



**President's Message Archive
2010**

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December, 2010

Dear Friends Along This Way,

When we united to discover and promote the heritage of the Solomon Valley I only imagined looking back at our histories. Granted, we have done that, but it is the projects that we have made possible that enrich and add to our heritage that we should take pride in too.

The Sixth Call for Voices drew over 60 entries, evenly divided between youth and adults. We thank all for participating and look forward to the author/reader selections for honors this year.

Stockton and Cawker City proved exciting host sites for Aaron Fowler's artist residency, sponsored by the Kansas Arts Council and the SV24. Fowler and students collaborated in the Stories to Songs Project. Six new songs celebrate community heroes in the Solomon Valley.

Looking ahead, Downs and Hill City will host unique heritage events in March, as our alliance coordinates reflections on the Kansas poetry of William Stafford and how it speaks to the future. Do plan to take part in this Kansas 150th project.

Osborne will host our annual membership meeting, January 22, 2011. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Now is time to renew your SV24 membership. I look forward to continuing our journey together-You might invite a friend to join us!

-Joan Nothern

October, 2010

DEAR Friends Along This Way,

Summer's passed, with fairs, rodeos, and festivals bringing visitors to the Solomon Valley. Working together, each community renewed spirit and deepened friendships. Welcoming visitors renews our own appreciation for home!

We have enjoyed a long relationship with the Kansas Sampler Foundation. Their 8 Rural Cultural Elements are the template for the community histories on each of our 24 kiosks. Now these 8 elements are explored by rural Kansas towns on the new web site www.getruralkansas.org. Many of our alliance towns are already represented there. Check out this new guide to rural Kansas--and see how rich and wonderful it is.

The SV24 Alliance will represent authors Bob Day and Leo Oliva at the Sunflower Book

Festival, October 9, in Osborne. Writers from Kansas and/or about Kansas will be there. This is an outstanding opportunity to speak with Kansas authors.

Look for the notice in this newsletter about the Authors' Workshop to be held October 30 at the Cottonwood Ranch. It is vision come true.

Please note November 1 is the due date for the 6th Call for Voices. Your memories and imagination may find just the ear and venue through this contest that will add to our valley heritage. Find information on our web site: www.hwy24.org.

I'll close, wishing you moments in the fall to pursue something new...

Maybe we'll meet...

Sincerely, **Joan Nothern**
President, Solomon Valley Heritage Alliance

July, 2010

DEAR Friends Along This Way,

How we benefit from the support of others as we strive to keep the heritage of the Solomon Valley vital and visible. I will try to acknowledge some of this support through this message to you.

First, I want to acknowledge the work of North West Kansas Tourism Council and Roger Hrabe in representing our area at the Sampler Festival in May. You will find a summary note by Roger in this issue.

Then, let me introduce others who are working with us. Dr. William S. Worley, a historian and professor at Metropolitan Community Colleges, Blue Rapids, has signed an agreement to serve as resident Humanities Scholar and Historian for the U. S. Highway 24 Museum project. His background and interests make this a valuable contribution.

Dr. Fred Whitehead, Kansas author and five times reader of our Call for Voices, has inspired us to deepen appreciation for poet William Stafford, working with schools, libraries, and communities in the Solomon Valley to have public readings of his Kansas poems.

Larry Griffis, director of the Birger Sandzen Gallery, Lindsborg, has opened the door for working together to strengthen the ties between the Solomon Valley and the Gallery, based on the paintings and life of Birger Sandzen.

Lin Cross, Main Street Gallery and Gifts, Stockton, will help develop a holiday basket of Solomon Valley products.

Finally, read more of the voices from the Fifth Annual Call for Voices, and linger over the Stafford poem and writer's tip, then take seriously our Sixth Call for Voices! We'd like to hear from you!

Sincerely, **Joan Nothern**
President, Solomon Valley Heritage Alliance

January, 2010

DEAR Friends Along This Way,

At the annual membership meeting in January, the Solomon Valley Highway 24 Heritage Alliance acknowledged a decade of working together. It was Leo Oliva's vision of the valley that kindled our hopes and efforts ten years ago. He accepted the invitation to reflect on the role of our organization at this 10th anniversary. You'll find his report included in this issue of the Solomon Valley Anthology. It provides a privileged opportunity to compare aspirations with performance. Thank you, Leo.

As an alliance of 24 communities, we encourage those confronting change and we pledge our support during the process. Just now, we are working with Nicodemus and the Cottonwood Ranch. In the spirit of mustering resources to meet the needs and interests of visitors, Nicodemus continues its long range interpretive planning with the National Park Service. Also seeking to see a unique history appreciated, the Friends of the Cottonwood Ranch are engaged in developing local events at the ranch. These efforts truly enrich the Solomon Valley.

Seekers of beauty, examples of courage, dignity, and compassion, flights of fancy. You will find them here. It is an honor to introduce some of the Voices raised in our Fifth Annual Call for Voices. They are rich and provocative. We thank the authors for choosing to share their work with us. And we thank you, the readers, who may be surprised as you listen to these voices.

Carldon Broadbent has stepped forward to coordinate the themes to be featured in the coming issues of the Solomon Valley Anthology, moving from his position on the board. He will put his love of history to work in this new capacity. He will be looking for sleuths in each county to furnish materials.

Please remember to renew memberships and invite others to join us!

Sincerely, **Joan Nothern**
President, Solomon Valley Heritage Alliance