

BRIDGING

THE GAP



ISSUE 22 ❖ JUNE - JULY 2010



The American Dream Realized by Newly Naturalized Citizens

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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

By the time you receive this issue of *Bridging the Gap*, it will be the end of May. Perhaps you've noticed a number of e-mails in your inbox regarding different groups who were specifically recognized by presidential proclamations in the month of May: Older Americans, Jewish Americans and Asian Americans. With the amount of information that comes through via electrons, we may often wonder "so what?" Rather than brushing off a mass e-mail about someone who is different than you, consider taking the time to read about what challenges they have faced, and go beyond the surface to find something in common.

Four Nebraskans were able to witness a special naturalization ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Army National Guard (ARNG) Diversity Conference in March. BG Amundson's article describes this event in detail,

providing a first-person account of the emotionally-charged celebration. Pam Makovicka and LaVonne Rosenthal present their perspectives on the ceremony along with other details of the March conference.

The variety of subjects we are able to bring to our readers is as diverse as the pieces of fabric in the colorful quilts made by our grandmothers. We look to our heritage to bring us stories about where we are today, individually and as a nation. We encourage you to share your own stories for publication in an upcoming issue of *Bridging the Gap*. Or if you know of someone in your community or your child's school who has an interesting story to share, please invite them to write about it so we can all become better aware of our neighbors.

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 July 3, 2010 for Issue 23: August-September 2010.

All article submissions, due June 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 IN THE HOME OF THE FREE AND THE BRAVE!

By BG Roma Amundson

Naturalization is the acquisition of citizenship or nationality by somebody who was not a citizen or national of that country when he or she was born.

The American Dream is vital, alive and well. I believe it, because a dream is alive as long as belief in it causes people to act.

I saw that belief actualized on March 9, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia at the National Diversity Conference.

On that day I witnessed a naturalization ceremony conducted by the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. For me, a second generation American, the ceremony was emotionally moving, as not too long ago in my own family's past, my grandparents decided to come to America to seek the better life they believed was here. Their decision has made all the difference in the world to me.

On March 9, 52 people filed forward as the Country Roll Call was made – beginning with Bangladesh and Colombia, moving through Ethiopia and Germany, and ending with the United Kingdom and Venezuela. In all, individuals from 28 different nations stood before the podium as the Immigration Services Officer made the recommendation to the District Director of Immigration that these people, having fulfilled all requirements of the naturalization process, be given the Oath of Allegiance in order to become

naturalized citizens of the United States.

The District Director accepted the recommendation, and the 52 people raised their right hand and promised that:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance

and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

After congratulating and welcoming the new citizens, General Craig McKinley challenged them to utilize their unique perspectives, talents and skill sets, shaped and honed by experiences in their homelands, to make the United States a more perfect union. He emphasized that whatever motivated them to come to the United States, whether for peace, economic opportunity or security, they now have the responsibility and the duty to work in harmony with all citizens to strengthen and secure our nation. General McKinley congratulated 20 young military men and women who had just become new citizens and said that their contributions are needed more than



ever in our armed forces. He said that they are among the brightest and best and promised them both rewards and challenges during their military service to our nation.

And then the music and voice of Lee Greenwood filled the conference hall, with *Proud to be an American*, and when he sang the words, "...stand up..." all attendees stood and sang along with him. A person would have had to have been comatose not to feel the pride and patriotism that filled the room, because there is probably no group that can define pride in country and patriotism better than American military personnel and their associates. I can't think of a better support, or introduction to, the pride that Americans feel in their country than was given to the newly naturalized citizens on March 9, 2010.

On that day, these new citizens took the oath of allegiance to the United States. In doing so, they swore to support and defend the Constitution and the laws

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Diversity in the Home of the Free and the Brave
by BG Roma Amundson Continued from Page 3

of the United States and to serve their new country as may be required of them by law – to bear arms, to perform noncombatant service in the armed forces and to perform work of national importance under civilian direction.

I am absolutely certain they will fulfill this oath – their motivation to do so is that they made the conscious decision to come to the United States. I believe they acted because they hold the American dream to be true and possible. I am confident they believe that through their hard work and energy, their lives and the lives of their children will be better than what could be achieved in their own homelands. For them, the United States is the land of opportunity, the same as it was for my grandparents who came here to homestead and raised their families in northern Nebraska.

I believe that the energy of naturalized citizens and their strongly held beliefs in the values, principles and possibilities offered by our country, will serve as continuing support of the United States. The eagerness, the open and questioning minds, and the faith that these people have in the American dream provide a breath of fresh air and new interpretations to situations and problems we face in our country. They reinforce our belief system, because sometimes those of us who have lived in the United States without experiencing life in another land don't fully understand what we have here in our homeland.

Sometimes a person has to travel outside the United States in order to learn what patriotism means, as I did, when I was a student in Germany in 1975, and put on the spot to defend our nation. This was at the time of the Civil Rights movement, protests against the Vietnam War and economic hardships. I was asked why the buffalo were practically exterminated, how assassinations of political leaders could occur, why people were demonstrating for equal rights when they are provided for in our Constitution, and so on and so on. When I was asked these questions and put on the defensive,



I suddenly became aware of how much I loved the United States despite all its problems. Three years later, in 1978, I enlisted in the military to clearly show my allegiance to the United States and that I was willing to support and defend its Constitution and laws. And here I am, 32 years later, still in the military, willing to support and defend our Constitution and nation.

So when we have people come to our nation to willingly accept the responsibilities of citizenship, I think that says something about how our country is viewed around the world by ordinary people – not by political leaders. While in San Salvador, El Salvador, I saw a line of people waiting for visas to the United States extend for four city blocks at 8:00 o'clock in the morning. My driver pointed it out to me and called it the *Street of Dreams*. In other countries, people have waited for years to obtain their visas to come to the United States and have overcome hardships to get here. There are many instances that show the strength and viability of the American dream around the world. The Statue of Liberty, with her burning torch held high in the sky, is still viewed as a beacon of



hope as it welcomes people, who are in search of dreams, to our shores.

People from other lands hope to find a welcoming environment here as they seek to become citizens, and I believe that we should provide that. Our new citizens hope to find the opportunity to grow in a safe and secure land where they will be understood by Americans just as they seek to understand Americans. We can all contribute our unique attributes to create a more perfect union, promote peace and grow in harmony – together! What all of us as Americans should hope for and work toward is mutual understanding and respect, and the capability to move on from simple tolerance to a recognition and celebration of the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

Jesse Jackson described America in this way: "America is not like a blanket – one piece of unbroken cloth. America is more like a quilt – many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven together by a common thread."

Let that common thread be respect for the dignity of individuals as each strives to realize dreams and hopes in our most wonderful land, the home of the free and the brave, where opportunity for all exists! 🌍



KEYS TO SUCCESS

By LtCol (P) Wendy K. Johnson

It was June 1994 and I was a new Logistics Planner struggling to get through our Wing's first deployed Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) in our new tanker mission...actually, I was struggling to get our Wing home from our first exercise. First, one of our own KC-135 tankers developed a maintenance problem. Then, one after another, each of the three C-130 aircraft we had scheduled either broke on arrival, or failed to arrive at all. I had all of about six months' experience under my belt and really wasn't sure where to begin to solve our airlift/redeployment problem. Leaving the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) Operations building after hearing the most recent news of the last C-130's maintenance divert (i.e., it wasn't coming), one of the more seasoned noncommissioned officers (NCOs) working with me asked the Wing Commander what he thought we should do. Without missing a beat, my boss replied to the NCO, "We're going to see what Captain Johnson wants to do."

I share this story because I view it as a pivotal moment in my career. What a confidence-building statement! In one brief sentence, my commander had conveyed his confidence that I could do the job. More importantly, he had conveyed his surety in my ability to the NCO – not me. It would be weeks later before the NCO would share the story with me, but at the moment of chaos, his statement gave me credibility in the eyes of my staff. I have the sense my commander knew the importance of giving me the opportunity to succeed, as

“Unless you're willing to have a go, fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen.”
Phillip Adams

such opportunities are an important element in growing leadership skills; but I often wonder if he knew at the time, the impact of his reply. Looking back, this public vote of confidence quite literally served as a key to my future success – first as a new logistician, but ultimately, and more broadly, as an officer.

Confidence is extremely empowering. Why is that important? I would assert there is a direct correlation between confidence and competence. Regardless of rank or position, every Soldier and Airman has a responsibility to lead at their level in the organization. I challenge you to remember the role confidence plays in building competence and expertise in our specialties. On the other hand, having confidence in one's abilities is not groundless. Factors of my past performance likely contributed to my commander's belief that I had the skill sets needed to reconcile our carefully planned redeployment against the realities of the lost airlift. Ultimately, those are the factors that I consider to be the keys to my success.

Before enumerating those factors, however, I think it's important to define success. How do you define success? In order to know if you are successful, you need to know what success looks like. The Dictionary.com website definition suggests success is an end state; “the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors,” or “a successful performance or achievement.” In this article,



I've been asked to write about my keys to success. Is there an end state that conveys success as a leader? I would argue “no.” Successful leadership is ongoing and successful leaders look for ways to improve their skills on a daily basis. For my part, there are five factors or tenets I apply with the aim of being successful.

I attribute success to hard work, learning, perseverance, accepting responsibility and helping others to succeed. Let's look at those factors individually.

Factor one: Hard work. I grew up in a family who ran a small business. The quality of work and effort expended in running a business contributed directly to our financial well-being. You don't have to grow up in that environment to incorporate those qualities into your work, but it shaped my personal approach. Do your best. Give a full day's effort for a full day's pay – every day... even the days you don't want to.

Factor two: Be a student. Study your discipline. Read history, military history, biographies, etcetera. I'm a reader, but if you're not, maybe movies are your thing. Or seek opportunities to practice and hone your trade. Find your learning style and grow your knowledge. It helps in keeping current in your field and creates, almost by default, a continuous improvement process in your leadership skills.

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PIONEER DAYS

By Mary
Schmidt-Rodriguez

Pioneer Days (also called Covered Wagon Days, Days of '47 or simply July 24th) commemorates the first company of Mormon Pioneers (led by Brigham Young) who officially entered the Valley of the Great Salt Lake on July 24, 1847. For Latter-day Saints (LDS), this event signaled the founding of a new homeland for the purpose of establishing their earthly Zion. They had journeyed west from their settlement in Nauvoo, Illinois, seeking refuge from religious persecution.

For a bit of history leading up to the journey, the following is an excerpt from *Our Heritage: A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*:

“Leaders of the Church had talked since at least 1834 about moving the Saints west to the Rocky Mountains, where they could live in peace... The evacuation of Nauvoo was originally

planned to take place in April 1846. But as a result of threats that the state militia intended to prevent the Saints from going west, the Twelve Apostles (http://www.mormonwiki.com/Quorum_of_the_Twelve_Apostles) and other leading citizens hurriedly met in council on 2 February 1846. They agreed that it was imperative to start west immediately, and the exodus began on 4 February. Under the direction of Brigham Young [the President of the Church at that time], the first group of Saints eagerly began their journey. However, that eagerness faced a great test, for there were many miles to be covered before permanent camps gave them respite from late winter weather and an exceptionally rainy spring...

“The faith, courage, and determination of these Saints carried them through cold, hunger, and the death of loved ones...

“It took the Saints 131 days to travel the 310 miles from Nauvoo to the settlements in western Iowa where they would pass the winter of 1846-1847 and prepare for their trek to the Rocky Mountains.” The largest settlement, Winter Quarters, was on the west side of the Missouri river in Nebraska. Due to many hardships during this time, Brigham Young’s son John called Winter Quarters “the Valley Forge of Mormondom.”

These experiences taught them many things about travel which helped them cross the remaining 1,000 miles in about 111 days.

“On 21 July 1847, Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow of the first pioneer company preceded the emigrants into Salt Lake Valley. They saw grass so deep that a person



could wade through it, promising land for farming, and several creeks that wandered through the valley. Three days later, President Brigham Young, who was ill with mountain fever, was driven in his carriage to the mouth of the canyon that opened into the valley. As President Young looked over the scene, he gave his prophetic benediction to their travels: ‘It is enough. This is the right place.’” These words spoken by Brigham Young are the reason for Pioneer Day.

“As the Saints who followed emerged from the mountains, they, too, gazed at their promised land! This valley with its salty lake gleaming in the western sun was the object of vision and prophecy, the land of which they and thousands after them dreamed. This was the land of their refuge...”

In the 19th century before Utah attained statehood, Pioneer Day celebrations often included readings of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and/or speeches about it (many still do). The Mormons perceive those documents as divinely inspired. This, along with their military service

This Is the Place

When Brigham Young led his “Pioneer Company” into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1847, he knew he had found the right place. The land was far away from the people who had persecuted them in Missouri and Illinois. It was also barren and dry—and to many who saw it—an impossible place to begin a new settlement.

“I want hard times,” he said, “so that every person that does not wish to stay for the sake of his religion will leave.” He ordered irrigation systems built, houses constructed, and crops planted so that those who followed would have food and shelter when they arrived.

The Mormons barely survived the first two winters, but soon farms, textile mills, and tanneries began producing. Through discipline and community effort, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had set up home in the valley where no one thought it possible.





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(Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War is one example) demonstrated their loyalty to the American Constitution and its founding at the same time as they were being labeled as disloyal and un-American by outsiders.

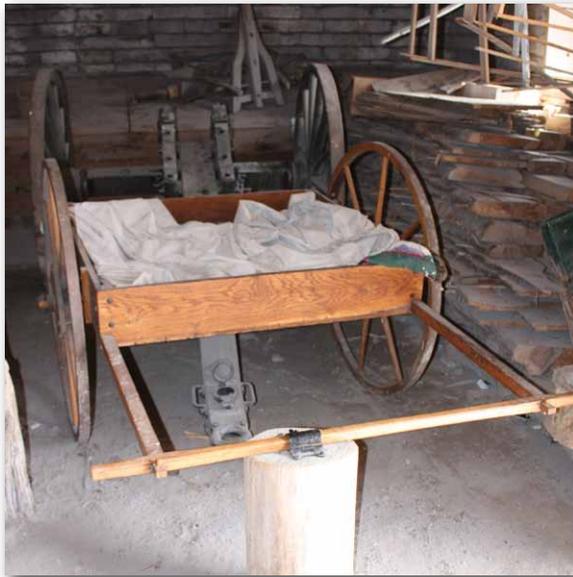
In 1917, a group placed a temporary marker in the exact location where Brigham Young made the above statement. Currently, the *This Is the Place Monument* stands at this location (dedicated in 1947). (<http://www.thisistheplace.org/>)

Mormon pioneers first commemorated this day in 1849. The celebration took place near the spot that Brigham Young had recently designated as the site of a future temple, the holiest place in Mormondom.

In 1857, while several thousand Mormons were gathered to celebrate, they became aware of the approach of Johnston's Army, which initiated the tense but essentially non-violent Utah War (<http://www.media.utah.edu/UHE/u/UTAHWAR.html>). During this "federal occupation" of Utah, Pioneer Day was celebrated little, if at all. Once President Abraham Lincoln initiated a hands-off policy in Utah in 1862 during the American Civil War, Pioneer Day was then again observed.

In the years that followed, federal enforcement efforts of anti-polygamy laws resulted in smaller celebrations. The 1886 commemoration was notable for its mourning theme, eulogizing the Saints who were in hiding for polygamy offenses. The 1897 celebration included the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the pioneers, the completion of the Salt Lake Temple, Utah statehood, and the virtual end of the anti-polygamy persecutions.

Today, Pioneer Day is an official holiday in Utah and is celebrated (in Utah and in regions surrounding the state originally



Although fewer than 10 percent of the 1847–68 Latter-day Saint emigrants made the journey west using handcarts, the handcart pioneers have become an important symbol in LDS culture, representing the faithfulness and sacrifice of the pioneer generation.

settled by Mormon pioneers) with parades, fireworks, rodeos and other festivities. Many make it a week-long celebration. Additionally, some Latter-day Saints walk portions of the Mormon trail or reenact entering the Salt Lake Valley by handcart. In the present time, Saints now reflect on the courage and strength of the pioneers.

In July 2010, the Lincoln Nebraska Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be celebrating Pioneer Days in (fittingly) Pioneers Park with crafts and other activities for children and adults, replicas of handcarts, games, food and music. The name of this year's celebration is *This Is The Place: A Pioneer Celebration*. For more information, please contact me at the email address on page 2.

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Our Heritage: A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

http://sltrib.com/Features/ci_12859198

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pioneer_Day_\(Utah\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pioneer_Day_(Utah))

<http://molly-mormon.com/pioneer-day-in-utah/>

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays.us/pioneer-day> 

Keys to Success Continued from Page 5

Factor three: Perseverance. There have been many occasions when I did not get the job or promotion I wanted on the timeline I wanted. There have been projects that didn't work out and had to be re-accomplished. Disappointment and frustration are natural feelings, but I would not be where I am today if I allowed myself to dwell on the negative. Learn and move on – maintain a purpose, focus on your goals and persist beyond obstacles.

Factor four: Accept responsibility. This tenet may seem a little odd in the context I provide, but a willingness to focus on accepting responsibility for failure or things that don't go well, as opposed to focusing on accepting credit for what goes well, is a powerful trait. I have learned that if I first accept responsibility, I find ways to improve or correct inadequacies and can develop better solutions more quickly. It's a form of being personally invested and it eliminates finger-pointing or blame. In an organization or when working with a group of people, once you move beyond whose fault it is, you can move to solutions. It is a far better way to expend energy.

This leads nicely into my fifth factor: Help others. Rarely is success in any organization solely attributable to a single person. When I have focused my efforts on helping others be successful, the mission tends to take care of itself. Ultimately, this is the role of a leader – to help others succeed in carrying out their tasks or mission.

I have been fortunate in my career to have had some great supervisors who set me up for success. Their leadership, coupled with my own hard work, a desire to always learn and grow, perseverance in the face of setbacks, accepting responsibility for those setbacks, and helping others are the keys to the success I have achieved in my career. In turn, I too, aim to set others up for success, and this brings me back to the definition of a successful leader. Perhaps the most telling end state or achievement is a legacy of leaders. It's certainly a vision worth striving to achieve. 



A TRIBUTE TO BLACK MUSIC MONTH: IN MEMORY OF LEWIS WAITES

By LTC Shawn
Edwards

Initially when I was asked to write an article on Black music, I was going to write about the transition of Black music from Folklore to Hip Hop. However, with the recent passing of Omaha native, jazz icon and drummer Luigi Waites, my focus shifted to recognizing one of Nebraska's own. Born Lewis Waites on July 10, 1927 in Omaha, Nebraska, he began playing drums at age twelve, and soon after began playing local nightclubs around Omaha. At that time the two local musicians unions were segregated. Like many Black youths in the 1930s and 1940s, Waites could not afford formal lessons; he was a self-taught musician who learned from observing other musicians. Waites received additional drum instruction from jazz drummer Elvin Jones, while serving in the U.S Army at Camp Lee, Virginia.

Waites performed with jazz legends such as Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald and Dinah Washington. His group Luigi Inc opened for Jean-Luc Ponty, James Brown and Dizzy Gillespie. Appearing weekly at Mr. Toads (the oldest bar in the Old Market) since 1975 up until the time of his death, he racked up nearly 1,700 performances. Luigi Inc released two compact discs *Fear Not* (2001) and *Distant Relatives* (2005). At the time of his death he was working on recording a live CD; it was completed but has not yet been released.

Waites was a groundbreaker and true jazz musician making history in Omaha. He was the first Black man hired as a teacher at an Omaha music store, and the first artist invited to teach jazz in the Omaha Public Schools. During the 1970s he

Rest in Peace Luigi. Job well done.



was a solo artist in the National School Tours, performing at school assemblies throughout fourteen Midwestern States. "Luigi's work in Nebraska schools bridged racial divides and the gap between the state's urban and rural areas," said Suzanne Wise, Executive Director of the Arts Council.

As a child I marched with the Salem Baptist Church drill team, unaware of the impact Luigi Waites had on the rhythms and beats of the drum corps. He was

one of the first musicians to change traditional military style marching to one that featured jazz rhythms, lyres and modern dance steps. Since he founded the Contemporaries Drum Corps in the 1960s, several other drum corps emerged emulating the sound created by Waites.

Waites' accolades include being named *Nebraska Artist of the Year, 1996*. The Luigi Waites Main Stage was dedicated to him in honor of twenty years of service on the board of the Omaha Summer Arts Festival. He was named the *81st Face on the Bar Room Floor of Omaha Press Club* in 2000. He was inducted into the Omaha Black Music Hall of Fame in 2005, received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* at the first annual Omaha Entertainment Awards in 2007 and was most recently awarded the *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Best Jazz Artist Award* in 2009.

Lewis Luigi Waites died April 6, 2010 at the age of 82. He was truly an icon in the world of music. He served the Omaha music community for over 60 years, teaching and inspiring young musicians. The many musicians he touched locally are a worldwide force in the music industry today. Gone, but never forgotten, Luigi Waites' music will continue to be an inspiration to musicians everywhere.

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VILLASUR'S PLATTE RIVER EXPEDITION: A BLOODY CLASH OF CULTURES IN NEBRASKA'S HISTORY

By CPT Richard Jones

Most people who have lived in the Columbus, Nebraska region have spent some recreational time in the area where the Platte and the Loup Rivers meet. I spent many days of my youth in this area, fishing in the river and exploring the woods nearby. The history of the area was then dated by the age of the televisions and broken appliances which were dumped along the tree line.

Years later, I was upstairs at the Nebraska History Museum in downtown Lincoln, touring the Native American exhibits, when I noticed a display that included a buffalo hide painting from the 18th century. The plate near the painting stated it's a replica of the original which had been created to tell the story of a great battle that occurred in 1720, near where the Platte and the Loup Rivers meet. This caught my attention. As an American from the Midwest, it's always shocking to me when I learn about a piece of local history which extends before the traditional pioneer period.

In 1714, Etienne de Veniard, Sieur de Bourgmont became the first European to reach the Platte River, and consequently named it. French expeditions and trading with the native peoples that continued in the area became a great concern to the Spanish, who had considered the Platte River area as their sovereign territory since the early 1700s. Formal war broke out between France and Spain in 1719. Governor Valverde of New Mexico appointed Lieutenant-General Pedro de Villasur to lead a Spanish military expedition into what is now Nebraska in order to find out what exactly the French were up to.

Villasur departed Santa Fe, New Mexico on June 16, 1720, leading approximately 40 Spanish soldiers, 60-70 Pueblo

scouts and twelve Apache guides. The expedition included a man named Jose Naranjo, the son of an African father and Hopi Indian mother. He was regarded as a very skillful and fearless explorer who had been conferred the title of *Captain of War* by the governor of New Mexico. The party also included a trader with six pack animals laden with goods, and a Catholic Priest, Father Fray Juan Minguez.

Their exact route from New Mexico to Nebraska is unknown, but is believed to follow traditional raiding trails which were used by the Pawnees against the Apaches. By August, the expedition had made contact with Pawnees and Otoes along the Platte River valley region. Villasur attempted to negotiate with the local tribes, using a captured Pawnee slave named Francisco Sistaca. On August 13, Sistaca disappeared. The expedition was very wary of an attack, and prepared a camp just south of the Loup and Platte River juncture.

Early the next morning, Otoe and Pawnee warriors accompanied by French traders, attacked the camp while most of the Spanish were sleeping. It is believed that the attack was guided by Sistaca, who knew the camp site routines of the expedition. The battle was quick and fierce, lasting less than half an hour. During that time over 35 Spaniards were killed, including Villasur, Father Minguez and Naranjo, while 49 Pueblos and all of



the Apaches escaped.

The survivors retraced their route and arrived back in Santa Fe on September 6, 1720. The dramatic defeat was a major shock to Spanish power in North America. The governor of New Mexico ordered an investigation (which lasted seven years) of the defeat.

This investigation, combined with French records and artifacts obtained

from the battle, leave a detailed history of this significant Nebraskan event. An unknown artist recorded the battle on buffalo hides, in the Spanish style of painting. The original hide painting still exists, and has been owned by the family estate of a Swiss nobleman, Baron Dr. Andre von Segesser, for over 200 years. It is the oldest known painting depicting a scene from Nebraska.

The next time you have a chance to visit the Nebraska History Museum, be sure to check out the replica of this hide painting. The painting is viewed looking to the south at the rivers, and with a little attention, you may find representations of Villasur, Father Minguez, and Naranjo among the two-dimensional warriors and horses telling this story.

For more information, see the Nebraska Historical Society's web site <http://www.nebraskastudies.org> or read *Across the Northern Frontier: Spanish Explorations in Colorado*, by Phil Carson, Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1998.

**TRIVIA: ASIA**

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent, located primarily in the eastern and northern hemispheres. It covers 8.6% of the Earth's total surface area (or 29.9% of its land area) and with approximately 4 billion people, it hosts 60% of the world's current human population. The following trivia relates to Eastern Asia (primarily China, Vietnam and Japan).

1. Confucianism in traditional China served to _____.
 - a. maintain the social order
 - b. emphasize material wealth
 - c. encourage rebellion
 - d. support a communist government
2. What Asian country was never a victim of Imperialism?
 - a. Singapore
 - b. Laos
 - c. Thailand (Siam)
 - d. Vietnam
3. What Asian country used to have the same independence day as the United States?
 - a. Indonesia
 - b. India
 - c. Thailand
 - d. Philippines
4. Samurai is derived from the Japanese word meaning what?
 - a. To serve
 - b. To sacrifice
 - c. To fight
 - d. To lead
5. Who was Ding Ling?
 - a. A doctor
 - b. A soldier
 - c. A writer
 - d. A monk
6. What is the Bushido?
 - a. A tea ceremony
 - b. The Samurai Sword
 - c. A military formation
 - d. The Samurai Warrior Code
7. A few women have ruled China in practice, but only one named herself emperor, without the pretext of a male on the throne. Who was she?
 - a. Lu Xan
 - b. Den Xiaopen
 - c. Wu Zetian
 - d. Jiang Qing
8. Traditionally, what color robes did Buddhist monks usually wear in Vietnam?
 - a. Brown
 - b. Orange
 - c. Yellow
 - d. Blue
9. Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam were formerly known as French Indo-China.
 - a. True
 - b. False
10. What is the name of the multi-sport event (similar to the Olympics) for nations on the Asian continent?
 - a. The Asian Olympics
 - b. The Games of Asia
 - c. The Asian Games
 - d. The Olympiad of Asia
11. What is the national sport of Vietnam?
 - a. Soccer
 - b. Jianzi
 - c. Badminton
 - d. Table tennis
12. Kabuki is a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Trivia Answers on Page 24

UPCOMING EVENTS**Hispanic American Heritage Month Fiesta**

August 12, 2010 11:30am-1:00pm
 Air National Guard Dining Facility
 2420 West Butler Lincoln, NE

Attendees will be serenaded with Mariachi style music!

Disability Awareness Event - 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Stay tuned for more details.

Kokyo Taiko Drummers at Lincoln City Libraries

July 8, 2010 2:30pm
 Bennett Martin Public Library
 136 South 14th Street Lincoln, NE

July 8, 2010 6:30pm
 Walt Branch Library
 6701 South 14th Street Lincoln, NE

For a full schedule of summer events at Lincoln City Libraries see: http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/kids/Summer_Reading_Program.htm





WEBSITE REVIEW: IDEAS FOR CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Review By Denise Anderson

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com>

Apples4theteacher is a fun and educational website for teachers, parents and kids. It has many different topics and headings for help in the classroom and for ideas at home with your children, too. There are games and classroom activities by month and theme, puzzles, coloring pages and holiday fun. The tabs include sections on the arts, literacy, languages, math, science, social studies and areas for both parents and teachers.

The site is laid out in such a way that it is fairly easy to find topics and themes a parent or teacher may be looking for to incorporate in their home activities or classrooms. They also have an e-newsletter you can subscribe to which covers teaching resources, lesson plan ideas, printables and drawings for gently used books. There are also links to companies such as Oriental Trading Company (local business in Omaha) who sell craft kits for kids to make (for Mother's Day or Father's Day, for example).

The site is fairly easy to navigate and includes an extensive site map. This map is a bit cumbersome as there is so much information to cover on this site, but once you get used to the layout, it is fairly

easy to find what you are looking for.

The About Us section has a cute introduction to the site.

It states that "Learning is dynamic.

In order to educate you need to entertain; you need to capture the attention of your

audience. Apples4theteacher is a resource site for teaching ideas, resources and interactive learning. We offer integrated lesson plans, online testing and secure online shopping."

For the purpose of this review, I will focus on only one section that applies to learning in the home: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/short-stories.html>.

My husband and I love to make up stories for our daughters in the evening right before bed. We normally have them tell us three things to base the story around and we have to spin a tale which includes each of those three items. They can be normal or as crazy as they want them to be. It can get quite interesting to try to incorporate a monster, a bicycle and chewing

gum into a story. They usually get a good laugh out of it and then are ready for bed.

My children are now old enough and have heard so many stories that they are now telling us stories, which can be just as fun.

This website is full of short stories that you can print out and read to your children which are interesting and gives them a history lesson at the same time. The different topics include, but are not limited to, cultures, family, friendship, government, history, holidays and religion. I really enjoy the Celtic stories (which are from the early inhabitants of Britain whose culture thrived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany). One that I enjoyed reading was *King O'Toole and His Goose*. The story was very descriptive and incorporates a lot of different items. Where else can you get a king, a goose and a saint into one story?

I strongly recommend this site to both parents and teachers as it has many ideas to help educate your children while entertaining them in the process. It's great for rainy days or those days your kids come up and say "I'm bored!" This is one way to have fun while learning.





PASSOVER SEDER FESTIVAL, NOT JUST FOR JEWS

By MSgt Mary Baker

Easter is a holiday we celebrate each spring, usually in April. We hunt Easter eggs the Easter Bunny mysteriously brought into our yards, and we decorate our homes and churches with Easter Lilies that are always in bloom this time

of year. If you have Christian beliefs, you also associate Easter with Jesus as the Son of God being raised from the tomb after being crucified earlier in the week. But what many do not realize is that Easter is also associated with the Jewish ceremony called Passover. One of the last things that Jesus is recorded to have done prior to his trial and crucifixion is celebrate the Passover meal in the upper room with his disciples.

The Jewish people have numerous festivals and feasts that are outlined in the Bible, but none is quite as important or as sacred as Passover. Festivals are regular religious celebrations remembering God's great acts of deliverance and salvation. For the Jews, the Passover Festival commemorates their deliverance from bondage to the Egyptians, as described in Exodus, one of the Old Testament books of the Bible. Many religious scholars, both Jewish and Christian alike, agree that the Passover Festival is likely the oldest religious ceremony we have recorded that is still observed today. Some 2,000 years before Jesus Christ's time on earth, the festival began in Egypt when Moses gave God's instruction for the people to kill a pure yearling lamb and paint its blood on the doorposts and



lintel so that the angel of death would "pass-over" that house and spare the first born from death. This was the 10th and final plague that the Egyptians endured before their leader, Pharaoh, freed the Hebrew people from slavery. God

gave further instructions to the people to observe this Passover Festival annually in remembrance of their journey out of bondage and out of Egypt.

Fast forward a couple thousand years to Jesus' day and his celebration of the festival with his disciples at an event many refer to as The Last Supper. Add two thousand more years, and you find yourself in the current day and time where Jews and Christians alike are both still celebrating the Passover Festival and enjoying a Seder Feast in remembrance of God's deliverance and salvation. For the majority of Jews, Passover still represents their exodus out of Egypt; but to the Messianic Jews and Christians, the Passover also represents Jesus' death and blood symbolically covering the doorposts and lintel of our hearts, so that God's punishment for our sins passes over us and spares our life. This tenet is the basis for many Christian's

faith as well as that of the Messianic Jew. A Messianic Jew believes that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, and they acknowledge both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as being the divinely inspired words of God. A traditional or Orthodox Jew believes that the Old Testament and primarily the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) are God's specific words, and that Jesus was simply another prophet.

This year, my husband John and I celebrated the Passover Festival and Seder Meal with a Messianic Church, The Hope of Zion Congregation based out of Boys Town, Nebraska. Adat Hatikvat Tzion (the congregation's name in Hebrew) annually celebrates Passover at the downtown Embassy Suites Hotel in Omaha. This was the thirteenth year that Rav Nate Seitelbach, their Rabbi, has led his congregation through the Passover experience.

This year's ceremony began with the ceremonial washing of hands and the blowing of numerous Shophars to declare the festival underway. A Shophar is a ram's horn that is normally tuned in the key of "E" and is blown like a trumpet. Traditionally the Shophar is blown at the Day of Atonement which the Messianic

Jews see symbolically representing Jesus Christ. Next in the ceremony, we rid the home or rooms of leaven or yeast that we use to make dough rise. The removal of leaven represents the haste with which the Hebrews left Egypt, as they had no time to let their baked



Continued on Page 13



Passover Seder Festival Continued from Page 12

goods rise before leaving, so they excluded the leaven from their breads. During the festival the only bread allowed to be consumed is unleavened bread called Matza. To the Messianic congregation the leaven also represents the sin in one's life that we need God to remove from our hearts, so that we break the cycle of sin and enjoy the blessings that come from a

relationship with Jesus, the Messiah. The Passover ceremony is recited in Hebrew as well as English and includes deep symbolism, both spoken and observed throughout the event. Numerous songs and dancing also take place during the ceremony and all may join in during any time of the festival.

As the Passover festival goes on there are four cups of wine (grape juice) that are consumed and they symbolize sanctification, the ten plagues, redemption, and blessing and praise to God. There are numerous other items adorning the table and our ceremonial plate that stand for a piece of the Passover experience. Parsley is dipped in salt water and consumed to represent a life afflicted with tears. The Matza, unleavened bread, is eaten with the Maror, the bitter herbs. These bitter herbs are primarily horseradish and we enjoyed watching the younger kids at our table attempt to eat the biggest bite of these herbs without drinking any water. Next our pallet is given a reprieve with the Charoset, a blend of sweet apples that represent the mud mixed with straw to make mortar (the bricks used by the Hebrew people to build Pharaoh's kingdom). The Betza, or hardboiled egg, is also dipped in salt water to show we are sorry



and tearful that religious sacrifices for atonement are no longer possible since the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed in 70 AD. But a Messianic Jew believes that Jesus was the perfect and final sufficient sacrifice once and for all. A lamb shank bone is also there to represent the sacrifice of the lambs who were slain at the first Passover and whose blood was used on the

doorposts of the Hebrew houses.

After the official ceremonial proceedings are complete, a typical meal, called the Seder Meal, is consumed. This is followed by more dancing and singing and a message of hope from the Rabbi. Approximately three to four hours later you have completed the year's event (which has been occurring each year for over four thousand years).

The entire festival is held for seven days from Sabbath to Sabbath and is also called the Festival of Unleavened Bread, as during this time only Matza bread is to be consumed by God's people. And the hope every year is that next year the Passover will be celebrated in Jerusalem after Jesus the Messiah returns to rebuild his kingdom. Just taking part in a ceremony so steeped in tradition and symbolism is quite humbling. For my husband and me, it put into perspective that no matter how times have changed or how far we have advanced as a people we are still very like the people back in the Biblical days. We still search and pray for answers, for salvation and for peace. May it indeed come by this time next year.

Shalom! Peace be with you! 

DIVERSITY DATES: JUNE - JULY 2010

June.....	Black Music Month (U.S.)
June 1.....	Children's Day (China)
June 1.....	Gawai Day (Malaysia)
June 1-3	Independence Day (Samoa)
June 2.....	Republic Day (Italy)
June 3.....	Corpus Christi (Christian-Catholic)
June 6.....	Constitution Day (Denmark)
June 6.....	D-Day (U.S.)
June 6.....	Flag Day (Sweden)
June 6.....	Memorial Day (South Korea)
June 7.....	June Bank Holiday (Republic of Ireland)
June 10.....	Camões Day (Portugal)
June 11.....	King Kamehameha Day (U.S.-Hawaii)
June 12.....	Independence Day (Philippines)
June 13.....	Queen's Birthday (United Kingdom)
June 13.....	Race Unity Day (Baha'i)
June 14.....	Flag Day (U.S.)
June 16.....	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)
June 16.....	Tuen Ng (China)
June 17.....	Independence Day (Iceland)
June 18-20	Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival (U.S.-Native American)
June 19.....	Juneteenth (U.S.-African American)
June 20.....	Father's Day (U.S.)
June 21.....	Litha (Celtic, Pagan)
June 21.....	National Aboriginal Day (Canada)
June 21.....	Solstice (International)
June 23.....	St. John's Eve (Christian, International)
June 24.....	Feast of St. John the Baptist (Christian, International)
June 26.....	Independence Day (Madagascar, Somalia)
June 26... ..	United Nations Charter Day (U.N.)
June 27.....	Independence Day (Djibouti)
June 28....	Versailles Treaty Day (International)
June 30.....	Independence Day (Zaire)
July 1.....	Canada Day (Canada)
July 1....	Foundation of the Republic (Somalia)
July 1.....	Independence Day (Zwanda)
July 1.....	Liberation Day (Suriname)
July 1.....	Special Administrative Region (SAR) Establishment Day (Hong Kong)
July 1.....	Tirgan (Iran)
July 4.....	Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, U.S.)
July 4.....	Independence Day (U.S.)
July 5.....	Independence Day (Venezuela)
July 6.....	Jan Hus Day (Czech Republic)
July 7-8	Shab-e-Miraj (Islamic)
July 8-9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 9.....	Aïd Chebeb (Morocco)
July 9.....	Independence Day (Argentina)
July 10.....	Independence Day (Bahamas)
July 11.....	Naadam Day (Mongolia)
July 13-15	O-Bon (Japan)
July 14.....	Bastille Day (France)
July 17.....	Constitution Day (South Korea)

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RESTAURANT REVIEW: BUZZARD BILLY'S

ARMADILLO BAR-N-GRILLO

Review By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

247 North 8th Street, Suite 101 (8th & "Q" Streets)

Lincoln, Nebraska 68508; 402-475-8822

<http://www.buzzardbillys.com/vnews/display.v>

"Buzzard Billy's specializes in incredible Cajun-Creole food, large beer selections and a funky atmosphere." How could someone read this on a website and not want to try it out? If nothing else than to see what the 'funky atmosphere' is all about. Okay, I know what some would go for, but since I don't drink, I had to find another excuse.

Lincoln is home to the fourth Buzzard Billy's. It opened May 16, 2000. The restaurant sits in the center of the Historic Haymarket section. It is housed in the first floor of the old H.P. Lau commercial grocery building built in 1906. It also has a large covered patio dining area that fronts Eighth Street. As the day was a bit on the chilly side, our small group opted to sit inside.

When you first walk into the restaurant you are greeted by a very friendly wait staff surrounded by walls covered with advertisements from past years for many different products. Looking around the restaurant you will see an alligator head full of after-dinner mints, armadillos riding around the ceiling fans, wooden beams supporting the ceiling and a large bar to the far side of the restaurant.

We arrived at the restaurant around 11:30 a.m. on a Friday morning. There were only two other people in the restaurant. By the time we left, the tables were full and all the customers were having a good time eating and talking.

As you sit at your table you may notice that each table top has a theme. Most tables are based on older television shows, some on movies. Ours was *The Andy Griffith Show*. Since most of the tables were empty at this time, I went around to look at other tables and noted that some of the shows include *Saturday Night Live*

(vintage), *Charlie's Angels*, *MASH*, *Abbott and Costello*, *Happy Days*, *Three's Company*, *Dukes of Hazzard* and *Rocky*. This makes for a good conversation starter!

As you look over the menu, you discover a good variety of offerings. The appetizers include gator, chicken, seafood, wings and a spinach artichoke dip. We had to try the gator, just to say we had eaten alligator at least once in our lives. It was tasty. We knew we were ordering the right appetizer, since one of our five-year-olds (who is a fan of gator) approved (although he was not with us at the time). Since it is deep-fried, the outside is crunchy with the actual gator being a bit chewy. It is not gritty or rubbery like some seafood, but it's not like chicken either! It is served with a spicy sauce which tastes a bit like both horseradish and mayo.

There is a good selection of soups and salads on the menu. The soups include seafood, chicken and Nebraska farm-raised buffalo. The salads tend towards chicken with a Cajun Taco Salad as one of the selections.

The main course selections include



Shrimp Creole



Red Beans and Rice with Andouille Sausage



Jambalaya

Creole-Italian inspired pasta dishes, traditional Cajun-Creole dinners, house specialties (including gator, tuna steak, crawfish, shrimp and chicken), blackened (blackening is a Louisiana cooking method in which the meat is dredged in butter and cooked with spices, then dropped in an extremely hot cast iron skillet) and grilled specialties, steaks and chicken, sandwiches, po'boys (a hoagie style sandwich that originated in New Orleans) and, of course, fried dinners. Side orders include rice, hush puppies, vegetables, french fries, red beans and rice, and several other selections. Buzzard Billy's also includes a delectable dessert menu ranging

from New Orleans Bread Pudding, a Brownie Meltdown and a Bananas Foster (to name just a few).

Along with the larger menu, Buzzard Billy's also includes a lunch special menu.

Since we all were there for the purpose of this review, we decided that three of us would order cajun-creole dishes and the other (me) would order one of the other



Buzzard Billy's Continued from Page 14



dishes. We had a good variety at our table with Jambalaya, Shrimp Creole, Red Beans and Rice with Andouille Sausage, and the Buffalo Bill Burger.

The meals were served fairly quickly. The aroma of the separate dishes filled the air and we all were very excited to eat when they were placed in front of us. Unfortunately, no one could start until the pictures for this article were taken; which was done quickly and efficiently to allow us time to savor our meals.

The Jambalaya was very spicy and full of good flavors. An Armadillo Egg (fresh bacon wrapped chicken tender stuffed with sliced jalapenos and pepper jack cheese) was added on to the meal for \$1.99. A very good choice and highly recommended.

The Shrimp Creole was also spicy with a very good tomato flavor. It was full of big chunks of tomatoes, peppers and shrimp. Oftentimes when you order a lunch special, the restaurant cuts down on the quantity of the main ingredient (i.e. the shrimp), but this is not the case with Buzzard Billy's: they didn't skimp on the shrimp!

The other authentic dish, Red Beans and Rice with Andouille Sausage, was middle of the road when it came to hot spicy, but full of flavor, and

as one person put it: "MMMMMMMM." A basket of bread was served with those three dinners, which helped the two with the spicier dishes as they took a break every other bite of the bread, to cool their mouths a bit!

The last dish, the Buffalo Bill (yes, real buffalo meat) was not so well received. In our experience, buffalo is best served on the medium rare side in order for it to retain flavor and any juices (it is a very lean piece of meat). This burger was served on the very well done side and was dry and tasteless. Even a beef burger served this well done would have been dry. The burger came with a side of fries (even though hush puppies were ordered). The fries are very good and they also brought out the hush puppies when it was mentioned. They are served with a side of honey and are delicious.

I have already decided that on my next trip to this restaurant, I will try the

Blackened Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo and stick with what they do best – Cajun-Creole dishes.

The food prices are reasonable as they range from \$6.99 - \$19.99 (steaks).

Most impressive was when the server asked us at the end of our meal how we would like the check split up. Some restaurants don't ask, but will divide it up at your request, and others won't divide into separate checks. Since most of the patrons were there during their lunch hours, it is reasonable to assume that many tables want their checks separately.

Even though I didn't have the best experience with my main dish, I do recommend this restaurant if you are a fan of Cajun-Creole food. If you have never tried it and want to get a big taste of New Orleans in Lincoln, give Buzzard Billy's a try. Enjoy! 



Gator



Armadillo Egg



Hushpuppies



Diversity Dates Continued from Page 13

July 17.....	Muñoz-Rivera Day (Puerto Rico)
July 19.....	Liberation Day (Nicaragua)
July 19.....	Umi-no-Hi (Japan)
July 20.....	Independence Day (Columbia)
July 21.....	Liberation Day (Guam)
July 21.....	National Holiday (Belgium)
July 23.....	Birth of Haile Selassie I (Ethiopia, Rastafarian)
July 23.....	Revolution Day (Egypt)
July 24.....	Pioneer Day (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
July 25.....	Asalhapuja (Buddhist)
July 25.....	Constitution Day (Puerto Rico)
July 25-26	Shab-e-Barat (Islamic)
July 26.....	Americans with Disabilities Act Signed (U.S.)
July 26.....	Independence Day (Liberia)
July 26.....	Moncada Anniversary (Cuba)
July 27.....	Barbosa Day (Puerto Rico)
July 28.....	Independence Day (Peru)
July 31.....	Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola (Spain)





EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LEADERS (EOL) COURSE PREPARES SOLDIERS

By *LaVonne Rosenthal*

Soldiers from Nebraska, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and National Guard Bureau (NGB) came together March 18-24, 2010 at Camp Ashland to learn how to best deal with issues of discrimination

and harassment during the Equal Opportunity Leaders (EOL) Course. The Adjutant General, BG Lyons, welcomed students early in the course, and provided encouragement for them both in the classroom and in theater. Assistant Adjutant General BG Amundson shared her personal views of leadership with the class on the second day of instruction, using bricks and stones to metaphorically describe leadership. Instructors who led the students were CW4 John Regan, CW2 Mike Flynn, MSgt Jody Schmidt and MSG Melissa Oehm. Thanks to these knowledgeable individuals, the 28 students received excellent first-hand insights into the challenges and responsibilities of EOLs.

EOLs are appointed at the Battalion level and below in the Army National Guard to recognize detractors from a healthy EO climate, assist commanders in conducting unit climate assessments and EO training, as well as assisting in conducting ethnic observances. While the EOL is considered the "go-to" person for EO issues at the unit level, the commander still retains full responsibility for the Equal Opportunity conditions in their organization.

Topics covered during the seven-day course included system-victim focus, conflict management, socialization,

STUDENT HANDOUT #13-1 A SUMMARY OF THE WORLD

If we could, at this time, shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, and 8 Africans (North and South)
- 70 would be non-white; 30 white
- 70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian
- 50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people. All six would be citizens of the United States.
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 80 would live in sub-standard housing
- Only 1 would have a college education

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both appreciation and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

the histories of different cultures such as Native Americans, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, White Americans and Hispanic Americans.

The final activity was for each Soldier to prepare a ten-minute presentation on a topic of their choice related to diversity or equal opportunity. The creativity of these individuals was evident through their use of a variety of mediums from photos to music to videos, providing fellow students and instructors a glimpse into the lives of great historical figures such as Ira Hayes, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Loretta Velasquez and Red Cloud. Other subjects presented by students were on extremist groups, Irish American discrimination and religious accommodation. Thanks to assistance from CPT Jocelyn Kuta and SFC Mike Rudebusch, time was efficiently used, and students received meaningful feedback.

Nebraska's State

prevention of sexual harassment and concepts of culture. Students were challenged to become aware of their own personal biases through practical exercises. Reading materials they were quizzed on related to

Command Sergeant Major, CSM Eli Valenzuela began the process of closing the course on Wednesday morning by relaying the importance of an EOL in theater and state-side, to be the eyes and ears of the commander. Any issues or complaints are best dealt with at the lowest possible level, with the guidance of the EOL and other EO professionals, as remarked by CSM Valenzuela.

Many of the Soldiers who received this training will soon deploy. We wish them the best in their deployments, and a safe return to family and friends. The next EOL course to be held in Nebraska will be in 18-24 months, depending on mission requirements from the Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs). Support from commanders is valuable to conduct this type of course, as commanders allow Soldiers to take time from unit responsibilities to attend.

I want to express my personal appreciation to Mr. Flynn for his important contributions to the course, presenting some of the more difficult topics and lightening the load for other instructors during the training.

His imaginative introductory activities caught the students' attention immediately. The telling of his personal experiences was most meaningful and relatable, adding credibility to the course materials. Students' understanding of their roles and responsibilities were better emphasized due to Mr. Flynn's presence in the course. 

LESSON NUMBER: 13
TASK: Concepts of Culture

STANDARD: 1. Define culture, subculture, and enculturation.
2. Discuss attributes and non-attributes of culture.
3. Discuss the concept of race and ethnic group.
4. Discuss the implications of cross-cultural interactions.
5. Discuss the pitfalls in cross-cultural interactions.

1. Culture is defined as the _____, shared, and perceptual behaviors of a group which have been transmitted from generation to generation through a shared symbol system.

2. A subculture is a group of people within a larger social structure who share _____ and _____ characteristics, which are different enough to distinguish it from others within the same society.

3. Enculturation is the passing of a culture's socially acceptable behaviors and attitudes from the older members of a group to the younger members.

4. Five attributes of culture:
a. _____; The process and method by which individuals transmit their values, beliefs, and perceptions.
b. _____; Those behaviors, people, things, and ideas that are considered central to a given culture.
c. _____; Judgments or expectations that a person might have about certain things.
d. _____; The ways we reach conclusions, make deductions, and solve problems.
e. _____; Patterns of behaving which represent the norms for a culture.

5. Non-attributes of culture:
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

6. Implications of cross-cultural interactions:
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____



MOVIE REVIEW: PRECIOUS

“BASED ON THE NOVEL ‘PUSH’ BY SAPHIRE”

*Movie Review By
Jessie Bockelman*

*Produced by Lee Daniels Entertainment
Directed by Lee Daniels; 2009*

“My name is Clareece Precious Jones. I wish I had a light-skinned boyfriend with real nice hair. And I want to be on a cover of a magazine. But first I want to be in one of those BET videos.” Clareece “Precious” Jones dreams of being a celebrity. Unfortunately, the reality that surrounds her in Harlem is a far cry from a celebrity lifestyle. Precious lives with her abusive mother and struggles to maintain some sense of normalcy in her life. Not only is she a child, she’s also a mother herself. She has been impregnated twice by her own father and suffers daily from the abuse her mother inflicts upon her. Her first child has Down’s Syndrome and is cared for by her grandmother.

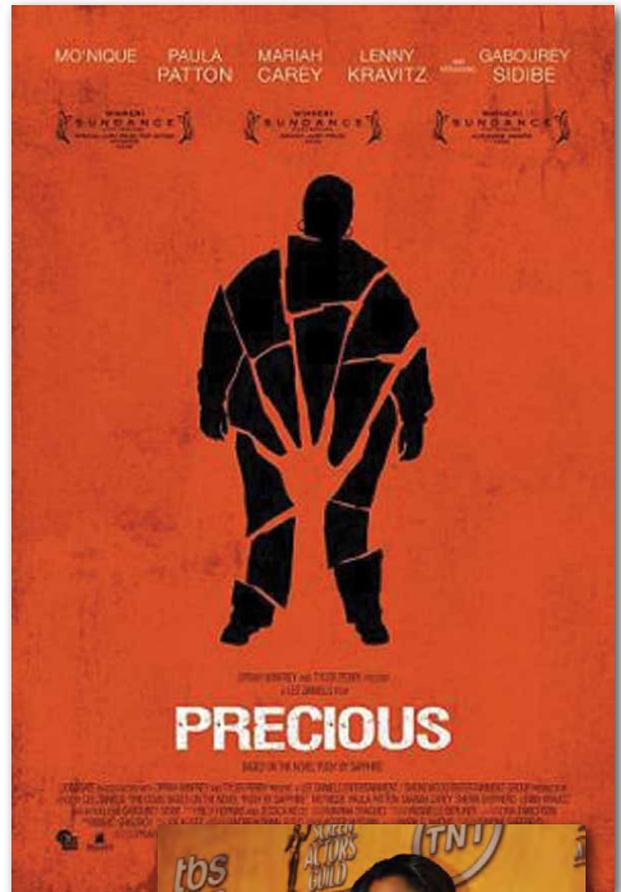
When her school finds out that she is pregnant again, she is suspended and her guidance office directs her to an alternative school that may be a better fit for her life. Precious can barely read children’s books when she arrives at this new school and requires a lot of attention from her new teacher just to get by. Her new teacher (Miss Blu Rain) helps inspire Precious to work up to her full potential in school.

Precious also meets with a social worker (played by Mariah Carey... with no makeup on!) who helps to unravel exactly what is going on in Precious’s life. Previously, Precious’s mother had forced her to lie to the social worker in order to maximize the amount of welfare the family would receive.

Gabourey Sidibe plays the title role of “Precious” and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. She didn’t win the award, but no doubt has put her name on the map for her powerful performance in this role. She was essentially an unknown actress before this movie and is now very recognizable.

Mo’Nique plays her mother, Mary, and also received rave reviews for her performance. For this performance, she has won numerous awards including an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, a Screen Actors’ Guild Award, a Golden Globe Award and the British Academy of Films and Television Arts Award. Geoffrey Fletcher won the Oscar for Best Writing, Screenplay, based on Material Previously Produced or Published.

This movie was definitely an eye opener, and shows you some of the very real struggles that many people face every day. It does end on a note of hope, with an optimistic Precious walking away from her old life and attempting to start a new and better one for herself as well as her children.



The film’s director, Lee Daniels, said that he was, at first, “embarrassed” to screen Precious at the Cannes Film Festival because he felt that it would show African-Americans in a negative light, due to its content.



Actress Mo’Nique received praise for her performance, which earned her a Golden Globe, a SAG Award and an Academy Award.



MALAYSIAN NIGHT

By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

AT UNL 2010 MYSTIQUE: THE MUSICAL

On March 6 the Nebraska University Malaysian Student's Association (NUMSA) presented *Mystique: The Musical* in a successful attempt to educate those in attendance about Malaysian culture with comedy, drama, music and dance.



Since this was the first time I have attended this event, I wasn't sure what to expect. I knew that my friend (Maureen, the Interim Executive Director for the Asian Community and Cultural Center and the head of the Kokyo Taiko Drummers) and I were attending as VIPs, the dress was formal, seating started at 6:30 and that dinner was being served, but beyond that I didn't have a clue. This was okay, as I was excited about learning more about the Malaysian people and having a night away from home!

The evening began with the two of us being escorted to one of the two VIP tables in front of the stage. At each seat a welcome packet, which included postcards, a map, a tourism book and a pin of the Petronas Twin Towers (the world's tallest buildings from 1998 to 2004) was waiting for us. We immediately opened up the packets and began looking at the beautiful pictures depicting the country and culture of Malaysia.

Soon other guests arrived at our table and we introduced ourselves. They included a gentleman from the Mayor's office, and Robinder Kaur, the Senior Deputy Director of the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board who was in Lincoln for this event (she currently lives in California). Ms. Kaur was great to sit by as she loves to talk about her country and fed me additional information about what was going on in the musical either voluntarily or when I asked her questions. Ms. Kaur is of Indian descent, born and raised in Malaysia. Which brings me to one of the many things I learned about Malaysia: Malay's make up 57% of the population, Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups make up the rest. This is due in large part to the country's long and ongoing interaction with the outside world and colonial rule by the Portuguese, Dutch and British.

See *Tho Wai Juan*
President, NUMSA

Each part of the program was staged elaborately, beginning with the entrance of the guests to the main VIP table, escorted by NUMSA students. We then heard the national anthems for Malaysia and the U.S. Next, dignitaries and students involved with the production gave short speeches welcoming us to the evening's festivities.

Then began the first scene of the musical. It was staged to show two American students transported to Malaysia through a restaurant after they began inquiring about the food and its origins. The restaurant owner and his trickster brother then took the students on a tour of Malaysia, which began with an introduction of their school system, cultural do's and don'ts and various other information about the culture, along with an *Amazing Race* spin-off to take us to different parts of the country.

It was a bit distracting that the actors on stage weren't using their own voices during the musical. The actors were mouthing their lines and they had voice actors backstage saying the actual words. I soon told myself to not let this keep me from enjoying the show and learning what I could about the culture, since I'm sure it would have been very difficult for them to memorize their lines, organize the production and go to school full-time.

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Malaysian Night at UNL Continued from Page 18

Throughout the musical (five scenes in all) we were introduced to music and dances from the different ethnic groups who make up Malaysia. The dances included a Malay Dance, a Chinese Dance, an Indian Dance and a Unity Dance. All were done beautifully with traditional dress worn by each of the dancers. Personally, I would have been happy just to watch the dancers all evening!

In between the scenes we ate dinner and hoped we would win one of the door prizes. When the food for the VIP tables came through the doors, I thought it was

another part of the musical as it was done so elaborately. The food was brought out with various objects depicting different parts of the country on each tray, such as a miniature replica of the Petronas Twin Towers with music and fancy lighting showcasing the food ceremony.

All too soon the evening came to a close. Many people didn't leave immediately as they were enjoying the evening so much they wanted to prolong it. The students involved in the production came out and were having fun talking to the audience and having their pictures taken.

NUMSA has been an organization with UNL since 1990. Membership is open to all and its purpose is to promote friendship and cooperation as well as to provide a medium for exchange of ideas among its members and the Lincoln community. For more information about NUMSA or Malaysia in general, visit their website at <http://www.numsa.org>.

In closing, I just want to tell the students congratulations on putting on such an exciting, educational and entertaining program. It was well worth the time, and I strongly recommend those living in the area to attend next year's event. 





Am I My BROTHER'S KEEPER?

HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST

By BG Roma Amundson

Cain's age-old question is his defiant attempt to excuse personal responsibility for his brother and to mask his guilt after he was asked about Abel's whereabouts. That question, age-old because it's been asked of all generations of humanity since the creation of the world, becomes especially haunting when we realize how very few people really possess the courage to become their brother's keeper when their own lives and the safety of those whom they love are at risk.

How many people possess that courage to risk their lives to save others? 20%? 15%? 5%? Try 1%! Shocking? But according to Professor Alan L. Berger, less than 1% of any population possesses the moral courage to willingly help others when their own psychological and physical well-being is at risk.

The conflict of helping others at the possible expense of one's own life was the topic of a lecture given by Alan L. Berger, professor of Judaic Studies at Florida Atlantic University and holder of the Raddock Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies. On April 8, at the University of Nebraska's (UNL) Architectural Hall Auditorium, Professor Berger spoke on the topic of *Am I My Brother's/Sister's Keeper?: Moral Courage During the Holocaust*.

As an introduction, he made the point that less than 1% of any population



possesses moral courage or the willingness to follow one's own personal values when they differ from those held by the majority of society. This is especially true if the potential exists to personally suffer psychological and physical harm. He stated that moral courage is a choice, and the ability to choose the path dictated by one's sense of honor and virtue in opposition to the accepted norm makes a person human.

Professor Berger came to UNL for the lecture as a guest of friends and family of H. Francis Cunningham, Jr., an ambassador to Hungary during WWII. Both the family of Ambassador Cunningham and the descendents of those he helped escape Hungary were present at the lecture, which made for a significant confluence of people touched by history.

What Ambassador Cunningham did was to obtain immigration papers for Jews living in Hungary during WWII to immigrate to the United States in order to escape the Nazi extermination policies. One Jewish-Hungarian family, the Roth family, came to Lincoln and

resided here, living very productive lives and illustrating the fact that people of different faiths and backgrounds can work together in love and harmony.

Professor Berger explored if altruism, the practice of selfless concern for the well-being of others, can be taught. His belief is that it cannot be taught; it is an intrinsic value of a person who chooses to act because of closely held personal beliefs.

He gave examples of three different types of rescuers who helped Jews during the Holocaust. The first group was composed of diplomats who extended visas to Jews to help them escape from potential capture by the Nazis. The diplomats acted in clear violation of express instructions from the home countries not to aid or abet Jews and were therefore subject to potential punishment from their own governments. Ambassador Cunningham was such a person.

We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances - to choose one's own way. ~ Victor Frankl

Another group was the communal type of rescuers who formed groups to assist Jews in escaping and surviving. These were like underground railroads that funneled the people from one place to another and provided means for survival. Several countries, especially Poland, France

and Belgium provided these means for communal rescue.

The final group included isolated individuals, the most famous of whom



SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

LTC SHAWN EDWARDS

BATTALION COMMANDER OF THE 110TH MULTIFUNCTIONAL MEDICAL BATTALION

I came to Nebraska via Texas and Oklahoma, first to Lincoln and then finally Omaha. My father was a finance Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) in the Air Force stationed at Lincoln Air Force Base (AFB), which is now the Lincoln Air National Guard Base. Although I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska we moved because of a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Austin, Texas shortly after my birth. When my father was assigned to Greenland, we moved with family to Crescent, Oklahoma. My fondest memories of living on a farm in Oklahoma were taking baths in the big steel tubs and harassing the chickens and the cows. We eventually moved back to Lincoln when my father was stationed in Panama; I was in the fifth grade. Shortly after moving to Lincoln my mom was hired by Union Pacific Railroad and we moved to Omaha.

As I was growing up, my parents instilled in me the importance of family. Going back to Crescent, Oklahoma (the country) opened up a lot of knowledge regarding our family heritage. My great-great-grandmother was a Choctaw Indian and my great-great-grandfather was born a slave. My great-grandfather Edwin Todd is said to be the first

Black American employed with Goodyear in Lincoln, Nebraska and was also of Irish heritage. I see myself as being from a diverse cultural background, one I embrace wholeheartedly.

According to my mother, I was always the adventurous one in the family. I remember being in trouble for climbing out of our second story bedroom window and jumping off the roof for fun. I always hung out with my brothers and enjoyed playing football, running, swimming and tree climbing. It was no surprise to my father when I joined the Army National Guard in 1985. I always wanted a military career but my parents pushed for a college education. Joining the Guard gave me the



opportunity to do both.

I have been in the Army National Guard for 24 years. The first 19 years I was an M-Day Soldier serving in various units in the State. I joined as a Private First Class (PFC) in 1985, received my commission from the Regional Training Institute in Ashland, Nebraska in 1992, and was assessed into the Title 10 Army Guard

Reserve (AGR) program and PCSd in 2004 to Arlington, Virginia. When the opportunity to come back to Nebraska as a Battalion Commander presented itself, I jumped at the opportunity to return to my roots.

I have two boys, Michael 25 and Rashaun 7, and a granddaughter, Myana who is 5.



Am I My Brother's Keeper? Continued from Page 20

was Oskar Schindler, who by their own means and ingenuity were able to save the lives of thousands of Jews.

While the rescuers differed widely in terms of background, means and methods, they all had certain characteristics in common: they were individualistic and committed to helping others; they held matter-of-fact views towards their activities; they had not planned to become involved, but

took action when they perceived other human beings needed help. The rescuers, who served as models of "humanity towards others, chose the path least often followed, as less than 1% of any population possesses the moral courage to demonstrate selfless concern."

Professor Berger closed by saying that the mystery of good is greater than the mystery of evil, as it requires more courage to be good rather than evil.

One cannot quantify how people will act in particular circumstances, so there will always be a clash between reason and morality. Finally, he said that "governments have no soul unless citizens become involved." Certainly, in the time of the Holocaust, citizens, acting against the will and instructions of governments in order to save others who were suffering, truly showed the soul of what governments can and could be. 



2010 ARNG DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

By *LaVonne Rosenthal and Pam Makovicka*

Reflections by LaVonne Rosenthal

Over 500 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians converged on Atlanta, Georgia for this year's Army National Guard (ARNG) diversity conference. The conference theme was "Passport to Diversity," with each attendee receiving a replica of an actual passport to designate which breakout group they were in. As a member of the ARNG EO-Diversity Committee, I had the privilege of arriving early to assist in final preparations for the event. Working behind the scenes of such a large event gave me a different perspective, having previewed a number of the presenters prior to the beginning of the conference.

One presentation that stood out for me was on resiliency. The presenter, Valerie Burton, talked about the ability to bounce back when adversity strikes. In her research she found that the top strength for resilient people is the capacity to love and be loved. Key behaviors for these individuals are the ability to communicate well and to be compassionate. While thoughts create reactions, it's important to shift your perspective rather than spiral down into catastrophizing. Instead of seeing the worst case scenario, turn the situation around in your mind to consciously look at the best case scenario. The positive emotion expands your thinking ability, while finding a balance between worst case and best case scenarios that is the most likely scenario, which equates to realistic optimism. Real time resilience is reflected in positive self-talk, to say "A better way of looking at this is" Or "That's not quite true because...."

The highlight for many of us was the naturalization ceremony held for 52 individuals coming from a number of different countries. Their family members also attended the ceremony and witnessed this special event. What made this ceremony unique was having the 500

attendees stand and recognize the milestone these new citizens had reached. It was an emotional moment for me to eavesdrop on the oath taken in somber voices, to imagine what feelings these individuals were experiencing. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by a young Airman, just sworn in as a citizen, as part of the ceremony's closing.

Another special part of the conference was the orchestration of bus tours for all attendees to three different locations unique to Atlanta: the Patriotism Museum, Jimmy Carter Center and Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. These historical venues gave many of us a glimpse of the city's past we wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to experience. What was even more amazing was the seamless logistical coordination of having 500 people board nine buses to three different locations and not once have any major crossover of groups at the sites. It attests to the professional partnership between the contract services and National Guard Bureau ARNG personnel to design these events.

While the naturalization ceremony was a memorable experience, even more remarkable was to have our own Pam Makovicka receive the ARNG Individual Excellence in Diversity Award at the award ceremony on Thursday afternoon. Unbeknownst to her, Colonel Zwart



State Equal Employment Managers

Doris Sumner, Vermont; Sharon Harmon, Rhode Island; Jewel Davis, North Carolina; Steve Brooks, Missouri; LaVonne Rosenthal, Nebraska; Mrs. Ron Petty, Oklahoma; Phillip Shelton, Illinois; Ron Petty, Oklahoma; Bill Pinkney, Georgia; Margaret Seals, Iowa; Karen Back, South Dakota
Behind the camera is Chris Martin, Washington, D.C.

made a quick trip to Atlanta to see her receive the award. Not only was her expression priceless when her name was announced as the national award winner, her surprise reaction to see her boss in Atlanta, Georgia was more than worth the effort it took to coordinate his arrival. (For a more detailed explanation of this award, see BTG Issue 21).

This year's conference was attended by four Nebraskans, and we hope to have more representation at the 2011 conference to be held in Boston, Massachusetts. Each conference surpasses the prior year, so I'm looking forward to see what great and diverse opportunities await us!

Observations by Pam Makovicka

The conference was opened by the Chief National Guard Bureau, General Craig



Diversity Conference Continued from Page 22

R. McKinley. His passion for diversity was a great way to get us motivated for the conference. General McKinley stated "Diversity is not a science, it is an art." He encouraged everyone to support our individual state's Adjutant General's Diversity Program, by bringing the best people up through the ranks.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Naturalization Ceremony held the morning of opening day. The Department of Homeland Security United States Citizenship and Immigration Services swore in 52 new U.S. citizens. President Obama had a taped message of welcome to the new citizens and the song *God Bless the USA* was played. I saw a lot of emotion from the new citizens and conference attendees, making this a memorable ceremony.

There were four areas of training: Passport to Diversity, Enlisting Diversity, Mentoring, and Resiliency. Passport to Diversity taught us about cultural adaptability. Our organization deals with people from all over the world, and finding a working relationship with all the cultural differences can present a real challenge. Developing a working relationship will provide everyone a comfort zone to work within.

Enlisting Diversity is developing a personality that reaches out and connects with others.

Retention of employees is the key to recruitment. Many people leave their jobs because the job was not what they had expected or lacked growth or advancement possibilities. We have to make people feel valued and recognized.

Coaching from others encourages

trust and confidence. Mentoring provides the difference for careers to thrive or stall. The benefits of mentoring are to strengthen supportive relationships, expand career horizons and create role models, which results in higher retention rates.

Resiliency teaches you a set of skills that will enhance your effectiveness and ability to thrive through challenges, adversity and change. Building a mental toughness enables you to perform better under stress.

We had one afternoon of tours to the Martin Luther King Center and the President Jimmy Carter Center. The King Center was established in 1968

by Coretta Scott King. It is a living memorial dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is located in Atlanta's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site.

The center educates

visitors about Dr. King's life, work and his philosophy and methods of nonviolent conflict-reconciliation and social change. The eternal flame for Dr. King sits across from the gravesites of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King. This site, in



CPT Dale Burrage, BG Roma Amundson, LaVonne Rosenthal, Pam Makovicka and COL David Zwart

a beautiful reflecting pool, is nestled between the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist church where Dr. King and his father were pastors. There was an amazing amount of history in this area which would take a person days to see it all.

The Carter Center is a research facility and museum approximately 69,750 square feet in size. There are over a half a million photographs that present a complete story of the life of President Jimmy Carter and wife, Rosalynn Carter. The programs that President Jimmy Carter and his wife are now running help to promote everyday citizens in making a difference in their communities. The tours were great, but only touched on the many things to see at both places.

The final day of the conference was the greatest surprise and honor for me. I was awarded the Army National Guard Individual Diversity Award. I was so shocked when they called my name that tears came to eyes. I know there are many in the 54 states and territories who work very hard to promote diversity, so to be the one they chose means so much to me. I love working for the Nebraska Military Department. Making everyone feel welcome and a significant part of our great organization is important to me. Our Soldiers and Airmen do so much for us it is essential that we support them in any way we can. 🌍



Eternal Flame at the Martin Luther King Center



Continued from Page 10

ASIAN TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. a. Maintain the social order. Confucianism is a Chinese ethical and philosophical system developed from the teachings of the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–478 BC). It is a complex system of moral, social, political, philosophical and quasi-religious thought that has had tremendous influence on the culture and history of East Asia.

2. c. Thailand (Siam). When European imperialism brought a new phase in Southeast Asian commerce in the late 1800s, Thailand (known then as Siam) was able to maintain its independence as a buffer zone between British-controlled Burma to the west and French-dominated Indochina to the east.



3. d. The Philippines. The Philippine Declaration of Independence occurred on June 12, 1898. Filipino revolutionary forces under General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine Islands from colonial rule of Spain. The declaration however, was not recognized by the United States or Spain. The United States recognized Philippine independence on July 4, 1946 in the Treaty of Manila. July 4 was observed in the Philippines as Independence Day until August 4, 1964, when upon the advice of historians and the urging of nationalists, President Diosdado Macapagal signed into law Republic Act No. 4166 designating June 12 as the country's Independence Day.



4. a. To serve. The Samurai (or Bushi) were the members of the military class – the Japanese warriors.



5. c. A writer. Ding Ling was the first revolutionary writer with a strong female consciousness. Born in 1904 into a formerly wealthy gentry family in Hunan province, her father's health was poor, and he died when Ding was three. Ding Ling's mother, who raised her children alone while becoming a well-known educator, was Ding's role model. Following her mother's example, Ding Ling became an activist at an early age. Ding Ling is known for the works *Mother* and *Miss Sophie's Diary*.



6. d. Samurai Warrior Code. Samurai were supposed to lead their lives according to the ethic code of Bushido (The Way of the Warrior). Strongly Confucian in nature, Bushido stressed concepts such as loyalty to one's master, self discipline and respectful, ethical behavior.



Japanese samurai in armour, 1860s. Photograph by Felice Beato

7. c. Wu Zetian. Also known as Wu Chao, Empress Wu ruled during the Tang dynasty. She was the only woman in the history of China to assume the title of Empress Regnant. She came to power through marriage to the then-emperor and by the ruthless disposal of her male and female rivals. She broke all precedents when she founded her own dynasty in 690, the Zhou (which interrupted the Tang Dynasty) and ruled personally under the name Sacred and Divine Empress Regnant from 690-705. Jiang Qing was Mao Zedong's third wife, and Den Xiaopen was a man and Mao Zedon's successor.



Commemorative stele at Qianling Mausoleum, where Wu Zetian and her husband Emperor Gaozong were buried.

8. a. Brown. Traditionally, Theravada monks wear yellow or orange-saffron robes, while Mahayana monks wear brown. Vietnamese Buddhism is Mahayanist – thus they wear the brown robes.



Geshe Konchog Wangdu reading mahayana sutras from an old woodblock copy of the Tibetan Kanjur. He is seated at a special sutra stool, wearing the traditional woolen Ladakhi hat and robe, allowed by Vinaya for extremely cold conditions.

9. a. True. A federation of three Vietnamese regions, Tonkin (North), Annam (Central) and Cochinchina (South), as well as Cambodia was formed in 1887. Laos was added in 1893.

10. c. The Asian Games (Asiad). The Asian Games are the world's second largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games. The games are regulated by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The tradition started in 1951, with the first games being held in New Delhi, India. The last event was held in Doha, Qatar in 2006, and the 2010 Games will be held in Guangzhou, China from November 12 – November 27.



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BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNERSubmitted by
MSgt Paul H. Dion

As spring started and the memory of cold wintry weather faded, most of us started to think about gathering with friends and family to celebrate a new season. Some of us may have been thinking about firing up the grill or going to the park for a picnic. Whatever the case, these are all great reasons to make some fresh salsa to enjoy at any of your gatherings, or, as in my case, I don't need a gathering to enjoy fresh salsa.



My simple salsa recipe is a crowd favorite whenever I bring it for one of our many food days at work. I don't like to make my salsa so it burns your mouth when you eat it; I like my salsa to have a good flavor that comes from the perfect balance of all the ingredients.

It's not hard to make a good homemade salsa. This recipe is an evolution of the recipe my Mom and her siblings use. Each of us have taken a simple foundation recipe and tweaked it to our liking. The best part about this recipe is its versatility. You can pick and choose what kind of onion, pepper or tomato to use to slightly change the flavor. My brother uses smoked chipotle peppers in his recipe (but not too many) to give his salsa a subtle smoky flavor.

Whatever your taste buds call for, give this recipe a try. I hope you enjoy it as much my friends and family do.

Ingredients

1 Onion, medium to large (It doesn't matter what kind of onion: yellow, white or otherwise)

4-7 jalapenos (how much flavor you want and the size of the peppers will determine how many you use). I also cut the peppers in half and remove the seeds and the "vein" if possible. Contrary to belief the seeds are not what makes the pepper hot, it's the vein. If you don't want it hot, remove the vein. NOTE: You can also use

other types of peppers. I also use Red Fresno or Serrano (hotter than a jalapeno) peppers.

3-6 garlic cloves (personal preference)

Cilantro to taste. There is such a thing as using too much cilantro, so be careful. I usually use around 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro.

28 ounce can of crushed tomatoes (You can of course use fresh tomatoes as well)

Cut vegetables into smaller pieces, put in a food processor until blended, add salt and pepper to taste and you are done!

If you plan to make this for a gathering it's best to make it at least a day ahead of time. The day after it tastes good, two days later it is even better.

SALSA 

Trivia Answers Continued from Page 24

11. b. Jianzi. In this game, teams of one or two use their feet to kick the shuttlecock over the net. This is very similar to badminton and has the same scoring system. This game is Vietnam's national sport and is played mostly in Hanoi, the capital.



Jianzi shuttlecock

12. b. False. Kabuki is a traditional form of Japanese theater. According to Mark Oshima, "Originally the word 'kabuki' meant something 'off beat' or not quite moral and began with colorfully dressed, swaggering ex-samurai, courtesans and other street people in the early Edo period. Today the word is written with characters for 'song,' 'dance,' and 'acting.' These are the key elements of kabuki." Although Kabuki was begun by a female and had all female performers, they were banned from performing in 1629. From that time on, all roles have been performed by men. The men who perform the roles of women are called onnagata.



The November 1895 production of *Shibaraku* at Tokyo Kabukiza theater

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