

2010 Schmeckfest

March 19-20, 26-27

Orders are now being accepted for tickets for the 52nd annual Schmeckfest to be held in Freeman March 19, 20 and 26, 27, 2010.

The popular festival, which began in 1959 with an ethnic German meal, has grown to a multifaceted festival now held on two consecutive weekends. A full three-course meal featuring the traditional foods of the Freeman community is served family style to 1,000 guests each night.

Tickets are also now on sale for reserved seats for the 2010 Schmeckfest musical production "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." This is the first time the award-winning musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice will be staged as a Schmeckfest musical. It will be presented each night of Schmeckfest with an 8 p.m. curtain at Pioneer Hall.

Tickets for the meal and reserved seats for the musical are available by writing Schmeckfest, Box 5, Freeman, SD 57029 or online at www.Schmeckfest.com where an order form can be printed and mailed. Direct online orders can be placed at that site starting Dec. 7.

The festival also includes demonstrations of culinary arts, which are held at Sterling Hall on the Freeman Academy campus. The Country Kitchen bake sale and foods for sampling will also be located in Sterling Hall, which is handicap accessible and is located northeast of Pioneer Hall.

The Freeman Academy Auxiliary, which sponsors Schmeckfest, will again provide free admission to the

Heritage Hall Museum complex which houses the Plains Indian Artifacts Display and thousands of items from the history of pioneer settlers and early life in South Dakota. Demonstrations of early pioneer activities can be found throughout the museum.

As in past years, the festival also includes free historical and musical presentations.

A random drawing is held Dec. 1 to process all orders received prior to that date. Ticket orders received after Dec. 1 are processed daily with first-choice preference given when available. All orders for tickets should include a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Schmeckfest — a "tasting festival" — was started in 1959 as a one-time, one-day event by the Freeman Academy and Junior College Women's Auxiliary to celebrate its 10th anniversary. It featured the favorite dishes of the Mennonite people who immigrated to the area from Russia in the 1870s. That first Schmeckfest proved to be so popular that it was repeated the following year ... and the year after and it quickly became an annual affair. It soon expanded to two days, then to three days and now two weekends. The event has become known nationally for its celebration of tradition and culture and is held annually in late March or early April.

Proceeds from Schmeckfest go to benefit Freeman Academy, a Christian, coeducational middle and high school affiliated with Mennonite churches in the area established in 1900.

Vermillion Senior Center News

History of the senior center written by Nila Fostvedt

Harvey Hanson becomes director of Senior Center.

From a modest beginning in 1969, the Senior Center group has grown to 250 members with a fine new center, two buses for transportation, and many various activities. The intra-city bus is driven by Beverly Nelson. Anyone can call the Center for a ride to appointments, grocery shopping or to go visit someone. The other bus complete with wheel chair lift is available throughout four counties. No operating funds are received from state or national funds however, the city and county contributed. The remainder comes from businesses and organizations and membership fees.

July 5, 1975, the first meeting was held at the new center. General Lloyd Moses, chairman of the Historical Society Committee of Clay County, led a discussion on "Clay County place names." The meeting was named the "Old Settlers Seminar." Helping with the meeting was Elvern Bliss, Grace Beede, Francis Peterson, Bruno Petsch, Harold Stockland and Margaret Hood. A luncheon followed.

My husband is often asked by friends to do handy-man jobs! One day after repeated trips to the lumber yard to try to match a paint chip, he was asked, "And who is the fussy lady you're working for today?" He answered, "my wife."

More history from Nila in the next Silver Threads.

Activities & Events of the center

Friday, Dec. 18, the center will be hosting the annual Christmas Dinner with volunteers from Polaris to help with serving and cleanup.

Punch, Wine & Appetizers begin at 5:15 p.m. with dinner following at approximately 5:30 p.m. The menu includes Stuffed Pork Loin, Chicken Breasts, Spiral Ham, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m.

The center is continuing with a silent auction event. Items are added weekly and as we get appropriate bids for the items we remove them and contact the highest bidder. If you have items you would like to donate to the center please drop them off, we appreciate all donations.

The center will again be collecting donations for the Vermillion Food Pantry from Dec. 1 until Christmas.

Medicare D (prescription) plan — An educator from SHINE is available at the center to compare your medicines and provide you with a list of the best value of insurances. Call for an appointment and bring your prescription list with you. All changes must be made before Dec. 31.

Newer activities:

- Scrabble is now every Monday at 1 p.m.
- Added a new group of pinochle on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- Knit, Stitch & Portable Crafts every Friday at 10 a.m.

Contact the center for other daily activities such as pitch, bridge, pinochle and dominoes

Pancake Sunday is always the second Sunday of each month (except in May) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is

only \$4 for pancakes, sausages, coffee & juice and is prepared by the senior men of the center.

Visually Impaired meet the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the center. They meet to discuss options for different types of support and equipment for visual impairment.

Second and fourth Wednesdays of month, Vermillion Medical Clinic presents a program on health topics and checks blood pressure.

Foot clinic is held every Tuesday at the center by Sanford Vermillion Clinic, call 624-2611 for an appointment.

The Dakota Senior Meals prepares and serves food Monday through Friday in the kitchen and dining area of the center. The nutrition program is a separate program under the direction of ROCS and receive state & federal funds to help pay for a small portion of the meal cost. A donation for your meal helps support the program.

All members of the center receive a monthly newsletter with scheduled events and activities plus a menu from Dakota Senior Meals. Members are encouraged to participate in the daily activities and events, educational and health programs, share in the book & puzzle exchange, participate in fundraisers and other activities or events. Members need

to be only 40 years of age and pay an annual fee of \$25 per year or \$250 lifetime.

The senior center is a non-profit organization that welcomes volunteers and financial donations. We sponsor monthly fundraisers and send out requests to businesses and organizations in the community as our means of funding. If you or your group would like to help sponsor a fundraising event, please contact the center at 624-8072. Be watching for more events and activities in the next "Silver Threads".

Volunteers wanted:

- line dance instructor.
- volunteers to help with knitting or crocheting group.
- volunteers for morning or afternoon walk or exercise group.
- volunteers for fundraiser dinners to help serve and clean up.

Need donations
Donations or sponsors from businesses or friends of the center are always welcome to help pay for the food and supplies for the monthly fundraisers (example — donate meat or pay for cost of item or sponsor an event). Thank you for whatever support you can provide to the center. All donations and sponsors are recognized in our monthly newsletter.

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Harvest Ball will celebrate city's 150 year birthday

The evening of Saturday, Nov. 21, will be a celebration that has been 150 years in the making. Beginning with at social hour at 6 p.m. and the call to dinner at 7 p.m., the Muenster University Center Ballroom at the University of South Dakota will host a formal banquet to continue the celebration and recognition of Vermillion's Sesquicentennial Year.

The Heritage Harvest

Ball meal will consist of buffet selections from five Vermillion area nationalities, plus a dessert and coffee bar. With the generous contribution of Aramark and U. Dining, the entire evening will be only \$15 per person. This includes the meal as well as the Dave Olson Quintet for listening and dancing pleasure.

The event is open to the public with advance ticket purchase by Nov. 13. Chairperson Gloria Christopherson may be reached at Nook 'n Cranny in downtown Vermillion, where tickets are available.

It took 150 years to present this party! Happy Birthday, Vermillion!

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