

BRIDGING

THE GAP



ISSUE 40: DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014



VANN PRICE
LINCOLN NORTH
STAR PRINCIPAL



DIVER-CIPE CORNER
FRENCH COOKIES



RESTAURANT REVIEW:
LEADBELLY



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*Interested in becoming a member of the SEP Group?
Please contact LaVonne Rosenthal at the email address listed to the right.***SEP NOTES: THANKFUL***By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez*

By the time this issue is released, Thanksgiving will be over and the Christmas holiday season will be in full swing. This passing of time doesn't mean we should stop thinking about what we are thankful for.

Many people posted things they are thankful for on Facebook all through November. I would like to take this time to post what I'm thankful for, from a diversity viewpoint.

I am thankful for the SEP Group and all that the members have meant to me throughout the years. We have seen many faces come and go in the group for many different reasons. I miss every one of

them who are no longer involved with the SEP Group. Each of them brought a fun and unique perspective that has gotten us to where we are today. And each of them left a very real, positive mark on my life -- some large, some small -- but all very much appreciated. To current members of the SEP Group, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to contribute toward furthering diversity and diversity education in the Nebraska Military Department (NMD) and in your local communities.

Second, I am grateful for what I've learned from the members as part of the SEP Group. I feel like I learn something new every time we meet, have a heritage event, talk to members and bring in new members. I learn each year when we have our "Year in Review" meetings and our "Diversity Training Days." I gain more knowledge about diversity as I talk to people (both in and outside of the NMD) about writing articles for this wonderful publication, as well as reading all the wonderful articles people write for Bridging the Gap (most of them three to four times -- and I see something new each time). And the list can go on endlessly. I want to thank each and everyone who has been a member, who is still a member and future members of this

*Continued on Page 7***PUBLISHER**

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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.

PERCEPTIONS OF DIVERSITY

*By Vann Price
Lincoln North Star High School Principal*

I've grown up with the belief that the primary and most essential goal in life should be to remain connected to the diversity of people who currently reside on this planet. Everything else, I believe, will take care of itself. Diversity, therefore, is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and applauding the richness that is encompassed within each individual.

If everyone remembered to live as children do when they first arrive (it's what we hardened souls call genuine acceptance), we'd transform the planet. Sadly, intolerance is a behavior which is learned from a young age and developed in response to variables that include, but are not limited to, witnessing how people from diverse backgrounds relate to each another, how the media portrays certain individuals and, most important, how discriminatory attitudes are expressed at home.

As a high school administrator, it is part of the work that I do daily allowing students and adults in our building to enjoy the exploration. The exploration involves acknowledging and validating the experiences of the myriad of people who enter our doors each day. My challenge is providing a safe, positive and nurturing environment allowing this to happen.

A dear friend sent me a postcard awhile ago that has become one of my favorite quotes related to diversity. According to Wade Davis, "Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you: they are unique manifestations of the human spirit. The world in

which you were born is just one model of reality." It is my goal to encourage other people to embrace this truth for themselves, to recognize the fullness that exists in every individual and to realize that every interaction with someone who may appear different from oneself is an opportunity to grow and learn.

In order to appreciate the diversity that shapes our human experience we need to start somewhere. How difficult is it for each of us to enter into a courageous conversation with ourselves? What risk is involved in asking those questions of oneself that may cause discomfort? How are

"Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you: they are unique manifestations of the human spirit. The world in which you were born is just one model of reality."

~ Wade Davis



we challenging discriminatory attitudes and practices? How am I advocating for those who are marginalized, oppressed or disadvantaged? Does this create a sense of urgency for me to step outside of my comfort zone? We must do all in our power as the table of diversity is set and be mindful that we all have a story, the consequences of apathy, the power in our voice and that we each have the capacity to be a difference maker. As the great orator Fredrick Douglass once said, "Without a struggle there is no progress." Are you willing to join me in the struggle?



LINCOLN'S NEW AMERICANS TASK FORCE: PAST AND PRESENT

By BG (ret) Roma Amundson



Kit Boesch, Administrator of Human Services in Lincoln and Lancaster County

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce promotes the idea that “Life is Right in Lincoln!” For many immigrants and refugees who see Lincoln as a *Welcoming City*, life is right here. Lincoln brings alive the idea that “Immigration is an American Experience.... Acceptance is an American Value.”

Franklin Roosevelt said this about the American Experience, “Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”

Lincoln befriends and empowers refugees and immigrants. A recent front page article of the Lincoln Journal-Star (October 31, 2013) featured Teresa Barta, a teacher who became a citizen in front of her class! In word and action, Lincoln's citizens set the example for the American value of acceptance of refugees and immigrants.

As demonstrated by Teresa Barta, acceptance begins in our schools; 458 new refugees from approximately 40 different countries enrolled in Lincoln Public School's English as a Second Language programs last year. Of those students, 246 were born in the United States to refugee/immigrant families.

And don't forget the military, one of the greatest assimilating organizations in the nation. Nebraska National Guard Soldiers know of those refugees with Special Immigrant Visas who assisted our military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq with translation, interpretation and so forth. These visas facilitate their speedy entrance into the United States due to the dangers they and their families face if caught in these countries by the enemy.

Facts don't lie. Ten nations accept the bulk of refugees for resettlement, and of those ten, the United States is the leading country. In the United States (in 2000), Lincoln was recognized as the twelfth largest resettlement area based on a per capita basis. Between Omaha and Lincoln, these two communities together now house the third largest group of Somali immigrants, falling just behind Houston and Nashville.²

The diversity of people that Nebraskans celebrate is vital to our nation's strength,

resiliency and growth in all aspects of its culture – economic, education, arts, literature, science and so forth. One rarely goes into any medical facility, for example, and does not see names with M.D. preceded by “foreign-looking names,” and come to find out, the individuals speak perfect, although accented, English. The same goes for our universities and colleges, businesses, military and government organizations – we find that the New Americans of the first generation here are contributing mightily to our mainstream life.

Some of these New Americans find their way into this mainstream of American life with ease, having various experiences and education that allow them to assimilate and participate fully into our lifestyles and culture. Others do not experience this luxury of easy assimilation. Instead, they experience such difficulties as language barriers, education shortfalls, unemployment and medical issues. Adequate housing, food, clothing, transportation, use of the monetary and banking systems are only some of the hurdles that they must overcome and, for some new arrivals, this can be quite daunting.

In 2002, Lincoln writer Mary Pipher authored the book, *The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community*, which detailed many of the problems refugee families experienced while integrating into the Lincoln community. Even by 2000, Lincoln was targeted as a Refugee Friendly city, gaining that designation after being cited as the “twelfth largest resettlement site per capita in the country.”³ The U.S. Department of State,

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recognizing the importance of Lincoln as a resettlement site, provided \$380,000 in a Targeted Assistance Grant that was intended to “assist the city with the cost of resettling refugee populations.”⁴

And there were tremendous costs, ranging from providing interpreters in schools, businesses, health care facilities, first responders, government offices and banks to finding appropriate medical care, housing, transportation, employment, adult education centers and food assistance.

The designation *Refugee Friendly City* resulted from Mayor Helen Boosalis’ recognition when many refugees were arriving in Lincoln, and in 1985, she requested that a task force be formed to ensure that these new arrivals were being adequately accommodated. Kit Boesch, the Administrator of Human Services in Lincoln and Lancaster County, formed the group Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, which is now known as the New American Task Force.

Since 1985, this task force has actively engaged in helping refugees successfully integrate into the Lincoln community. The task force has gained partners over the years, including the University of Nebraska, Southeast Community College, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln-Lancaster County (LLC) Health Department, LLC Human Services Department, Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln Housing Authority, Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Family Services, Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Appleaseed, Center for People in Need – just to name several of the many organizations that assist our New Americans.



On Friday, November 15, 2013, the New Americans Task Force (NATF) hosted a luncheon for more than 60 agencies and organizations involved with refugee resettlement in Lincoln/Lancaster County. The luncheon was held to honor four small businesses who have faithfully engaged refugees in meaningful employment. The winners of the NATF 2013 Employer of the Year awards were Paramount Linen (bronze); Farmland Lincoln and LSI Staffing (gold) and Farmland Crete (silver). Left to right: Sharon Halvorsen, Paramount Linen; Lisa Moore, Farmland Lincoln; Paula Aksamit, LSI Staffing; Candida Diaz and Cindy Divis, Farmland Crete.

The New American Task Force is energetically fulfilling its mission statement, which is “to welcome all newcomers, assisting them in building the lives they seek through the removal of barriers and the provision of culturally competent support services.”⁵

Each year approximately 200 more refugees arrive in Lincoln, and the task force actively engages with them to ensure that they can deal with their new environment and the necessary lifestyle changes confronting them. Understanding our banking system is pertinent to all new arrivals, and the task force engages with them to understand the pitfalls of paycheck lending. The task force is also helping to set up a new credit union called “Community H.O.P.E (Help our People Excel).” It also provides websites that are translated in various languages to offer information regarding community agencies and organizations,

bus systems, health centers and library computer centers in order to help people navigate the many resources available to them.

Various community centers offer information on parenting, business services, hygiene, the importance of keeping appointments, child abuse and domestic violence, drinking and driving, preventive health, English as a Second Language – the list could go on. Suffice it to say, people at all levels of government, the military, various organizations and agencies are working hard to help integrate the New Americans into the mainstream of American life.

Integration is the goal of all these assorted private and governmental agencies. Although we celebrate and appreciate diversity within our nation, assimilation into the mainstream of American life is the eventual goal. It is both necessary and desirable for the New Americans to

become productive and contributing citizens, thriving in the complexity of our culture and benefiting from the richness of life it provides.

So, for us who live in Nebraska, we do indeed strive to make alive the words of Emma Lazarus –

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

1. “Fate Leads to Citizenship,” *Lincoln Journal-Star*, October 31, 2013, p. 1
2. Kit Boesch, Administrator, Human Services, Lincoln/Lancaster County, *New American Task Force paper*
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*



PARADOXICALLY SPEAKING

The following was presented at a recent college graduation ceremony.

By Peter Allman



Peter Allman is a psychotherapist, an adjunct professor at Doane College-Lincoln and co-founder of Lighthouse, an after-school program for Lincoln youth. As an author, his books include "Little Me Can Live A Big Life" and "The Road to Freedom: Letting Go of Your Baggage" which are available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

giving you receive; the most valuable things in life are free. I think you are getting the picture. Okay, one more funny one written by Benjamin Franklin: "The tongue weighs practically nothing, and few can hold it."

Paradoxes embrace both-and thinking instead of either-or thinking. For example, I am both generous and selfish. I am both a saint and a sinner. I am both strong and weak.

Paradoxes are both ends of the same continuum. We are both the yin and the yang. They can be distinguished (strong/weak, reward/consequence), but they can't be separated. We are everything.

Modern culture has a difficult time accepting this paradigm. We are more comfortable with the dualistic "either-or" thinking. Popeye said, "You're either with me or you're against me." We like to put people and experiences in separate boxes. Liberal or conservative, blue collar or white collar, pleasurable or painful, red state or blue state; this way of thinking doesn't work. All states are various shades of purple!

My favorite New Yorker cartoon depicts Charles Dickens discussing his manuscript with an editor. The editor is saying, "I wish you would make up your mind, Mr. Dickens. Was it the best of times or the worst of times? It could scarcely have been both." This

dichotomized, black and white, either-or thinking will keep us in a small box and limit our personal growth. For example, we have separated mind and body. This has created and prolonged many illnesses. We know the body and the mind are interconnected, united and have an intricate relationship with each other.

Embracing paradoxes is the art of balancing opposites. It is not canceling each other out, but maintaining a healthy tension between the two. For example, by entering into an exercise program, we know it will be both painful and pleasurable. By being conscious of both ends, we might exercise because we know the pain will pass and we will soon feel the pleasure of a body that is in better shape.

The Beatles wrote, *I Want to Hold Your Hand* in G major and C major chords. It is a simple, catchy tune. When we hear a musician play an A major chord and then adds an A minor chord, we feel the soulfulness of the music. When he/she plays from both ends of the musical continuum, he/she creates musical pieces that we feel deeply and which touch our souls.

So what does this mean for you? Well, let's talk about another paradox. Playing it safe is the most dangerous thing you could do. It is easy to see this paradoxical truth in children. They need to learn how to walk, potty train, learn math, etc. We parent them to incrementally get out of their safety zone and grow into

Believe it or not, you are on an incredible journey. I am very happy for you. You are exactly where you need to be. If you want to make your life better...make it better. But, wherever you are, you have created great personal rewards and experienced great personal sacrifices.

Wait! Reward and sacrifice are contradictory. How can something be a reward and a sacrifice at the same time? The answer is because it is a paradox. That is what I want to focus on in this article. A paradox is a statement that is seemingly contradictory, or opposed to common sense, and yet perhaps is true.

Seemingly contradictory, and yet is true. On the back of your dollar bill are the words: E Pluribus Unum. Out of many, one. Every day we speak paradoxically: In

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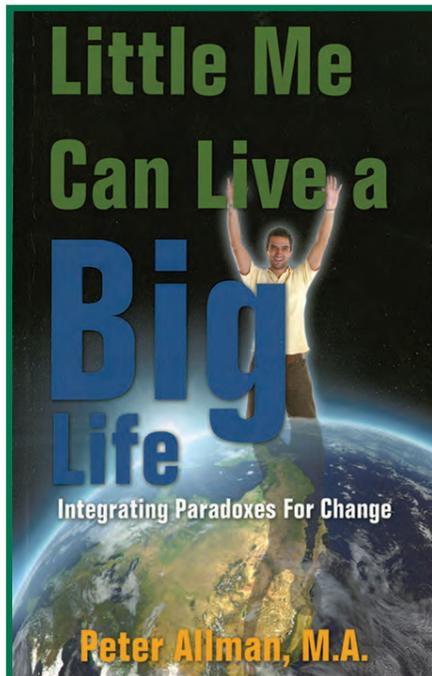
Paradoxically Speaking continued from Page 6

a bigger life. Who is parenting us to live a bigger life? I believe we all have an innate drive to wholeness. For example, the acorn might want to live in the safety of the soil. But it pushes itself up toward the light to become the mighty oak tree because that is the way it was created.

Fear is the dynamic that keeps us playing it safe. Being conscious of this, we can begin to take calculated risks, knowing it is our human nature to be fearful of moving into the unknown. Yet that is where the growth occurs. A boat that is tied to the dock is very safe, but it is not serving its designed purpose, and it is going nowhere. Everyone is designed to live a big life. As college students you parented yourself by continuing on with your education because you wanted a bigger life. Keep striving, keep parenting yourself, for the job that is the perfect fit for you. Keep pushing yourself to learn, grow and evolve into your Best Self; for a healthier marriage; for being a more involved parent, for being a better member of our community.

Are you ready for another paradox? In living life we sometimes forget to live. We all have a tendency to hang on to what we know and to create habits. We do today what we did the day before and the day before that. These habits give us the illusion that we are safe. The habits also create a small life and do not allow our natural talents and abilities to be used for the benefit of ourselves and others.

Most people love to be on the top of the mountain. The view is breathtaking and mountaintop experiences are exhilarating. However, when one is up that high, the oxygen level is too low and there is very limited opportunity for vegetation growth. Most of the growth is down in



the valleys. The pain and suffering of the valley motivates one to learn one's lesson, learn perseverance, more fully trust in a Higher Being, and then climb to higher destinations. Life is big. Embrace both the mountaintops and the valleys.

Sounds simple. Here's another paradox. Simple Isn't Easy. To help live this paradox try to remember what Josh Billings, a humorist said, "Be like a postage stamp - stick to one thing until you get there."

I hope you keep growing, and always do the work you love. You don't want to live a small life like a character in the movie *Office Space*. He said, "Each day of work is progressively worse than the day before, so every time you see me, that's the worst day of my life." You now have the diploma. You are wiser. Glen Frey sings in the Eagles song, *Already Gone*, "So often times it happens that we live our lives in chains, and we never even know we have the key." Freedom is in your hands.

I leave you with a quote from the wisest soul who ever lived: Yoda. "Do or do not. There is no try." Do what you have to do to create a big life that is helpful to you and to others. 

SEP Notes continued from Page 2

group for all you have done to promote diversity in and out of the Guard.

I am also thankful for the incredible people I've met while working for the NMD. I don't have the space to mention you all, and if I tried, I would miss many of you whom have gone on to other things or who were taken away from us too soon. I am thankful for my past co-worker, Gerry, who always had so many keen insights on the world around us and into other people. I am also thankful

for my current co-worker, Amy, who has brought a fresh new outlook to the Graphic Arts Department.

As I wind down this gratitude list, I will conclude by mentioning two people who were members of the SEP Group before I started and who continue to be strong and active members today. First, Pam Makovicka, who manages the Federal Women's Program. She is an amazing person who has experienced many highs and lows since I have known her. She always seems to come out stronger and never wavers in her dedication to the SEP Group or the NMD. She is very supportive of me personally, and I thank her for that.

The second long-standing member is LaVonne Rosenthal, a remarkable woman. She is a very strong, passionate individual. Very knowledgeable about equal opportunity and diversity. She has been the glue that has kept this group together and is a great leader in the NMD world of diversity. She also has seen many highs and lows (most notable is that she is a breast cancer survivor – which puts her into another group of very special people) since I have known her and she always comes out stronger, with a renewed sense of self and a higher degree of faith.

Diversity is a fascinating and fluid topic. I am thankful for the very diverse population of Nebraska. Each member of our community has a very unique point-of-view they bring to this world and I am grateful for each time I meet someone new. I have met many people who I am very honored to call friends and they always help me see the world from a different perspective.

I just can't finish this without a bit of levity. The last thing I would like to mention that I am grateful for is the wonderful diversity of restaurants we have, specifically in the Lincoln and Omaha areas (as that is where I am most of the time). It is always fun to try foods from the different ethnic communities in the area. They also give us much to write about for reviews in BTG! Last but not least, one more thing: I am grateful for my family. 

WEBSITE REVIEW: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS (NCWO)

<http://www.womensorganizations.org/>

Review by LaVonne Rosenthal

Looking ahead to March and Women's History Month, I chose to examine a website related to women's issues. "The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) is a non-partisan network of over 200 organizations representing more than 12 million women. Affiliates, which include America's leading women's research, service and advocacy groups are diverse and their platforms vary. All, however, work for women's equal participation in the economic, social and political life of our country and the world. "Our numbers are the critical force that gives NCWO its power and strength. In addition to organizational members, NCWO welcomes individual members."

Their bright and inviting home page greets you with vivid shades of lavender and other colors, enticing you to delve deeper into the information. Drop-down menus offer Home, Who We Are, What We Do, Support Us (you can donate to the cause directly online), Join Us, Our Blog, Press Room, Events, Job Postings and Contact Information.

Under the "Who We Are" option is the link to their history where we learn more about how and why this group began. "The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) is a nonpartisan,



nonprofit umbrella organization of more than 200 groups, which collectively represent over 12 million women across the country. It is the only national coalition of its kind.

"NCWO grew out of an informal group of women's organizational leaders after [the] defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1983. NCWO has grown steadily and become stronger each year. Capitalizing on the energy and inspiration following the 1995 Beijing Conference, NCWO has taken an active, powerful role in the policy arena, uniting women's groups across the country to work together to advance a progressive women's agenda."

With the large number of members in

this coalition, it's overwhelming to just glance through the alphabetical listings of organizations. Of all the 26 letters of the alphabet, there are members listed under each letter except K, Q, X and Z. To get an idea of their members' background and specialties, I randomly chose Rachel's Network, in Washington, D.C. This organization, which began in 1999, presents the following mission statement: "Rachel's Network promotes women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth. True to our pioneers' mission, Rachel's Network continues to build productive alliances among our nearly 100 members who care deeply about the environment, health and women's empowerment." This is only one example of the hundreds of members in NCWO.

The "Events" option takes readers to a calendar where currently there are appointments scheduled only for the NCWO Media and Technology Task Force in the upcoming months. The "Job Posting" link takes us to an empty page, which is absent any notation about why it's blank.

One particularly interesting area is under "What We Do," where we find the description of a leadership program offered by NCWO. "New Faces, More Voices is a leadership training institute of the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO). Launched during the summer of 1999, the purpose of this program is to strengthen the women's movement by providing leadership training and skill building for interns of NCWO member organizations. As a complement to their

"I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people."

~ Rosa Parks

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FUN FOOD TRIVIA

1. What two toppings are always on a Chicago-style hot dog?
 - a. Shredded cabbage and ketchup
 - b. Tomato wedges and celery salt
 - c. A celery stick and mayonnaise
2. How do people in Cincinnati eat their chili?
 - a. Over crushed crackers
 - b. Over rice
 - c. Over spaghetti
3. What vegetable can be used to thicken Louisiana gumbo?
 - a. Okra
 - b. Potatoes
 - c. Cabbage
4. What is the traditional way to serve peanuts in the South?
 - a. Roasted and salted
 - b. Boiled
 - c. Honey roasted
5. During what meal is the pork dish Scrapple typically eaten?
 - a. Breakfast
 - b. Lunch
 - c. Dinner
6. What defines Kansas City barbecue sauce?
 - a. Smoked pepper base
 - b. Vinegar base
 - c. Tomato base
7. What famous New York food is honored on July 4th with an eating contest?
 - a. Pizza
 - b. Hot dog
 - c. Bagel
8. What sticky confection originated in St. Louis?
 - a. Goopy butter cake
 - b. Fudge
 - c. Sticky toffee pudding
9. What topping does a "hot dish" casserole often have?
 - a. Cornbread
 - b. Green beans
 - c. Tater tots
10. If you were in Philadelphia and ordered a cheese steak "one wiz with" – what would you get?
 - a. One cheese steak with cheese, one cheese steak without
 - b. One cheese steak with Cheese Whiz and onions
 - c. One cheese steak with provolone and peppers
11. How do bagels differ from other breads and rolls?
 - a. They are blessed by a rabbi before baking
 - b. The dough contains cream cheese
 - c. They are boiled before baking
12. Bacon has been around for a long time. Where and when was bacon first made?
 - a. China 1500 BC
 - b. Egypt 3000 BC
 - c. Turkey 1800 BC

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internship policy work, this program provides NCWO member organization interns with the training they need to engage in effective advocacy and organizing around feminist social justice issues. Through seminars and workshops, *New Faces, More Voices* fosters communication and collaboration among NCWO interns, feminist policymakers and other organizations with compatible social and economic goals. Through generous funding from Lifetime Television and the Ms. Foundation, this unique opportunity for broad-based training and cross-generational dialogue provides interns with the skills they need

for advocating for women's equity beyond their internships in Washington, D.C."

This is a specialized website for professional women and the organizations they have created. There is an apparent networking benefit to becoming a part

"True leaders understand that leadership is not about them but about those they serve. It is not about exalting themselves but about lifting others up."

- Sheri L. Dew, Saying It Like It Is

of NCWO and to join others as they strive for improvements within the core policies of economics and social security, education and training, women's health, civil rights and the Federal budget and taxes. When selecting each of the principles listed on the web page, lists titled "What We Support" and

"What We Oppose" are populated. "We recognize the importance of improving programs and policies that address girls' and women's economic, legal, social and physical well-being throughout their lifespan. Our policy agenda comprises building blocks for a society free from the inequality, oppression and discrimination that face a variety of women and girls from many different backgrounds and experiences."

This website has a plethora of information for a large, yet specific audience. It certainly fills a niche for professional women's organizations wanting a hub where connections can be made to like-minded individuals.



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

By SFC Jenna Schneider &
LaVonne Rosenthal

SFC Jenna Schneider

Recently I had the privilege of volunteering at *Project Homeless Connect Lincoln*. This initiative was established to address the needs of people who are homeless in cities across the United States, Canada and Australia. This event is a one-day, one-stop shop where homeless individuals and families are able to receive a wide variety of immediate services for unmet needs. Medical and behavior health professionals, Veterans Affairs, The Food Bank, Matt Talbot Kitchen and countless other service providers lined Pershing Auditorium to provide assistance with housing needs, legal issues, health care and basic needs, just to name a few.

My job during the event was to navigate individuals seeking assistance to the desired providers to assist them in getting the help they needed. I was pretty intimidated at the thought. My knowledge of the services that are available to the homeless was minimal, and as I looked out

over the countless informational tables and booths my apprehension grew. As those who were seeking assistance lined up outside the auditorium doors, the volunteer navigators took their place in line for their assignment. It was then that I met William (name has been changed to protect his identity). William recently traded in his bed on Q Street for one in his own apartment. As we sat down to discuss what he wanted to accomplish for the day, he began to tell me his story. He became homeless after he moved to

Lincoln from the East Coast in search of work. At the time, he had a substantial substance abuse problem. He told me about his children and his service to our country. He had just missed Vietnam when he enlisted into the Army. He spent several years in Guam and Germany, and after an injury, he was discharged.

As we sat sipping our coffee I began to realize that Bill was just like anyone else; he has experienced life. Good or bad,

he made decisions that put him in the chair across the table from me. He didn't try to make excuses for his situation and

he wasn't ashamed to explain it to me. His story was both touching and eye-opening and his honesty was refreshing. His determination to make a better life for himself was apparent in his words as he spoke freely of his experiences. This was his story, and he was proud of what he had overcome and I was proud to sit and listen to it.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, as in the rest of the United States, the homeless and near-homeless population includes people

Living Situation on Evening Prior to Project Homeless Connect

	Frequency	Percent
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center (HUD)	42	14.9
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house (HUD)	34	12.1
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher(HUD)	31	11.0
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house (HUD)	31	11.0
Rental by client, no housing subsidy (HUD)	30	10.6
Place not meant for habitation inclusive of 'non-housing service site(outreach programs only)'(HUD)	29	10.3
Owned by client, no housing subsidy (HUD)	28	9.9
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth) (HUD)	23	8.2
Rental by client, with other (non-VASH) housing subsidy (HUD)	12	4.3
Other (HUD)	7	2.5
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility (HUD)	6	2.1
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher (HUD)	4	1.4
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility (HUD)	3	1.1
Foster care home or foster care group home (HUD)	1	.4
Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons(such as SHP, S+C, or SRO Mod Rehab)(HUD)	1	.4
Total	282	100.0

from all walks of life and it is important for all of us to remember this. I attempted to answer the question of just how many individuals experience homelessness, but found it to be a difficult task. In fact, the question itself I found to be misleading. In most cases, homelessness is a temporary circumstance – not a permanent condition. As a result of methodological and financial constraints, most studies are limited to counting people who utilize shelters or those who are on the streets. While this approach may bring to light useful information regarding the number of individuals who actually utilize services such as shelters and soup kitchens and those individuals who are easy locatable on the street, the result is an underestimation of the number who are homeless.

The bottom line is that the approximate number of homeless people greatly exceeds the number of emergency shelter and transitional housing spaces. Services organized by the *Homeless Coalition* such

Continued on Page 11

Project Homeless Connect continued from Page 10

as *Project Homeless Connect* are striving to change that. As with any problem, it is always best to start at the root and work your way out. You have to understand why or where the problem started in order to better understand how to fix or change it. For more information regarding the program or how you can get involved, visit their website at <http://www.lincolnhomelesscoalition.org/project-homeless-connect-lincoln/>.

A Second Look at Project Homeless Connect

LaVonne Rosenthal

When SMSgt Stuart Stofferahn told me about the volunteer opportunity for *Project Homeless Connect*, I was ready to volunteer and give back to the community. As the time got closer and the government shutdown occurred, part of me wanted to back out. I'm glad I didn't. On October 10, 2013, Pershing Auditorium was transformed into a welcoming village for Lincoln's homeless community. Volunteers were given a brief

training session on how things were laid out and also in treating our guests with the respect they deserve.

I was honored to be a guide for two gentlemen: one was a veteran and the other was not. I gave them an overview of what services were available and they chose which booths to visit. Veterans had a special section only for them where they could get their flu and pneumonia shots. They also had a selection of donated clothing items to choose from. A foot clinic was one of the major areas for our guests. After a pedicure, they received a new pair of boots or shoes. That was like hitting a jackpot. Unfortunately, the foot clinic was only available in the morning.

Many other service organizations were available to assist with housing, income taxes, food stamps, health needs and employment. There was even a booth for pets, providing a variety of treats. One of my fellow navigators had a great method of determining which space to visit first. She said, "I asked him, what was the most important thing he needed to do today. His response was housing, so we went to the housing booth first." She experienced first-hand the feeling of success as her guest was able to find a place to live.

I'm not certain how many volunteers were at the event. I just

"Sometimes it's easy to walk by because we know we can't change someone's whole life in a single afternoon. But what we fail to realize is that simple kindness can go a long way toward encouraging someone who is stuck in a desolate place."

~ Mike Yankoski

know I was proud to be a part of the Guard Team who volunteered for our community. The day after the event, we all received the following e-mail message from SMSgt Stofferahn:

"On October 10th, you sacrificed some of your time for those most in need. You WILLINGLY gave of yourself so that others may benefit. While this is not a new concept to those of us who serve in the military or serve WITH the military, the service performed on Thursday was different. Pope Francis was quoted with saying that 'The greatness of a nation can be found in the way in which it treats those most in need.' You were a part in making this country a great nation.

"Please understand that what you did on Thursday may not SEEM like a lot, but you have no idea what that day meant to those you helped. If you consider your own life, it doesn't take long to find a person or situation that, once experienced, changed your life forever. 'Thank you' just doesn't come close to expressing my gratitude."

His e-mail continues: "I leave you with one more definition - my favorite definition - and one you all personified on Thursday. Philip Gilley defines grace as: 'Grace, since it is not instinctive, begins with mindfulness and our deliberate intention to act with loving kindness when we could have justifiably done otherwise.'"

I look forward to next year's event, and hope more of you will join us for this amazing opportunity.



Service	Unique Client Count	# of Services
Meals	277	277
Comprehensive Information and Referral	236	1228
Clothing	161	161
Vision Screening	87	87
Flu Vaccines	81	81
Health Screening/Diagnostic Services	80	81
Shoes	77	77
Food Stamps/SNAP Applications	66	76
Case/Care Management	64	79
Employment Preparation	61	67
Medicaid Applications	61	63
Legal Counseling	57	57
Hairdressing/Nail Care	48	48
Podiatry/Foot Care	45	45
Dental Screening	39	39
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services	37	40
Td/Tdap Immunizations	36	36
Hearing Screening	35	35
Tax Preparation Assistance	32	32
Veteran Benefits Assistance	32	54
Immunizations	30	30
Benefits Screening	29	29
Sexually Transmitted Disease Screening	25	25
Bicycle Repair	24	24
Street Outreach Programs	18	18
Crisis Intervention	17	17
Hearing Screenings	17	17
AIDS/HIV Prevention Counseling	13	13
Ex-Offender Reentry Programs	12	12
Pap Tests	11	11
Pneumococcal Pneumonia Immunizations	9	9
Job Readiness	8	8
Family Planning	6	6
Money Management	4	4
Contraception	1	1
Drop In Child Care	1	1

RESTAURANT REVIEW

LEADBELLY

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PUB

Review by SFC Jenna Schneider

301 North 8th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

402-261-8849

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/LeadBelly-Contemporary-American-Pub/150666395108698>

LeadBelly calls itself a “Contemporary American Pub,” with a menu filled with a variety of gourmet burgers, tacos, sandwiches and salads. The menu also features a handful of entrees, including chicken-fried steak, bangers and mash, and fish and chips, as well as quite a few vegetarian options. Located right up the street from the new Pinnacle Bank Arena in the booming Haymarket, Leadbelly is well positioned for huge success. And based on our visits, deserves it!

FOOD

My husband is a HUGE burger fan (who isn't?), so at a place like LeadBelly he feels right at home. They specialize in the “LeadBellies,” which are a twist on the fast-casual concept of a burger and fries. First, you pick your patty – hamburger, grilled chicken breast, or a veggie burger – and then you pick one of 13 “toppings.” The Leadbellies range in price from \$7.99 to \$11.99 and are served with a blend of seasoned waffle and crinkle cut fries. Other seasonal sides can be substituted for no additional charge.

On our first visit, he tried the Full Ledged Jacket LeadBelly, which is a burger placed in a bowl, topped with a freshly-baked cinnamon roll which is then topped with white cheddar, chili, queso, sour cream, scallions, chopped tomato, red onion, fresh jalapeños and a choice of homemade corn or flour tortilla chips. At \$11.99, you definitely get your money's worth. On our second visit, he got the Hangover Helper LeadBelly, which consisted of a burger with bloody mary ketchup, fresh celery and kosher dill

pickle topped with a fried egg, and garnished with pimento-stuffed olives. All this for \$8.99!

I tried the Curry Chicken LeadBelly, which had feta cheese, cucumber, tomato, red onion, basil and curry sour cream for \$7.99. It was everything that I hoped it would be – great flavor and a great price. Second visit, I tried the fish and chips, and for \$10.99 I got five healthy portions of cod, fries, grilled corn on the cob and malt vinegar pub sauce. The fish was breaded perfectly and the malt vinegar pub sauce was a great substitute to plain ol' tartar sauce.

My husband and I are both lovers for some good chips and salsa, so on both occasions we ordered salsa and guacamole with homemade flour tortilla chips. Both the salsa and guacamole were freshly made and the homemade flour tortilla chips were excellent. Also, if you are a fan of the french fry, I recommend the Poutine – waffle fries, red wine demi, white cheddar cheese curds and smoked candied bacon. With 17 different appetizers to choose from, I am sure



anyone can find just what they are looking for.

SERVICE

On both occasions, we visited LeadBelly on a busy Friday during the dinner rush. The wait for a table was about 15 minutes, but once we were seated our server was right there to take drink and/or appetizer orders. Our servers were both very knowledgeable of the menu and adept at making recommendations. The turnaround time once our food was ordered was only another 15 minutes. LeadBelly has the typical bar atmosphere, so if you are looking for a quiet dining experience I would recommend a table in the back of the restaurant in the second dining area.



By Col Wendy Johnson

NEBRASKA AUTHORS AND OUR LITERARY HERITAGE

Tucked away on the third floor of Bennett Martin Public Library, Lincoln's main library situated downtown, is a jewel of Nebraska literary history. The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors holds more than 12,000 volumes representing more than 3,350 authors. If you're like me and you hear the phrase Nebraska Author, Willa Cather might be among the first names to come to mind, but the heritage collection encompasses more than just pioneer stories.

The collection includes books on topics such as philosophy, poetry, nature, politics and pop culture, and genres including fiction, romance, fantasy, western, mystery and contemporary novels. Inherent in Nebraska's literary history is a relationship to our state's social, political, moral and intellectual life. The "Heritage" moniker is apt; Microsoft Bing's definition of heritage includes, "Something passing from generation to generation: something that passes from one generation to the next in a social group, e.g. a way of life or traditional culture."¹ In short, Nebraska's authors and literature offer a glimpse at our state's culture.

Last year I was asked by a friend if I would be interested in serving on the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) board. As a fan of history, a bookworm and with hopes of a second career in the library field someday, I seized the opportunity, not really

knowing anything about the Association or its mission. The NLHA exists to "encourage the collection, preservation and promotion of work by and about Nebraska authors" and "to foster the creation and appreciation of this literature through programs, collaborative partnerships and the use of technology."² It is funded primarily through membership dues and one annual fund raising event – a Spelling Bee. Brewsky's downtown has played host to the Spelling Bee on numerous occasions and 2014 will mark the Bee's 30th Anniversary.

Since getting involved with the NLHA, I've admittedly increased my knowledge of Nebraska authors and continue to not only gain appreciation for our state's cultural diversity, but I am impressed by the role our libraries, and in this case the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room, play in education. On the NLHA website you will find resources such as a curriculum guide for Mari Sandoz's *The Horse Catcher*, containing materials about Mari and the Cheyenne tribe.

"Native Americans have found Nebraska poet John Neihardt's record of his encounter with Black Elk crucial in preserving their own spiritual traditions and history."³

The Nebraska Military Department values



Willa Cather Corner

diversity, and a goal of the Special Emphasis Program (SEP) Group is to "provide opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness."⁴ My role on the NLHA board has been an opportunity for community outreach, definitely educational, and continues to enhance my personal cultural awareness. If you have not had the opportunity or were not aware of the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room, it's worth a visit.

1. Bing Dictionary, <http://www.bing.com/search?q=heritage+definition&q&ss=SS&pq=heritage+def&sc=8-12&sp=1&FORM=QBRE&cvid=9434452e183e43ba90406b0523073920>, accessed 17 Oct 13
2. Nebraska Literary Heritage Association web site, <https://secure2.digitalims.net/foundationforlcl.org/NLHA/aboutnlha.html>, accessed 17 Oct 13
3. The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors web site, <http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/hrl/front.htm>, accessed 17 Oct 13
4. *Bridging the Gap*, Issue #39, Oct-Nov 2013, pg 2



NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

By Pam Makovicka

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2013 was "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

This theme focused on how employees with disabilities are as capable as people without disabilities of producing high quality work and achieving great success in the workforce.

"When I was growing up, many people doubted what I could do just because I was blind. But because I had people



Kathleen Martinez

in my life who instilled in me an expectation of work and showed me opportunities to be successful, I completed college and became known for what I can do," said Kathy Martinez, Assistant Secretary of Labor For Disability Employment Policy. "I urge all employers to benefit from the skills of workers with disabilities by giving them, including our returning veterans, a chance to show that they, too, are equal to the task."*

The reality is that people with disabilities have the experience, education and drive to be successful in the workforce and this month presents us with the opportunity to recognize their invaluable

contribution. The month also provides the opportunity for employers to reaffirm their commitment to ensure that all people, regardless of ability, have the right to equal employment opportunities.

NDEAM's tradition began back in 1945 when President Harry Truman passed Public Law 176 declaring that the first week of October would be known as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." October of 1945 was just four months after the passing of Franklin Roosevelt, who is arguably one of the most famous Americans with a disability, as he was left with an ambulatory disability after a bout with polio. In 1962, the term "physically" was removed from the title, as they wanted the law to be more inclusive of people with many different kinds of disabilities and not just physical disabilities. With the evolution and adoption of people-first language, the title was changed again in 1988 to the current title of National Disability Employment Awareness and extended to a month.

*<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odepl/ODEP20131020.htm>

"If I regarded my life from the point of view of the pessimist, I should be undone. I should seek in vain for the light that does not visit my eyes and the music that does not ring in my ears. I should beg night and day and never be satisfied. I should sit apart in awful solitude, a prey to fear and despair. But since I consider it a duty to myself and to others to be happy, I escape a misery worse than any physical deprivation."

~ Helen Keller





For me personally, an organization embracing diversity means there is a culture, encouraged by leadership and practiced at all levels, to openly desire differing viewpoints, opinions, approaches and solutions to problems. In the past, we have tried to identify varied backgrounds by attaching race, ethnicity, gender or religion to the person, assuming because they look or sound different, they must think differently. Not always true. Organizations should not pursue diversity as a program, but as a culture (climate) of inclusion where everyone's thoughts, ideas and opinions are heard, considered and valued. A culture of diversity lacks fear. A diverse culture welcomes discussion and challenges to the status quo. Not every idea or challenge is plausible or executable but we embrace the discussion. A diverse culture avoids labeling "one right answer or right method." An organization with a diverse culture knows that differences make the organization stronger and better able to adapt to future challenges because a diverse organization has a larger pool of talent and information from which to draw, thereby increasing the possible viewpoints, opinions, approaches and solutions needed to meet change.

Colonel James R. "Bob" Stevenson, Jr.
Vice Commander
155th Air Refueling Wing

A VIEW OF DIVERSITY FROM WHERE I STAND

In this, our third iteration of "View" we again highlight three individuals who work for the Nebraska Military Department to hear their own personal definition of diversity.

"A View of Diversity From Where I Stand" presents individualistic viewpoints, and that we "stand" for ours and each others' rights for respect and appreciation of our uniquenesses.



"What we have to do... is to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities." - Hillary Clinton

I firmly believe that differences among individuals can be one of the greatest strengths an organization, community, or country can have. It's always good to be able to see the other side of the coin.

Jessie Bockelman
Personnel Assistant
HRO - State Personnel
Nebraska Military Department



My personal definition of diversity:

A wide range of interests, backgrounds and experiences; basically anything that sets one individual apart from another. My definition would include openness to differences among people, cultures and perspectives. Having a multitude of people from different backgrounds and cultures together in the same environment working for the same goals.

SFC Jenna Schneider
Program Analyst, 209th RTI

Infinite diversity in infinite combinations... symbolizing the elements that create truth and beauty.

- Commander Spock, Star Trek





402ND MILITARY POLICE (MP) BATTALION (BN) INTERNMENT RESETTLEMENT (I/R)

By BN Staff

When looking at organizational diversity, it's difficult to find any force structure in the Army more diverse than the 402nd MP BN (I/R) and its subordinate units. Soldiers internally refer to it as the "Frankenstein Battalion," as none of the units assigned are in Operational Control (OPCON) to the BN Headquarters.

None of the companies assigned to the 402nd perform a "war-trace" function to the BN, or more simply stated, all have their own separate and unique missions. Assigned units consist of the 192nd Law and Order Detachment, the 195th Forward Support Company (FSC) (Special Operations (SO))(Airborne(A)) and Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company (Aerial Resupply/Light Drop), which soon will reorganize into a "heavy drop" unit. The available Military Occupational Specialities (MOSs) in each of these units are as diverse as their assigned missions.

While many people look at the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 402nd MP BN and think "oh, they're all MPs," that's not the case. Of the 144 authorized personnel in the HHC, only 53 of those are actually MPs. The remainder of the unit



runs the gamut of specialties, with officer and enlisted positions consisting of Engineers, Administration, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Transportation, Medical, Signal and Chemical. In addition to MPs (31E), the unit is particularly robust in all

Quartermaster (91-series) MOSs and Administration (42-series) to include Finance (44). The unit even has a Chaplain, a Unit Ministry Team (UMT) and a paralegal.

The reason for the diversity in specialties is the unit's mission of operating and maintaining an internment facility. This includes providing all life-support and security needs, not only for the Soldiers assigned to the unit, but also any "guests" of the facilities they operate. All of these specialties are open to both male and female Soldiers. The HHC, 402nd MP BN is well above the Army National Guard average of male-to-female Soldier ratio at 22%. The Army National Guard (ARNG) typically hovers around 10%.

The missions of the Nebraska (NE) ARNG units assigned to the 402nd MP BN are equally diverse. For example, two-thirds of NE ARNG Airborne units are assigned under the 402nd, with no Airborne positions or requirements for

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to continue our series of articles titled, Agency Spotlight. The purpose of these articles is to learn about the different units, offices and agencies within the Nebraska Military Department and those closely associated with it. The articles will feature a description of the organization, their people, purpose and places they have been. Enjoy!



the BN HQ. The ability of the BN HQ to manage this "Frankenstein Battalion" is only accomplished by the diversity of individual past experiences and assignments BN leaders bring to their duty positions. This diversity reinforces NE ARNG guidance of our Soldiers having a broad range of skills and assignments to adapt to changing future force structures and missions. As the Army Provost Marshall General, Major General David Quantock recently briefed to the MP Regiment, "We don't want to limit ourselves to being 'one-trick' ponies."

Continued on Page 17



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

17

402nd MP continued from Page 16

The 195th FSC (SO)(A) is the epitome of diversity in terms of mission, MOSs, and their unique Administrative Control/Operational Control (ADCON/OPCON) relationship with the 528th Special Troops Battalion (STB) in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They literally serve two masters, as they have to meet all requirements driven by the 402nd MP BN with ARNG requirements. The 195th also has to meet all additional requirements of their “war-trace” Active Component battalion and brigade headquarters. In addition to maintaining MOS proficiency and training standards, the unit has the added requirement of conducting quarterly Airborne Operations.

The unit’s primary mission is to provide logistical and base support to a myriad of Special Forces (SF) operations as part of only two Special Operations Forward Support Companies in the entire Army force structure (the 197th FSC is in the Texas ARNG). This creates a higher Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO) and requires mobilization of six-to ten-person teams every six to nine months, as the 528th STB could not complete their mission requirements without the 195th and 197th.

MOS diversity is a hallmark in the 195th as well, covering all aspects of logistical support. Due to the fluid needs of SF operational support, Soldiers in the 195th must be adept at knowing and articulating all areas of logistics, regardless of specialty or rank. During deployments, Soldiers typically find themselves working with all branches and specialties of the military, and often you can find situations where a Sergeant (E-5) has to brief Brigade Commanders on logistical support, classes of supply, transportation and maintenance statuses.

One of the most unique units in the NE ARNG is Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company (QM Co), or as they’re commonly referred to “The



Riggers.” Without them, there wouldn’t be Airborne operations, as they are the only personnel who can pack and inspect parachutes. While the MOSs in the unit are few (88 and 92 series), the diversity of the 165th comes from its mission of aerial resupply. After implementation of their new modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE), the unit will be able to pack any parachute in the Army inventory, from all personnel chutes to all “package drop” chutes.

The unit’s mission is to conduct aerial resupply and delivery. Currently, that mainly involves packing “door bundles” that are pushed out of a C-130 or CH-47. The unit also packs and inspects all personnel parachutes for the 195th FSC, the 165th, and C Co, 1-134th Cavalry (CAV) Squadron. The unit will soon pack cargo for delivery from a C-5, which requires significantly more training. In addition to their MTOE mission, the 165th also has to meet the same quarterly Airborne training requirements as the 195th.

Qualifications and prerequisites to become a “Rigger,” or 92R are stringent. Soldiers must not have any significant legal, alcohol or drug-related offenses in their past to even be considered, and must have the highest character and integrity. Due to their positions, they literally have Soldiers’ lives in their hands.



The 192nd Law and Order Detachment (L&O Det) protects lives as part of their Military Police mission. “Assist, Protect, Defend” is the MP Regimental motto, and it applies to all aspects of military operations and Defense Support of Civilian Authorities (DSCA) events. DSCA support is one of the key missions of the National Guard, and an area where the 192nd excels. For example, after the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013, the 192nd provided a team to augment security at the Nebraska National Guard Lincoln Marathon in May 2013. The 192nd worked with diverse community organizations and law enforcement agencies to fit into the overall security plan and enhance the safety of all participants and spectators.

When looking at the diversity of the 402nd, both in MOSs and unit missions, perhaps former Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook said it best: “America’s strength is not our diversity; our strength is our ability to unite people of different backgrounds around common principles.” While the 402nd MP BN is indeed diverse, its strength lies in common goals and bonds all military units share, regardless of unit or branch of service, to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and provide for the common defense.



Fun Food Trivia continued from Page 9

FUN FOOD TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. B. Chicago-style dogs are toppings-heavy. They start with an all-beef hot dog in a poppy-seed bun that is topped with yellow mustard, chopped onion, pickle relish, ketchup, tomato wedges, a pickle spear, sport peppers and celery salt.



2. C. Cincinnati chili is generally thinner (also with a hint of cinnamon and cloves) than other chilis and is served on top of a bed of spaghetti.



Topping options include chili on spaghetti (known as a Two-Way), plus adding shredded cheddar cheese (Three-Way), also adding chopped onions (Four-Way) and lastly adding kidney beans on top of everything else (Five-Way).

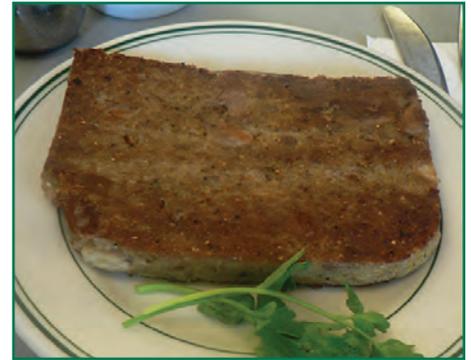
3. A. Okra, when cut, releases a sticky substance that has thickening properties and is often used in soup, stews and gumbos.



4. B. Boiling peanuts has been a cultural tradition in the South since the 1800s, when peanuts were a common crop. After the harvest, unsold peanuts were boiled in the shell in heavily salted water. Boiled peanuts are soft, salty and eaten hot right out of the cooking water.



5. A. Breakfast. Scrapple, a mysterious delicacy made primarily from pork trimmings and cornmeal, is usually sliced, pan fried and served with eggs, potatoes and/or toast with a variety of sweet and savory condiments. Scrapple is a popular item in the Philadelphia area. (BTG featured a Scrapple recipe in Issue 35.)



6. C. Kansas City barbecue sauce is defined by its tomato base. vinegar, pepper, sugar, molasses and spices round out the flavor profile. Southern barbeque sauces are mostly vinegar or mustard based.



7. B. Since 1916, Nathan's Famous has hosted a hot dog eating contest on July 4th at its storefront in Coney Island. In 2013, winner Joey Chestnut ate 69 hot dogs and buns!

Continued on Page 19

Fun Food Trivia continued from Page 18

8. A. The quirky coffee cake known as “goosey butter cake” was invented in St. Louis, Missouri, sometime in the 1930s. It usually consists of moist and buttery yellow cake topped with a pudding-like layer of butter, sugar, eggs and flour.



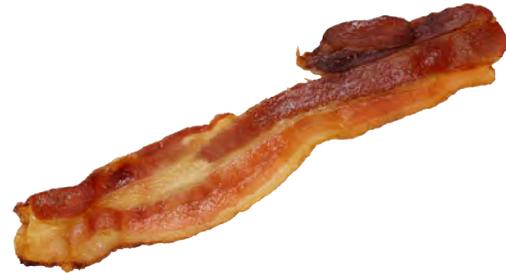
9. C. “Hot dish” is a type of baked casserole popular in the Midwest, especially in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Golden baked tater tots top a filling casserole composed of ground meat (beef or sausage are common) and mixed vegetables bound together with canned soup.



10. B. Options abound at the cheese steak counter, but most Philadelphians have the ordering down to a shorthand. Three main distinctions exist: How many cheese steaks do you want? Do you want American, provolone or Cheez Whiz? And do you want sauteed onions or not? Following this system, “one wiz with” would therefore be one steak sandwich with Cheez Whiz and onions.



11. C. To get that unmistakable chewy texture of a well-prepared bagel, the raw bagel dough rings are boiled in water before popping them into a scorching-hot oven.



12. A. It turns out that the historical origins of bacon are very old indeed. The Chinese were curing pork bellies with salt, and therefore creating a very early form of bacon as far back as 1500 BC. Bacon may be even older than that, but those are the first records we have that refer to bacon in any recognizable form.

Sources:

<http://www.delish.com>

<http://natbansfamous.com>

<http://republicofbacon.com/2012/02/29/bacon-history-time-to-hit-the-bacon-lecture-ball/>

When I add a spoon of honey to my tea, I give thanks to a dozen bees for the work of their whole lives. When my finger sweeps the final drop of sweetness from the jar, I know we've enjoyed the nectar from over a million flowers. This is what honey is: the souls of flowers, a food to please the gods. Honeyeaters know that to have a joyful heart one must live life like the bees, sipping the sweet nectar from each moment as it blooms. And Life, like the world of honey, has its enchantments and stings....

*~ Ingrid Goff-Maidoff
“The Honey Sutras”*



BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNER*Submitted by
Jessie Bockelman*

This is a family recipe that comes from my grandmother's French stepfather. Anyone who knows our family has seen or eaten these cookies before, with the exception of people who are allergic to nuts. Sorry! It's just not the same without pecans.

These cookies are traditionally made during the holidays. You may have seen them around my office at Christmastime as I typically make a few batches in the winter. They are fairly time-consuming as you have to make them two at a time in the cookie iron, but well worth the wait. Just ignore the calories!

FRENCH COOKIES

**Blend Together**

- 8 eggs
- 1 lb. butter (softened)
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup bourbon whiskey
- ¼ cup vanilla
- ½ cup ground pecans

Gradually stir in

- 8 cups flour

More Information

I generally do about 1 ½ - 2 tablespoons of batter for each cookie, and then press the iron together for about 45-60 seconds until they reach a nice golden brown.

This will make about 50-60 cookies, depending on how big you make them and how much batter oozes out the sides of the iron.

The iron I use is labeled as a "Belgian Cookie Iron," but Maurice (my dad's step-grandfather – who gave me the recipe) assured me that it is the correct iron to use for these cookies. They are great for the holidays and go quite well with coffee or milk. Enjoy!



CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

BUILDING A BRIDGE

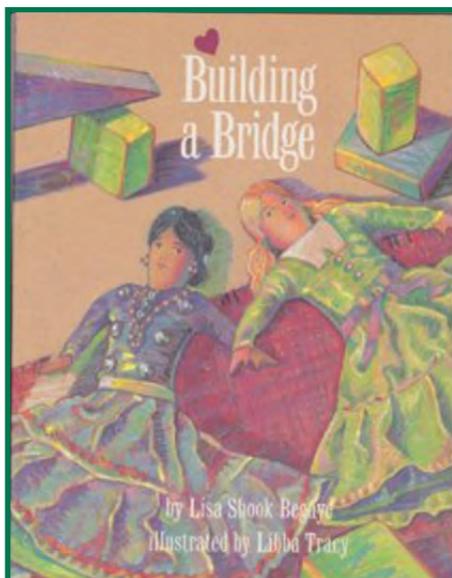
Review by Pam Makovicka

Written by Lisa Shook Begaye

Illustrated by Libba Tracy

Northland Pub

1st edition (September 1993)



In kindergarten, Anna, an Anglo, and Juanita, a Navajo, find the first day of school exciting and scary. They are both reservation children but live in different worlds. Blonde-haired, fair-skinned Anna is apprehensive as she boards a bus full of dark-skinned, dark-haired children. Anna is afraid she will not have any friends there. Their teacher, Mrs. Yazzie introduces the girls to each other and to a set of "magic" blocks. They can't understand how ordinary blocks can be magic, but they play with them, first separately, and then, at Mrs. Yazzie's suggestion, together. "It doesn't matter what color the blocks are, they all fit together," she explains. This helps the girls overlook their different appearances and become friends.

Libba Tracy's pastel crayon drawings on warm, desert-brown paper add strength and meaning to this simple but educational story about building bridges of understanding.

This book was very delightful! I definitely enjoyed reading it. I thought that the illustrations matched perfectly with the actual story. The pictures were colorful and very realistic, and one of my favorite parts. This book certainly has a great message behind it, which I think children will pick up on and relate to. I will definitely read this book to my grandchildren and stress the importance of friendship with all children. With the onset of so much bullying among children this book is a perfect example to make it clear that bullying will not be tolerated.

