



POSTILLION

Der Rundbrief des Saskatchewan German Councils
The quarterly newsletter of the Saskatchewan German Council

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Winter 2019

Featuring: Language Learning



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IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

SABINE DOEBEL-ATCHISON, EDITOR

Mit diesem Winter Postillion neigt sich das Jahr dem Ende entgegen. In dieser Ausgabe geht es um Sprache, auch um das Beibehalten und Weitergeben der eigenen Muttersprache. Mir persönlich ist dieses Thema sehr wichtig. Ich hoffe, dass meine Kinder, neben den in Kanada selbstverständlichen Sprachen Englisch und Französisch, auch immer fließend auf deutsch kommunizieren werden können.

Frohe Weihnachten uns eine guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!

With this winter postillion, the year is coming to an end. This issue focusses on language, also about maintaining and passing on the mother tongue. Personally, this topic is very important to me. I hope that my children will be able to communicate fluently in German as well as in English and French.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



attend either celebration. Our ethnically-diverse province benefits from the programs of our member groups by keeping the German culture alive in Saskatchewan.

A highlight, for me as SGC President, was spending a day in Swift Current with SGC Director Jacob Knelsen. Gabi and I presented the city of Swift Current with a German flag in celebration of October being recognized federally as German Heritage Month. I also attended an SGC program about the Prussian scientist, geographer, explorer, naturalist, and philosopher Alexander von Humboldt, born 250 years ago. The presentation was introduced by Honorary Consul Dr. Michal Oelck and financially supported by the German Embassy in Ottawa. I attended another Culture in the Kitchen event hosted by Franziska Davies-Perret. Thank you for the Soljanka recipe! I also attended an evening event celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, organized by Past President Josephin Dick and Dr. Michael Oelck, with financial support from Germany's Consul General office in Vancouver.

I would like to thank the AHSGR Germans from Russia Chapter in Regina for inviting me to give a presentation about my personal connection to Crimea, that area of Ukraine currently under Russian occupation. It is a topic close to my heart, having six times visited my mother's birthplace in Crimea.

Christmas is just around the corner, and so it is not too early to wish Postillion readers a very Merry Christmas from the SGC Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure as President to interact with our directors, and to get to know them better. We had a very good Fall Board meeting which focused on our Strategic Plan and a Diversity Strategy for the months and years ahead. I continue to learn more about SGC, more about our member groups, and more about all the work carried out by our efficient and hard-working office professionals. The Board of Directors welcomes Brigitte Strzeszewski as SGC's new Immigrant Settlement Advisor.

Congratulations from the Board of Directors to the Jagd und Fischverein Waldmanns Lust and to the Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie on the special occasions of their 50th anniversary celebrations in Regina in November. I regret that I was not able to

The theme of this Postillion is the German language. On behalf of the Board of Directors I say "Thank You" to all of our German language

teachers around the province. I continue to be a student of the Saskatoon German Language School, and my favourite teacher knows who she is!

To my fellow SGC directors, I send you the merriest of Season's Greetings.

.....

Die Weihnachtszeit steht schon vor der Tür. Deshalb möchte ich im Namen des SGC Vorstands allen Postillion Lesern ein frohes Weihnachtsfest wünschen. Es freut mich, dass wir als Direktoren zusammenarbeiten können, und uns auch besser kennenlernen können.

Unsere Herbst-Vorstandssitzung hat sich auf unseren Strategieplan und eine Diversity-Strategie für die kommenden Monate und Jahre konzentriert. Ich erfahre weiterhin mehr über SGC, mehr über unsere Mitgliedsgruppen und mehr über die Arbeit, die unsere fleißigen und hart arbeitenden Angestellten im Büro leisten. Der SGC Vorstand begrüßt Brigitte Strzeszewski als neue Beraterin für Einwanderungsfragen im Team.

Zwei unserer Mitgliedsgruppen haben im

November ihr 50-jähriges Jubiläum in Regina gefeiert. Das ist doch erstaunlich! Glückwünsche an den Jagd- und Fischverein Waldmanns Lust und an die Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie zu diesem besonderen Anlass. Leider konnte ich an den Festlichkeiten nicht teilnehmen. Die Programme unserer Mitgliedsgruppen halten die deutsche Kultur in Saskatchewan am Leben. Vielen Dank dafür.

Oktober war der Monat des Deutschen-Erbes in Kanada. Aus diesem Grund überreichten Gabi und ich, zusammen mit SGC Direktor Jacob Knelsen, der Stadt Swift Current eine deutsche Flagge. Der ganze Tag hat mir sehr gefallen. Im Oktober gab es auch ein SGC Programm, dass das Leben des berühmten deutschen Geographen und Forschers Alexander von Humboldt, der vor 250 Jahren geboren wurde, im Mittelpunkt hatte. Die Präsentation wurde von Honorarkonsul Dr. Michael Oelck vorgestellt und von der Deutschen Botschaft in Ottawa finanziell unterstützt. Ich besuchte auch noch eine Kultur in der Küche Veranstaltung mit Franziska Davies-Perret. Am 9. November nahm ich an einer Abendveranstaltung zum dreißigsten

Jahrestag des Mauerfalls teil, die von SGCs Altpäsidentin Josephin Dick und Dr. Michael Oelck organisiert wurde. Diese Veranstaltung wurde vom deutschen Generalkonsulat in Vancouver unterstützt.

Im November hatte der Regina Verband der Deutschen aus Russland mich eingeladen, einen Vortrag über meine persönliche Verbindung zur Krim zu halten. Dieses Gebiet der Ukraine steht derzeit unter russischer Besatzung. Ich bin sechsmal auf die Krim gereist, um dort den Geburtsort meiner Mutter zu besuchen.

Das Thema dieser Ausgabe befasst sich mit der deutschen Sprache. Im Namen der SGC Direktoren sage ich allen unseren Deutschlehrern in der Provinz „Danke“. Ich bin weiterhin Schüler der Deutsche Sprachschule Saskatoon. Meine Lieblingslehrerin weiß, wer sie ist!

Ich wünsche den SGC Direktoren, Gabi, Franziska, Brigitte, und Sabine ein frohes Weihnachtsfest.

.....

Honorary Consul Column

Dr. Michael Oelck,

Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

„Werte müssen gelebt und verteidigt werden“...

(comments by HK Dr. Michael Oelck at a 30 year Anniversary Celebration in Saskatoon on November 9th, 2019 on occasion of the Fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th in 1919)

...“Values have to be lived and to be defended,” said German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a commemorative event of the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall happening today in Berlin. She said this in a chapel which had been erected on the location of the former church which the East German Government had torn down to have a clear view on the death zone of the Berlin Wall, the “Zonengrenze”. The chapel is part of the “Memorial at Bernauer Straße” in Berlin, where the names of people are presented who were shot at the wall, and where a piece of the wall can still be seen today. This place is a must-see reminder to visit for all tourists who travel to Berlin. I just visited “Bernauer Strasse” this year in June when I went to Berlin together with 25 other German Honorary Consuls from USA and Canada.

After the speech of Chancellor Merkel, there was another one by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who had invited the heads of Visegrad States, the Eastern neighbour states of Germany. Present were the President Duda from Poland, President Zeman of Czech Republic, President Caputova

from Slovenia, and President Ader from Hungary. German President Steinmeier thanked these countries for their contributions to the opening of the wall which was also the opening of the Iron Curtain which had separated Eastern Europe from Western Europe. “Without their willingness and active participation to reach freedom, the German Unification would have been impossible. It were these events which lead to the increase of the European Union of 28 states which since has been the hope for many Europeans for a better future”. I read these comments in the leading German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine (FAZ) in which this article appeared this morning. Some of you may remember that many East Germans fled to the German Embassy in Prague and stayed there until they could go West Germany by train, a few weeks before the wall broke down.

Chancellor Merkel also explained that “Our values that need to be defended are the ones of the European Union, and these values are Freedom, Democracy, Rule of law, Human rights and Equality of all people”, and these appear to be expanded upon the mottoes resulting from the French Revolution, Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité. These values should be self-evident to all people but recent nationalistic trends show that our dream of a United Europe constantly needs to be filled with life.”

In this context, I am happy that the Honorary Consul of Poland, Dr. Wojciech

Olszynski is also here with us celebrating today. And the fact that Donald Tusk from Poland as President of the European Council and German Ursula von der Leyen as Head of the European Commission are pulling in the same direction to strengthen the European Union shows how things have developed in the past 30 years. France, Germany and Poland have to build the central strong axis of the European Union.

The significance of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and with it the opening of the Iron Curtain signaling the end of the Cold War period was not just a European event, but extends to North America as well. We are all living

happily here in Canada, but we are all aware how difficult it can be to defend federal principles versus local interests which because of the huge size of this country has a special significance to Canada. We are witnessing every day how the principles of the European Union as outlined by Angela Merkel extend their universal meaning also to North America. The symbolism of the Fall of the Berlin Wall means for our friends in Canada that together we all need to live our common values – today even more than in the past.

1 part of the speech after an article of same title in FAZ on November 9th



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

New Immigrant Settlement Advisor at SGC - Brigitte Strzeszewski



Saskatoon has welcomed me and my family for the second time now. I am so happy to be back. Some of the previous places I lived are Poland, Germany and in Canada also Vancouver and Calgary. Saskatoon was my home already once for twelve years, and I have seen the city growing and changing into a multicultural destination for newcomers from all over the world.

As a two time immigrant myself, I can relate to the challenges newcomers face on a very personal level. In my new role as an Immigrant Settlement Advisor, thanks to our comprehensive Settlement Action Plan, I will do my best to make the transition for newcomers into a new life easier and support them reach the resources they need for a successful integration.

I hope to share what this great city and province has to offer - there is so much beauty to be discovered in the prairies. Saskatchewan is not just a

very welcoming and open place to settle – it is, after all, the land of the living skies.

As all my professional life revolved around helping others, I am thrilled to take over the position of the Immigrant Settlement Advisor. Theresa Kliem is leaving after more than 4 years of service to the community. I am delighted to continue her great work here at the Saskatchewan German Council and help to promote a positive image of the SGC. Theresa, I wish you much success and satisfaction in your future endeavours.

With Christmas approaching fast, may this time of the year for all of you be filled with joy, love, peace and happiness.

MerryChristmas and a happy NewYear! Frohe und gesegnete Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr!

Culture in the Kitchen - Germany East meets West

On November 1, SGC had its 13th Culture in the Kitchen cooking class. November 9, 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, which is a very important date in recent German history. With this in mind and to celebrate the anniversary, participants made Soljanka and Holundersuppe mit Grießklößchen to share regional German food and culture.

Franziska led the class by sharing a bit of history on when the Wall was built, what it was built from and that it ultimately led to the German reunification



on October 3, 1990. Participants were invited to share their memories and experiences of the day when the Wall came down.

These classes create an atmosphere of cultural understanding in a safe setting. We're able to celebrate our diversity in the province by sitting down together and sharing food that was just made.

Humboldt 250



The year 2019 marks the 250 anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt, the scientist and naturalist who is still relevant today. Alexander von Humboldt is significant to Saskatchewan as the City of Humboldt is named after the famous explorer.

To commemorate "Humboldt 250", the SGC with support from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Ottawa invited German historian of science and Humboldt expert Dr. Sandra Rebok to give a presentation at the University of Saskatchewan. About 50 visitors enjoyed Dr. Rebok's movie & talk about Humboldt's expeditions to Central and South America, his many achievements, his global and holistic thinking, and his belief in dialogues between cultures.

We are especially proud to have welcomed Deputy Mayor Lorne Pratchler, Ruth Wilson, Ursula Klassen, plus other citizens from the City of Humboldt!

A Visit to Swift Current for German Heritage Month

In 2016, the Canadian Parliament officially declared October as German Heritage Month. Ever since, the SGC actively promoted German Heritage Month for its members & affiliated groups. This year, the event calendar for October listed 18 events throughout the province.

To proclaim German Heritage Month Week in Swift Current, SGC President Mervin Weiss and Executive Director Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison met up with SGC Director Jacob Knelsen of the Mennonite Heritage Village. After Swift Current Mayor Perreault raised the German flag at City Hall, Merv gave a presentation to City Council about the week being proclaimed.

As cultural organization, we brought activities to Swift Current in commemoration of German Heritage Month: Gabi taught grade 1 classes at O.M. Irwin School about German culture and traditions. At Riverview Village Estates, Jake gave the very interesting presentation "The history of the Mennonites around Swift Current" to an audience of over 60 people while Germany banners and Germans from Russia posters were displayed. As a highlight, some members of the Mennonite Heritage Village gave us visitors from Saskatoon a tour of the museum. Thank you Swift Current for welcoming us!



Banners on the go, go, go!

It's been a busy season for our Austrian and German diversity banners! For the month of October, they travelled all over our province providing cultural information. They started off in Spiritwood for their Folkfest, next they traveled to Thompson's Resort on Otter Lake for a weekend Oktoberfest celebration. The banners were on the road again to Swift Current for the Flag raising at City Hall and to the Riverside Village Estates, where the residents enjoyed viewing them. From there the banners went on to the Battlefords and Lloydminster for their respective Oktoberfest celebrations. The office received positive feedback from visitors who took the opportunity to view the banners.

If you'd like to rent them or need more information, contact the office!



GENEALOGY AND IDENTITY, PART 3

MERV WEISS

My Grandfather Konrad Weiss arrived in Canada in 1913. He left six siblings behind in Russia, and he never saw them again. He died before I was born, and I never once heard the topic of his siblings being discussed in my presence. It seems no one wondered what became of them. My Dad died before I became interested in our family history. I have no idea how much he knew about his father's family in Russia. The responsibility of learning about our family's roots seemed to fall on me.

About three hundred thousand ethnic Germans emigrated from Russia in the years leading up to World War One, to Canada and to the USA, but also to Brazil and Argentina. Their numbers were especially prominent in Kansas, in North and South Dakota, and in Saskatchewan. But what happened to those Germans who did not emigrate, who chose, for one reason or another, to remain in Russia. What happened to Konrad's siblings? What had happened to their families? Where are they today? I had no hope of finding them until I understood the history of the region where they once lived. And that is where I started.

After Konrad Weiss left his home in Odessa district, the events of World War One, the Russian Revolution, and the Civil War which resulted, drastically changed the lives of his siblings. I would learn later that the first famine of the early 1920s claimed the life of Konrad's father, my great-grandfather. The second famine of the early 1930s, the Stalin-imposed Holodomor, claimed the lives of two of Konrad's

brothers. A sister-in-law was arrested because in 1935 she wrote to her relatives in the USA asking for help. This is the world in which the Germans in Communist Russia struggled to survive. And then came World War Two. Germany, without a formal declaration of war, invaded Russia on 22 June, 1941. With lightning speed ("Blitzkrieg") the Wehrmacht occupied South Russia, including Odessa district, forcing the un-prepared and un-organized Red Army to retreat eastwards.

After the Battle of Stalingrad in February 1943, the tide turned and the Red Army began to reclaim its territories which had been occupied by the Germany army. As the Soviet tanks approached Ukraine, the weakened Wehrmacht retreated, ordering all the ethnic Germans to evacuate to Poland and the Sudetenland, where they were needed to run the farms previously confiscated from the Poles. The Germans were forced to leave behind their villages, their homes, their possessions, and their cultural identity, taking with them only what they could fit onto the one wagon allowed per family. They trekked the months-long journey from Odessa district to Poland, where they were registered in refugee holding camps. These are the so-called EWZ (Einwandererzentralstelle) records which granted the refugees German citizenship if they could prove their German ethnicity. That is why these records are so important for genealogy researchers. Each registrant provided the names and dates of parents, grandparents, spouse, parents of spouse, and grandparents of spouse. Of course, the names and dates are not always

accurate.

In these records from 1944, I began to find the names of Konrad's siblings from the list provided to me by my aunt. I learned the names of their spouses, and the names of their children. Suddenly, these people became very real to me, and I began to wonder, "Whatever happened to them?" My uncles and aunts had never talked about them; likely they just didn't know.

Once again, I needed to learn the history of these displaced Germans from Russia. About 250,000 ethnic Germans were evacuated from Odessa district in 1943-44, mostly to Poland. They joined millions of other displaced European refugees who began to flee westwards into Germany proper as the Red Army advanced on Berlin. By January 1945, the Red Army began to overtake the fleeing refugees and they were held in "liberated" German Prisoner-of-war camps. The terms of the Yalta Agreement (February 1945, Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt) allowed Stalin to re-claim the Odessa district Germans as "Soviet" citizens, but rather than being returned to their villages, they were transported en masse in rail cars to the forced labor gulags of Siberia. Konrad's family was scattered over the far North and the distant East of Soviet Russia, including the Ural Mountains region and Asiatic Kazakhstan. But I would learn this only much later, after I began to find my German-Russian "cousins", who are now living in Germany.

What truly led to the re-discovery of my German roots, however, was the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the break-up of the Soviet Union. General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika opened up what became a torrent of Germans emigrating from the former Soviet Union into Germany. Between 1988 and 2003, 2.2 million ethnic Germans, who had been living in the former republics of the Soviet Union, successfully applied to leave for Germany. Using the EWZ records, I had already identified several of Konrad's family who had been evacuated from the same village where my Grandfather was born, and who had been registered as refugees in Poland in 1944. Instinctively, I knew that many of the survivors and descendants of those families would be among the throngs of Germans almost fifty years later who could hardly wait to get out of Lenin's great "socialist paradise".

Photo: 1944 Refugee registration for my Grandfather's sister

EWZ		Durchf. Nr.: 964 032		UdSSR-Erfassung 1944		Domi.-Bsp.-Nr.: 1284984	
Name: SCHWAB ✓				geborene: Weiss ✓ verw. Schwab ✓		Vorname: Elisabeth ✓	
Sam.-Stand: 2		Geburts-Tag: 23. 5. 76		Ort: Selz ✓		Staat: Ray. Raddelnaja (24) II r.k.	
verh.		Ehe geschlossen am: 1.11.00		Mannheim ✓		Beruf: Hausfrau ✓	
		am: 24.4.28		in: "			
Herkunftsland: UdSSR		Lehner Heimatort: Mannheim ✓		Ray. Beljajewka (3) II r.k.			
Staatsangehörigkeit: a) bisherige: UdSSR		b) jetzige: "		nachgewiesen durch: "			
Eltern Name: Vater: Josef ✓		geb. am: 1850 ✓		in: Selz ✓		r.k. ✓	
Mutter: Dorname: Margarete		geborene: Golde ✓		unbek. ✓		in: " ✓	
Ehemann: Josef		geb. am: "		in: " ✓		r.k. ✓	
Ehemann: Josef		geb. am: "		in: " ✓		r.k. ✓	
Ehemann: Josef		geb. am: "		in: " ✓		r.k. ✓	



Rolling Calendar of Events

RECURRING EVENTS

Every last Sunday of the month

GERMAN WORSHIP at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina, 2 p.m.

Every first Thursday of the month

DEUTSCH-TREFF (Das Schulhaus) at Stone's Throw Coffee Collective, Regina, 7-9 p.m.

Every Tuesday

KAISER GAME at the German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Every Wednesday

SKAT at the German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon, 6:30 p.m.



FOOD & RESTAURANTS

GERMAN CULTURAL CENTRE SASKATOON

Brunch, every Sunday
Lunch & Dinner, Tuesday to Saturday
Call 306-244-6869 for more information

REGINA GERMAN CLUB

Lunch Menu, Tuesday to Friday
Monthly Supper - Mahlzeit, last Wednesday of the month
Call 306-352-5897 for more information



DECEMBER

16 CHRISTMAS COOKING CLASS

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, Saskatoon
Non-traditional Christmas desserts, 6 p.m. at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. \$25/person. Call 306-292-2117 or e-mail kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com to register and for more information.

18 MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon
Call the box office at 306-986-4045 for more information.

25 CHRISTMAS DINNER (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon
Call the box office at 306-986-4045 for more information.

31 NEW YEAR'S EVE COMEDY SHOW

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon
Call the box office at 306-986-4045 for more information.



JANUARY

13 JANUARY COOKING CLASS

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, Saskatoon
Bohneneintopf from Niederwald and Gebrannte Creme, 6 p.m. at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. \$25/person. Call 306-292-2117 or e-mail kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com to register and for more information.

22 INFORMATIONAL REGISTRATION NIGHT

Hansel and Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon

7 pm at Brevoort Park School (2809 Early Drive). See ad on page 12 for more information.

26 KIDS' KARNEVAL

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon

Call the box office at 306-986-4045 for more information.

FEBRUARY

10 FEBRUARY COOKING CLASS

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, Saskatoon

Döner with coleslaw, yogurt dressing and Turkish flatbread, 6 p.m. at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. \$25/person. Call 306-292-2117 or e-mail kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com to register and for more information.

MARCH

9 MARCH COOKING CLASS

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, Saskatoon

Filettöpfe - Swabian Pork Medallions with Spätzle, Schwäbische Pfritzauf - Swabian Popovers with a fruit compote, 6 p.m. at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. \$25/person. Call 306-292-2117 or e-mail kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com to register and for more information.



GERMAN LANGUAGE MEET-UPS IN THE PROVINCE

Deutsch-Treff Regina – German Meetup

Where can Regina German-speakers meet to chat in a casual atmosphere? How can we bring the community closer together? In October 2018, Das Schulhaus Regina brought Deutsch-Treff into life to give those people an opportunity to connect. At the beginning, it was only a handful of people that met once a month in the Stone's Throw Coffee Collective. Now, one year later, you will find up to twenty people enjoying each other's company. It is always a mixed group with people of all ages and backgrounds. This is what makes this meetup so interesting - there is never a dull conversation.

"Through Deutsch-Treff I had a chance to meet new people and make friendships," says Kathrin, who recently moved from Germany to Regina, "It is a great opportunity to connect with my culture while being so far away from home". But not everyone moved from a German-speaking country. Some people were born and raised in Canada, and spoke German at their home.

Others learned it as second language. Everyone has their story, and no matter which role the German language plays in each person's life, it is connecting the people at Deutsch-Treff.

We meet every first Thursday of the month at Stone's Throw Coffee Collective from 7 to 9 p.m. If you are interested to join the meetup, please contact deutschtreffregina@gmail.com or just come to event.

'Deutsche Runde' in Saskatoon

We are a group of Germans and German speakers who meet on every fourth Tuesday of the month, at a restaurant or pub, or at someone's home for a potluck meal.

I emigrated to Canada from Germany in 1984. As the years passed, I started to notice that my fluency in German suffered and I was looking for opportunities to communicate in German. In 2006 my friend Barbara Hoggard – Lulay, later our Honorary Consul for Germany in Saskatchewan, and I came up with the idea to start a German

speaking group who would meet on a regular basis. We invited all the Germans we knew to get together once a month and visit.

This has evolved into so much more than just a way to brush up on our German language skills. It's not just language, that connects us, but also culture, traditions, literature, art, food, politics, history – and, over time, lasting friendship. Also our experiences as immigrants are often part of the many discussions that we are sharing.

We have about 50 people in our email contacts. On average 10 people come to our monthly gatherings. We have people who come on a regular basis, and people who come occasionally when time allows. Nobody feels obliged. Every German speaker is welcome. We love to see new faces. Contact me via email.

Juliane Deubner (juldeu@gmail.com)

“Du kannst mit mir auch deutsch sprechen”: maintaining German across the generations

Dr. Olga Lovick

Professor & Head, Department of Linguistics

College of Arts & Sciences | University of Saskatchewan

Many families immigrating to Canada (and other countries!) are faced with the decision to either pass their (German) language on to their children or to give it up. This decision involves many factors: does the family want to stay in Canada for good, or are they thinking about returning to Europe eventually? Do they still have relatives on the other side of the Atlantic, and do these relatives speak English? Do both parents speak German as their native language? What were the reasons for moving to Canada? How old are the children? And so on! Every family's situation is different, plus, when it comes to language, children often do what they want anyway, regardless of what the parents want!

In this article, I want to share some arguments in favour of maintaining German within the family (and beyond). I take a double perspective: as a linguistics professor with an interest in bilingualism, and as a mother who made the decision to raise her son bilingually.

Does this sound familiar: your family moved to Canada. At the beginning, you and your spouse spoke English better than your child(ren). But after only a few months, your kids suddenly “overtook” you, and now they speak English much better than you do (and likely: than you ever will)!

Or maybe this sounds familiar: your child was born in Canada, but even though you and your spouse speak German to each other and to your child, she also is picking up English. After starting daycare or school, she maybe even stopped using German at all and only communicates in English.

By language **acquisition**, I mean the natural development of being able to speak and understand a language without any instruction. Linguists distinguish between first language acquisition, which all children go through, and second language acquisition, which takes place later in life. Second language acquisition may also involve formal instruction, e.g. language classes.

Children are hard-wired to **acquire** languages. The typical stages of language acquisition (focusing on production) are given in the table on the right (please note: children vary enormously, and girls tend to acquire a language faster than boys).

If a child is exposed to one language, then they will acquire this language (which may or may not be the native language of the child's biological parents). But if they grow up in a bilingual or multilingual setting, they may acquire more than one language as native language. They will grow up speaking and understanding two or more languages. This is what happens if your child was born in Canada or moved to Canada before about five years of age: the process of first language acquisition simply happens with two languages simultaneously.

If a child moves to Canada some time during middle childhood (i.e., between the fifth birthday and puberty), she will learn English through second language acquisition, which may or may not be supported by

Age	Language acquisition stage
0-6 months	Pre-talking: cooing (production of vowels)
6-8 months	Babbling (producing consonant-vowel combinations without meaning, e.g. ma-ma-ma or ba-ba-ba)
8-18 months	One-word stage (production of isolated, recognizable words)
18-24 months	Two-word stage (production of two-word phrases, e.g. Max hungry!)
24-30 months	Telegraphic stage (production of longer phrases, some words still left out); explosion of vocabulary
30+ months	Grammatical structures emerge
60+ months	Acquisition of grammar mostly complete; vocabulary learning continues for the remainder of life

language classes. This means she will acquire English with native-like fluency, speaking it without an accent and without grammatical errors.

Some time around puberty, most humans lose this ability. Only about 5% of adults are able to learn a language with near-native competency; most of us will retain our accents and keep making mistakes. Even so, we qualify as bilinguals, since we are able to function both languages!

What is bilingualism?

Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages for communication. Active bilingualism means that a person can communicate in both languages: a person might speak German to their grandmother, but English at school or work. Passive bilingualism means that a person can understand both languages, but only speaks one of them: they will understand their grandmother speaking German to them, but will respond in English.



Why is it a good idea to ensure that your children speak German in addition to English?

Most simply, it connects them to your—and their!—roots. When you visit family in Europe, your children will be able to speak to them, regardless of whether your family speaks English or not. Mia, a 13-year-old German speaker in Regina, once told me that she loves being bilingual, since she can easily make friends in Germany on her annual visits.

Since moving to Saskatchewan, I have talked to dozens of Canadian-born adults who tell me that their parents or grandparents spoke German but did not pass the language on. (In the 1930s and 1940s, many German-speaking Canadians wanted to distance themselves from Nazi Germany and stopped using German at home.) Although these adults understand their parents' decision, they now regret that they are not able to speak German. One lady told me that her mother, who is now in a nursing home, has dementia and no longer speaks English, but she remembers her first language, German. The daughter desperately wishes that she'd be able to communicate with her mother!

Down the road, being able to speak German may open up exciting study or employment opportunities. In Germany, University education is free — that alone is an argument in favour of maintaining German! If they participate in exchange programs in high school or university, they will likely have a head start over their English-speaking peers. And in today's globalized economy, the ability to speak two languages is a desired skill that may result in better-paid, or just more interesting, jobs.

But... won't it slow my child down?

No, it won't! An estimated 60-75% of the people in the world speak more than one language (and in many places, they grow up speaking three or more languages!). Being bilingual is absolutely normal, and studies have shown that children acquiring two languages simultaneously do this as easily as other children who only acquire one language. They learn very quickly to separate their languages and know from a very early stage on which language to use with whom: i.e. my son knew to use German with me and my German-speaking family and friends, but he not once addressed his English-speaking dad or other relatives in English!

But what about language mixing?

Be honest now: do you never mix your languages? I do it all the time, for example when I can't think of a word. I once started speaking German when I was teaching an early-morning class and I was still half-asleep. My students thought this was the funniest thing ever. Language mixing (the technical term is "code mixing" or "code switching") is absolutely normal for bilinguals of any age. If your child does it, this is a sign that she is on her way to becoming a fully functional bilingual. If she does

it because she doesn't know the word, then just supply her with the word

How common is bilingualism in Canada?

Canada is officially a bilingual country. According to the 2016 Census, 17.9% of Canadian residents are bilingual in the two official languages (English/French). But there are many more bilinguals in Canada! 22.9% of Canadian residents are bilingual in an official language and a non-official one: either an aboriginal language or an immigrant language.

What are the disadvantages of bilingualism?

There are none.

I want to pass my mother tongue on to my children. How do I do this?

If you decide to pass your mother tongue on to your children, you need to bear in mind that, once they start school, they will hear (and use) a lot more English. For them to really learn your mother tongue, they need to hear and speak it enough—ideally, at least 20% of the time. This can be you talking or reading with them (or talking when they're around), letting them watch movies or listen to something in your mother tongue. The more they hear, the more they can learn! All of this will help the children develop passive bilingualism: the ability to understand your mother tongue.

One important strategy is to develop a "family language policy": the parents need to decide which strategy to use for transmitting the mother tongue. They also need to communicate this to the children and remind them to use the mother tongue at home. Research has shown that language

There are two models that are often used:

1. heritage language at home
2. one parent, one languages

Which model you choose, depends on your family. If you and your spouse share a mother tongue, then Option 1 may work well for you: you and your spouse simply use your mother tongue at home all of the time. Try not to use English at all! If you and your spouse have different mother tongues, then it may be better to choose Option 2: for example, the mother uses only her mother tongue, while the father uses English. In both cases, it is important to regularly remind children to respond in the desired language—I have to remind my son about 20 times a day, at least!

Most immigrant languages are not taught in the public school system, but in many places, there are "heritage language schools" that teach many different languages in the evening or on weekends. Check if there's a school for your mother tongue in your area and consider enrolling your children. This will help them develop a peer group with whom to speak their heritage language. (Also, consider volunteering! Most language schools are desperate for help.) Here is a list of heritage language schools in Saskatchewan: <http://www.heritagelanguages.sk.ca/home/> (click on "Language schools")

Another important aspect is to instill pride in their cultural and linguistic heritage in your children. As they get older, they may feel ashamed at being "different" from their classmates and may want to distance themselves from their heritage to "blend in". Help them to develop positive attitudes towards their heritage by maintaining your traditions, participating in cultural events, visiting your country of origin... By showing them how much you value your heritage, you teach them to value it as well.

FAQs

Question: I worry that by speaking only my mother tongue at home, my children will have a disadvantage when they start school and don't know any English.

Answer: Don't worry! As soon as they start Kindergarten, their English will explode (almost literally).

Only a few months after they start, they will be perfect English speakers—and they may try to stop speaking your mother tongue!

Question: My first child is pretty good about speaking my mother tongue to me, but the younger ones aren't: they only want to speak English.

Answer: This is very common: the first child "brings English home" and then the younger ones pick it up. This is where consistency comes in. Make it clear to all of your children that you expect them to use the mother tongue with you.

Question: I always speak my mother tongue to my child, but she only ever responds in English. What do I do?

Answer: Be patient, and remind her again and again to use your mother tongue when addressing you. You can even pretend not to understand her when she speaks English!

Question: My child always "mixes" her two languages, rather than just speaking one language at a time.

Answer: This is very common in bilingual people, which doesn't mean it should be encouraged. One strategy is to repeat your child's utterance by rephrasing it in your mother tongue. Or you can point it out to your child: "Just use one language at a time!"

Question: My child has perfect English, but his German isn't that good. He makes mistakes and cannot write it as well as English. What can I do?

Answer: One thing is to accept this: since he hears so much more English than his other language, it is not surprising that his English is better. Still, there are things you can do: gently draw his attention to mistakes by rephrasing his utterance so it sounds good; enroll him in a heritage language school; send him on an extended vacation to his grandparents; find him movies to watch/books to read... Make sure though that you don't correct mistakes in a negative way so he feels poorly about his language skills.

Question: I have heard that bilingual children often struggle with spelling more than monolingual ones.

Answer: This is not true. Some people struggle with spelling more than other people, but being bilingual has nothing to do with it.



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- Low student-teacher ratio
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Warm and caring environment that helps children developing social, emotional and academic skills.

**REGISTER for
2020/21**

Informational Registration
Night

Jan 22, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Brevoort Park School,
2809 Early Dr

For further information please contact: Uli Hecker @ (306) 281-4428;
Email: coordinator.hanselandgretel@gmail.com

TRANSLATION & NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES AT SGC

Translation of documents: English to German /
German to English
Notarization services
Fees apply

Please contact the SGC office at 306-975-0845
or office@saskgermancouncil.org for more
information!

News from Member Groups

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has 38 member groups throughout Saskatchewan. Those groups include cultural clubs, language schools, dance groups, choirs, genealogical groups, and many more. The following pages contain articles by SGC member groups.

GREETINGS FROM THE VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE

Volksliederchor Harmonie, Regina — Anita Jadischke

Volksliederchor Harmonie were pleased to be invited to perform at the Holy Rosary Cathedral Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 26.

An annual fundraiser for the choir is selling baking trays and other items at the Christkindl Market, which was held on Saturday, November 23. We thank Maria Hartman for her hard work co-ordinating the fundraiser.

The Leader-Post Christmas Timebook which was published on November 29 featured an article about our choir and concert, German Christmas traditions and German Club events during

the Advent Season. We are very proud to be highlighted in this article.

Our Weihnachtskonzert was held on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at the German Club. We performed to a capacity crowd. A huge thank-you goes to our director Blair Mills and accompanist Carol Mills for their dedication, patience and hard work during our practises and performances.

Singing engagements during December, included the annual Rotary Carol Festival and Regina Lutheran Home.

We will start our second semester on January 14 and are especially excited about the coming year as we celebrate our 65th Anniversary with special events on the May 3 weekend. More information will follow.

Volksliederchor Harmonie invites you to come sing with us. Anyone interested in joining our choir is more than welcome. We rehearse at the German Club every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Call (306) 352-5114 for more information.

WINTER COOKING SEASON

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz: German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio, Saskatoon — Franziska Davies-Perret



1



2



3

Winter has hit and I don't think many of us were ready for it!

In my effort to show diverse recipes from German-speaking countries, November was dedicated to Swiss recipes. Participants made Maluns and Süssmost Cream for dessert. It was a relatively quick class with hardy food to eat on a cold night. The cream was a bit tricky to make, the participants had to really keep an eye on it to make sure their dessert didn't end up with pieces of scrambled eggs! However, they did

very well and I'm proud of them for it!

To show that Germany has much more than just Schnitzel and Bratwurst, we'll be making non-traditional Christmas items for two classes in December. I also have a surprise planned for my participants, my little Christmas gift to them, which I'll reveal in the next Postillion article so it can stay a surprise until the classes happen!

If you'd like to stay in touch check out the SGC website on a regular basis for information

on upcoming classes or email me at kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com

From Kochlöffel and Nudelholz, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

1. "Spaghettieis" - A childhood favourite!
2. Sitting down together and enjoying our meal.
3. Frying up Maluns and sausages for November's Swiss class.

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

HELLO FROM THE KARNEVALSGESELLSCHAFT HARMONIE GROUP

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina — Sheila Aldous



This year marks 50 years since the K. G. Harmonie Crowning of Prince Adolf I and Princess Lola I. The anniversary celebration started with a social evening on Friday night. On Saturday, November 9th our 50th Crowning saw the Present honoring the Past and looking to the Future. Past Prinzen Couples graced us with their presence. The evening highlight was a dance performance of past and present dancers. It was great to see everyone having fun and taking a walk down memory lane. Next year will see the crowning of Theresa the first and her Prince, our 51st Princess started planning her crowning more than 2 years ago. Be sure to join us next November.

We would like to send a special thank you to all of our evening events sponsors. Also, a thank

you to the 50th Anniversary Committee and Karneval Members for all the hard work they did to put on this event. Thanks to Shirley Schneider for creating the memory booklet for us. We would like to thank the board and staff of the German Club for the great meal and all of their support through out the years.

Other activities our group has taken part in lately are:

- RMC annual general meeting on November 4
- Heritage Communities Harvest Moon
- High Noon Optimist 50th Anniversary
- Oktoberfest at the German Club
- 2019 Regina NHL Heritage Classic
- Oktoberfest in North Battleford
- Spring Free from Racism Fundraiser on November 28.

Our group again is planning a St. Nicholas night at the Regina German on Wednesday, December 4.

The New Year will see eight of the group venturing to the German American Mardi Gras Association's convention in Vegas the middle of January.

If you are interested in joining the group or dancing with us, our contacts are: President - Erika DuMont (306-527-3163) (erika.dumont@sasktel.net) or Vice-President - Darlene Rubrecht (306-545-8873) (darrubrecht@myaccess.ca).

1. 2019 Crowning. 2. Heritage Classic.
3. North Battleford Oktoberfest.

GREETINGS FROM THE BRASS BAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — Yvonne Kristoff

Concordia Brass Band is nearing its winter break. We have 2 more concerts to perform as I write this. We are playing Christmas music now and will end well before Christmas. We will reconvene in February and be ready to perform concerts a few weeks after. As one of our band members so aptly put it "We bring our music to those who cannot get out to concerts." We perform in care homes and assisted living apartment blocks as well as at churches. We do not arrange concerts where we would charge admission. We perform for the sheer pleasure of sharing our music. That is our gift to the public.



NEWS FROM THE CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers, Saskatoon — Brenda Booker

Hello everyone, well we made it through another really busy fall season. Thanks to our experienced dancers for the perseverance and flexibility they demonstrated, in getting our new dancers ready for our busiest performance season. Within a few practices they were fitted with costumes and ready to perform.

Our performance at Oktoberfest was a huge success once we forged past a few of those first performance jitters. That's the nice thing about social dancing, such as folk dancing. It is such a great opportunity for youth to get on stage to perform with friends by their side supporting them.

The very next morning we headed to the Farmers' Market to perform at Erntedankfest. Although it was still a crisp fall morning, the sun was out and it even felt a bit warmer than last year. This event is an opportunity for us to learn about another German cultural celebration.

After a few quick performances it was back to our practice schedule in preparation for the Christmas Season. We dusted off a few dances we had not performed for some time, including

the seasonal Burgenlandischer Holzhackertanz. Who would have thought that the prized position would be that of the tree... although it is not just any tree after all, it is the Christmas tree! Thanks to all who came to see our Christkindl performance & who stopped by our table to visit or buy a gingerbread man.

We managed to fit in one more Christmas performance at St Angela Merici Residence. This was extra special for us because one of our dancers, Jordan, has a great-aunt that lives there. We really enjoyed both our performance and the visit after. The Elders stayed after the performance to have coffee and share some mini strudels with the dancers and their families. The Elders even had chocolate snowmen and santa's for each of the dancers.

As I write this we are preparing for our annual Christmas potluck party where we look forward to sharing food, as well as laughter and stories. Then we free up time for our families to spend time on their own Christmas events and traditions, by halting practice until the New Year.

Frohe Weihnachten



1. Erntedankfest 2019. 2. Ready to Perform at St Angela's.

GUTEN TAG FROM THE MELVILLE GERMAN CLUB

Melville & District German Heritage Club, Melville —Sheron Schmidt

The Melville German Heritage Club celebrated St. Nikolaus on December 6 with a pot-luck meal, entertainment and songs.

The club had a good year, keeping busy with activities at the hall. We purchased new chairs for the hall as it is also being used for community functions. Once more, we served Kuchen and beverages at the opening of the local museum for the spring and summer months.

Members and friends try to get together for card games (whist) At the hall during fall and winter.

In October we held our Oktoberfest. All in attendance had a great meal, enjoyed entertainment by Jeanie McGregor, who wrote "German songs" about Neudorf, Saskatchewan and other selections, dancing by out Leonard Gadica supplying music and song for an evening of fun and fellowship. "Ei Prosit!"

We are looking forward to new people joining our German club to keep traditions and German culture going in the community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from the Melville German Heritage Club.

Fröhliche Weihnachten an alle!

UPDATE FROM THE GERMAN CULTURAL CENTRE

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon — Flo Broten

A big thanks to Des, her staff and our volunteers for making Oktoberfest another successful evening. We were well entertained by the Concordia Brass Band and our junior and senior dancers. The guys from Mini Fridge Theatre did a great job emceeing the event.

Christkindlmarkt was well attended again this year. There were many and varied vendors present and sales were good – especially the

unique handmade Christmas decorations! We were entertained by Slim Chance and our junior dancers.

Mini Fridge Dinner Theatre continues to be a successful event. If you have an opportunity, I suggest you attend. The next performance is "The Farnedale Avenue Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's A Christmas Carol" on December 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Tickets can

be purchased by calling our box office at 306-986-4045. Book early, It is sure to be a sellout!

The Joy of Vox "Christmas Review and Dinner" was a big hit. If you have an opportunity to attend one of the Joy of Vox performances, I recommend you take advantage of it. The choir is amazing!

The annual Kids' Christmas Party is on December

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

8 from 1:30 to 3:30. Admission is by donation to the Children's Crisis Centre.

Our annual Members' Christmas luncheon

will be held on December 18. We are looking forward to a delicious lunch followed by carol singing and fellowship. Guests are welcome and it is necessary to book in advance.

Watch our website and facebook for upcoming events. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the best for 2020.

GERMAN JUNIOR FOLK DANCERS UPDATE

German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon —*Barbara Stehwien*

While practising new dances for our busy Christmas season, we're having lots of fun, but not much new to report. Instead, here are two fun dance acrostic poems, one using Folkdance and the other Volkstanz, by Amanda Stehwien.

F: Folkdance makes for great memories and stories.
O: Old and young, anyone can dance!
L: Learn to follow the beat and move your feet.
K: Kick those legs in the Russian Troika folkdance.
D: Dance your heart out!
A: Anywhere is a place to dance.
N: Never forget those hands on hips.
C: Can we learn a new dance, please?
E: Enthusiasm is the basic requirement to learn folkdance.

In the German language:

V: Volkstanz macht einfach Spass.
O: Obfelder Dreier braucht mindestens drei Tänzer.
L: Lederhosen gehören zu den Holzhacker Buben.
K: Kreuzkönig ist ein beliebter Tanz - beim Publikum und den Tänzern
S: Siebensprung gibt es in vielen Europäischen Ländern
T: Tampet braucht Geduld beim einstudieren.
A: Auerhahn Ländler ist ein sehr schöner Paartanz.
N: Nickeltanz ist auch als norddeutscher Fischertanz bekannt
Z: Zigeunerpolka hat unsere Gruppe einmal mit dem Premierminister getanzt

Our annual Minifest is just around the corner, combined with the usual Lebkuchen sale. We are taking this show to the all new Glow Gardens festival as well, and it looks like a sellout event. Coming up is also our participation at the Saskatoon Heritage Festival at the beginning of February.

Please feel free to get in touch for any questions, interest in dance or donations to our Book Sale: barbaragjfd@gmail.com

www.GermanJuniorFolkDancers.ca
[@Saskatoon_GJFD](https://www.instagram.com/Saskatoon_GJFD)



UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGARTEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon —*Brigitte Boldt-Leppin*

KulturGarten Saskatoon organized the 3rd annual German Erntedankfest Celebration on Saturday, October 5, 2019, at the Farmer's Market in downtown Saskatoon. The traditional Erntedankfest Celebration in German-speaking countries is a communal outdoor event, including fairs, processions, parades, church services, music and dance. However, all crop producing cultures on our planet have some type of celebration or ritual to mark the completion of the harvest.

Planning an outdoor event for October in Saskatchewan was risky. But as in the previous years the weather cooperated with sunshine, only slight wind and not too cold temperature. Because of the temperate weather the outdoor Pavilion,

situated on the plaza in front of the Farmer's Market, was still surrounded by various fruit and produce vendors. We decorated the Pavilion with ribbons and flower arrangements, with garlands and wreaths bound with ears of grain (Picture 1). In the centre of the Pavilion, on a square table, vegetables and fruit, generously donated by the surrounding vendors, were decoratively placed around the Samenbild (Picture 2). This picture, depicting a Prairie Landscape, attracted the attention of and conversation with many visitors from various cultures. It was designed by Rosa Gebhardt and "painted", using only seeds and grains, by Vicky Maurus and Andreas Denz. On one side of the pavilion a tent and table were set up with a selection of home baked cakes

offered for sale. The entertainment started at 10:00 am with the procession of the performers, accompanied by the German Laridah Marsch, onto the plaza. Led by the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers, each carrying a basket filled with vegetables. The "harvest crown", or Erntekrone, the majestic symbol expressing thanks to the creator for providing the daily bread for another year, was carried onto the plaza by Earl Gebhardt and Andreas Denz, dressed in their traditional Schwarzwälder und Allgäuer Tracht. They were preceded by the Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein dancers, dressed in their performing outfits. The Erntekrone, bound with ears of grain and decorated with colourful ribbons, was placed onto the vegetable



and fruit laden table. The produce was collected by Brigitte Boldt-Leppin from the generous vendors at the Farmers Market and donated to the Friendship Inn after the event.

The dancers, in their colourful traditional outfits, entertained the many spectators for more than

an hour with a vast selection of dances. The group of Erntesingers, practicing especially for this event, sang German Harvest and Autumn Lieder accompanied by Kathleen Solose on the Keyboard.

We thank all the vendors and volunteers, the

SGC for their support, well as Theresa Kliem, Past Immigrant Settlement Advisor at SGC, having been our very competent MC, for this great event.

1. Samenbild depicting prairie landscape. 2. Gabentisch with Erntekrone. 3. Decorated pavilion with Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers & Erntesingers performing.

NEWS FROM HANSEL & GRETEL PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon — Ulrike Hecker

This Fall has been a whirlwind of activities for our preschoolers. We started Fall with a lots of learning through outdoor exploration. Our classes spent many hours in the little forest behind our school where they sorted leaves, counted nature items and had fun playing and growing together as friends. The best and most authentic approach to teach fall words in German is to sing Herbstlieder (fall songs) when you are standing under a tree. Counting in another language can be so much fun when you make a pile of leaves, name the colours or sort pine cones by size.

On November 6/7 the preschool celebrated St. Martin. We brought light into the dark by parading through the school with handmade lanterns. Parents enjoyed watching a little play

at the end of class time and listening to their children singing "Ich geh mit meiner Laterne" (I am walking with my lantern).

Our classes went on their first field trips for this year. Everyone had a blast at the new Children's Discovery Museum and Dutch Grower's hay maze!

Fall has finally turned into winter and we are now busy rehearsing our English and German winter songs and Christmas rhymes to impress Nikolaus who is going to visit us on December 5th and December 6th. The children are very excited and hope that (following the German tradition), he will fill their boots with special treats.

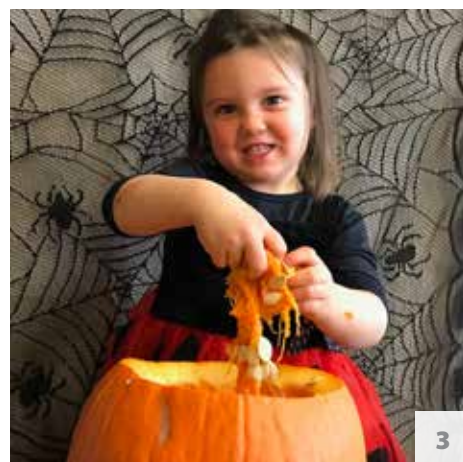
Believe it or not, but it is:

TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR! January 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

Informational Registration Night for 2020/21 School Year. We recommend coming early as it will be a "first come first served" registration process! You will find more information on Facebook and on our website! On behalf of the board of directors and all staff members we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

"Frohe Weihnachten" und ein "Gutes Neues Jahr"!

1. Looking for hidden apples. 2. Celebrating St. Martin. 3. What's inside a pumpkin?



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE QUEEN CITY

German-Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina — Patrick Kossmann



Oktoberfest was a busy time again for our club as we held our annual two day celebration. A full house attended our Auftakt meal and the largest amount of people participated in our Mr. & Ms. Oktoberfest pageant. Good food and a party atmosphere are only two of the things that bring in the crowds for our fall celebrations. Many families came and took advantage of our family afternoon and watched their kids taking part in face painting, art projects, and the petting zoo. Two keg tappings and performances by Das Volleslederpaket and Cornerstone had people entertained well into the night.

The boys of the dance group kept active through October and into November doing shows for our Hunter group's 50th anniversary and the

Lumsden Fire Department's Notoberfest, an event where the crowd were invited up to participate in some leg-slapping fun. The winter rest is much appreciated, but the boys are eager to start again in January and are welcoming new members who want to try out Schuhplattler.

On November 23rd we celebrated the 9th annual Christkindl Markt with a record high attendance. The line up reached all the way down the street to the corner of St. John's an 11th. We had a great selection of 18 vendors in the main hall an entrance, plus two more in the lounge downstairs. As in the years past, we offered free cookie baking and were delighted to have over 140 children, and young at heart, stop by. The food we served, Stollen, goulash,

Kaiserschmarrn, Strudel, and Bratwurst, was well received. The Bratwurst line never stopped and reached down the road at some points. The Glühwein was praised for its authentic flavour sold out, which is always the best compliment of a well prepared treat. Once again we had lived music as an event highlight. We were happy to see international university students, and high school students come out and for them to experience a traditional Christkindl Markt.

The Christmas season is full upon us now. For more information about any of our future activities please go to our website [www. reginagermanclub.ca](http://www.reginagermanclub.ca).

1. Christkindl Markt at the Club.

2. Volleslederpaket. 3. Volunteers at Oktoberfest.

AN UPDATE FROM THE ALPENROSE SCHUHPLATTLERS

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein, Saskatoon — Heidi Armstrong



The Concordia Alpenrose had a successful autumn performance run. We premiered a new dance at Folkfest, the Ammerseer. Our friends from the Bavarian Schuhplattlers of Edmonton taught us this dance at Maifest in Vancouver. We performed at 4 Oktoberfests as well as Erntedankfest in Saskatoon. In October we took some time to celebrate one of our long-

time member's wedding.

We will be taking a break over the winter and will resume regular practices in the spring. The Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year! Stay in touch with the

Alpenrose dancers by liking our Facebook page "Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein" or by following us on Instagram @schuhplattlersyxe.

1. Dancing at Oktoberfest at the German Cultural Centre. 2. Erntedankfest at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market.

UPDATE FROM DAS SCHULHAUS

Das Schulhaus - German Language School, Regina — *Cynthia Sanders*

Das Schulhaus had its annual general meeting at the end of October. We'd like to welcome two new board members, Melissa Berwald and Jennifer Hardebusch. Our teachers also participated in the Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German workshop and general meeting in October. It's an opportunity to meet other German teachers from all over Saskatchewan and to learn some of the latest tools available for teachers of German.

November has been quite a busy month for us at Das Schulhaus. We started out the month with our annual Laternenlauf (Lantern walk) to celebrate Martinstag (St. Martin's Day). Students coloured and built beautiful lanterns. In the evening we met at Wascana Park near the Saskatchewan Science Centre for our Laternenlauf. We sang traditional St. Martin's Day songs and afterwards we had warm punch and German Lebkuchen (gingerbread) around a fire. We'd like to thank London Drugs for donating the Lebkuchen. We participated in the

Regina German Club's Christkindelmarkt again. Some of our students helped out too! We were busy all month making crafts for our table. The entire event was a success and our booth was well attended.

We are already looking forward to December. Our school will be having its Weihnachtsfeier – and if we are lucky, we might get a visit from St. Nikolaus! After that, we will be on break. Adult and classes resume in January. Our Deutsch Treff



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continues to gain popularity. If you don't have time for classes, but would still like to practice your German, come down to the Stone's Throw Coffee Collective the first Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

1. Das Schulhaus Native Speaker Class students Mia and Emilia dressed as angels at the Christkindlmarkt, November 23, 2019. 2. Good times at Deutsch Treff. We thank Saskatchewan German Council for its support of Deutsch Treff.



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NEWS FROM THE GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

German Language School Saskatoon — *Kathleen Schroeder-Brass*

Christmas is right around the corner and our classes have already finished the first three months of the school year. We have had a few changes to our classrooms this year. Some are simply for a better understanding of the level the students move forward with, other are connected to a dedicated team of teachers, who made it possible to stretch out a bit more.

Our Adult Beginner Stufe 1, Intermediate Stufe 2 and Advanced Conversational Classes meet on Wednesday nights and our Beginner Stufe 2 class on Friday nights. I am very happy to say that the majority of last year's students did return back to their classrooms and as well we were able to add new students to our existing groups. Besides the lessons in the classrooms we try to offer a variety of cultural experiences to our students throughout the school year. So far, they were invited to take part in a Movie/Lecture Talk in celebration of 250 years of Alexander von Humboldt and just recently had the chance to join a Poster Exhibit/Movie to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. I like to mention that some of our students are regulars at the cooking classes offer

by Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, as well as joining some of the Culture in the Kitchen events put on by SGC.

As for our younger students age 5 – 18, we were able to take care of a few changes as well and add new faces to our teaching team again. Our level 1 class is taken care of by one of our former students, who went through our complete German Language Program and did assist the past 2 years. Finally it was possible to split up our Level 2/3 class. Level 2 is taught by a young gentleman, who started learning German a bit over 6 years ago with us, has been working as an assistant to one of our teachers in her classes at the U of S in the past years and has worked in a school in Germany for one year. The Level 3 students are well off with their teacher, who is using all resources available to teach them and prepare them towards our credit classes. She is teaching German from her heart as she started learning the language in her school years and continued to study it at university finishing with a teaching degree. Speaking of our credit classes, it is very nice to see that most of last year's Gr.8 students joined our well working credit classes as well as new faces joined in with a group

of last year's students. Running three different German Levels in one classroom asks for a well experienced teacher to tackle this task. Our school is very lucky to have her. Sure she is thankful to have an assistant on her side, which is helping with the workload the class brings together. Our assistant is new to our teaching team as well and looking forward to gain experience in our school in comparison to her regular school as a full time teacher.

It is important for us to have all these connections with new and former students and staff, as we all profit from this. German is the 3rd most spoken language in the world and it should connect way more people!

Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins Jahr 2020 wünscht unser gesamtes Team!

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KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

Witze

Habe gerade einem Freund einen Limonadenwitz erzählt. Fanta witzig.

"Oh. Mir sind die Tomaten durch das Sieb gerutscht." "Passiert!"

Ich habe gerade 10 Minuten gebraucht, um "Altbaucharme" richtig zu lesen.

Warum haben Polizisten eine Schere dabei? Damit sie den Räubern den Weg abschneiden können.

Dass das Dass mit das verwechselt wird, führt irgendwann dazu, dass das Dass das nicht mehr erträgt und dass das Dass das Das dann tötet!

"10 Eier bitte!"

"Freilaufend?"

"Nein, ich hätte sie gerne im Karton liegend."

Das Wort Sitzplatz muss für eine Hund wahnsinnig verwirrend sein.

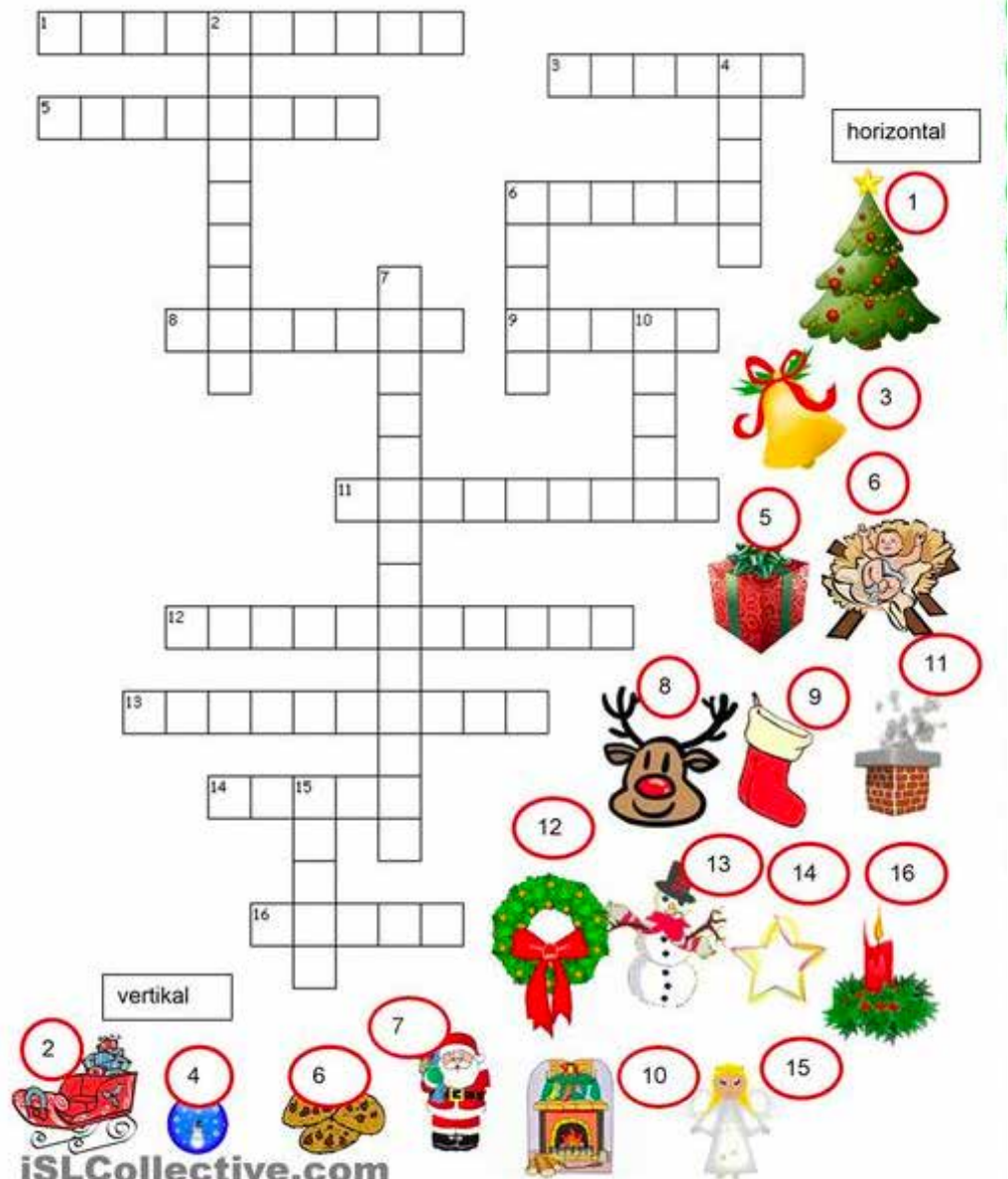
Seitdem ich das Wort Dingsbums kenne, kann ich alles erklären.

Oh! Ein Schreibfehler... Wo kommst Duden her?

"Wir essen jetzt Opa!" Satzzeichen retten Leben!

Wenn mir ein Professor ein Sandwich macht, ist das dann wissenschaftlich belegt?

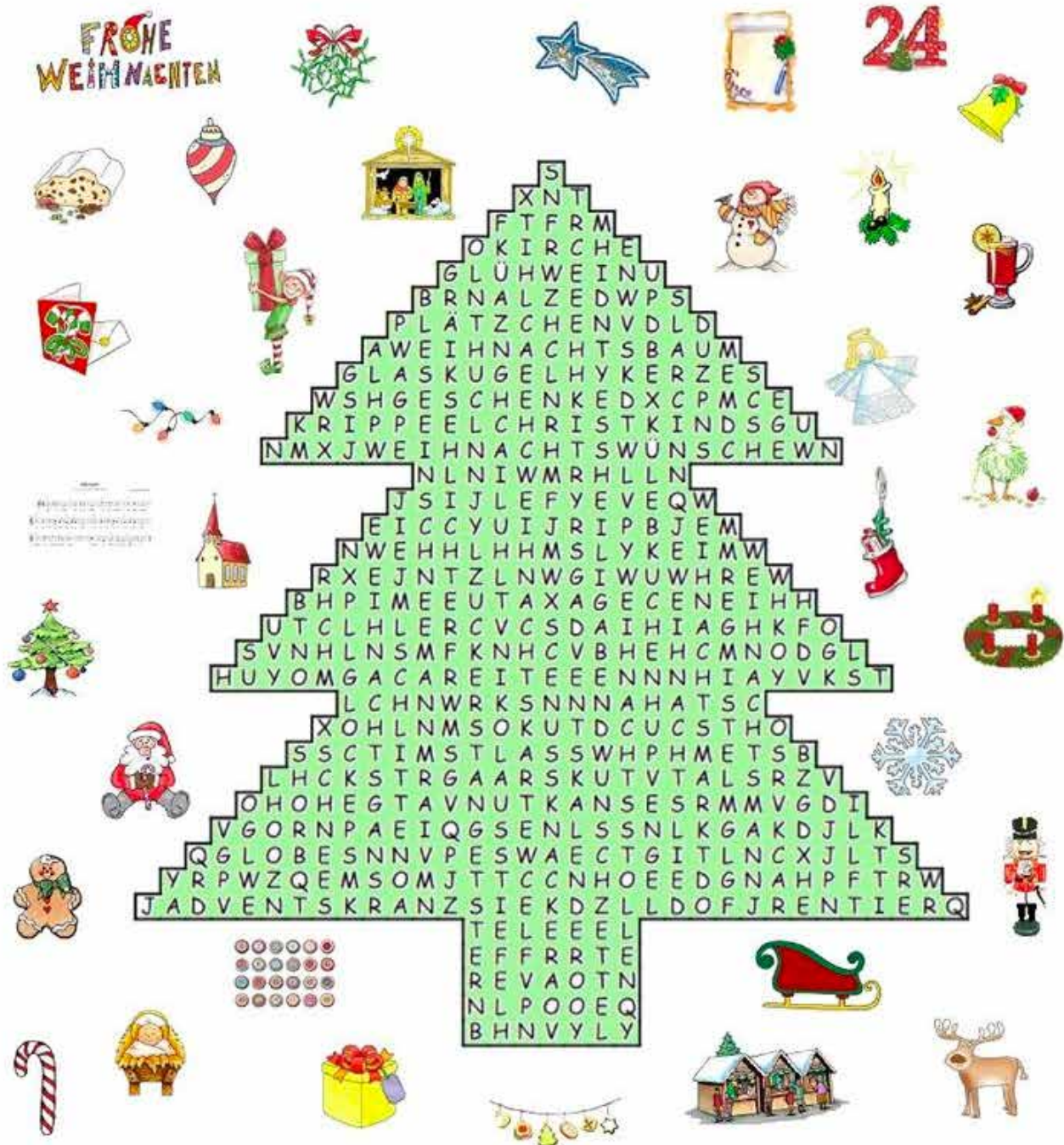
Kreuzworträtsel



Weihnachtssuchsel

Finde 34 Wörter zum Thema Weihnachten.

Viel Spaß!



LIBRARY CORNER

BE TRUE & SERVE: DOROTHEA GUTZEIT

Dorothea Ruth Gutzeit



A fascinating view of the "other side" in World War II, on the domestic front. Born in Berlin, Dorothea Gutzeit spent her formative years in Nazi

Germany and in her war-torn city. She then forged a new life in Canada. Daughter Irene Riznek (Koenigsberger) was born in Germany and came to Canada as a child. She prepared this autobiography based on historical certificates, documents and Annenpas records, and on her mother's notes and their many conversations.

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN, ZWIEBELCHEN!

Frida Nilsson



Weihnachten steht vor der Tür und Stig, von seiner Mutter nur zärtlich Zwiebelchen genannt, hat gleich zwei große Herzenswünsche: Er hätte gern ein Fahrrad und er möchte endlich seinen Papa kennen-

lernen! Doch seine Mutter hat nicht genug Geld für ein Fahrrad und mit Stigs Vater will sie nichts zu tun haben. Im Dorf gibt es einen gewissen Karl, einen komischen Vogel. Man munkelt, er könne Hühner hypnotisieren ... Und was bei Hühnern klappt, klappt ja vielleicht auch bei Müttern? Das Hypnotisieren erweist sich als schwierig, aber am Ende gehen Zwiebelchens Wünsche alle in Erfüllung - wenn auch nicht ganz so, wie er sich das vorgestellt hatte ...

RECIPE CORNER

FRANZISKA DAVIES-PERRET

FRUCHTIGER ADVENTSPUNSCH

(Fruity Advent Punch)

Ingredients:

2 strawberry-raspberry tea bags
1 cinnamon stick
100ml orange juice
200ml cherry nectar
50g honey

Preparation:

Add the tea bags and the cinnamon stick into a warmed teapot, next pour in 500ml of boiled water and let steep for 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and cinnamon stick.

In a pot, heat up orange juice and cherry nectar but do not bring to a boil. Add the juice mixture to the teapot and stir in honey as well.

Divide between cups and serve hot.



GLÜHWEIN-GEWÜRZMISCHUNG

(Mulled Wine Spices Mix)

Ingredients:

3 tbsp cloves
3 star anise
3 tbsp orange peels
(dried, in pieces)
50g rock sugar
3 sticks cinnamon

Preparation:

Mix cloves, star anise, orange peel and rock sugar in a small bowl. Break the sticks of cinnamon in half and add to mixture.

To gift, put mixture in a small bag and wrap with a bow.

Note:

To make Glühwein - Add this mixture to one bottle of red wine and simmer (not boil) for 30 minutes, remove spices and serve!

Optional ingredients to add: cardamom, ginger, allspice, nutmeg

Use a dry, robust, and fruity red wine for best results; an inexpensive wine is fine, but it should be drinkable by itself.





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