

Nebraska NETWORKS

Your quarterly connection to public broadcasting

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Nebraska
ETV
Network
creates
a special
about
the music
that
warms
our
hearts
and
tires
our feet.

Polka Passion!

Premieres January 9th at 7 p.m. CT



PARTNERS January 2002

is published quarterly as a member benefit by Nebraskans for Public Television (NPTV) and Public Radio Nebraska Foundation (PRNF).

The mission of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications is to educate, challenge and inspire Nebraska, the nation and the world through excellence in non-commercial telecommunications.

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1.800.634.6788
402.472.6788
402.472.3611

Ask for

- Member Services
- Business Support and Underwriting
- To become a Volunteer

For Programming information call:
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Web Address

NET Online: <http://net.unl.edu>

Message from the General Manager

Message

A Successful Partnership

It's my pleasure to introduce you to *Partners*, a new NET publication. Webster's Dictionary defines a partner as one who shares; an associate or colleague. We consider each of you a partner at NET. You, along with our staff, make possible public radio and public television in Nebraska.

To show our appreciation for your commitment, we have created two new publications. The first is *Networks*. This expanded programming guide will help you locate your favorite public radio and TV programs. Your first issue should have arrived in the mail a few days ago.

The second publication, *Partners*, will be distributed quarterly and provide you with an inside look at NET. You'll find information about special trips and other membership perks. You'll gain an inside look at upcoming productions and learn more about the popular programs coming live to your area. You'll discover answers to your frequently asked questions as well as stories on Nebraskans who are making a difference.

I hope you enjoy your first issue of *Partners*. It's our way to express appreciation for you, our colleagues. With your help and partnership, Nebraska is an example of public broadcasting at its finest.



Rod Bates
General Manager
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications

Upcoming Events

The Live Lawrence Welk Show
@ The Lied Center for Performing Arts February 27, 2002

Public Television Membership Drive March 2002

Public Radio Membership Drive April 2002

"A Lake Wobegon Weekend Tour"
to Saint Paul, Minnesota May 3, 4, 5, 2002

Registration Deadline: March 15
Call 1.800.634.6788 to register, or for more information.

Donor Profile

Donors

Elaine and Jim Wolf

Meet Two of Nebraska's 'Difference-Makers'

Like so many Nebraskans, Elaine and Jim Wolf can easily tell you what they enjoy most about living in a small community—the chance it gives them to make a difference.

For the past 50 years, the Wolfs' generosity has been transforming the central Nebraska town of Albion. There's the downtown mini-park the couple created to meet the needs of the local farming community. A loan scholarship fund for Albion high school students established in memory of Jim's father. The 60-bed nursing home given by Jim's uncle and aunt.

Perhaps the couple's most popular contribution is a three-story workout facility called the Boone County Fitness Center. Since its creation in 1984, the Center has become so popular that a 60 percent addition is currently being built.

In addition to renovating the Center, the Wolfs are developing an assisted living home in Albion and, with the help of another local family, hoping to help restore the town's American Legion Hall. They're also working closely with the Nebraska Community Foundation to establish the Boone County Area Foundation, which will provide area residents with a vehicle for charitable giving.

And although Albion and Boone County are very near to the retired couple's hearts, their commitment to progress stretches across the state to reach people and organizations such as NET.

"Our lives would be missing a great deal without Nebraska Public Radio and Nebraska Public Television," says Elaine, a member of the PRNF board. "We

rarely watch or listen to anything else," adds Jim. "We listen to NPRN each morning and in the car. Every evening we watch or tape the *Nightly Business Report* and weekly programs such as *Statewide*. We try to be discriminating viewers and NET provides excellent, unbiased programming," he explains.

The Wolfs have taken steps to ensure this quality programming continues. In addition to participating in the annual membership drives, they've worked with the University of Nebraska Foundation to establish the James and Elaine Wolf Nebraska Educational Telecom-

munications Excellence Fund. "Our gift is to go exclusively to public radio because its endowment is so much smaller than that of public television," says Jim. "We want public radio to have a permanent funding base to depend upon."

Adds Elaine, "We'll also continue to give to both public television and public radio through their membership drives. It's important to give in both ways—membership drives cover current needs and the endowment provides perpetual support."

Whether they're funding scholarships for prospective college students or strengthening the listening and viewing options for Nebraskans, one thing is clear—Elaine and Jim Wolf know how to make a difference.

"Our lives would be missing a great deal without Nebraska Public Radio and Nebraska Public Television. We rarely watch or listen to anything else."

Endowments—
A Gift that Keeps Giving

Through their endowment, Elaine and Jim Wolf have provided a gift that will benefit NPRN for decades.

"The Wolfs made an outright gift to the Foundation, which we've invested," explains Kevin Meyer, director of development at the University of Nebraska Foundation. "Each year, the net income or approximately five percent of the initial gift will be given to NPRN to meet its primary funding needs." The remainder of the gift will continue to be reinvested each year.

In addition to the satisfaction of significantly helping NPRN, if donors make a gift of this type with appreciated stock, they will pay no capital gains tax on the donated funds. "Appreciated stock is a great vehicle to use for this type of gift," adds Meyer.

If you would like more information on creating an endowment fund and becoming a Friend of the Future, please contact Michele Peón-Casanova at (402) 472-9333, ext. 375, or mpeon-casanova1@unl.edu.



Jim and Elaine Wolf

2001 Fall Recognition Banquet *Events*

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Celebrating Success and Focusing on the Future

Imagine a time to come together with friends to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and dream of the future. Saturday, November 3, was such an evening for NET when nearly 200 of its closest friends gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lincoln for the Fifth Annual Recognition Banquet.

The evening began with an impressive video recap of several highlights from 2001:

- the celebration of NPRN's 10th anniversary;
- NPRN's new 24-hour programming;
- the frequency change of KUCV;
- the development of award-winning NPTV productions such as *Wild Horses*, *An American Romance* and *Deafening Sound*;
- the creation of a new online training program for members of the National Guard;
- the launching of a website to help junior high and high school students track the journey Latinos have made to Nebraska;
- 10 Associated Press awards;
- and the birth of a forum to make citizens' voices heard called *Campaign Connections*.

Because it's the people and organizations that make these successes possible, several special friends were honored on November 3:

- Harold and Marian Andersen of Omaha were presented the NET Distinguished Service Award.
- Dr. Henry Beachell of Pearland, Texas, the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Public Power District received 2001 Partner of the Year Awards.
- Tom McClain of Lincoln was presented the Volunteer of the Year Award.

- Angie Ryba of Lincoln received the 2001 Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The Team of John Beck, George Frederick and Phil Hammar were named Employee(s) of the Year.

After an enlightening and often lighthearted awards presentation by NET General Manager Rod Bates, guest speaker Richard Somerset-Ward added another dimension to the already memorable evening. He discussed the future of public broadcasting and NET's role in it. "Nebraska owns public broadcasting," said the senior fellow of the Benton Foundation in Washington, D.C., and author of *Connecting Communities* and *Public Television in the Digital Age*. "It is public broadcasting." And, because of its impressive history, Somerset-Ward challenged NET to lead the next charge and help America reinvent community through the use of broadband technology.

His thought-provoking remarks set the stage for the final highlight of the evening—a glimpse of what's ahead in 2002:

- *Polka Passion!*—a one-hour production to be aired during the March

A Special Welcome to our

Nebraskans for Public Television

Kenneth M. E.
Dr. Maurine C. F.
Muffy Fisher V

Public Radio Nebraska Foundation

Margaret Be
Richard M. Bou
Dr. Susan W. F
Dr. Thomas Kr
James A. Mas
Natalie Ols





New Television Programming

America Has a New Passion—Polka!

Put aside those post-holiday blues and plan to celebrate the music that's capturing the hearts of Americans of all ages and backgrounds—polka!



"Polka music is fun, happy and infectious. You can't listen to it and not be happy," says Grammy-award-winning polka musician and bandleader Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr.

When NET's *Polka Passion!* premieres January 9 at 7 p.m. CT and again in a one-hour PBS pledge special during March of 2002, it will introduce America to the music that has dancers across the country stepping out and setting their troubles aside. The energetic production was created with the help of PBS and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

We'll meet 22-year-old Mollie, who plays trumpet and keyboard at the same time with her German-style band, Karl and the Country Dutchmen. We'll experience the warmth and enthusiasm of Polka Family, a clan of Polish and Hispanic descent that's become one of America's most popular new polka bands. We'll travel to polka shrines such as "Art's Concertina Bar," a place that's filled nightly with customers playing the old button-box accordion and the LoDuca Accordion Factory in Milwaukee, home of the famed LoDuca brothers.

The fun will continue in Pulaski, Wis., a polka-crazed community where teens drive through town with the memorable music blaring on their radios and where thousands flock each July for one of the best polka festivals in the country.

The last stop will be the huge and historic Sokol Auditorium in south Omaha. Viewers will become part of an audience in motion as they watch some of the best polka dancers in the Midwest hop and spin to the sounds of Grammy-award winning Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. and the Versatones.

"I hope people will view the production and give polka music a try and see if they don't love it," says Blazonczyk, whose father, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. founded his Polish-style polka band in Chicago nearly 40 years ago. "They'll realize we're playing Buddy Holly, George Jones and top-40 hits."

In addition to the fun and fast-paced music, Nebraskans are encouraged to tune-in for another reason. "This is the first time NET has produced something like this," says David Feingold, assistant general manager for content development at NET. "We've made documentaries that have run in odd spots on PBS, but we've never done anything specifically for the membership drive or that's been as fun and light-hearted as *Polka Passion!* It's a first for us. I hope Nebraskans of all ages will tune in and show their support."

If it brings a smile and a lighter step, why not?

PBS membership drive on the music that's bringing a smile and lighter step to Americans of all ages.

- *Emma Goldman*—a documentary intended for airing on the PBS series *American Experience* on the turn-of-the-century political activist who was once called 'the most dangerous woman in America.'
- a NPTV special honoring famed Nebraska author Willa Cather and her writings.
- *Secrets of the Cave of Letters*, a co-production with the PBS series *NOVA*.
- *Monkey Trial*, an examination of the Scopes Trial to air in February on *American Experience*.
- up-to-the-minute coverage of the events Nebraskans enjoy most, from its symphonies to high school and college sports.

As you can see, NET has much to celebrate ... devoted friends, creative staff, future adventures. The Recognition Banquet allowed us to reflect on these strengths and show our thanks. It was definitely an evening to remember.

Our New Board Members!

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Radio

NPRN Programming



"Live from the Mill Statewide" Travels to Local Areas

What do you get a 4-year-old for her birthday? How about a STATEWIDE audience. That's what has happened to NPRN's "Live from the Mill." About four years ago, the show was created and broadcast only to the KUCV listening area. Now the arts magazine show is "Live from the Mill Statewide."

Each Friday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. (CT), producer and host, William Stibor focuses on the Nebraska arts scene by featuring guests ranging from writers and cartoonists to dancers and instrumentalists. Listeners meet arts presenters whose venues include playhouses, art galleries, community performance groups and the music, theatre and art departments of educational institutions throughout Nebraska.

"Live from the Mill Statewide" is broadcast from The Mill coffee house in Lincoln's Haymarket district to all nine NPRN stations across the state. The show will soon go "on the road" to several Nebraska communities for live remote broadcasts. Those communities include **McCook, Norfolk, Scottsbluff and Kearney**. Assistance for the effort has been provided by a Nebraska Family Foundation. Listen to NPRN for more information and plan to welcome "Live from the Mill Statewide" to your community!



William Stibor



The Live *Lawrence Welk Show* in Lincoln Wednesday, Feb 27th

Public Television and Radio members are invited to an exclusive reception to meet the Lawrence Welk stars. Please call Jessica McMullen to RSVP 1.800.634.6788. Space is limited.

To avoid disappointment please call early.

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