

POSTILLION

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

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Summer 2020

Featuring: SGC in times of Corona



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Cover image: Self-sewn mouth-nose masks against coronavirus hang on the clothesline to dry. Rike_ iStock by Getty Images

IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

SABINE DOEBEL-ATCHISON, EDITOR

Corona, COVID-19, pandemic, virus, vaccine, mask, social distancing... all words that we have been hearing over and over for the past few months. Life is different for most of us now. Therefore, we have decided to make the recent developments a Postillion topic as well. Members of the German community talking about their experiences. Vaccine development in Saskatoon and new ways to conduct work at the SGC office.

Corona, COVID-19, Pandemie, Virus, Impfung, Maske, Abstandsregeln... alle diese Worte hören wir nun seit mehreren Monaten immer und immer wieder. Das Leben für die meisten von uns ist nun anderes. Aus diesem Grund haben wir auch entschieden die Entwicklungen der letzten Monate zu einem Thema für den Postillion zu machen. Mitglieder der deutschen Gemeinde teilen ihre Erfahrungen, wir berichten über die Entwicklung eines Impfstoffes in Saskatoon und über die Anpassungen des SGC an die neue Lage.

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



have not been able to practice. The physical locations of the German Language Schools were closed. The Regina German Club and the Saskatoon Cultural Centre could not operate their restaurants, except for take-out. The Covid Lockdown impacted every member group.

As President of SGC, I have begun to ask myself some questions, and I ask the same questions of you: What does it mean to be German, if you live in Saskatchewan? Is it important to you to maintain your personal identity as a German? How do you preserve your personal identity as a German? How can SGC help you to do this? If you are active in one of our member groups you have already answered these questions. But we need to get answers from those Germans in Saskatchewan who are not active in SGC. How do we do that? I think this will be an important discussion for the future of SGC. I feel strongly that SGC needs to broaden its base of membership beyond those who are active in our member groups. How exactly can we do that?

This issue of Postillion contains the last instalment of my article, "Genealogy and Identity". I hope you have enjoyed it. I have an idea now to look for Germans in this province who would like to tell their stories of emigration to Saskatchewan. I am starting with the story of a war-time refugee who was evacuated from Eastern Europe to a camp near Leipzig, who then was re-located a second time to Yugoslavia, and found herself in Austria at the end of the war. She emigrated to Regina in 1950. It's an incredible story.

We recently held our first virtual AGM online. Forty SGC members signed on for the two-

I have just now re-read the President's Message which I wrote for the Spring issue of the Postillion. And I wonder to myself, "In what year was that written?!" That message now seems so distant. There was no mention at all of the Corona Virus Pandemic which has curtailed so many of our "normal" activities. I think it is overly dramatic for people to say that the world has been forever changed by this pandemic. I cannot yet conclude how much has been changed, and how much has been simply put on hold. Ask me one year from now, and I might have some observations, but for now, it is too soon to tell.

Nevertheless SGC has had a lot of issues to deal with since the beginning of March. Gabi, Franziska and Brigitte began to work from their homes. Many of our planned programs had to be canceled or postponed. Similarly, our member groups have not been able to proceed with their regular activities. Choirs, bands, and dance groups

hour meeting. Thank you to everyone who participated. I think that the meeting went very smoothly, thanks to the excellent preparations by Gabi, Franziska and Brigitte. I welcome two new directors to the Board, Ilona Beck and Jessica Forster. Ilona of course is not "new" at all, and I am sure everyone welcomes her presence again on the Board of Directors. Jessica has been living in Canada for a year and we are glad that she is interested in our organization. Michael Oelck and Marilyn Stehr were re-elected as directors whose terms had expired. I look forward to working with the Board and Staff as SGC navigates its way out of the Covid health precautions. The SGC Volunteer Awards were announced to close out the meeting: Anna Schmidt, nominated by the Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplatter Verein, Brigitte Boldt-Leppin, nominated by KulturGarten Saskatoon, and James Funk, nominated by the Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German. Congratulations to Anna, Brigitte and James. SGC and its members appreciate all that you do to promote the interests of people of German background who live in Saskatchewan.

Enjoy the summer!

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Ich habe gerade meine Nachricht aus der Frühjahrsausgabe des Postillions erneut gelesen. Und ich muss mich fragen, „In welchem Jahr wurde das geschrieben?“ Sicherlich müssen diese Worte vor langer Zeit geschrieben worden sein. Von der Coronavirus-Pandemie, die so viele unserer „normalen“ Aktivitäten eingeschränkt hat, war überhaupt nicht die Rede. Meiner Ansicht nach ist es viel zu dramatisch, wenn Menschen sagen, dass die Pandemie die Welt für immer geändert hat. Ich kann noch nicht sagen, wie viel sich verändert hat und wie viel einfach auf Eis gelegt wurde. Ja, fragen Sie mich

in einem Jahr, und vielleicht werde ich einige Überlegungen haben, aber im Moment ist es noch zu früh, etwas zu sagen.

Trotzdem hat sich das SGC seit Anfang März mit mehreren Problemen zu beschäftigen gehabt. Gabi, Franziska und Brigitte begannen von zu Hause aus zu arbeiten. Viele unserer geplanten Programme mussten abgesagt oder verschoben werden. Ebenso konnten unsere Mitgliedsgruppen nicht mit ihren normalen Aktivitäten fortfahren. Chöre, Bands, und Tanzgruppen konnten ihre Programme nicht weiter machen. Schüler konnten auch nicht die deutschen Sprachschulen besuchen. Der Regina German Club und das Saskatoon Cultural Centre konnten ihre Restaurants nicht betreiben, außer zum Mitnehmen. Der Covid Lockdown wirkte sich auf jede Mitgliedsgruppe aus.

In letzter Zeit habe ich begonnen, mir einige Fragen zu stellen. Was bedeutet es, ein Deutscher zu sein, wenn man in Saskatchewan lebt? Wie wichtig ist es für Sie, Ihre persönliche Identität als Deutscher zu unterstützen? Wie bewahren Sie Ihre persönliche Identität als Deutscher? Wie kann das SGC Ihnen dabei helfen? Wenn Sie in einer unserer Mitgliedsgruppen aktiv sind, dann haben Sie diese Fragen schon beantwortet. Aber wir brauchen auch Antworten von den Deutschen in Saskatchewan, die nicht im SGC aktiv sind. Wie können wir das tun? Ich denke, es sollte für die Zukunft des SGC ein wichtiges Gespräch sein. Ich bin überzeugt, dass das SGC eine breitere Mitgliederbasis braucht. Wir können uns nicht nur auf die Mitgliedsgruppen verlassen. Wie genau finden wir neue Mitglieder?

Der fünfte und letzte Teil meines Artikels „Genealogie und Identität“ erscheint in diesem Postillion. Ich hoffe, dass er Ihnen gefallen hat. Ich möchte jetzt deutsche Leute zu finden, die in Saskatchewan wohnen, und die ihre Geschichte

ihrer Auswanderung nach Saskatchewan erzählen wollen. Ich beginne mit der Geschichte eines Kriegsflüchtlings, der 1943 aus Osteuropa in ein Lager bei Leipzig evakuiert wurde, dann ein zweites Mal nach Jugoslawien umgesiedelt wurde und sie sich am Ende des Krieges in Österreich wiederfand. Sie emigrierte 1950 nach Regina. Es ist eine unglaubliche Geschichte.

Gestern haben wir unsere erste virtuelle Hauptversammlung online abgehalten. Wir waren vierzig Mitglieder und die Sitzung hat zwei Stunden gedauert. Vielen Dank an alle, die teilgenommen haben. Dank der vielen Vorbereitungen von Gabi, Franziska und Brigitte ist die Sitzung ziemlich gut verlaufen. Es freut mich, zwei neue Direktorinnen im Vorstand begrüßen zu dürfen – Ilona Beck und Jessica Forster. Ilona ist gar nicht „neu“ weil sie schon sehr gut in unserer Organisation bekannt ist. Jessica wohnt jetzt ein Jahr in Kanada. Wir sind froh, dass sie sich schon für SGC interessiert. Michael Oelck und Marilyn Stehr wurden als Direktoren wiedergewählt. Ich freue mich auf die Zusammenarbeit mit den Direktoren und mit dem Büropersonal wie wir unseren Weg durch die Covid-Gesundheitsvorschriften lenken. Zum Abschluss der Sitzung wurden die SGC-Freiwilligenauszeichnungen bekanntgegeben: Anna Schmidt, aufgestellt vom Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplatter Verein, Brigitte Boldt-Leppin, aufgestellt vom KulturGarten Saskatoon, und James Funk, nominiert von der Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German. Herzlichen Glückwunsch an Anna, Brigitte und James. Wir schätzen alles, was Sie tun, um die Interessen der Deutschen, die in Saskatchewan leben, zu fördern.

Genießen Sie den Sommer. Viel Spaß.

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Honorary Consul Column

Dr. Michael Oelck,

Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

Today, I am writing this column also as a board member of SGC. There is one discussion subject which became more dear to me than others after the two Humboldt groups have closed their doors, and the Ladies' Choir in Saskatoon and some other groups were fading away already. We are missing them dearly, but solutions may come in time for other SGC groups if we look into the future and if we act strategically. In principle, it is simple, we need young members as many of us understand!

The Board of SGC recognized this point strongly in the strategic discussion which we had a year ago, and solutions have been found. However, these solutions would require changes in the work of SGC and this is challenging for our Elders. The interests of the first generation immigrants who are trying to maintain some of their original German culture are not the same as the interests of their sons and daughters, the second generation immigrants. SGC recognized that we have to attract young families, and Family Fun Day was introduced by SGC with activities for the youngest kids of immigrants and other interested parents, but the reach is limited and needs to be expanded. Multiculturalism for all ages is one principle which we support strongly as SGC, our preschool is open to all cultures. We also support e.g. Carnival in Regina, we have modern dance music at Folkfest for the youth until midnight, and these are not the only things at Folkfest and Oktoberfest appealing to the young. But this does not seem enough, because the young members are still missing. Obviously, we have to support language courses in Saskatchewan universities because language and culture are always closely related. How would you reflect on English humour if you could not speak the language? How difficult is it to get the point of a Bavarian joke without language and even the accent? To keep people interested in German, they should understand what is going on in Germany. This can be done by encouraging and supporting them to travel there. Young people love to travel!

We Germans like to see Canadians in our country, just as we welcome Americans

outside of Trumpism. What if SGC could use more of its time and organize incentives for young Canadians to travel to Germany. Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis are also doing this for their members. And more young Canadians need to understand, why Germany and France are the engine of the new Europe. Europe is the best way forward for Germany to remember that the Nazis held also the German people ransom. Yet Germans have all reason to be proud on what was achieved during the last 80 years. This energy and this progress can be applied for all European countries to be inspired, supported and helped along against polarizing political intentions from China, Russia and most recently from America. Canadian youths and German youths could learn from each other how government works under the more liberal Canadian system vs. having more rules and regulations the Germans have been used to. The latter has shown its strength in the recent Covid-19 situation when Germans followed restrictions quite obediently. But many Germans living in Canada appreciate the open, liberal ways of Canada which supports nature, maintains National Parks and reduces coal for energy while Germans are building lots of windmills and solar collectors. Such could be the SGC messages for young people, and SGC has to transition from being a gathering spot for the young at heart to younger immigrants and their children. What if SGC would become an organization where everybody in Saskatchewan who loves Germany and travels to Germany becomes a member of SGC, because of support, guidance and enrichment of the trip which SGC could make happen for all travellers. A visit in a German Ministry, a wine sampling at a vineyard on the river Mosel, and a visit of one of the huge computerized factories of the German automobile industry for which SGC would offer to open doors are just a few of the many potential benefits for travellers which young people might be interested in. In simple terms, we need to create a lot of reasons why young people would become members of SGC.

SGC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia, Regina

Austrian Canadian Edelweiss Club, Regina

Austrian Edelweiss Dance Association, Regina

Community Radio Society of Saskatoon Inc.

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers

Concordia Brass Band

Das Schulhaus - Regina German Language School Inc.

Department of International Language, U of R

Estevan & District German Freundschaft Society

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon

German Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina

German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon

German Language School Saskatoon Inc.

German Russian Cultural Group, Leader

German Students' Association - U of S

Hansel & Gretel Preschool Inc.

Honorary Consuls of Saskatchewan

Imhoff Heritage Society, St. Walburg

Jagd- und Fischverein "Waidmann's Lust", Regina

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz: German-Canadian

Koch- und Backstudio

KulturGarten Saskatoon

Lloydminster German Heritage Society Inc.

Melville & District German Heritage Club

Mennonite Heritage Village, Swift Current

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina

Prince Albert German Canadian Club Waldhorn

Regina German Film Club

Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German,
Saskatoon

Saskatchewan German Culture Assistance Fund Inc.

Skat Club Saskatoon

Spiritwood German Canadian Club

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Regina

Village of Edenwold Cultural Committee

Volksliederchor Harmonie Inc., Regina

Zichydorf Village Association



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

SGC's Spring 2020 with COVID-19

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, SGC Executive Director

This September will be my 5th anniversary with SGC. In all those years, I so often left the SGC office after a day's work thinking #LoveMyJob. This March, when we were asked to leave the building to work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I turned off the office lights with a lump in my throat, not knowing what the following weeks and months would bring.

At our March 14 in-person board meeting, the coronavirus was just becoming a reality and it quickly became obvious that this would greatly impact our organization. We needed to switch from planning events to developing a pandemic plan, we also required different budgets that would reflect a variety of scenarios for the year. Our thoughts were also with our member groups as most of their programs and events are designed around bringing people together in celebration of culture, something that wouldn't be possible for a while due to public health measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

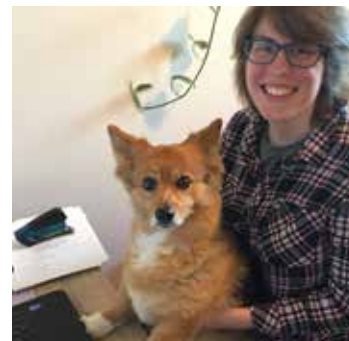
By the time the virtual May 2 board meeting came around, the difficult decision was made to postpone our annual gathering "Treffpunkt Weekend" until the fall and hold a virtual AGM on June 14th. Kulturgarten Saskatoon, this year's Treffpunkt Weekend host, had already spent much time organizing the annual gathering so hopefully the German saying "aufgeschoben ist nicht aufgehoben" applies (for now we have deferred our event, but postponing it is not cancelling it).

As in-person events cannot be held for a long time, SGC put some programs on hold while adjusting and developing others in order to stay relevant and reach our strategic goals. The Family Fun Day event as part of the Canadian Multiculturalism Day celebrations at the end of June usually draws 130 people so it had to be cancelled. Culture in the Kitchen and Public Lectures are on hold until it is safe to run them. SGC has postponed hiring a summer student when the SGC office is able to reopen.

In order to provide online programming for easy accessibility, SGC developed "Kinderzimmer" – A fun place for kids to explore culture & language. This provides a fun way for children to learn, refresh, and retain the German language. YouTube videos with a variety of German-English story times, songs, numbers & colours have been viewed over 400 times. "Kinderzimmer" also includes activity sheets for children in German and English with focus on crafts and games. Thanks to all member groups who make contributions to "Kinderzimmer", please continue to keep them coming!

Another "first" was our online webinar called "What you need to know about tax". Our Immigrant Settlement Advisor Brigitte organized this learning session for newcomers (read more below). Moving forward, SGC plans to start developing a podcast series featuring various German related themes which SGC hopes will start in the fall. Keep an eye on our social media for more details.

At the beginning of spring over 3 months ago, office staff Brigitte, Franziska and Gabi started working from home with the occasional visit at the SGC office. Working from home initially posed challenges in regard to team communication, distractions at home, ergonomics, the lack of personal exchanges and with that some loneliness. In the air was a feeling of crisis and angst due to the virus, the unknown future, and the lack of experience on how to handle the new situation.



Now at the end of spring, staff members have adjusted to this new work environment. We learned how to structure our workday, find our quiet spot in the house, avoid regular trips to the fridge, and use different communication tools to stay in tune within the team. We even enjoy the freedom of spreading work hours more generously throughout the day and step in the garden for a quick coffee break. All staff experienced a steep learning curve while exploring new processes and how to use new technology, we learned new ways of thinking and had to be flexible at all times. We hosted our first virtual AGM and plan to use this working knowledge to offer more online (member) forums & webinars in the future.

In these uncertain times, we are especially grateful for our funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and from the Government of Saskatchewan. We also appreciate the virtual meetings organized by SaskCulture to bring organizations together for learning and information exchanges.

Our staff truly missed getting together for Treffpunkt Weekend and other events. We missed the fun and joy it always brings to meet our members and friends, the adrenalin that pumps in the blood from all the excitement. These interactions and human connections, and the building and celebrating of community are the spice of our work. #LoveMyJob

ISA Update

Life has changed. Life is different. Everything we had considered normal activities like shopping in the mall, visiting the library, signing up for some art classes wasn't suddenly possible anymore. Nothing is as it used to be, and then there is the uncertainty...

Even during COVID-19, immigrants who received their permits before the lockdown were still granted entry to Canada.

And now, imagine you are arriving as a newcomer in Saskatoon, just to be whisked away into 14 days of quarantine. All you have is a small window in a hotel room, but luckily you can order groceries online. Prior, you were stranded for weeks and weeks in a foreign country simply because there were no flights heading to Canada. Your savings are running out, but you are clinging to the prospect of a better life. You are alone and you don't know anybody here. And then you remember that there are places you can get help. You call...

And this is the moment you know that everything will be OK because the Immigrant Settlement Advisor will take you under her wing.

My life has changed too; from the day in late March when our building closed and I moved my office to my home. And since that day, I have spent every single working hour helping out people who decided to make Saskatoon their home. It has been a different kind of help; we call it now "remote" or "virtual". From one day to another, I expanded my services to accommodate the increasingly diverse needs of my clients and help them to overcome many barriers.



All the support system usually available to immigrants was suspended. I had to learn fast, adapt and keep up with the ever-changing scenario. Even our previous clients returned for additional advice on how to cope with the pandemic and the effects it was having on their lives.

Many who lost their jobs reached out, and I was able to help with CERB applications and continued to keep their spirits up. I provided my newcomer community with regular "Community Updates" dealing with the current situation.

In May, in cooperation with the CRA, we organized our first WebEx webinar "What you need to know about Tax". It was well attended with positive feedback afterwards. We will continue to come up with topics of great interest to the newcomer community.

On my end, I have also attended webinars in a wide range of topics, here are some of them: "Upskilling: Using Your Time Now", "Service Canada / CRA Webinar", Virtual Employer Showcase, "We're all in this together: boosting our mental wellness" and many more. Along the way, I have learned some valuable lessons myself: I expressed to one my clients how bad I felt that he had to go through the hardships of a quarantine, only to find out how much he actually enjoyed the time of solitude and appreciated warm running water from the tap for first time ever. He was accustomed to walking a long distance and waiting in line to fill up his bucket. Everything is relative!

Life will continue, different for now - the Immigrant Settlement Advisor will continue to ease the way for people choosing to come here.

SGC's First Virtual Annual General Meeting



If this was a normal year, the office would reminisce about a Treffpunkt Weekend with good food, workshops & tours, catching up with friends, and holding the Annual General Meeting. Instead, SGC is looking back to holding its first virtual AGM on June 14, 2020. The office opted to use Zoom Video Communications for the AGM in order to allow member participation with tools like voting, polls, group chat, and screen sharing.

This was a very new experience for the office and took quite some time of preparation to make sure it ran smoothly and major technical difficulties could be avoided. The turnout for our AGM was higher than expected, many member group representatives taking the opportunity to join and the same time gather experience for their own online meetings.

The office would like to thank the representatives from our member groups and guests for their participation and we look forward to seeing everyone in person soon!

Introduction of Board of Directors

We'd like to introduce our new board for 2020-2021:

Mervin Weiss – President (German Cultural Group - Leader)

Mervin is a very active member in the German community as a student at the German Language School Saskatoon and as the leader of the German Russian Cultural Group – Leader. Mervin looks forward to having the opportunity to share his skills, experience and dedication with SGC's Board of Directors.

Andrea MacLeod – Vice President (German Canadian Society Harmonie)

From being SGC's Office and Program Assistant, to teaching German cooking and baking classes, hosting the German radio program and now volunteering her time at the German Canadian Society Harmonie in Regina, she looks forward to continue working with SGC and sharing her knowledge.

Victoria Oppenlander – Treasurer (Individual Member)

Born and raised in Regina to German parents, Victoria has always had a strong connection to Germany. Victoria obtained her CPA in December 2017 and is currently employed as an auditor with the Government of

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Canada. She has been SGC's Treasurer for the past 2 years and looks forward to using her skills to work with SGC for another term.

Joan Rudolph – Secretary (Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein)

Growing up in rural Saskatchewan, Joan was fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience a strong German influence in her personal life with some German, language, customs and traditions handed down from her father's family. Through her connection to her German heritage, Joan became involved in the Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein and the German Cultural Centre.

Directors:

Ilona Beck (Regina German Film Club)

Over the past thirty years, Ilona has been heavily invested and involved in German cultural and language groups on a regional, provincial and national level. She brings a wide range of experience to the SGC Board. Ilona's focus is to keep strong connections to the Germany of today and also to bring contemporary elements to cultural groups in Saskatchewan.

Andreas Denz (KulturGarten Saskatoon)

Andreas gained extensive and profound insight into the work of SGC through being the Interim Executive Director for SGC in 2011. He looks forward to participating in the work that SGC does and sharing solid knowledge of German culture and traditions, creativity, ideas and skills as a board member.

Jessica Forster (CFMR 90.5 FM – Saskatoon Community Radio)

As a recent immigrant to Canada, Jessica dedicates herself to representing traditional and modern German culture. She understands the importance of staying connected to one's own culture and language to foster a sense of belonging and looks forward to add her own contributions to the German community in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Michael Oelck (KulturGarten Saskatoon)

As the Honorary Consul of Germany to Saskatchewan, Michael encourages all Germans in Canada to work closely together and to support each other, special emphasis being on living the authentic German culture. Michael is also a member of the German-Canadian Club Concordia and looks forward to work in corporation with other board members and SGC to promote this sentiment.

Stephanie Schaefer (Das Schulhaus – Regina German Language School Inc.)

Stephanie believes in holding on to traditions in an authentic way, which will help them survive and blossom in our fast paced lives. One major way in achieving this is making sure that the German language continues. Language is key to any culture!

Marilyn Stehr (Kochlöffel und Nudelholz – German Canadian Koch-und Backstudio)

Being involved in various volunteer positions at the local and provincial capacities has been a very fulfilling experience for Marilyn, which she hopes to bring to the Board of Directors. Marilyn believes in the importance of SGC due to the fact that language and traditions are a valuable part of our society.

2020 SGC SPECIAL VOLUNTEER AWARD & SGC YOUTH AWARD

Franziska Davies-Perret

Generous with their efforts and talents to promote German culture in Saskatchewan, SGC recognizes the following award winners for their valuable contributions. Congratulations to our award winners!



Brigitte Boldt-Leppin (Special Volunteer Award)

For many years, Brigitte has been an active member in the German community. She joined the former German Days Committee, now KulturGarten Saskatoon, in March 2008. Right from the beginning she went to work on promoting German culture in Saskatoon at various events, such as Folkfest, the German Advent Celebration and the German Harvest Festival. She dedicated time and effort into fundraising for the bronze Egg Money statue that is located at River Landing that was gifted to the City of Saskatoon in 2009.

Brigitte also was the president for many years at the Hansel and Gretel Preschool, overseeing the board members and stepping in from time to time to help out during the day when the preschool was in session.

James Funk (Special Volunteer Award)

As a high school German teacher at Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon, James is truly committed to the promotion of the German language. The effort and commitment he has made during his lifetime is greatly appreciated by all of his students. Not only do students benefit from his guidance but new teachers he has mentored in their practicums, benefit from his wisdom and knowledge. He also has a hand in taking students on exchange programs to Germany. During the regular school day, he often is found giving up his own lunch time to help out students or after school coaching.

James is president of the Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German, representing German teachers from the province at a national level for the Canadian Association of Teachers of German.



Anna Schmidt (Youth Award)

From first meeting Anna, anyone can tell that she is proud of her German heritage and takes joy in sharing it. Anna has been involved in the Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein for a number of years as a dancer, has performed at a number of events around Saskatchewan and Western Canada. She's always willing to help out, whether it be selling raffle tickets or making Glühwein for a fundraiser.

Anna is also involved in the German Cultural Centre and the German Language School Saskatoon, where she teaches children's classes. She also served as Folkfest Youth Ambassador for the Folkfest German Pavilion,



Research and Innovation in Saskatchewan: Development of a COVID-19 Vaccine in Saskatoon

An Interview with Dr. Volker Gerdts, Director and CEO of VIDO-InterVac

Sabine Doebel-Atchison

Coronavirus, COVID-19, SARS-Cov2, global pandemic, ... words and phrases everyone is familiar with now, that were not part of most people's vocabulary just a few short months ago. Around the world scientists are working on the development of a vaccine. One of the organizations that is working on a vaccine in Canada is VIDO-InterVac (Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization — International Vaccine Centre) in Saskatoon. It was first in isolating the virus in Canada, first to develop a Covid-19 vaccine in Canada and test it in animals. At the head of this world class facility as Director and CEO is Dr. Volker Gerdts, a member of Saskatchewan's German community. He recently took time out of his busy schedule for a phone interview to answer some questions on the vaccine development, benefits of working with a multicultural team and how he explains the current situation to his own kids.

Postillion: When will a vaccine be ready? Surely, this must be one of the most asked questions of you over the past few months. Where do you see the progress that VIDO-InterVac is making on the development of a vaccine compared to other organizations/companies?

Volker Gerdts: I would assume that we will see the first vaccines coming out by the end of this year, maybe early next year. They will be available for a targeted population, for those people that are frontline healthcare workers or that are particularly susceptible. We will see this around the world. There are a few vaccine candidates that are quite advanced at the moment. I would predict that we will see those come out early next year. Our own vaccine is going into clinical trials in the fall of this year. It's going into testing in humans and if everything goes well, we hope that our vaccine will be available for a targeted population in the spring of next year and then hopefully by summertime it would be available to the general public.

Postillion: How many scientists are involved in developing a vaccine at VIDO-InterVac?

Volker Gerdts: There are probably over 30 people involved in the project at the moment. Thanks to the generous support of the federal and provincial governments we have been able to ramp up our activities on COVID-19 now and are working on our own vaccine but also assisting many others across Canada and the world in testing their approaches.

Postillion: Once a vaccine candidate has passed several testing stages, it is ready for clinical trials. How are the people who will receive the vaccine during those stages of testing selected?

Volker Gerdts: You'll be surprised to hear that we had volunteers sending us emails and calling us, offering to enrol in these clinical trials from all over Canada, from Vancouver all the way to Nova Scotia. People have said, 'We love what you are doing there and would love to be part of the testing.' The way it works is that the regulator,

Health Canada, reviews the clinical trial application. They work with us, the sponsor, and together we come up with a design of how many volunteers in what age group we enrol. The trial itself will be done in Halifax. There is a clinical trial site there and they are very good at testing novel vaccines. [...] We initially start with a middle age group, 18 to 55. The first trial will have between 30 and 60 volunteers. After that, in what is called a phase two trial, we will have a few hundred volunteers. Based on the data that we obtain from those groups, additional age groups will be added later.

Postillion: That means that those clinical trials are not done directly at VIDO-InterVac?

Volker Gerdts: No, we do that in Halifax and there is actually a clinical trial network in Canada and they have various sites. After the initial trial in Halifax, the next trials will be done at multiple sites in Canada.

Postillion: What is your answer to people who say they wouldn't want to get immunized against Covid-19?

Volker Gerdts: I think it really depends on why they say that. [...] There are religious and other reasons why people choose to not get immunized and I respect that. If it is simply saying no because they think they don't need it, then I would suggest that it is critical for us to reach a level of herd immunity that protects the whole population, especially the elderly, the immune compromised, and cancer patients. There is what is called herd immunity, so the more individuals you vaccinate in the herd the higher the level of that herd immunity is and the better you can control the disease from spreading and getting to those vulnerable people. The argument would be that even if you don't personally benefit from it [...] you are protecting others by getting vaccinated. For





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those people who just say, 'I don't need it', I think it's not about you it's about the people that you are protecting by getting vaccinated. That is true for the seasonal flu and for any other disease.

Postillion: Many scientists working at various research institutions around Saskatchewan come from all over the world. You were born and raised in Germany, which is also where you received your education. What are the advantages and benefits of having people from different backgrounds, cultural and educational, working together in Canada?

Volker Gerdts: It's fantastic! At VIDO-InterVac we have more than 20 different nations represented at the moment. It's really a multicultural organization. That is good in many, many ways. It brings all these cultural aspects into consideration and discussion. People are open minded and respectful of each other, open to other cultures. That is almost typical for scientists in general. We are always open to new results. It's a very stimulating and positive environment to research in.

Postillion: How important is it for you to stay connected to your German heritage, culture and language?

Volker Gerdts: It's certainly important. As you mentioned, that is where I was born and raised. Just before this interview I was on a Skype call with a friend of mine who is currently working in Switzerland and of course we spoke German. It really helps internationally connecting with people. There are lots of working collaborations with Germany and friends that I have over there.

Especially with COVID-19 now we have seen, in my mind, an unprecedented level of international collaboration. Having an international network and having friends and former colleagues in Europe that are working on similar aspects of the disease certainly helps us [...].



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Postillion: Your children attend/attended the Hansel & Gretel English-German Preschool Program in Saskatoon. How do you explain this global pandemic to them?

Volker Gerdts: [...] We explain to them the Corona virus and the concept, that you can get it by getting in close contact with others and by touching things. We have them wash their hands regularly. Of course, they are very frustrated because of all the shutdowns, the

lockdown and the loss of all the activities that they were doing. Saskatchewan is in a very good position right now in that we have very low case numbers. Some of the activities are actually starting again. My son will play hockey again next week. It was a big shock for them, from leading a very active lifestyle to essentially having nothing. That was a big change for them. We try to explain to them why we are doing this, that we are trying to protect people of a certain age group in particular, for example grandma and grandpa. [...]

Postillion: Do your children know that you are involved in developing a vaccine, and what questions do they ask you about this topic?

Volker Gerdts: They know I'm involved because they've watched me on tv a few times. A question that my son Finn who is 8 years old asked me three days ago was, 'Dad, are you done with that now? Do we have a vaccine?' and I had to explain to him that this is probably going to effect his next school year for sure and that it's not going to happen before next summer and he was very disappointed by that.

Postillion: Did he ask you to work faster?

Volker Gerdts: [laughs] Yes, he did. He said, 'What are you doing dad? What is taking so long?' I explained to him that it's a very complicated process and that the development of a vaccines normally takes 10 years. Certainly those time lines are difficult to comprehend for kids. [...]

1. Dr. Volker Gerdts. 2. VIDO-InterVac facility in Saskatoon. 3. Scientists in a containment level 3 laboratory at VIDO-InterVac.

(Photos provided by VIDO-InterVac & reprinted with permission)

The Corona Pandemic - Members of Saskatchewan's German Community share their stories and experiences

The SARS-CoV 2 virus may have spread around the world, but our individual experiences couldn't be more different. Depending on where in the world we live and which age group you belong to, largely influences the impact the virus and related restrictions have on you and your families. Even within Canada, the spread of the virus is very different from region to region. Compared to other provinces, like Ontario or Quebec, Saskatchewan has only had a fraction of the cases so far. Nonetheless, life for Saskatchewan residents has also been different since the middle of March and many have had to adjust to a "new normal", a term that has been widely used in recent months.

We've asked some members of Saskatchewan's German community to share their experiences with Postillion readers (in German or English):

Life in COVID-19: A teacher's perspective

James Funk

Here are my observations, as a high school (grades 9-12, students aged 14-18 years old) teacher at Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon. My teaching assignment this semester was primarily German Language classes and one History class. I have some regular classes, as well as two International Baccalaureate classes and an On-Line German class this semester.

The transition from teaching classes face-to-face to on-line was probably easier for me than most. Since I have taught on-line German classes at Saskatoon Public Schools' On-Line Centre since 2012 (open to anyone in the province!), I have had a chance to figure out how to have students speak, read, write and listen for a while, and have done considerable work to build and refine those courses. I had also set up Google Classrooms for my Aden Bowman classes in January before even conceiving how important that would become!

Our present family context also helped make the transition easier. Our children are older teens (first year university and Grade 11), which meant that neither of them needed the urgent care and attention young children do. I know for many of my colleagues, working from home along with full-time parenting their own young children left little time or energy for anything else!

The wholesale movements of all schools to on-line platforms unleashed an unprecedented supply of on-line resources, which was remarkable. I confess that I did not have the time to explore nearly all of them, as there was much time needed to help students and other colleagues make the transition to figuring out what "virtual teaching and learning" might look like. Our language consultant Andreas Meckes (stationed in Edmonton, AB) was very quick to respond with different offers, as was the Goethe-Institut Toronto to me and my German-teaching colleagues.

Virtual teaching has brought many changes; I have had no "classroom management" issues since March, where students who do not want to be in class make

less-than positive, interruptive choices (mainly in my History classes), and the "commute" to work (my living room) is nice, but I have really missed the energy and the personal face-to-face interactions with the students and colleagues. "Zooming" has entered my vocabulary and while it can facilitate many things, it does not allow for the incidental and personal conversations which build relationships. Schools have always been, and will always be about the relationships we build, and I think I can speak for all teachers to say that we are looking forward to being back in the classrooms with students!

Family life in Corona times

Andrea MacLeod

My name is Andrea MacLeod and I live with my husband and two young children in Regina, SK. My son attended Kindergarten and my daughter went to daycare, at least until everything shut down due to Covid-19.

Fortunately for us, both my husband and I were able to work mostly from home. As an Administrative Assistant for a non-profit organization, I had to go into work once in a while but could do a lot of work from home. My husband is a programmer and so as long as he has internet access, he can do his work.

But how much work do you get done when a 6-year-old and 2-year-old ask for your attention? Trying to juggle the demands of work and children has been quite difficult. Fortunately for us, we have a garden and the children were able to go outside, which provided some reprieve from the confinements of home. Walks and bike rides have allowed us to explore our neighbourhood somewhat more. And our Kindergarten teacher was also very helpful and provided regular exercise and videos for the oldest, which the youngest enjoyed just as much.

Holidays looked different too, as we usually get together with my husband's family. Instead, we have had regular online meetings with grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins near and far. We also had planned to fly to Germany this summer to visit family. Even though restrictions have been lifting and travel is possible, we have decided that it would not make

sense to do so. And so we will defer this trip to next year and hopefully enjoy some vacation time here in Saskatchewan.

Die Verhältnismäßigkeit erkennen

Hinrich Tabel

Seit mehr als 20 Jahren pendeln meine Freundin Elisabeth Harm und ich zwischen Saskatoon und Hannover, Deutschland. Ende Februar flog ich nach Hannover. Dort überraschte uns die COVID-19 Epidemie. Mein Rückflug war für den 22. April gebucht. Die kanadische Regierung und mein Reisebüro rieten mir zur unverzüglichen Rückkehr nach Kanada. Nein, ich mochte Elisabeth nicht allein lassen. Ich blieb in Hannover. Ich war beeindruckt, wie die deutsche Bundesregierung im Einvernehmen mit den Regierungen der Provinzen und den wissenschaftlichen Experten die Krise meisterte. Für uns bedeutete die Krise das Ende all unser Reisepläne und die normale Verbindung mit Freunden/Freundinnen und Verwandten. Aber Deutschland erlebte ein Urlaubswetter, einen frühen, warmen Frühling - es blühte! Trotz der starken Einschränkungen konnten wir die Natur genießen, mit Spaziergängen und kleinen Fahrradtouren.

Nach mehreren Umbuchungen flog ich tatsächlich am 22. April wieder nach Kanada: der Flughafen in Frankfurt gespenstisch leer und das AirCanada Flugzeug nur 1/10 besetzt, Frankfurt-Toronto-Vancouver-Saskatoon. 14 Tage Quarantäne gingen auch vorbei. - Nur, Elisabeth sitzt allein in Hannover. Sie hatte schon im März einen Flug nach Saskatoon für den 17. Juni gebucht. Pustekuchen - geht nicht.



Wir wissen immer noch nicht, wann für sie ein Flug nach Kanada möglich sein wird.

War es Zufall? In den vergangenen COVID Monaten habe ich drei Bücher gelesen, die mich ermahnt haben, dass es Schlimmeres gibt als von der Covid Epidemie eingeschränkt zu sein. Das erste Buch (auf englisch): Primo Levi: "If this is a Man. Survival in Auschwitz" – ein erschütterndes Dokument eines italienischen Juden, der die Verbrechen von Nazi-Deutschland erlitt. Das zweite Buch (auf deutsch): Günter Lucks: "Hitler's letztes Aufgebot", ein ergreifendes Schicksal eines Kindsoldaten, der fünf Jahre lang in die Fänge sowjetischer Gulags geriet – und überlebt. Das dritte Buch (auf deutsch): "Streng verboten" - Pastor Bartelt endet kurz nach Ende des zweiten Weltkrieges in dem sowjetischen Konzentrationslager Fünfeichen bei Neubrandenburg in Mecklenburg, kritzelt seine Erlebnisse auf Papierfetzen, schmuggelt sie aus dem Lager. Er überlebt die Strapazen nicht. Jahre nach seinem Tod wird aus den Aufzeichnungen ein Buch. Alle drei Bücher erzählen von der grausamen Willkür einer skrupellosen Machtmaschine. Verglichen mit jenen Erlebnissen empfinde ich, dass ich trotz COVID-19 wie im Schlaraffenland lebe. Als Rentner gehöre ich zu der Gruppe von Menschen, die am wenigsten von den wirtschaftlichen Nachteilen der COVID Krise betroffen sind. Und was die persönliche Isolierung betrifft, die vielen Leuten, wie auch Elisabeth, zu schaffen macht, finde ich meinen seelischen Ausgleich in Gartenarbeit.

Teaching German during COVID **Josephin Dick**

Most are probably already tired of hearing more stories about COVID, however I would like to contribute a little regarding teaching German during these strange times.

I was teaching different levels when the pandemic started, and had to react quickly to finish the courses as best as possible. Since the shutdown of the university and the schools happened more or less at the same time, I was a little overwhelmed at the beginning. We had just three more weeks of classes at the university, so that was the first priority to change to a form, where I would feel comfortable the students could finish the course, and actually learn the still missing topics. I changed all my power points and included voice overs to explain the material. Since I was not sure, all students had good internet connections, I used that format, positing all the power points on our class site, giving the students as much time as they needed to go through the material. Luckily, we had been using online assignments already, so the change for assignments was simple and did not take to much effort. The students handed their other assignments in using word documents, or something similar. The biggest challenge were the quizzes and

the final. I was able to use the same online platform I was using for the assignments. I could have used a more strict setting, giving the students just the regular times for the quizzes, three hours for the final, and just one chance to submit. Since this was an extraordinary time, the university decided to use not so strict rules, and give the students more time. Having good internet access is just one requirement for our teachers and students. I experienced some problems, when students wrote the final, then forgot to save, or submit the work. Making sure, these not subject related mistakes, will not cost the students their good grade, is very important. On the other hand invigilating tests is very difficult, and was not a priority at this time.

With my credit classes, I did create assignments at the beginning for the students to work with at home, and send them back online, or share the work with google docs. After two weeks we where able to meet via WebEx. For these meetings I did meet with the different levels separately. This way we were able to practise speaking and listening, and using German in a more natural way. Since we had smaller groups during these sessions, it worked most of the time very well. For some students it was more or less impossible to continue. Using the computer to learn a language via internet is just not for everyone. On the other side I also experienced, that some students made faster progress learning the language this way. Maybe, we could explore the possibility of teaching in a hybrid manner in the future. At some point we actually were able that students even made presentations online.

I also used WebEx to continue teaching with my advanced adult conversation class. Sadly, some of the students never participated, but most of them did continue and participated most of the time. We managed speaking with each other, and even work on grammar, and other structures by sharing my screen and use it basically as I would use a blackboard in a normal classroom. What we found was, it is possible to teach a language this way. However, if there are more people participating, it can be very difficult to practice speaking, and responding to others.

A worldwide disease changes your lifestyle **Sigrid Kirmse**

Four years ago I sold my house and moved into a condo. This is not any condo but one for seniors: St Volodymyr. I call it a compound, with several buildings for condos and the main building for renting apartments, offices, a kitchen with a fabulous chef and community rooms. I like it here. Most tenants are of Ukrainian heritage, but many have a German background.

Then, out of the blue, came the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to change; we could not have any more

our weekly card games, the daily Kaffeeklatsch, the monthly dinner were the tenants of each floor were in charge, and visiting each other. But the hardest change was we could not visit with our families any more. No hugging the children, grand- and great-grandchildren. What about shopping? Forget about the hairdresser. Well, we had to change, obey the new rules like distance, wash your hands, stay at home. For us Germans and the Ukrainians it was not so hard, we are used to follow rules, we have gone through harder times. And we here in our compound are strict. We learned in the blink of an eye to keep the two meters apart. In my building two men took it about themselves to disinfect every morning and evening all the door handles in the building and the elevator; some of the ladies meet once a day in the place off the elevator. We bring our own chair and keep distance. We do not ask stupid questions like "when will this be over", who knows? From one of the other buildings one lady organized a weekly sing-along outside near the parking lot. We bring our flashlight, wave it around and sing Canadian songs. Those who cannot come attend from their balconies or windows; we are all a big family.



What are we doing with our time? The women started to clean their cupboards, I washed my windows, read a lot and call family and friends. Since the weather is nice we can visit on what we call our Park. There are benches and chairs. From my balcony on the third floor I look at a large Tameric tree, lots of fir trees and flower beds. I have 15 flower pots along the balcony railing. And there is the friendliness which has increased over the last few month. My neighbour knocks on my door and says: I am going shopping tomorrow, make a list. The next day he comes, knocks and places the bag with my groceries in front of the door. My grandson, who is my only family member living in Saskatoon, is available to me whenever I need him. And we have a lot of time to go through our belongings and finally discard what we don't need any more and what will be given away.

I think, this whole pandemic is a big wake-up call. Maybe we should not take everything any more for granted, do not waste so much food. We here do not say any more "good by", we say see you later or "take care". No shaking hands. We are now allowed to have close family members to visit us, but still keep distance. In our compound we do not have a single case of COVID-19. We are proud of it.

CREATIVE TEACHING DURING CORONA

ULRIKE HECKER

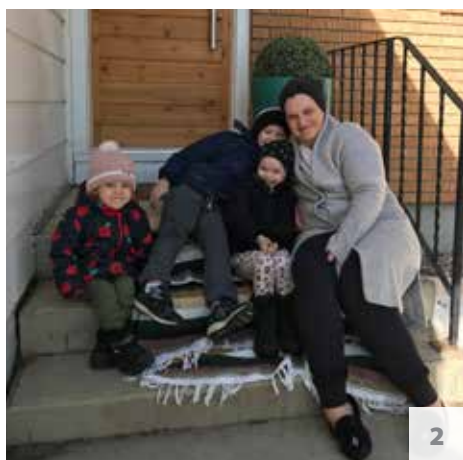
On March 16th, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our preschool had to close their doors. It was a very sudden and abrupt school closure for all of us and neither children nor their families were emotionally prepared for this. There were many tears when we gathered our children's belongings, sending them home, not knowing when and if we would see our little ones again.

The current health crisis has given remote learning a global platform which can be a daunting task when your students are only 3 and 4 years old.

So, how do you keep in touch and stay connected with little children when you miss each other dearly but are supposed to keep social and physical distance?



Instead of scheduling virtual meetings, I decided to schedule safe home visits with my students. I packed up a box with books and teaching materials and my car turned into a "rolling classroom". We met outside (safe distance), in driveways, on porches, front yards and in some cases even in parking lots. The biggest challenge of having story time in the middle of March was to stay warm. No problem for people that grew up in Saskatchewan! Even temperatures of -10 C didn't



keep us from turning driveways into dance floors and reading books together.

Quite often, the entire family of a student would join us for this outdoor learning experience. It was a nice break from self-isolation and a great opportunity to leave all COVID 19 concerns behind for an hour.



In addition to personal visits, I created bi-weekly Youtube videos for my students, teaching them about signs of spring, the life cycle of a butterfly and reviewing numbers and colours in German. It was another way to engage them and to keep in touch. I also asked families to submit photos or little videos of how their children kept busy.



A big Thank You goes to Larissa Lorenz, our assistant teacher who joined me for each of our final farewell visits with our preschool families. As a keep sake, she also created a beautiful year end slideshow and an individual picture album for each student. This will help our little ones to remember their friends from preschool and the fun we had together.

Relationships are the bedrock of our preschool and even though we were not able to finish the school year together we were able to stay connected and to show that we all care for each other.

Looking at the children's smiles, listening to their giggles and seeing their families again has filled so many buckets. I feel, it has brought us all closer during this challenging time.

We all hope that our preschool doors will open again in the Fall and that Hansel & Gretel Preschool will be able to provide a happy place for children where FUN meets LEARNING!

1. Outdoor classroom. 2. Family story time. 3. Tell me about your picture. 4. Ding dong! We are here!



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GENEALOGY AND IDENTITY, PART 5

MERV WEISS

Being German shaped young Jakob's life much more than it did mine. Being identified as a German in the USSR was a huge "negative". On my very first visit, I think I was barely in the door when his wife Emma asked to see my Canadian passport. She was curious to see if my Canadian passport also identified my German ethnicity, because all of their official Russian documents always identified them as Germans. It was the law. The internal Russian passport, which they were always supposed to carry on their person, proclaimed them to be German. "We were always called Немецкий," Emma told me, and this was usually in a derogatory sense, but not as harsh a term as "фашистская нацистская or fascist Nazi", which was also common. Several other cousins have told me the same story. A German woman who married a Russian man could not take on his surname. She had to keep her German surname, so that she could not hide her German ethnicity. Frieda Weiss told me that she and the other German students had to have higher grades to qualify for university degrees than Russian students. Rosa Weiss, somewhat older, told me that it was very difficult for a German to be accepted into a university in Russia. Several cousins said that I was the first person from North America they had ever met.

Anna Thomas knew about the Canadian connection because she remembers her mother

(Grandfather's half-sister) talking about having received from Canada an aid parcel during the difficult years following the Russian Revolution. I have visited Anna four times, receiving many photos, and learning much of the post-World-War II Weiss family history in Russia. Sadly, Anna died in January 2019, at the age of 93.

I have been fortunate to have traveled to Germany several times with the express purpose of meeting "new" cousins. Meeting these relatives has given me a good perspective on life for the Germans behind the Iron Curtain (a phrase we hardly hear any more), on what it means to be denied one's cultural identity. Through them, I have re-discovered and re-learned the German part of my personal identity. Besides finding lost cousins, I can say that I have found a dormant part of myself. My German identity has become an important part of my life.

The Spätaussiedler (the term used for later resettlers to Germany) I have met are grateful to be in Germany. The "new" life in Germany brought with it some grumbling among the older ones, and some nostalgia for the old predictable life in the Soviet Union. However I have yet to meet anyone who wants to return. I have also encountered strong pro-Putin and passionate anti-USA sentiment among some.

One relative was emphatic, when I met him in 2015, that the CIA had inspired and organized both the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine as well as the 2014 so-called Maidan Revolution which began in Kyiv. But even Waldemar does not want to return to Russia.

Despite their struggles for survival in foreign countries, these relatives have maintained their cultural identity because they believed this: "Heimat ist kein Ort. Heimat ist ein Gefühl", or translated: "Home" is not a place. "Home" is a feeling or emotion." They had no choice but to believe it.

Meeting these families and learning their stories has been the most rewarding aspect of my on-going genealogical research. I understand now that I would have never felt this way as an adult at this stage of my life, had I not felt that German-ness as a youth in my home at Fox Valley.

Photo: Grandson of Konrad Weiss with granddaughters of his three sisters. Schwetzingen, 2007.



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.

SUMMER 2020

DAS SCHULHAUS – REGINA GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL INC.— *Sabine Wecker*



Das Schulhaus was suddenly locked out of classrooms in mid March. Still thinking that in a few weeks the world would be back to normal, we realized quickly that we had to make a decision on how the rest of the school year will look like. Our Adult teachers were able to move the Adult classes online very smoothly. We were very excited that this years' Adult Beginner class signed up for a third semester to continue learning through the spring. The children classes received resources from their teachers in order to continue working voluntarily. Our situation seems very unpredictable, as nobody knows if the Regina School Board is able to provide access to classrooms in the fall. We are not very optimistic that classrooms will be available as of September. However, we are looking into possibilities to continue. Adult classes are easier to teach online than children classes, although the teachers need to adapt their teaching and prep-time will expand. Teenagers might also do well with an online setting, but we are still trying to find solutions for our younger children.

We just launched our Sarcas Fundraiser Event, which will go on with an indefinite ending. Using the phrase "German School is Cool", everyone is welcome to drop off their bottles at Sarcas at the "Drop & Go" station at any Sarcas in the province. The phrase connects your labels to our account, no waiting in line needed. Thank you!

Despite of what is going on in the world, we wish you all a wonderful relaxing and reenergizing Sommer, and are looking forward to seeing you all in our classrooms in September or at one of our several events, regardless of how that will look like.

Remember to always visit our website (www.dasSchulhaus.org) for further information.

NEWS FROM LLOYDMINSTER

Lloydminster German Heritage Society, Lloydminster — *Rosemarie Schlekewy*

Hello, from the members of the Lloydminster German Heritage Society. We are all well and keeping safe. We haven't had any virtual meetings, but have been keeping in touch with each other through phone or e-mail. Not much

has been happening in Lloydminster, so it is hard to write a report. We were hoping to have our year end BBQ and social gathering that we have in June, but that was not able to happen either. This year will be a year to remember historically.

We hope everyone has a great summer and God willing we will be able to get back together in the fall. We will have a lot of catching up to do. Till then take care of each other and stay well.

CONCORDIA DANCERS UPDATE

Concordia Alpenrose Dancers, Saskatoon — *Heidi Armstrong*

The Concordia dancers have unfortunately not returned to regular dance practices due to social distancing guidelines. However, our group has

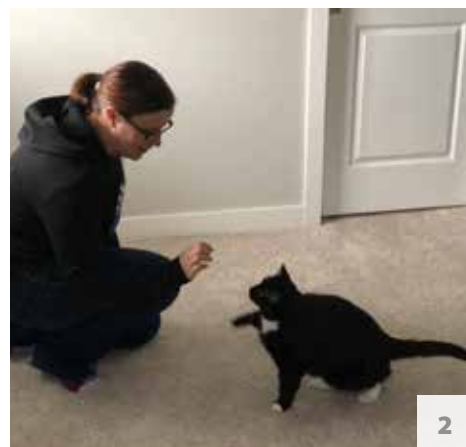
been working to stay connected by hosting zoom meet ups. We have been able to stay in touch with our fellow dancers and even enjoyed

a beverage together. We are hoping to return to practice in September. Check out our Facebook or Instagram for updates on our group!

GERMAN JUNIOR FOLK DANCERS UPDATE

German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon — *Barbara Stehwien*

2020 has turned into an interesting year. The German Junior Folk Dancers haven't physically met in months, but we are still dancing together. For the past while I have been recording videos for our families to use at their homes. Since all of our families have two or three kids in the group it is easy for them to practice with a partner. For those of us who don't have a partner, we have to be a little more creative when it comes to finding someone (see attached photo). Our bigger group dances we aren't able to do, but we're having fun doing what we can. So far we have been reviewing and brushing up on what we know. Next up is learning a few new dances. This poses a unique challenge due to only being able to learn via video and typed instructions. Hopefully when we do finally get the chance to meet in person we will be able to practice those dances as a full group. Performances could still be a long way off, due to limits on the size of gatherings. This means the group has taken a financial hit and we're considering our options for the future.



1. Playmobil pirate: Still having fun behind the mask. 2. Practicing the Clap Dance.

NEWS FROM THE VOLKSLIEDERCHOR

Volksliederchor Harmonie, Regina — *Anita Jadischke*

Due to COVID-19, our choir practices have been suspended since March 17, 2020. We were extremely excited to be celebrating our 65th Anniversary in 2020. Plans were well underway for a weekend celebration on May 2 and 3. Included in the celebration was a banquet on Saturday night with the German Ladies Choir from Calgary participating in our Spring Concert. All our plans were cancelled due to the pandemic. We are hoping that a celebration can be held later this year.

May 31, 2020. Hans sang in our tenor section and was our choir librarian for several years. They both will be missed.

We acknowledge and thank our choir director, Blair Mills and accompanist, Carol Mills for their patience and hard work. We especially thank our choir members for their commitment at practice, concerts and singing engagements and assisting where needed during the choir season.

The choir is saddened by the passing of two of our choir members. Ruth Meier, who sang in our alto section for many years, passed away on February 6, 2020. Hansgeorg (Hans) Schlichtmann passed away unexpectedly on

Volksliederchor Harmonie is a choir that loves to perform, entertain and have fun. We are hoping to resume practices in September.

UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGARTEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon — *Brigitte Boldt-Leppin*

„The planing for our next activity, in cooperation with the SGC, started in February. The location for this year's Treffpunkt in Saskatoon was booked, the workshops planned, and the menus established. Hopefully these plans can get carried out and the need of social distancing, due to the Corona Virus pandemic, will be lifted and we can welcome many participants in June at the 2020 SGC AGM.“ — This was the last paragraph of KulturGarten's contribution to the Spring issue of the Postillion 2020. As we all know, the social distance governmental regulation, due to the Corona Virus, put an end to our social gathering at Treffpunkt 2020.

I am happy to report, that all the down payments for the room reservations and meals, requested by the Parktown Hotel, have been reimbursed without any restrictions. The Parktown Hotel is a family owned business. In order to support them and thank them for their support in hosting the Treffpunkt weekend, KulturGarten is suggesting to redirect the next Round Table meeting to Saskatoon and the Parktown Hotel.

In addition to the Treffpunkt planing we discussed this year's location for the annual Erntedankfest. Because the Saskatoon Farmer's Market has moved, the original location on

the Market Square at River Landing will no longer have the public attraction on a Saturday morning nor vendors donating the vegetables and fruits for the display. However, a new group, Street Stall Saturday's, is having their opening on Saturday, June 20th at such location. This might be a possibility for a new cooperation.

The second option we discussed and contacted as an establishment for this year's location, unfortunately never responded. The cancellation of all their festivities also brings into question our Adventsfeier 2020.

GERMAN CULTURAL CENTRE UPDATE

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon — *Flo Broten*

The German Cultural Centre has been closed since mid March. We recently opened for curb

side pick up with a limited menu. So far it has been going well. Please check our website at

<https://www.saskgerman.com> for information and be sure to follow us on Facebook.

NEWS FROM THE GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

German Language School Saskatoon — Kathleen Schroeder-Brass

Looking forward to a SUMMER BREAK, which is going to be different for most of us this year, to rest our thoughts around not only our own lives "standing still", as well our city, our province, our country and the world being on a break "forced" on us. This upcoming summer break will be very different and maybe difficult in any approach towards planning for the 2020/21 school year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a sudden stop to our weekly classroom schedules back in mid March and now, already three months later in mid June, lots of questions are out there in connection to these unusual circumstances, but staying unanswered.

I like to send a big THANK YOU to my teaching team for the work they have done with switching their classes to an online teaching/ learning program. I had the chance to follow the various online classes and I was very impressed by the different ways they did approach this online challenge. We were able to switch 5 out of 8 classes to an online program, which included all our adult classes and our high

school credit class. We were very happy to have most of the students participate online. Of course there are always a few people, who don't have the technology needed, or the knowledge and/or interest isn't there, or maybe they simply couldn't make this work as their whole personal world was turned upside down back in March. Please let me assure you, that we will not forget these students, YOU, and you are still a big part of your classroom. I can guarantee, that your teacher will do what they can to pave your way back into the classroom community, as soon as they get the chance to do so!!!

It wasn't an easy decision to pause our 3 classrooms for our kindergarten up to grade 8 students. Networking all over Canada with other German language schools was very intense within the first weeks during this pandemic, and the list of suggestions and possibilities didn't stop to grow. Our kids classrooms have a mix of ages and especially a wide range of language levels within. Teaching in one of these classrooms keeps the teacher busy with helping the kids one on one as much as

possible. Switching this to an online program would have asked for lots of individual hours from the teachers for their students. As a Heritage Language School running evening classes (part time), the time wasn't available to start this change to online programming, as all teachers volunteer their time besides their regular full time commitments. Having my kids at home all of sudden and experiencing a tremendous load and partly overload of online school, suggestions for websites and/or nonstop new logins for another "great" program, I also pictured how our students and their families must feel in connection their regular schools. Seeing my kids (and myself) cope very differently with the online situation, I felt that we as the Language School shouldn't put meetings and homework on top of the load our students already cope with. Now that the regular school year is coming to an end, we have been discussing possibilities of putting together a SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM for the kindergarten to grade 8 kids to warm up the basics and stay connected.

Have a restful SUMMER!

NEWS FROM THE REGINA GERMAN CLUB

German Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina — Andrea MacLeod

The Regina German Club has always planned its year of events quite early to make sure all details are looked after. 2020 was not any different and the committee for the Sommerwende event had already met several times. Spargelfest was planned out with menu and decoration, and committees for Oktoberfest and the Christkindl Markt were forming as well.

Then Covid-19 hit the world, Canada and Saskatchewan and put a stop to all activities. The Club was closed to the public and the dance groups Volles Lederpaket and Kleine Pakete halted their practices. While the public was not able to come to the Club, the Club rearranged its services and switched to curb-side pick up right away. Lunch and supper orders have been available ever since, as well as items like frozen Bratwurst and Strudel.

These new services have been challenging for our kitchen team as there is some distance to master between kitchen and customers. However, our customers have shown great support and patience for us.

As a cultural non-profit but also a restaurant business, it was somewhat challenging at the beginning to look through the various options offered by the federal and provincial governments. But we are grateful for the support that was available since our cultural events and bookings of the hall are our main funding events.

We do not know what the future will hold with the current restrictions preventing any major fundraising event. We are working on different angles to see how we can plan for the rest of 2020 and 2021. The German Club has weathered several storms and we hope to prevail this one as well.



HELLO FROM THE KARNEVALSGESELLSCHAFT HARMONIE GROUP

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina — Sheila Aldous



We hope everyone is doing well, enjoying a more relaxed time with your family and

spending lots of time enjoying nature.

Our group made the hard decision the end of May to cancel our November 2020 Crowning evening. Plus the decision to postpone the 2021 Western Canada Mardi Gras Event we were planning to host this coming January to the following year, 2022.

Our group has been staying in touch through emails, calls and zoom chats. We have also had a few dance sessions on Zoom.

The one activity that we are still hosting is our SARCAN Drop & Go bottle drive fundraiser for our young ladies' new uniforms, "The Sparklers". If you have any bottles/cans laying around that you would like to donate to the cause. The girls would really appreciate it. Their Group Name at SARCAN is KGH.

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).

Our photos this time are memories from the past: one Karneval, one Bavarian and one from one of our fun events.

1. Fun times. 2. Karneval. 3. Bavarian.

NEWS FROM THE CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers, Saskatoon — Brenda Booker

Three months have passed since our last communication and what a tumultuous few months it has been. Someone once said: "We don't grow when things are easy; we grow when we face challenges." I'm not sure about the rest of you, but if this is true, we must all be experiencing tremendous growth.

Our Dancers have kept busy with crafting, baking, karate, hiking and biking. How lucky we are that we aren't in the middle of one of our good, old Saskatchewan winters. They have also met the challenge of continuing their schooling online, together with the patient help of parents (most times at least).

How quickly terminology like Google Classroom, Zoom, TikTok, and Google Chat have become an integral part of our everyday language.

It's heartwarming to hear that many of us have been able to share activities and special moments with our families. Gardening with mom, building projects with Dad and family gatherings around the backyard fire pit.

Thankfully, through technology, we have also managed to stay in touch with cousins, School friends and Dance friends.

A couple of our Dancers are busy getting ready for some pretty important transitions, like starting Kindergarten and moving on to High School.

When Dancers were asked what they missed the most though all of this, they overwhelmingly mentioned missing their social connections. Seeing and playing with their School friends, Dance friends, as well all their regular activities and old haunts.

"Adversity and perseverance and all these things can shape you. They can give you a value and a self-esteem that is priceless." - Scott Hamilton

Wow, Danielle and I thought we had the best group of young people around, even before this adversity. We are looking forward to a time when we can continue meeting as a group, celebrating our growth and dancing for you all, once again.



1. We are sure going to miss Folkfest this year.

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE FOR COOKING CLASSES

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



In an unforeseeable turn of events, March became the last cooking class for the season. It seemed like it happened overnight and didn't give us a good opportunity to say goodbye to each other for the summer.

The April and May classes were cancelled

because of the COVID19 pandemic, and sadly our movie evening in May at the Rainbow Theatres was put on hold. I'm still very amendment about putting on our movie night as soon as we're allowed. If you bought a ticket, I am honouring those for when we do get together!

At the moment, all we can do is take everything one day at a time and keep our families safe. We're looking towards the future to see what it means for cooking classes and what options are out there. I'm happy to see that there are many creative ways for us to continue our cooking classes in the fall. As of right now, I'm taking time for some recipe research and collecting ideas on new events in the future.

I would like to point out that now is a good time to go back to basics, learn how to cook from

scratch or take time to experiment with a new recipe. Basic recipes that I have in my arsenal are things like: simple breads, pizza dough, pancakes, soup stocks, easy cake recipes and many more. While everyone was buying up yeast, leaving a bit of a shortage some of those basic recipes can be a bit tricky. However, I took this opportunity to experiment in making my own yeast – it's been a process and I'm still in the thick of it. Watch out for my next article to see how it went!

If you need to chat about recipes or have a question, feel free to email me at kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com and I'll do my best you answer.

Photo: Swabian Popovers with a berry compote for March's dessert.

AN UPDATE FROM THE BRASSBAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — *Yvonne Kristoff*

Concordia Brass band has been shut down by COVID-19 just like everything else around the world for these past few months. We have kept in touch with emails and social media such as Facebook every so often. We are so excited that things are beginning to open up. A few members have been meeting and social

distancing for the past few months. The purpose of this is to get some of our newer members familiar with the music. We even had a request from the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra for a variety of German music that would be suitable for Oktoberfest. I think that request has yet to be filled but I am confident that it will be.

In the meantime we are hoping that we can soon get back to regular rehearsals and sharing our music with those who cannot get out to concerts.

NEWS FROM THE GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Regina — *Alvin Knoll*

Hello everyone and greetings from the Germans from Russia. I hope that everybody has been able to maintain their social distancing and has stayed healthy. At this time where we find ourselves staying at home, it might actually be a good time to do a little research on family history and catch up on some reading. There are a lot of good resources on line these days.

Our local Chapter of the Germans from Russia actually had a very busy year planned that is until Covid-19 slowed us down. Last fall in November our group was quite thrilled to have a guest speaker from Saskatoon come down and walk us through some of his family history as it pertained to the Crimea. Our guest speaker was none other than Sask. German Council

President, Merv Weiss. He is very knowledgeable and passionate about his family's history and the 50 plus people in attendance enjoyed his presentation. We finished the evening with our usual coffee and Kuchen. Thank you again Merv for accepting our invitation to share your interesting history with us.

Unfortunately we were still under restrictions for public gatherings and so had to cancel our yearly Schmeckfest, always the first Wednesday in May. We always host this at our last group meeting of the season. Schmeckfest, as it sounds, is a time of tasting good food and also a time in which our members can show their culinary skills. The food at Schmeckfest reflects our German culture and is usually something that we would

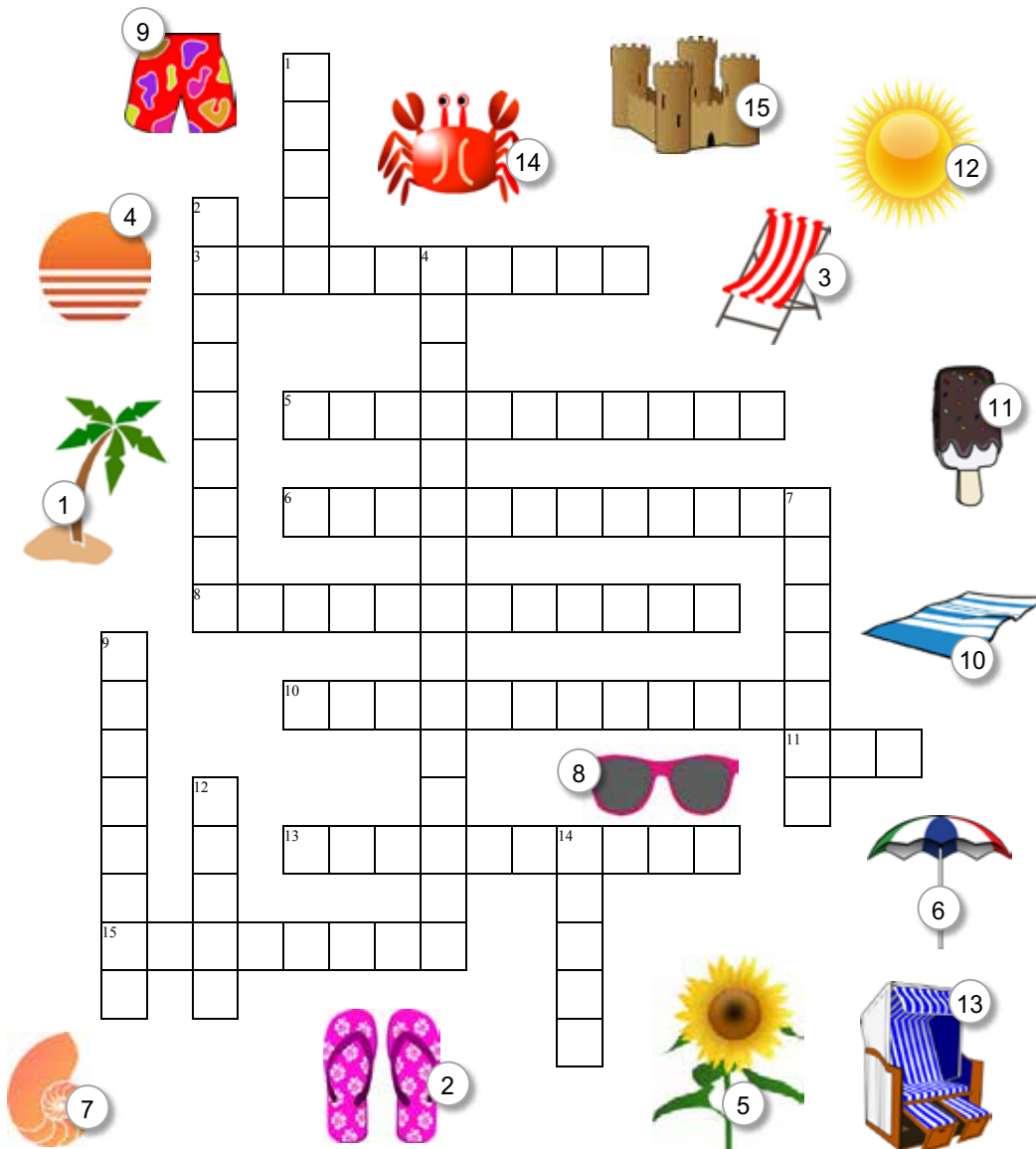
have enjoyed as children, prepared by our parents and grandparents. Also in May we had organized an evening with Mr. Eric Spoeth from Edmonton, Alberta to screen his film Waiting for Waldemar. The film pertains to the Second World War and tells of his family fleeing Russia. A trailer of this show can be found by goggling the title. We hope to show this film sometime in the coming fall season when larger gatherings are allowed. Our group had partnered with the Regina Public Library as part of their public programming for the screening of the movie.

We are hopeful that the fall season will allow us to meet again on a monthly schedule and that our lives will get back to a form of normalcy. In the meantime enjoy the summer and stay well.

KINDER- & JUGENDSEITE

Kreuzworträtsel

Thema: **Sommer**



Witze

Zwei Eisbären treffen sich in der Wüste. Sagt ein Eisbär zum anderen: „Mann, müssen die hier einen strengen Winter haben. Alles gestreut!“

Holzwurmmutter zu ihren Kindern: „Und nun, husch, husch in dein Brettchen.“

Eine Känguru-Mutter kratzt sich nach Leibeskräften. Dann fährt sie ihr Baby an: „Wie oft habe ich Dir schon gesagt, dass du den Zwieback nicht im Bett essen sollst!“

Was sagt der große Stift zum kleinen Stift? Wachsmal-Stift!

Sohn fragt den Vater: „Wo liegen eigentlich die Bermudas?“ Vater: „Da musst du Mutter fragen, die räumt doch immer alles auf!“

In der Schule fragt die Lehrerin: „Was ist flüssiger als Wasser.“ Daraufhin ein Schüler: „Hausaufgaben, die sind überflüssig.“

Was ist die gefährlichste Jahreszeit? Der Sommer: Die Sonne sticht, die Salatköpfe schießen, die Bäume schlagen aus und der Rasen wird gesprengt. stammelt: „Die Vase war aus dem 17. Jahrhundert!“ Darauf Paul erleichtert: „Gott sei Dank, ich dachte schon, sie sei neu.“

LIBRARY CORNER

COOKBOOKS

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Reinhard Lämmel



"Authentische
Rezepte
aus dem
Genussland
an der Elbe,
mit doppel-
seitigen
Foodfotos
illustriert und
mit kleinen
Anekdoten
und Infor-

mationen über die Historie und die sächsische Küchenkultur garniert, erfreuen Sachsen zu Hause ebenso wie Freunde der sächsischen Küche überall auf der Welt. Ob das bekannte Leipziger Allerley, vogtländische Schusterpfanne, sächsisches Gartenhuhn oder Leipziger Lerchen und Streuselkuchen zum Ditschen – in diesem Buch sind die besten Rezepte zweisprachig auf Deutsch und Englisch zusammengestellt, damit „all over the world“ jeder sein Lieblingsgericht nachkochen kann."

GRANDMA'S GERMAN COOKBOOK

Linn Schmidt



Whether it's
crispy fried
potatoes,
steamed
dumplings,
or a creamy
jelly roll stuffed
with raspber-
ries, no one
makes food as
good as a Ger-
man grand-

mother — that is, until now!

Featuring eighty-five classic recipes, from soups to Sunday roasts, and desserts to Christmas favorites, Grandma's German Cookbook is loaded with recipes any German grandmother would proudly serve her family.

RECIPE CORNER

RED FRUIT JELLY

(Rote Grütze)

Ingredients:

500g red currants
125g sour cherries
125g raspberries
250g strawberries
200ml + 1L red berry juice
3 tbsp sugar
1 cinnamon stick
30g corn starch



Preparation:

Wash currants and remove from stems. Wash cherries and remove pits. Wash raspberries. Wash strawberries and remove stems, cut large ones in half or quarter them.

Mix 200ml of juice with 2tbs sugar in a large pot, add cinnamon stick and bring it to a boil. Then add the currants and cherries, let everything cook for 2 to 3 minutes.

Add corn starch to the remaining 1L of juice and mix until there are no clumps. Add to the fruit mixture, let it cook until the mixture thickens. Add raspberries and strawberries and add sugar if needed. Remove from stove, take out cinnamon stick and let cool down. Serve with vanilla sauce, whipping cream or over ice cream.

RUM POT

(Rumtopf)

Ingredients:

Fruits like berries, cherries, plums and peaches
sugar
rum i.e. 54%



Preparation:

Wash, clean and cut your fruits. Take the same amount of sugar as you have fruits. Layer fruits and sugar in a large ceramic pot/jar (a 'rumtopf'). The jar should have a lid. Then fill as much rum into the jar as needed to cover the fruits.

Continue to add a layer of fruits and sugar during the summer as fruits become available and always fill enough rum in to cover all fruits.

Let stand for at least 2 to 3 months. Traditionally it is tasted for the first time at Christmas. It tastes great by itself or as topping for ice cream or vanilla pudding.



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