 1990s. Woods was imitating his father's golf swing at age six months, while still in his crib. At age two, he appeared on the Mike Douglas Show and putted with Bob Hope. At age three, he shot 48 for 9 holes, and at age five he was featured in *Golf Digest*. Other firsts for Tiger include: in 1997, he became the youngest-ever Masters champion at age 21 years, three months and 14 days and he was also the youngest (age 15) ever to win the U.S. Junior Amateur and the youngest (age 18) to win the U.S. Amateur.



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April Fool's Day Hoaxes Continued from Page 14

holiday spot. Only a few noticed that everything about the island was named after printer's terminology. The success of this hoax is widely credited with launching the enthusiasm for April Foolery that gripped the British tabloids in subsequent decades.

Planetary Alignment Decreases Gravity

1976: The British astronomer Patrick Moore announced on *BBC Radio 2* that at 9:47 a.m. a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event was going to occur that listeners could experience in their very own homes. The planet Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, temporarily causing a gravitational alignment that would counteract and lessen the Earth's own gravity. Moore told his listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment that this planetary alignment occurred, they would experience a strange floating sensation. When 9:47 a.m. arrived, *BBC2* began to receive hundreds of phone calls from listeners claiming to have felt the sensation. One woman even reported that she and her eleven friends had risen from their chairs and floated around the room.

The Eruption of Mount Edgumbe

1974: Residents of Sitka, Alaska were alarmed when the long-dormant volcano neighboring them, Mount Edgumbe, suddenly began to belch out billows of black smoke. People spilled out of their homes onto the streets to gaze up at the volcano, terrified that it was active again and might soon erupt. Luckily it turned out that man, not nature, was responsible for the smoke. A local practical joker named Porky Bickar had flown hundreds of old tires into the volcano's crater and then lit them on fire, all in a (successful) attempt to fool the city dwellers into believing that the volcano was stirring to life. According to local legend, when Mount St. Helens erupted six years later, a Sitka resident wrote to Bickar to tell him, "This time you've gone too far!"

Internet Spring Cleaning

1997: An email message spread throughout the world announcing that the internet would be shut down for cleaning for twenty-four hours from March 31 until April 2. This cleaning was said to be necessary to clear out the "electronic flotsam and jetsam" that had accumulated in the network. Dead email and inactive ftp, www, and gopher sites would be purged. The cleaning would be done by "five very powerful Japanese-built multi-lingual Internet-crawling robots (Toshiba ML-2274) situated around the world." During this period, users were warned to disconnect all devices from the internet. The message supposedly originated from the "Interconnected Network Maintenance Staff, Main Branch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology." This joke was an updated version of an old joke that used to be told about the phone system. For many years, gullible phone customers had been warned that the phone systems would be cleaned on April Fool's Day. They were cautioned to place plastic bags over the ends of the phone to catch the dust that might be blown out of the phone lines during this period.

"What we do in life echoes in eternity."

Gladiator (2000) – Maximus (Russell Crowe)

BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNERSubmitted by
BG Roma Amundson*2010 is The Year of the
Tiger (February 14, 2010 –
February 2, 2011)**For anyone who is born in 1950, 1962,
1974, 1986, 1998 and now in 2010 – you are one
of the People of the Tiger. What that means is that you
are generally well-liked, charismatic, and always seeking a**higher level of success. You're a quick learner, need
to be challenged, and like to work alone on projects.**Generally speaking, People of the Tiger are natural
born leaders, are straightforward in their relationships
with other people, and are outgoing by nature. Although
genuinely interested in people, Tigers can be suspicious
of other people's motives and sometimes make hasty
judgments. Tigers tend to spend money because they
know that they can always make more in the future.**My sister-in-law is Chinese and a naturalized citizen,
having been born in Malaysia. My brother met her while he was on rest and
relaxation from Vietnam; and after having a few dances with her in the
club, it was apparently all over for him, and engagement and marriage soon
followed.**Benefits of this relationship include fantastic Chinese meals – and the year
of 2010 was no different! The new Year of the Tiger was celebrated with
fried rice, stir-fry rice noodles, egg rolls, and lemon chicken – all followed
by fortune cookies. I'm happy to say that my fortune predicted long life,
fortune, and fame. And now, on to the recipe!*

Ingredients

2 teaspoons each sugar and sesame oil	¼ cup salted black beans
½ teaspoon salt	1 clove garlic
¼ cup cornstarch	About 2 ½ pounds chicken thighs and
3 tablespoons soy sauce	legs, cut in 1 to 1 ½ inch lengths
2 tablespoons sherry	1 lemon

Blend together the sugar, sesame oil, salt, cornstarch, soy sauce, and sherry until smooth. Rinse beans and drain well; mash with garlic, and add to the cornstarch paste. Stir in the chicken pieces to mix thoroughly, then arrange pieces evenly in a 10 or 11-inch heatproof, rimmed dish.

Roll lemon to soften, then cut in half and squeeze juice over chicken.

Cut the lemon shell into eighths and distribute over chicken. Cover top of dish completely. Support dish on a stand above 1 or 2 inches of boiling water in order to steam food to completion. (If you don't have a steamer, improvise one by placing a grate or grill over a pan with 1-2 inches of boiling water in it, and then put the covered pan with food on the grate/grill.)

Cover pan snugly and simmer rapidly for 30 minutes. Turn off heat and remove pan lid, allowing steam to disperse. Lift dish from pan, dry base with a towel and serve. 

LEMON CHICKEN

*Provost Marshal General Continued from Page 21*

In 1998, McGuire assumed command of the 705th Military Police Battalion, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



Following battalion command and senior service college, she returned in 2002 to Fort Leavenworth and served as brigade commander at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, followed by a tour as the assistant commandant, U.S. Army Military Police School.

Following her tour at the Military Police School, McGuire served an 18-month deployment as the provost marshal of Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Her most recent tour in Washington began with service as the chief, Colonels Management Office, Senior Leader Development, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army.

McGuire's deployment experience also includes service as the public affairs officer for Joint Task Force-Somalia.

McGuire is a graduate of the Military Police Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, the Public Affairs Officer Course, and the Army War College. She holds a master's degree in Military Arts and Science from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

McGuire's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with two oak-leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak-leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Senior Parachutist's Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge. 