

NETnews

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK

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St. Louis Regional Library Network

Annual Dinner

When: Tuesday May 9, 2006
5:45 registration/ tour of new CBC
library
6:10 Business meeting
6:30 Dinner and program

Where: CBC High School Library
1850 DeLaSalle Dr. 63141

Dinner: Chicken Modega or Pasta Con
Broccoli served with Herbed
Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes;
Garden Fresh Salad; Vegetable
Medley, Dinner Rolls, Coffee,
Assorted Cheese Cakes and
Brownies.

Cost: \$24 members/ \$30 non-members

Program: Donna Ross will perform "Settler's
fare to First Lady's Feast

.... see next page for program description
.... See page 3 for registration form

“Settler’s fare to First Lady’s Feast:

Life in the breadbasket of the Louisiana Purchase in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century, 1806 -1826”

performed by Donna Ross

Mrs. Ross breathes life into our struggle for Missouri statehood as she portrays a composite of the hardy farmers’ wives who brought civilization to the frontier along with their family recipes. It is most fitting that “Wilderness Wife” should remain anonymous. She represents the unheralded heroines who came west of Mississippi in the days when women were denied personal identity. Her husband owned her, her property, the wages she might labor to earn and the children she bore. Even so, these hardy women tamed the rough frontier with their work, their words, their wisdom and their warmth.

In 1806, the year Lewis and Clark returned from their epic journey, no people worked harder, sacrificed more or gained less credit than the unsung heroines of the frontier – pioneer women. They triumphed over every challenge – Indian unrest, endless work, the cruel vicissitudes of mother nature, and almost unbearable isolation.

In those wild transitional days the woods of the heartland teemed with game; the orchards planted by the French colonials blossomed with fruit; and fertile fields produced more grain than local people could eat. From salt springs and lead mines grew key industries which drew greedy speculators like John Smith T to duel over the land and its riches. With generous hand, Mother Nature spilled blessings from her storehouse and shaped frontier history along the great Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Perils from ambitious politicians, natural disasters, and doubly-dispossessed natives besieged the settlers from all sides. Yet the hope for a new future for the generations to come made every terror, every sacrifice, worth its price.

“Wilderness Wife” offers us a key to understanding our past. Our forebears were real people. They were much more than stern faces in history books. They bent their backs to endless work, but managed to keep a sense of humor despite all adversity and heartache. Pioneer men wrested a living from the land by fierce combat against daunting odds. But it was through the tireless fingers of women that our ancestors shaped the bounty of heartland into nourishment for body and soul. Women turned fierce men into fathers, stark wilderness into community, and one room log cabins into homes.

Two decades later Marguerite Susanne De Reilhe McNair, first First Lady of the new state of Missouri serves in contrast. She was a native Missourian, a well-educated and genteely brought-up daughter of the French elite in St. Louis. Like many of her class, she married an up-and-coming lawyer, an ambitious outsider who sought her connections along with her feminine charms.

On the arm of a man clever enough to become the state’s first governor by outwitting the immensely popular territorial governor, the illustrious William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame, Marguerite saw Missouri bluster its way from territory to state. Mrs. McNair represents the ideal 19th century lady – pious, cultured, well-bred and always a charming model for her successors as First Lady of the state of Missouri.

DINNER REGISTRATION

May 9, 2006

Name: _____

Library: _____ e-mail: _____

FAX #: _____

Notice: I need an accurate count for the caterer so please send in your registration to Network at address below or e-mail me (bchristiansen@ursulinstl.org) with the registration and then also send it into your accounting for payment if institution is paying.

_____ I would like for main course: Chicken Modega or Pasta con broccoli

Confirmation, driving and parking directions will be faxed or e-mailed.

Please mail check (\$24-from member library/\$30 from nonmember library) to: SLRLN, %Bernyce Christiansen, 9425 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63119.

Libraries who must wait for a check to be processed sent in registration with a note that check will follow.

DEADLINE May 2, 2006

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The St. Louis Regional Library Network needs council reps for:

Small Academic Libraries Private School Libraries Special Libraries

2 members -at- large

The representatives must be from a Network member library. There are about 4 meetings (usually morning's midweek from 9:30 – 11:30) plus the Annual Dinner to attend. For more info or to volunteer call Bernyce, 314-395-1305 or e-mail bchristiansen@ursulinstl.org.

If we have more than one volunteer from each group, there will be a vote at the annual dinner May 9, 2006

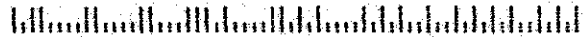
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NETnews is published six times a year by the St. Louis Regional Library Network to report on Network activities, meetings, and items of interest to the membership and the wider library community.

News, reviews and comments are welcome. Send information to B. Christiansen, 9425 Big Bend, St. Louis, Mo 63119.

A copy of Netnews is sent to each member. Nonmember subscriptions are \$30/year.