



# The Sower

Official Publication of  
Lincoln South Rotary

Club #21799 - Chartered April 30, 1984



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Lincoln South Officers and Directors

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I want to say a big thanks to Lincoln South Rotary for hosting Rita Prokopenko and her organization Multi-national Georgia for Strengthening Democratic Values from August 24 to Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. This Georgian nonprofit organization works with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia who are dislocated as a result of conflicts in two separatist regions within Georgia; Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Both of these

areas are currently controlled by Russia and have been since the early 1990's when approximately 230,000 ethnic Georgians were forced off their land. Another 25,000 (or so) persons were forced off their land in 2008 as a result of the brief war with Russia. These persons together constitute approximately 7 % of Georgia's entire population.

With out going in to too much detail the internal "refugees" have had very difficult lives over the last 20 years often lacking basic necessities such as adequate running water, food and clothing. Their lack of access to quality education is also a grave problem. The IDPs live a very meager existence as poverty in Georgia with people in poverty estimated at 54 % and official unemployment at 17%. Most IDPs have little hope for a brighter future. Rita herself is an Abkhazian due to hard work and perseverance has managed to surmount barriers to education and is a leader in Georgia in the educational community. In 2008 Dr. Prokopenko was selected to participate in the highly prestigious JFDP (Junior Faculty Development) program through American Councils. She was placed at the University of Nebraska where Del Harnisch was her advisor and mentor. I think I can safely say she fell in love with Nebraska. I think she and Georgia share many Nebraska values. We are friendly and hardworking and honest.

In the past two years Rita has secured funding to bring two groups of young people to the United States for brief (two week) immersion experiences where they can learn about American education (secondary and post secondary) and about American democratic governance. The students from both excursions (10/2009 and 8/2010) were asked to rate their experiences and reflect on them. The responses are heartening with students being very impressed with our infrastructure and feeling welcome in our homes, community and state. I can also report that students from last year are doing well and have been able to secure better jobs and have higher personal achievement goals as a result of their experiences in Lincoln. We should feel good about Lincoln South's efforts in helping these young people learn about Nebraska. **In particular I want to thank Logan Otto, Chris Dietz, Ryan Byrd, Nicki Klein, Nikki Isemann (and husband Jim) , and Jenny Cardwell. These folks went out of their way to help transport, feed, educate and entertain our guests. They were amazing so thanks.** Vi See form club 14 also stepped up big time arranging a tour of Community Action Partners and providing a service learning opportunity at a head start center. Lastly Rita and Nino Ramishvili attending our district foundation seminar at our expense and it was very fruitful. They are quite interested in expanding Rotary's presence in Georgia.

Thanks,  
Tom Cardwell

### CLUB SERVICE TEAM ON DUTY

Brad Carter  
Nicki Klein  
Chris Dietz



- 9/10/10 Brian Wachman, Exec Director United Way— "Priorities of United Way Programs"
- 9/17/10 John Wood, Exec Director, Lincoln Airport— "Challenges and opportunities for air service in Lincoln"
- 9/24/10 Kerry Winterer, CEO Dept Health & Human Services "An overview of the department from the new CEO".
- Events & Projects**
- 9/11/10 Red Cross Appreciation Game
- 10/8/10 Club 14 Annual Auction at the Lincoln Train Station
- 10/23/10 Rotary Leadership Institute— Omaha
- 10/23/10 LSR Foundation Wine Tasting at Schmeeckles— 6 pm.

## Notes & Announcements

**Red Cross Appreciation Game**— The September 11th football game with Idaho has been designated for the Red Cross Collections this year. Game start time is 11:30 AM so volunteers must check in by 10:30 AM. Volunteers must sign up by August 25th so if you are interested, be sure to sign up at one of the next 2 meetings.

**Speakers**—Jason Smith has graciously agreed to coordinate speakers for the 2010/2011 Rotary year and he is asking for speaker ideas from members. If you have anyone in mind please contact Jason at [jsmith@lcc.com](mailto:jsmith@lcc.com)

**Lincoln South Foundation Wine Tasting**—To be held at the home of Joyce Schmeekle on October 23rd at 6:00 pm.

**Club 14 Auction**—Friday October 8th at the Lincoln Station. Lincoln South will not be reserving a table this year but if you are interested in attending, contact Joe Roberts. Tickets are \$75 per person. (See page 4 for flyer)

## Visiting Rotarians and Guests

*Rotarians*—Del Harnish, Vi See and De Etta Vrana from Club 14.

*Guests*—Michael Kalili, guest of Nicki Klein and Lisa Turner.

## Email Address Changes (effective immediately):

Nicki Klein- [nklein2@neb.rr.com](mailto:nklein2@neb.rr.com)

Tom Cardwell- [tcardwell@southeast.edu](mailto:tcardwell@southeast.edu) (Please note that the prior address had one "l" in Cardwell)



## Lincoln South Rotary Clubrunner Links:

Meeting & speaker information:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/speakers.asp?cid=6040>

Calendar of Events:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/events.asp?cid=6040>



## HAPPY DOLLARS (For Literacy)

Brad Carter, Nicki Klein, Michael Kalili, Del Harnish, DeEtta Vrana, Dick Anderson, Jim Pattavina, Scott Delisi, Ardel Harger, Bernie Poppe, Roger Vicroy, Phil Madern, Tracey McLain and Jane Krenke.



## PROGRAM

### 2010-2011 Club Goals

1. *Club Strength— Leave the club better than when I took office.*
2. *Club Growth— Attain and maintain membership of 55.*
3. *Support Polio Eradication.*
4. *Support critical project in one of 3 areas; Health & Hunger, Water or Literacy.*
5. *Maintain 100% sustaining membership in the Rotary Foundation.*
6. *Achieve the Presidential Citation*
7. **HAVE FUN!**

Lincoln South was honored to have a group from the Republic of Georgia as our guests. Rita Prokopenko was the leader; Nino Ramishvili was the monitor and the participants were Archil Lominadze, Giorgi Alibegashvili, Shedani Nani-kashvili, Zurab Murvanidze and Salome Jjua.



Rita Prokopenko first came to the US to study at UNL in 2008 and since that time has brought several student groups back to visit.

Georgia is the size of Nebraska in area but has 4.7 million people. It is bordered by Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 1921 the country was invaded by Russia and was part of the USSR until 1936. In 1991 it declared its independence from Russia who continued to occupy 2 provinces. In 2003 the republic held elections so now the president is no longer a puppet of Russia.

The capital city of Georgia is Tblisi which means "warm". The geogra-

phy of the country ranges from beaches to mountainous areas. It is a multinational country with many nationalities and religions ranging from Christian to Jewish to Muslim.

The culture is very rich and the country has produced many famous painters and poets. Folk dances and songs are a part of tradition in the country with each region having its own costumes and dances. The country produces many products from wine to corn and grains. Most of the farms in Georgia are owned by Chinese who buy the land and provide the labor to work the farms. The wine produced in the country is very good and is exported all over the world.

Rita thanked everyone for their tremendous hospitality and urged all of the members to consider signing up for the October trip to Georgia with Tom Cardwell.

**QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?  
ARTICLES?**

**Contact Newsletter  
Editor**

Judy Krasomil  
434-3909

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### PLACES TO MAKE UP

**Tuesday morning**—Sunrise Rotary at International House of Pancakes at 4501 North 27th (27th and Superior Ave.) at 7:00 AM

**Tuesday Noon**— Lincoln #14-Nebraska Club at 13th & M.

**Wednesday 11:45 a.m.**—Lincoln East at Valentinos at 70<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn



### Rotary is on the Web!

Rotary International— [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
District 5650— [www.rotarydistrict5650.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5650.org)  
Lincoln South Rotary—

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/CPrg/Home/homeS.asp?cid=6040>



# mediterraneo



The 22nd Annual Rotary Club #14 Auction | The Lincoln Station | Friday, October 8, 2010

## a night of benevolent bliss!

The Downtown Rotary Club's annual dinner and auction has earned a reputation as Lincoln's standard community fundraiser. Join us this year for a virtual "cruise" to four Mediterranean destinations - Greece, Spain, Italy and Morocco. Along with spectacular items in the silent and live auctions, there will be wonderful Mediterranean cuisine, entertainment, and a drawing for an actual cruise in the region. Proceeds will benefit the two local charities, plus Rotary's campaign to stamp out polio.

The grand event takes place the evening of Friday, October 8th, beginning at 5:30 at the Great Hall in the Lincoln Train Station.

**Special recognition for corporate sponsors:**

- advertisement in the program
- logo on two video screens at the event
- recognition on the live auction program

**Corporate tables seat 10 and always sell out.**

### The 2010 Auction Beneficiaries

Two fine charitable organizations will receive support from the proceeds of the 2010 Rotary Auction:

**Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital**

The funds provided by the Rotary auction will pay for a unique multi-sensory therapy room as part of the Alexis Verzal Children's rehabilitation hospital. The therapy room is designed for children who have experienced brain trauma. There are few such facilities in the country and this will be the only one West of the Mississippi river.

**The Gathering Place**

For nearly 30 years, The Gathering Place has been serving hot meals to those in need. Located just south of the State Capitol, at 14th and E Streets, the Gathering Place is a tiny nonprofit with a big impact, serving families and individuals over a hundred hot dinners a night.

Company Name:	<u>Lincoln South Rotary</u>
Contact Name:	<u>Joe Roberts</u>
Address:	_____
Email:	_____
Phone:	<u>434-9050</u>

**Reserve a Corporate Table for just \$1300 now!**  
**THANK YOU!**

*\$75/person*

Please make checks payable to Lincoln Rotary Club 14 Foundation.

Return payment by August 10th to Lincoln Rotary Club #14, P.O. Box 83843, Lincoln, NE 68501-3842  
 When known, please register your guests as bidders on the attached form and return no later than August 31, 2010.

*No tickets will be mailed. Bid numbers will be distributed at the door.*