



Gleanings

THE OFFICIAL NUMBER ONE NEBRASKA POST-POLIO NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2007

GREAT DAY, GREAT SPEAKER, GREAT FOOD!

Over 100 polio survivors, families, and friends gathered at The Field Club of Omaha on Sunday afternoon, October 7, for the second annual reunion. What a fine event it turned out to be!

Dinner was served soon after the crowd was seated, each person having registered first at a table supervised by Dr. Kusum Kharbanda, Sereb Lee and Deanna Block. The Invocation before the meal was given by Episcopal priest, The Rev. William Smythe,

Dr. Ted Roche, NPSA Board Vice President, served as master of ceremonies introducing NPSA Board members and others who have played an important role in the life of NPSA, Penny Jewell who manages the GLEANINGS mailings and Shirley Marsh, former NPSA Board President. He commended Barbara and Gene Roth for originating this annual event and their daughter-in-law, Shelly Roth, for the elegant and beautiful table decorations.

Don Eades was thanked for arranging special transportation on Metro Area Transit (MAT) for those who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

Deanna and Ron Block were recognized for traveling the furthest distance, having made a special trip from North Platte NE for the occasion.

Terrence Connelly, who was unable to be present, was thanked for making the use of the Field Club available to NPSA.

Roche then introduced the speaker, Patricia Meierheny, R.N., from Lincoln NE, whose talk using a great deal of humor was outstanding. Pat has the rare ability to use humor to make serious points and everyone had many hearty laughs during her presentation. Her husband, Michael (a polio survivor) was also present.

Pat also is involved in hospice care and has contributed articles for GLEANINGS.

Next talented singer, Tom Roth, and guitarist, Wes Stebbins, presented a program of popular songs. Tom is the son of Gene and Barbara Roth and is a great favorite with NPSA members.

The end of the program was a surprise. Gene Ruth introduced Mildred (Babe) and Richard (Pete) Petrashek from Lincoln (Babe is a polio survivor)

Pete is a magician and a very good one. Dr. Victoria Roche assisted him as he performed several magic tricks.

OMAHA/LINCOLN/COUNCIL BLUFFS SUPPORT GROUP

JANUARY, NO MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 2:00 P.M.
BLOOMFIELD FORUM
9804 NICHOLAS

PROGRAM by Marilyn Bachmann. Marilyn and her husband went to Guatemala on a medical trip sponsored by the Archdiocese of Omaha. She will tell of their experience which is interesting and inspiring.

MARCH 2, 2:00 P.M.
BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Program will be announced later.)

Directions to the new Beautiful Savior Church are:

At 96th and Q Street go south about one and one half miles. The church is across from the La Vista Police Station. The address is 96th and Melissa. This street is half way between Harrison St. and Giles. Enter the building on the east side. There is handicapped parking and also a handicapped door entrance. The meeting room will be just inside and to the left.

**REPLACE THE SHOES IN
YOUR CLOSET WITH
MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!**

Welcome to Oddshoefinder.com, a free site that connects people with odd shoes with people that need odd shoes! Many people with feet of different sizes buy one pair of shoes for each shoe size and use only one shoe from each pair, leaving a closet full of unused shoes. The purpose of this is to help you get those shoes out of your closet and put money into your pocket.

This site allows users to list their single shoes or mismatched pairs of shoes for sale and to search for other single shoes or mismatched pairs of shoes for sale in their sizes. The idea behind the site is to offer a variety of single and mismatched pairs of shoes for sale, while linking the listings of the shoes to shoe retailers. Thus, rather than buying two pairs of shoes, a user can buy a single shoe or a pair of mismatched shoes from another user of the site, and a pair of the same brand, style, and color in the size of the buyer's opposite foot from a retailer. Once the shoes arrive from the retailer, the buyer can post the shoe(s) not in their size(s) for sale on the site. Thus, a user can potentially save the cost of one pair of shoes minus the shipping expenses for the shoe(s).

The ultimate goal is to achieve a "critical mass" of users, after which there should be enough shoes posted on the site that almost every user will find a wide range of mismatched pairs in their sizes, avoiding the necessity of buying additional shoes from retail sources.

Once oddshoefinder.com has enough users, most people should find a wide range of pairs of shoes available in both of their sizes, making it a simple matter to order a pair of shoes of many brands, styles, and colors. *(from oddshoes webpage)*

*HOLIDAY
GREETINGS*

FROM

**NEBRASKA
POLIO
SURVIVORS
ASSOCIATION**

**YOUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT
NOT ONLY TO YOU BUT TO
NEBRASKA POLIO SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION**

Your regular contributions make it possible for Nebraska Polio Survivors Association to carry out its mission. Monthly contributions are an easy way to contribute to NPSA, rather than only once a year. Think about it. Maybe this year more of you will seriously consider this.

The Mission of Nebraska Polio Survivors Association is to educate the public and the health care community concerning polio and post-polio syndrome and to respond to the needs of individuals who suffer from the syndrome through group meetings, educational programming and newsletters, financial and other support of research concerning the syndrome and the circulation of research results.

NPSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and your contributions are fully tax deductible for tax purposes.

There are several ways to designate your contribution: *General Contribution, Memorial Contribution, Special Purpose Contribution, or Contribution in honor of _____.*



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE LIFE LINES FOR NEBRASKA POLIO SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

NPSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are deductible for tax purposes.

Please send contributions to NPSA, PO Box 45139, Omaha NE 68145-0319.

Checks payable to NEBRASKA POLIO SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION.

Yes, I want to make a contribution to Nebraska Polio Survivors Association. I know that my gift will make it possible for NPSA to help educate the public and the health care community concerning polio and post-polio syndrome and to respond to the needs of individuals who suffer from the syndrome through group meetings, educational programming, newsletters, and advocacy for issues concerning them.

_____ \$3,000 _____ \$2,000 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other

Signature _____ (PrintName) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank You!

CONTRIBUTIONS

BUILDERS--up to \$499.00

Dr. Richard Bowen, Grand Island NE

Carol Fields, Lakeland FL

Florence Hanisch, Lincoln NE

Dr. Edward Roche, Bellevue NE

FRIENDS--up to \$99.00

Martha Anthony, Omaha NE

Marilyn Bachman, Omaha NE

Deanna Block, North Platte NE

Joyce Bruenig, Wahoo NE

Linda DeRyke, Branson MO

Donna Ehlers, Fremont NE

Dixie Ehlers, Bedford IA

Leonard Jansa, Garner IA

Martin Marimont, Millbrae CA

Elizabeth Massouris, Council Bluffs IA

James and Sherry McManus, Mesa AZ

Judy Naumann, Omaha NE

Stephen Nowling, Omaha NE

Laura Ross, Omaha NE

Jo Ann Scharf, Schuyler NE

Theres Thoms, Lincoln NE

Mrs. Leo Wagner, Sioux City IA

IN HONOR OF

My parents, Don "AJ" and Edna Rashid
from Jackie Devaney, Omaha NE

Ted Maple, Sr., Fremont NE
from his family

John A Johnson, Omaha NE

Johnson has his own business in Omaha: *Appearance Recondition Co.*, specializing in vinyl plastice and leather repair. He came to our home in Fremont, repaired Merne's chair seat on his motorized chair and would not let us pay him!

from LaVonne Rohlfs, Fremont NE

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Paul Williams, Scottsbluff NE

from

Robert & Jane Absalon, Crawford NE
Harriet Aden, Scottsbluff NE
BPOE, Scottsbluff NE
Myron & Colleen Brester, Scottsbluff NE
Marlin & Sharon Carrell, Scottsbluff NE
Wendell & Barbara Ebberson, Scottsbluff NE
Ray & Donna Fulk & families, Scottsbluff NE
Larry & Alice Fitzgibbon, Scottsbluff NE
Gary & Pat Gross, Gering NE
Henry Guettler, Scottsbluff NE
Barbara Hartung, Denver CO
Richard & Rae Haws, Ames IA
James & Judy Henke, Gothenburg NE
Charlotte Ingram, Scottsbluff NE
Nanette Kissler, Gering NE
Bob & Sharon Koch, Scottsbluff NE
Leland & Darlene Kovarik, Gering NE
Jack & Judi Miller, Berthoud CO
Thomas & Gerry Nation, Scottsbluff NE
Gail Newman, Mitchell NE
Edward & Rickey O'Bryan, Scottsbluff NE
Norman & Linda Ott, Scottsbluff NE
Scottsbluff Public Schools
Dick & Patti Smith, Gering NE
Gary & Dianne Streeks, Lincoln NE
Larry & Susan Swanson, Lenexa KS
Norman & Helen Vogel, Torrington WY
Pat & Mildred Wright, Gering NE

In Memory of my mother, Dorothea (Delt) I. Foreman

from her son, Bradford J. Foreman, Orange Park FL

Acceptance With Thanks

by Janet R. Vanthournout
Batavia, Illinois

A longtime friend and I have reconnected via e-mail. She and I once lived in the same neighborhood. We attended school together. However, once she went away to college and I married we saw little of one another. She met someone from a different locale and they married, moving out of town. I settled down in our old community to raise a family. Decades passed. We kept in yearly touch through holiday greeting cards containing annual letters, but our contact was much on the surface. Our written scripts lacked any real depth.

More recently, we have picked up our friendship to a greater extent. My husband suffers serious and long term illness as does hers. We have a lot in common and are experiencing similar problems as we grow older living with illness in the family. There are many doctors visits, lab tests and hospital visits in our current lives. In fact, we've become close enough to share personal feelings and thoughts about what has occurred and to face the aging process... still going on in a positive way.

A few days ago my friend wrote, "... we learn to be grateful for what we have and not to mourn anymore what has been lost." I find her words profound and worth sharing. They apply to not only changes occurring in my family life but

also very much in lives of my post-polio friends who have at some time recovered from serious illness to live in near normal existence and then discover a new phase of disability. Don't we tend to forget that "change is inevitable, struggle is an option?" I saw this sentiment written on a bumper sticker on the car in front of me today at a stop light.

We must learn not to mourn lost youth, abilities, our past lives. This negativism wastes energy post-polios no longer have to spend. We must conserve energy as we once saved pennies to build happy days doing what we're able to accomplish. This brings satisfaction. Yes, we must accept our present limitations with thankful hearts no longer mourning what is lost. It's time to move onward!

NPSA WEB PAGE
www.ne-polio.org

WANT TO USE OUR ARTICLES?

Feel free to use our articles exactly as they are written. Please give credit this way: From GLEANINGS, Nebraska Polio Survivors Association, P.O. Box 45139, Omaha, NE 68145-0139. If you wish to edit an article, contact NPSA for permission.

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BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of *SNAPSHOTS* by Nancy Baldwin Carter and the cook book, *THYME TO EAT* by Patsy Kravchuk and Janet Nichting are still available. These are excellent books and make fine holiday gifts.

They may be ordered from Nebraska Polio Survivors Association. Prices include shipping.

SNAPSHOTS - \$10.00

THYME TO EAT - \$20.00

Please send orders to Nebraska Polio Survivors Association, c/o Marian Barnett, 3401 Poppleton Ave, Omaha NE 68105