

POSTILLION

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

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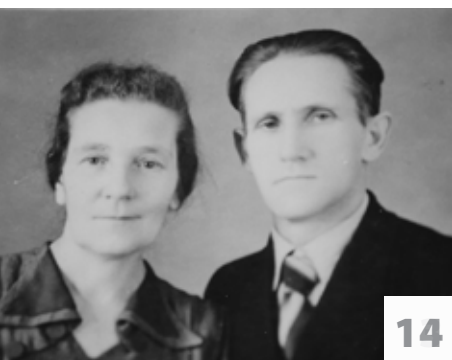


Autumn 2020

Featuring: 30 Years of German Unity



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IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

SABINE DOEBEL-ATCHISON, EDITOR

Corona und COVID-19 sind immer noch aktuell und ein Thema bei SGC und auch bei den Mitgliedern. Wir alle leben nun seit vielen Monaten mit den verschiedensten Einschränkungen - seien es die teilweise stark reduzierten sozialen Kontakte, das Einkaufen mit Maske und Abstand, oder die ausgefallenen und verschobenen Reisen. Einige SGC Mitgliedsgruppen haben ihre Programme ins Internet verlegt, andere haben sich auf kleine Gruppen in größeren Räumen eingestellt. Leider gibt es auch Gruppen die noch darauf warten wieder zusammen zu kommen oder sich vollkommen neu ausrichten müssen.

Feierlichkeiten zu 30 Jahre Deutsche Wiedervereinigung sind in diesem Jahr auf Grund der Pandemie kleiner ausgefallen oder haben virtuell stattgefunden. In dieser Ausgabe des Postillions finden sie einen interessanten Artikel von Barbara Hoggard-Lulay über die Rolle Kanadas im Prozess der Wiedervereinigung.

In einer neuen Serie mit Einwanderungsgeschichten lesen sie in dieser Ausgabe den ersten Teil von We found a Home in Canada, die Geschichte von Adele Wagner und ihrer Familie. Sicherlich können sich viele Postillion Leser mit den Erfahrungen der Familie Engel identifizieren.

Viel Freude beim Lesen.

Corona and COVID-19 are still around and a topic at SGC and also among the members. We've all been all living with various restrictions for months now: be it social distancing, shopping with a mask, or cancelled and postponed trips. Some SGC member groups have moved their programs to the internet, others have adapted to small groups in larger rooms. Unfortunately, there are also groups that are still waiting to get back together or who have to completely reorganize themselves.

Celebrations for 30 years of German unity were smaller this year due to the pandemic or have taken place virtually. In this issue of Postillion you will find an interesting article by Barbara Hoggard-Lulay on Canada's role in the process of reunification.

In a new series of immigration stories you can read the first part of We found a Home in Canada, the story of Adele Wagner and her family. Certainly many Postillion readers can relate to the experiences of the Engel family. Enjoy reading.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



keep SGC relevant and meaningful in a COVID-19 environment, where we have not had access to a public audience for any of our events. The SGC member groups have had the same challenges. The SGC staff is now again working at the SGC office on a full-time basis, but the SGC office building itself is still not open to the public. Hopefully this will change soon.

By now, most, if not all, of you have heard that the Saskatoon German Cultural Center (also known as German Canadian Concordia Club) has closed the doors to its beautiful building on Cartwright Street. A garage sale has been organized to clear out the contents of the facility. The building is now listed for sale. I know all of us wish the German Canadian Club Concordia the best of luck in plotting a new course into the future.

Well, that was a long, certainly different summer! Like many of you, I had to cancel trips to Europe, two, in fact. We had been invited to a wedding in Berlin in August. Sadly, we could not attend. Hopefully, we can visit the happy couple next year. Of course, I have many relatives in Germany, and I would have to visit some of those at the same time. It is difficult to choose which ones to visit, because I cannot possibly visit all of them. I am sure this is a familiar problem for many of you.

This has been a challenging summer as well for Gabi, Franziska and Brigitte, as they struggled to

I know too, that the German language schools in Regina, Saskatoon and Estevan are working hard to deliver meaningful German language instruction to students of all ages. Denied access to classrooms in our public schools, the best option, for now, will be to deliver the courses online. In the meantime, hopefully alternate physical locations can be found. The Board of Directors appreciates and understands all of the challenges SGC member groups are currently facing. Let us know how we can help you.

Your Board of Directors held a "real" meeting at the Harbor Golf Club and Resort in Elbow on Sunday, 30 August. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet face-to-face, and to interact with our new directors Jessica Forster and Ilona Beck. The morning covered normal business and the afternoon was devoted to an open and wide-ranging discussion about SGC. Is SGC fulfilling its mandate of preserving German culture, language and traditions in Saskatchewan? How could we do a better job? Will the future force changes upon our organization? How will SGC cope, adapt, react, change, etc? What specific things can we do now? (Unfortunately, we did not get a photo of the meeting.)

SGC is planning a virtual combination RoundTable event for November 21st. We will try to have a similar discussion about SGC, as the Board did at Elbow. The Board of Directors is looking forward to your participation because there is so much to talk about regarding the consequences of the COVID lockdown, and how we might prepare now for the future.

This issue of Postillion will see the first instalment of a moving story involving a German family's immigration to Saskatchewan. The Postillion, and its format, were also discussed at length during our afternoon at Elbow. We hope to include more personal stories of Germans who were born in Germany and are now living in Saskatchewan. We hope to include more stories about major news stories and current events in Germany. An important event will be the thirtieth anniversary of German Reunification on October 3. Of course, it will have to be a virtual celebration here in Saskatchewan. More details will be announced by Saskatchewan's Honorary Consul Dr. Michael Oelck.

Bis zum nächsten Mal.

.....

Was für ein langer, ungewöhnlicher Sommer! Wie vielleicht einige von Ihnen auch, musste ich zwei Reisen nach Europa absagen. Im August wollten wir an einer Hochzeit in Berlin teilnehmen. Leider konnten wir das nicht. Hoffentlich können wir nächstes Jahr das glückliche Ehepaar besuchen. Ich habe viele Verwandte in Deutschland und möchte zur gleichen Zeit auch einige von ihnen besuchen. Es ist schwer zu entscheiden, wen ich besuchen soll, denn es ist unmöglich, jeden zu besuchen. Nun ja, vielen von Ihnen ist dieses Problem sicherlich auch bekannt.

Auch für Gabi, Franziska und Brigitte war der Sommer schwierig. Wegen des Corona-

Virus konnte unser SGC keine öffentlichen Veranstaltungen durchführen. Sie mussten andere Wege finden, um SGC relevant und bedeutungsvoll zu halten. Die Mitgliedsgruppen des SGC hatten die gleichen Schwierigkeiten. Die Mitarbeiter unseres SGC arbeiten jetzt wieder vom Büro aus, aber das Bürogebäude selbst ist immer noch nicht für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Hoffentlich ändert sich das bald.

Die meisten von Ihnen, wenn nicht alle, haben schon gehört, dass das Deutsche Kulturzentrum Saskatoon (auch als German Canadian Club Concordia bekannt) die Türen des schönen Gebäudes auf der Cartwright-Strasse geschlossen hat. Es gab bereits einen Flohmarkt (wir sagen garage sale), um die Einrichtungsgegenstände zu veräußern. Das Gebäude steht jetzt zum Verkauf. Wir wünschen dem Deutsch-Kanadischen Club Concordia viel Glück bei der Planung eines neuen Ablaufs in der Zukunft.

Die deutschen Sprachschulen in Regina, Saskatoon und Estevan sind auch sehr beschäftigt gewesen, damit sie Schülern aller Altersgruppen sinnvollen Deutschunterricht bieten können. Da wir keinen Zugang an den Schulgebäuden haben, ist die beste Option jetzt die Kurse online anzubieten. Es bleibt zu hoffen, dass andere Treffpunkte für den Unterricht gefunden werden, aber nur wenn das Virus keine Gefahr mehr darstellt. Der SGC-Vorstand versteht die Probleme, denen die SGC Mitgliedsgruppen gegenüberstehen. Lassen Sie uns wissen, wie wir Ihnen helfen können.

Ihr Vorstand hat am Sonntag, den 30. August, eine "richtige" Sitzung im Harbor Golf Club and Resort in Elbow abgehalten. Jeder genoss die Gelegenheit, sich persönlich zu treffen und unsere neuen Direktoren Jessica Forster und Ilona Beck kennenzulernen. Der Vormittag beschäftigte sich mit den allgemeinen Geschäften, während der Nachmittag einer offenen und weitreichenden Diskussion über den SGC gewidmet war. Erfüllt das SGC sein Mandat zur Erhaltung der deutschen Kultur, Sprache und Traditionen in Saskatchewan? Wie könnte SGC die Arbeit besser machen? Wird die Zukunft unsere Organisation zu Veränderung zwingen? Wie wird das SGC damit umgehen, sich anpassen, reagieren, verändern, usw.? Welche konkreten Sachen können wir gerade jetzt tun? (Leider haben wir kein Foto von dem Treffen gemacht.)

Am 21. November wird SGC einen virtuellen Runden Tisch veranstalten. Wir werden versuchen, eine ähnliche Besprechung betref-

SGC zu führen, wie es der Vorstand in Elbow gemacht hat. Der Vorstand von SGC freut sich auf Ihre Teilnahme, denn es gibt sehr viel bezüglich der Folgen der COVID Beschränkungen zu besprechen. Wie können wir uns gerade jetzt auf der Zukunft vorbereiten?

In dieser Ausgabe des Postillions findet man den ersten Teil einer rührenden Geschichte über die Einwanderung einer deutschen Familie nach Saskatchewan. Die Postillion und sein Format wurden auch bei unserem Nachmittag in Elbow ausführlich besprochen. Wir hoffen, weitere persönliche Geschichten von Deutschen aufzunehmen, die in Deutschland geboren wurden und jetzt in Saskatchewan leben. Wir hoffen, weitere Geschichten über wichtige Nachrichten und aktuelle Ereignisse in Deutschland aufnehmen zu können. Ein wichtiges Ereignis wird der dreißigste Jahrestag der deutschen Wiedervereinigung am 3. Oktober sein. Natürlich muss es hier in Saskatchewan eine virtuelle Feier sein. Weitere Einzelheiten werden von Saskatchewan's Honorary Consul Dr. Michael Oelck bekannt gegeben.

Bis zum nächsten Mal..

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Honorary Consul Column

Dr. Michael Oelck,
Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

October 3, 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of German Unity. Last year, we celebrated the fall of the Berlin Wall, this year the legal unification of the two German halves. The German Embassy is celebrating "30 Years of German Unity and Canadian Partnership: Past, Present, and Future". Moderated by Peter Mansbridge, OC, former Chief Correspondent of CBC News, our distinguished speakers, guest of honour, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, former Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Independent Senator for Ontario; and Professor Alexander Reisenbichler, Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto; and Michael Sabia, Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy and H.E. Sabine Sparwasser, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Canada, they will look back on a time full of hope and promise – and they will look forward to how Canada and Germany can jointly make a difference in today's more polarized world.

The Embassy is not having a reception on this occasion; instead we are donating food to organizations all over Canada. On October 2nd, the day before the German reunification, we have arranged German food to be catered to the Lighthouse in Saskatoon and to Carmichael Outreach in Regina covering all their meals for that day. We want to support organizations who are helping the needy; and what better day could we find than the commemoration date of when Germany needed active support from Canada and others and received it.

We are witnessing that our world is going through a phase of more polarity, which has something to do with our increased capabilities in social media. Nowadays, like never before, world powers are trying to gather public support digitally, are polarizing their people's opinions, and define priorities according to party programs instead of needs of the average family. Too frequent repetition by politicians to support the middle class sound hollow and have lost any weight, because social media have empowered the people seeing

the results of what their leaders have or have not accomplished. At the present time, this rings true in particular in health care where differences between countries are shockingly revealing.

Through the Corona-crisis, we are witnessing a period in which changes are becoming the norm. And besides fear and uncertainty, there is also a will to do things differently and, above all, better than before. In particular in the area of health, the demand for new solutions is very significant. More than ever, growth and well-being depend on supporting innovation, on finding new business models, and on introducing new products and better services successfully. These will create more value, and in particular better health and life quality. In this way, we will be better prepared for changes. We are becoming future proof.

In Europe and in Germany, there are strong tailwinds for better healthcare on a political level. The European Union, under Ursula von der Leyen's leadership, defined a Rebuilding Plan after COVID, and the future package of the German government is based on strengthening the public health care and also by allowing private healthcare in needed areas. The financial viability of public healthcare will be an important basis to achieve this – certainly this would be the same in Canada. Investments in key technologies, in research and digital transformation and a revitalization of hospitals will require strong impulses. In Germany, healthcare cost is based on the monthly salary of the individual worker, meaning who earns more, pays more, and this could be a viable model for Canada as well.

Good healthcare is never free, even in a political system where it is a taboo to demand it. Political leaders in Canada know that they commit political suicide, if they touch on this subject, and for this reason, I think it is a good idea to look at Canada from the outside and to remind politicians about their responsibility during a crisis like COVID-19.

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 Canadian Club Concordia, Saskatoon

German Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina

German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon

German Language School Saskatoon Inc.

German Russian Cultural Group, Leader

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

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

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, SGC Executive Director

Back to Work

Following workplace guidelines, SGC staff returned to the office full time on September 8, after a transition period of working part time in the office and at home. While the admin building will remain closed to the public, appointments with SGC staff can be arranged. If you would like to inquire about services such as translations, notarizations, immigrant settlement advisor, etc., please contact us.

Virtual Folkfest



To experience cultural traditions and multicultural celebrations, Folkfest 2020 offered a virtual showcase on Saturday, August 15 called "Folkfest Gives Back -Connecting through Culture". SGC made several contributions such as a short video for a craft for kids as well as a slide show about Germany. The virtual showcase covered the German cultural part by streaming a lovely cooking video of our member group Kochloeffel & Nudelholz. A month later, SGC's video "How to make your own Schultüte" was featured on Folkfest's social media during back-to-school week as a fun German tradition for the start of school.

German Conversation Circle

On September 14, the Wheatland Library in partnership with SGC hosted its first virtual Conversation Circle for fluent German speakers via Zoom. Facilitated by a native speaker, the "Deutscher Konversationskreis" invites participants to converse about different topics in the German language, and provides access to programming from rural areas in Saskatchewan. The first event on September 14th took place in celebration of German Language Day on September 12th with a discussion focusing all around food.

30 Years of German Unity

In addition to her article Celebrating 30 Years of German Unity – Ottawa, Birthplace of "Two-plus-Four" on page 10, former Honorary Consul of Germany to SK and SGC Honorary Lifetime Member Barbara Hoggard-Lulay, sent virtual greetings to the people of Saskatchewan to commemorate 30 Years of German Unity. Mrs. Hoggard-Lulay's video message from

Berlin takes you to some historically significant sites in Berlin such as the Brandenburger Gate, Potsdamer Platz, remnants of the Berlin Wall, and more. To watch the video message, please check SGC's facebook page.

Mid-Summer Board Meeting



Covid-19 required many changes in the day-to-day operation of our organization. For board members to stay up to date, and to review the strategic direction for the next years, SGC held an in-person board meeting on August 30. The facilities at the Elbow Harbor Golf Club were perfect to accommodate physical distancing while discussing SGC business and providing an orientation to SGC's new directors.

Immigrant Settlement Advisor (ISA)

For the first time since March, our settlement advisor Brigitte worked at the Newcomer Information Centre and received some clients at the SGC office after providing newcomers with over the phone and email service only. In spite of reduced immigration numbers to Saskatchewan, we were able to help 60 clients since January with country of origin being India, Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and Nigeria.

With limited access to other services and to in-person settlement help, settlement processes take a lot longer and there is a staggering increase of services needed for successful settlement. The support with resume/cover letter help and interview preparation received by our clients is reflected in the great success rate of clients finding employment and receiving job interviews.

2020 SGCAF GERMAN LANGUAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hibah Zia



Guten Tag!

Ich heiße Hibah Zia und ich bin dieses Jahr die Empfängerin von dem SGCAF Deutschen Sprachpreis gewesen!

I am very grateful for being granted this award, so I thought I would write an article for the Saskatchewan German Council. With my award, I plan on using it to fund my undergraduate degree at the University of Saskatchewan under the College of Arts and Science, where I will be pursuing a Bachelor's in

Science and hoping to major in Physiology and Pharmacology.

I started learning German because I was intrigued by different cultures, and I didn't know much about German language or culture. Slowly, I started to enjoy learning more vocabulary, history, and travel in Germany and its surrounding regions. I enjoyed particularly learning about die Nachspeisen in Germany because it not only allowed me to combine two hobbies into one, baking and learning, but it also allowed me to share what I learned with my classmates and partake in a different culture. I talked about the benefits of learning German in my scholarship application, however I'd like to reiterate the points I made because I think it's a good reminder for everyone. Firstly, I think one of the largest benefits of learning German is that you remember the beautiful parts of a culture, as we often forget it because the bleak narratives of German history overshadows the intricate culture, especially during the second world war. Learning German can remove the stigmas around German people that we still have today and remind us that we are connected through our unique identities.

As with any language, learning German allows people to understand one another, as we also learn about German culture when learning about the language, and often we find similarities. For example, my mother and I wanted to visit the German *Christkindlmarkt* last year in December. Because I was in a German class, I knew a bit of what to expect, though my mother did not because our family is South Asian. She knew very little about German culture because she has never interacted with it. However, she still enjoyed it because she found elements of her own childhood there, such as when she saw the *Puppen* and the *Strickwaren*, and told me about how they made similar things in her home country. As well, I found that learning German has improved my English, as I'm more aware of the grammatical components that

make up a sentence, and I can explain more effectively why a sentence is put together the way it is.

Learning about German culture connects people through realizing similarities in their own culture and humanizes Germans despite the traumatic events of the past.

Randall Sabo



Hi! My name is Randall Sabo and I was the winner of one of two SGCAF Language Awards. I plan on using the funds for my university education at the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan.

Learning German in a classroom setting was very beneficial for me. I have tried to learn other languages by myself, but it was difficult as there was typically little guidance. German,

however, was different: the small class sizes allowed for increased cooperation, teamwork, and responsibility. Having a teacher and peers in the classroom also made learning a second language much easier. I wouldn't trade in the memories I made in the German classroom with my friends for anything. Learning German was one of the best decisions I made in high school.

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Rolling Calendar of Events



German Radio Program

Deutsche Klangfabrik, every Sunday, 1pm-3pm, CFR 90.5 Saskatoon Community Radio

Culture Days

German Junior Folk Dancers (GJFD) & Nutrien Wonderhub – Storytelling Through Dance. The GJFDs demonstrate steps from their dances for viewers to try at home. They are also going to show the beauty of the costumes, and the history of the dances. The video will be available on the Culture Days website (www.culturedays.ca) October 17.

A Brief History of Saskatchewan presented by SGC

October 8, 7pm-8pm. Please join us in listening to Dr. Laura Larsen present on Canadian Prairie History. For more information visit www.saskgermancouncil.org.

Kochlöffel and Nudelholz: German- Canadian Koch- und Backstudio

October 19 online cooking class. Check out Kochlöffel's new YouTube channel for cooking videos. New videos are posted every month when in-person classes were supposed to be held!

Mahlzeit hosted by the Regina German Club

October 16 & 29, November 25, 5pm-7pm. Join the Regina German Club for a delicious supper. The meal is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children. Visit the club's website for more information!



The Cross of Merit for KVDS President Isolde Winter

Sabine Doebel-Atchison & Gabi Waidelich-Harrison

Isolde Winter, President of the Canadian Association of German Language Schools (KVDS), received a special honour during the virtual conference of the organization in August. To her surprise, she was awarded the Cross of Merit on the Ribbon by the Deputy Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Vancouver, Birgit Densch. The German ambassador to Canada, Sabine Sparwasser, who praised the recipient and her contributions to German language learning in Canada, also attended the virtual ceremony.

The list of Isolde Winter's merits for advancing German language learning in Canada is long. Having immigrated to Canada in 1988, she was a founding member, board member and principal of the Westside German School in Vancouver for 20 years. However, she has been involved with the German language far beyond Vancouver's city limits as a KVDS board member (since 2001) and president (since 2007), as well as a board member of the Canadian Association of Teachers of German (since 2018).

The Saskatchewan German Council had the opportunity to interview Isolde Winter in October, asking her about the Cross of Merit, German language in Canada and the new



challenges for language schools in times of Corona.

SGC: What does it mean for you to be a recipient of the Cross of Merit?

Isolde Winter: It is of course a very special honour to receive this recognition. As you can imagine, it is not something I ever expected. On a personal level it also means some recognition for all the years of dedication to the cause of promoting the German language, especially with all the funding and program cuts. This is also an acknowledgement of the importance of the promotion of German language and the teamwork and supportive environment the Canadian Association of German Language Schools provides. Having this network of people working towards the same goal and supporting each other is very important. This is not something one person can do alone.

SGC: People have various reasons for signing up for a German language class - some have a German background, some are children of immigrants, some like to travel, some simply enjoy learning a new language, etc. In your opinion, what are the biggest advantages of learning German in Canada.

Isolde Winter: I think the biggest advantage of learning German, not even just specific to Canada, is the development of cultural understanding and connecting with the heritage. Many people have a German background, even if it is already the 2nd or 3rd generation. Learning German is an educational opportunity and can be beneficial when it comes to credentials for applications and scholarships. It also creates many opportunities, even if you just have some knowledge. You don't have to be perfect. You are much more likely to study in Germany or somewhere else in Europe, if you know some German. Even if you just decide to learn the language for the purpose of travelling, you will develop a completely different feel for the culture. Other benefits are, for example, developing the ability to think more globally and building and advancing ones cultural competencies.

SGC: The Corona virus has had a major impact on German language schools in Canada. Many schools have moved to online learning, some struggling with declining student numbers. Do you have any words of encouragement for parents and students that might be still be hesitant to sign up for online learning?

Isolde Winter: It's really simple - just try it! I think that also depends on the reasons why families are hesitant. It is best to approach the language schools and teachers and ask questions and to find out their online teaching approaches. At the same time, it's a good idea for the schools to approach the parents as well and show them what online learning is like, maybe even offering

a trial period. Online learning is a good alternative these days, but in language learning we still need the face-to-face meetings eventually. For now, we have to make the best of it online. There are certainly difficulties when it comes to online learning, especially with new and younger students, where parental support is needed. If parents are able and willing to help their children during the online lessons, it is a good way to get through this and hopefully there will be in class learning again soon.

The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany is the only federal decoration of Germany. It was created by the first President, Theodor Heuss, in 1951. There are 4 different groups: Grand Cross, Great Cross of Merit, Cross of Merit and Medal of Merit.

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Celebrating 30 Years of German Unity

Ottawa - Birthplace of “Two-plus-Four”

Barbara Hoggard-Lulay

Many Canadians may not be aware of the fact that Canada played a role in the German reunification process. And Germans, too, may not know much about this due to the number of important developments during the times of change between summer 1989, the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th and the “Day of German Unity” on October 3rd, 1990.

It was a pretty cold February when I was in Canada for the first time – on an official trip in the delegation of Western German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher who participated in the “Open Skies” Conference that was held in Ottawa from February 12th - 14th, 1990.

Canada was host to this, first and only, mixed meeting of the foreign ministers of NATO and the Warsaw Pact to negotiate about a crucial element of disarmament policy and confidence-building measures, i.e. both blocks wanted to agree on military surveillance flights over their territory. Chances to continue this policy of détente after the “Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty” (INF) between the USA and the Soviet Union had become effective in 1988, seemed possible in connection with President Mikhail Gorbachev’s *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*. Canada advocated this new “Open Skies” regime actively. However, as Canada’s Foreign Minister Joe Clark and head of the Canadian delegation at the time remembered in an article for “Eurostudia – Transatlantic Journal for European Studies” about ‘Canada’s diplomatic role in the reunification of Germany’: *As often happens, the most historic and enduring accomplishment of that conference was not on the agenda. It was to set in train the “Two plus Four” process, whereby the two Germanies – then East and West – would meet with the ‘four powers’ established originally as the allied control authority to oversee the allied occupation zones in post-war Germany – the UK, the Soviet Union, the USA and France – for the discussions and negotiations which led to the unification of Germany.*



He mentioned that at various times his six colleagues – James Baker (USA), Roland Dumas (France), Hans-Dietrich Genscher (Federal Republic of Germany), Oskar Fischer (German Democratic Republic), Douglas Hurd (United Kingdom), and Edouard Shevardnadze (Soviet Union) stole away from discussions of aerial surveillance to focus on Germany’s future instead.

But let’s go back a few days. On February 10th, 1990 Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher met with President Mikhail Gorbachev and reached an agreement - after many reservations, doubts and opposition in Moscow concerning Germany’s membership in NATO – that the Soviet Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the German Democratic Republic shared the belief that the Germans alone must settle the issue of the unity of the German nation and must make their own choice as to the form of a government, the time, speed and under what conditions unification would be realized. Most important was Genscher’s visit to Washington the week before to reach an understanding and achieve support that from the perspective of foreign policy, German unification was

secure. The American administration played a considerable role, being supportive from the beginning but also treating the Soviet Union at eye level, despite the country’s weakness. It was important to Genscher, that the two German states concerned with unification discuss foreign-policy aspects with the “Four”, rather than the other way around. Not the “Four” should negotiate about Germany. James Baker’s efforts in the Soviet Union were successful and he also helped to obtain support from Foreign Secretary Hurd and Foreign Minister Dumas as well for the “Two-plus-Four” formulation.

It was a tradition at NATO conferences to have a “Breakfast of the Western Four”. The German ambassador to Canada, Wolfgang Behrends, had invited the Foreign Ministers Baker, Dumas, Genscher, and Hurd to his residence in one of Ottawa’s heavily snow-covered neighbourhoods. In order to accelerate the process, at this meeting the four ministers agreed on the framework for the negotiations on Germany’s future.

A press release was drafted to be agreed upon with the Soviet Union and the German

Democratic Republic (GDR). Baker and Genscher talked with Shevardnadze in separate meetings that morning and Genscher also talked with GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer.

Numerous bilateral talks and phone calls to the capitals followed and handwritten notes were submitted to also get the Soviet foreign minister Shevardnadze "on board", as Dieter Kastrup, Political Director at the Federal Foreign Office at the time and later chief negotiator for the "Two-plus-Four Treaty", remembered at an event in Ottawa in February 2000. He called it "one of the most important decisions in post war history".

Shevardnadze was surprised about the pace of the Western course of action, and he obviously had not received precise instructions from Moscow. He seemed to wish for a break, despite the breakthrough in Moscow two days earlier, but, as he wrote in his memoirs "speed diplomacy" gained momentum and that Genscher had even accused him of having "a heart of stone". He finally could not elude,



memoirs Genscher recalls having replied, he would not have it otherwise: *We are talking about Two-Plus-Four meetings.*

The photo was taken in the early afternoon.

the reporters that the term 'creation of German unity' had deliberately been chosen. It differed from terms like 'contractual community' or 'confederation'. Again he emphasized that a unified Germany would absolutely have to be part of NATO, but he left open the possibility of different arrangements for the NATO structure on East German territory.

After the press conference Genscher went back to the "Open Skies" conference room in the building of the former Ottawa train station. Baker, just leaving the room, approached him and said: *Things are wild in there. Our colleagues are angry because we made the agreement with the Soviet Union on the "Two-Plus-Four" meetings without consulting them. They demand that the talks be reopened.*

When Genscher entered the room the Dutch and Italian foreign ministers raised their hands to speak. Both said negotiations on the external aspects of German unification were a matter that concerned all NATO members.



but only after having consulted his allies in the Warsaw Pact as well. Poland wished for a definitive recognition of the border between Poland and a reunited Germany which led to an amendment in the Western "Two-Plus-Four" draft. The six foreign ministers would now meet to discuss the external aspects of creating German unification, including the security of its neighbouring countries.

After Shevardnadze had also consulted East Germany's foreign minister Fischer and obtained his approval, he asked Genscher if he had any objections to a photograph of all the foreign ministers including Fischer? In his

At the time I was the assistant of Genscher's spokesman and I remember well that we had a crowd of journalists waiting in the delegation hotel for the press conference of the German foreign minister on the results of the "Open Skies" meeting. Everybody wondered why this press conference was so much delayed. What could have happened that was so important?

About two hours later than scheduled Genscher finally arrived and announced the outcome of the discussions. In his memoirs he recalled: *Did all the reporters realize what a historical decision regarding the unification process had been taken at that moment?* He told

Deeply alarmed, Genscher felt that Shevardnadze had made all the concessions in his power – he had even gone further – and reopening negotiations could only worsen the German situation – not to mention the time factor. In his memoirs he wrote: *Overcoming my otherwise somewhat conciliatory nature, I now needed to make absolutely certain that the talks would on no account be resumed. Anyhow, everyone was getting ready to leave, and the French foreign minister had already left. Turning to his Dutch and Italian colleagues Genscher asked: "Are you among the Four over..."*

...continued

Powers responsible for Germany? Are you one of the two German states? You are neither". And he concluded his drastic intervention by stating: You are not part of the game! It became clear that this request had gone too far and the debate was over quickly. The Canadian chairman, Foreign Minister Joe Clark, noted that, at least for the day, the matter was closed. And: Consequently there were no objective reasons for anger at our methods. Our colleagues could rest assured that the West German government, as well as the US, French, and British representatives, would safeguard NATO's concerns.

Although the visit had not been scheduled, before his departure Genscher called on the Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to report on the negotiations with Shevardnadze and on the content and consequences of the agreement. Mulroney assured Germany of Canada's support and that the four acting NATO members had had no other choice. *We had to seize this historic opportunity and conduct the negotiations as tightly and confidentially as possible*, Genscher wrote in his memoirs.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Ottawa conference in 2015 a painting by German-Canadian artist Horst Maria Guilhauman was unveiled in the German Residence. Nobody had thought of taking a photo at the historic breakfast. Therefore, German Ambassador Werner Wnendt had the idea to keep the records belatedly with a contract work painting. The result was a 2.5 x



1.5 metres oil painting on canvas showing the table, still used at the Residence, where the ministers had breakfast. The chairs have name tags and instead of painting the politicians sitting on the chairs, the artist made portrait pictures, hanging in front of the window.

We were the first NATO ally to declare our official support of the concept, wrote former foreign minister Joe Clark in his article that I already mentioned.

Joe Clark also noted that one might say Canada was an unlikely site for this process. *In fact, he says, it was a natural place, symbolizing that the Cold War had stretched across continents, recognizing the significant role Canada has*

played in the design and success of NATO, the then CSCE, and other institutions which ultimately contained the hostilities of that cold war.

In this article I also found these two paragraphs, underlining my experience in the ten years I lived as an immigrant in Canada: *When Europeans think of North America, the natural reference point is the USA, because it is a larger country, and a superpower in politics, the economy and popular culture. Yet, Canada's connection to Europe may well be deeper and is certainly distinctive. In one sense, we have been a European society in a North American geography.*

With regard to Europe, the United States and Canada differed at birth. The United States became a nation precisely to turn away from old European structures and values, and to create a new society on a new continent. Canada's purpose, by sharp contrast, was to transplant those old values in the new continent, to seek to improve an established civilization, and give it new life. If the US conceived of itself as an "exception", we considered ourselves an "extension". We saw our destiny as a bridge, not a break from the past.

One year later, in 1991, a piece of the Berlin Wall was presented by Minister Genscher to the Canadian Government as a gesture of thanks for the role Canada played in the process of German reunification. It was kept in the Government Conference Centre for 18 years and in November 2009 the segment was transferred to the War Museum on PM Stephen Harper's initiative to serve as a symbol





to honour the men and women of the Canadian Forces who served during the Cold War.

Looking back on the important negotiations conducted within the short period between the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 and the signing of the "Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany" or "The Two Plus Four Agreement" on September

12, 1990 in Moscow, leading to the "Day of German Unity" on October 3, 1990, to me it is very obvious that all acting politicians and officials involved in the negotiations at that time not only were exceptional diplomats who also managed to keep in mind their own country's interests, but they also got along very well with each other on a personal level. It is my strong belief that one should not underestimate the value of genuine personal relations in all respects, and also in international policy.

Sources:

"Rebuilding a House Divided, a memoir by the Architect of Germany's Reunification", Hans-Dietrich Genscher, original German title "Erinnerungen" (1995)

"Ein runder Tisch mit scharfen Ecken" by Richard Kiessler and Frank Elbe (1993)

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Photos:

1. "Open Skies" Conference in Ottawa. (Bundesarchiv, Bild 00123973 / photo: Arne Schambeck)

2. German Foreign Minister and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney at the "Open Skies" Conference in Ottawa. (Bundesarchiv, Bild 00118319 / photo: Arne Schambeck)

3. Foreign Ministers at the "Open Skies" Conference in Ottawa: (f.l.t.r.) Eduard Schewardnadse (UdSSR), James A. Baker (USA), Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FRG), Roland Dumas (France), Douglas Hurd (Great Britain), Oskar Fischer (GDR). (Bundesarchiv, Bild 00118320 / photo: Arne Schambeck)

4. Signing of the "The Two Plus Four Agreement" at the Hotel Oktjabrskaja in Moscow: (f.l.t.r.) Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FRG), Lothar de Maizière (GDR), Roland Dumas (France), Eduard Schewardnadse (UdSSR), Douglas Hurd (Great Britain), James Baker (USA). (Bundesarchiv, Bild 00047633 / photo: Engelbert Reineke)

5. Photo of a painting by Horst Maria Guilhauman, located at the residence of the German Ambassador to Canada in Ottawa. (photo: Myka Burke, printed with permission)

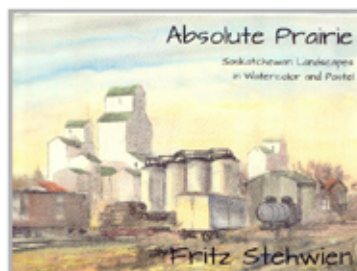
6. Delegate badge from the "Open Skies" Conference in Ottawa. (Barbara Hoggard-Lulay, printed with permission)

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New Postillion Series! - Immigration Stories

WE FOUND A HOME IN CANADA , PART 1/4

MERVIN WEISS & ADELE WAGNER

Foreword:

While I have written these words, this is Adele's story, written from her perspective. It is an incredible story of family love, hope, perseverance, and persistence. My input has been to position her memories and oral stories into an historical context and timeline with the geographical background of the turbulent times into which she was born.

Mervin Weiss, August 2020.

It was the map. Yes, it was the map that my brother Paul had drawn from memory of our village in Ukraine where we once lived. It was September of 2017 and I was returning from a trip to Ukraine, the country of my birth. It was not an easy journey, the express purpose of which was to visit the village where I was born. But it was an amazing experience, and not until the long flight home, did I have time to reflect on what the trip meant to me. Paul's map lay open on my seat-tray. I could see where the community well was, the school, the store, our home, grandpa Brühler's place, the cemetery, and more. I really have no personal memories of our village. I was not yet eight years old when we were forced to leave our village, to leave our home, to leave almost everything behind. But after studying Paul's map and after visiting our village, I was overwhelmed by a flood of memories from the years which followed. Perhaps for the first time, I was able to reflect on my life with a clearer focus on its beginnings.

I was born in a village called Neukron by the Germans, who settled there about 1883. They were a mixture of Evangelical Lutherans and Mennonites who had re-located from the so-called Chortitza and Prischib colonies, as the German farmers expanded their network of farming colonies to support their ever-growing families. The ancestors of these German Lutherans had migrated mainly from the Germanic state of Baden-Württemberg and from West Prussia in the early 1800's at the invitation of the Russian Czar (Tsar). They had been enticed by promises of free land, tax exemptions and interest-free loans, exemption from military service, and the right to maintain their language, religion and culture.



Today Neukron has been re-named as Novosolone, and it is located about fifty kilometers east of the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia. I was born there in December of 1935, in the immediate aftermath of the Holodomor, the man-made famine, which starved millions to death in Ukraine. The Holodomor is widely recognized as genocide, a weapon used by the dictator Josef Stalin to break the resistance of the German and Ukrainian peasants who opposed the collectivization of their lands and other assets. Those were extremely difficult years for my parents and grandparents, but as a child, I knew nothing different.

The German farmers had prospered in the days of the Tsars' Russian Empire. Those days were long gone by the time I was born. Neukron was now a village in Ukraine, one of the communist Soviet Socialist Republics, and part of the USSR. The Russian Revolution of 1917, and Stalin's Five-Year Plan of Collectivization beginning in 1928 had converted the entrepreneurial German farmers and tradesmen into hungry and despondent collective workers toiling for the state. My dad was one of them. He was often gone for days and weeks at a time because some of the collective's land was too distant for day trips. It was during this time that we, that is, my mother, Paul and I, moved into her parent's home, grandpa and grandma Brühler, with whom I became very close. My mother later told me that grandpa Brühler had been severely beaten, and left for dead, in his workshop because he refused to join the collective.

The increasingly paranoid Stalin ordered the arrest, banishment and execution of tens of thousands of Russian citizens during the Great Terror of 1937-1939. He trusted no one. My father's older brother, hence my uncle, Peter Engel was arrested for counter-revolutionary activity (i.e. a typical bogus charge for not supporting the Soviet regime) and was executed by a firing squad on November 27, 1938. Still my father managed to avoid



the attention of the local NKVD State Police and he continued to work as a blacksmith on the collective farm, even though he had trained as a printer.

In June, 1941, Germany invaded Russia without a declaration of war. Russia was caught off-guard. One of the first reactions of the Russian state was to evacuate all its German citizens behind the Ural Mountains, far from the war's front lines, because all non-Russians, and particularly Germans, were suspected of being spies for foreign states. Fearing that Russia's German citizens might be supportive of the invading Wehrmacht, Stalin began to deport Germans first from Crimea, and then from the German colonies along the Volga River. They were shipped in cattle cars to the labor camps in the Urals where the ones who survived the journey provided free slave labour for various industries vital to the war effort. In our area, it was decreed that all males between the ages of sixteen and sixty would leave first. My father, along with all the other men in Neukron, was ordered to appear at the train station on 5 September. Their most likely fate was exile to a Gulag slave-labour camp where they were starved and worked to death, and buried in mass graves. I do not remember my dad, although my mother told me that I was the "apple of his eye". On the day he left, he was allowed to take along a sack which mother had packed with clothing and food. She told me that I kept going into the bedroom where we kept a box of apples, to get more apples for dad's sack. We never saw him again, and to this day, I do not know what really happened to my father.

Later that fall it was our turn. The decree to re-locate German women, children and the elderly came on 28 September, but it was November before we were picked up and taken to the Novo-Nikolaevka train station. I have one faint memory of this time. I am sitting on a suitcase on the floor of a large building and there are many people around. My brother has told me that we were at the train station waiting to be loaded onto one of the box cars, when an advance unit of the invading German army arrived, having met little resistance in our area. Uncertain of what would happen next, people fled in all directions. I have been told that a Ukrainian family hid us in their root cellar. But we soon learned that the Russian forces had scattered and the German Army was going to remain as an occupation force, and would assume governmental administration. The German people were relieved; they felt they had been liberated from the yoke of communism.

By the time we were able to return to Neukron, grandfather's house had been looted by local non-Germans who had taken advantage of our short exile. Of course, they had not expected us to return. If the German army had arrived an hour later, we would have been shipped east along with the Crimean and Volga Germans. We would have never seen Neukron again. For two short years under Nazi occupation, life for the German farmers regained a sense of pre-revolutionary normalcy. The Wehrmacht authorities allowed a return to an entrepreneurial economy where one was able to keep the products of his or her labour. The churches were allowed to open. The German language was again acceptable on the streets and in the schools. Still, we were without our father, as mother tried in vain to learn what had happened to her husband.

Hitler's dream of "Lebensraum" in Eastern Europe would soon end. After the disastrous defeat of the German Army at Stalingrad in February 1943, Russia's victorious Red Army began to drive back the German invaders and to re-claim the territory it had been forced to cede to the Wehrmacht in 1941. The residents of Neukron were ordered by the Nazi authorities to re-locate to the village of Kronsfield. We packed whatever belongings we could fit into a wagon and left Neukron 18 February 1943. Our family unit consisted of grandpa and grandma Brühler, my mother Emilie Engel, nee

2166

EWZ (Deutschl. Nr.) 795 534

Name: ENGEL geboren: Brühler Domest: Emilie

Vorh. 9. 9. 06 Ort: Neukron Kreis: Novo-Nikolaevsk

Geburtsdatum: 22.4.29 in: Neukron Beruf: Hausfrau

Heimatsort: UdSSR Exile: Kronsfield Kreis: G. Saporoshie II

Staatsangehörigkeit: UdSSR b) (italien): nachgewiesen (nicht)

Stamm Name: Friedrich geb. am: 25.11.76 in: Alexanderfeld ev. l.

Mutter: Domest: Emilie geb. am: 14.9.73 in: Marienfeld ev. l.

Heimatsort: Kronsfield wurde am 5.9.1941 von den Russen verschleppt.

Domest: Jakob geb. am: 1.4.05 in: Neukron Kreis: G. Saporoshie II ev. l.

Mutter: Martin geb. am: 1863 in: unbekannt ev. l.

Mutter: Domest: Katharina geb. am: 1866 in: Neukron 1929

Paul 19.7.31 Heitechur

Adele 19.12.35 Neukron

Vermögensausgleich bleibt vorbehalten!

Lsg. 121 Originalschau

Aufenthaltsort: Krs. Zwickau/Ga. Nummer des Aufnahmestandes: Crimmitschau/Ga.

Datierung/diebst. am: 3.3.44

buch. Nom. Nr.: XXXII

Aufnahmestadt: -74-

3

Brühler, my brother Paul and myself. Our stay in Kronsfield lasted only 9 months, and our only knowledge of the fact that we were there at all comes from statements provided by my mother on the refugee registration forms required at the time, copies of which I have.

Again we Germans who had been living in Russia (really Ukraine) were subject to the whims of political powers beyond our control. As Russia's army continued its advance westwards, Hitler ordered that all remaining ethnic German people in Ukraine be evacuated to the Reich (Germany and its occupied territories). We left Kronsfield 19 October 1943. I have another vague memory of crossing the frozen Dnieper River, fearful of not making it to the other shore. Apparently, some wagons and families were lost when they fell through, according to later recollections by my mother. The Germans were forced to abandon nearly 150 years of their history in South Russia, and depart for Germany. Like Stalin, Hitler too needed free German labourers for German wartime industries and in particular, he needed farmers who could provide food for the German army. So again we joined a wagon trek, much longer this time, of German families forced to leave everything familiar behind, and with no idea about what lay ahead. It would be 74 years until I could again walk the streets of the village where I was born.

Photos: 1. Jakob and Emilie Engel, Adele's parents. 2. Bruehler Family, Neukron, about 1920. 3. Refugee registration of Emilie, Paul and Adele Engel.

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.

GERMAN CULTURAL CENTRE UPDATE

German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon — *Flo Broten*

Sadly, the German Cultural Centre is another victim of COVID-19. On August 7, the membership voted to list our building and land. On August 29, 2020, our doors closed for the last time. It is a very difficult time for our members who have given so much to the club and who have come to rely on the fellowship of our morning coffee and Friday evening get-togethers.

At our annual meeting, Markus Blumrich was elected President. Donna Sniher and Flo Broten were elected for another two year term. The Board is now tasked with the difficult duty of selling our beautiful building and land.

Volunteers have been working very hard to prepare for a garage sale

and the sale of our building and land. I would like to give a special thank you to Markus Blumrich, Donna Sniher, Eleanor Broten and especially, Adeline Vogelgesang, who has been at the centre every day, cleaning and organizing!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our members, former members, volunteers and the public who have supported us and worked so hard at Oktoberfest and Folkfest over the years.

The German Cultural Centre will be sold but the German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon will go on.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE FOR COOKING CLASSES

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



After taking the summer to regroup and asking for feedback from my regular participants, I decided to go the virtual way and create a YouTube channel for our cooking classes. Besides COVID being a factor in this decision, we also lost our home at the German Cultural Centre when it was announced that they would be shutting down permanently. We're very grateful for the time we had there and thank the staff and board!

As far as the YouTube channel goes, I've already uploaded some videos to make up for the missed classes in April and May. For September's class, there are two videos showing how to make two different types of potato skillet! The plan going forward it to post 2 videos per month to cover

what would have been our monthly in-person classes. In case anyone is interested in following, just go to YouTube and search for our name and our logo should pop up!

Creating and editing videos, adding audio along with the grocery shopping and recipe translating is more work but it's important to keep going, to try to build a community in a new way and still connect with each other through food and diverse recipes.

Happy cooking!

GERMAN JUNIOR FOLK DANCERS UPDATE

German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon —*Barbara Stehwien*

Needless to say, things have slowed down for our folk dancers, as they have for many groups and organizations. How are we coping? With the online teaching to complete our spring season, and a current 'inactive' status, we're busy contemplating our future. So far, we're digging through photos, costumes and props, and enjoying amazing memories. And making puzzles.

With no performances this past summer, we are planning to team up with SGC and the Wonderhub for a virtual Culture Days in October.

There are currently no practices, however, as folkdance by its very nature, is not about distancing. Halloween and the Christmas season is fully unplanned to date as well, but we're hoping that 2021 will have us meeting and dancing again.

Fundraising is ongoing, as we gear up to sell our usual Christmas items and hope to sell more tickets to our raffle that was started at the Heritage Festival in February. This is the last venue where we had our colorful display table, showing off our Trachten. And since puzzles have enjoyed a new popularity, we've had some made up that feature our costumed dolls 'dancing'. This and others can be found online at www.Stehwien.art for purchase. Profits from each puzzle sold will go to support the dance group.

Please feel free to get in touch for any questions, or interest in dance barbaragjfd@gmail.com



UPDATE FROM THE TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Regina —*Rev. Sarah Dymund*

During the months of July, August, and September, Métis musician Tristen Durocher publicly mourned the suicide epidemic in northern Saskatchewan. Following the defeat of a proposed bill that would implement anti-suicide legislation in the province, Durocher walked more than 600km from Air Ronge to Regina. Outside the legislature, Durocher's Walking with our Angels camp erected a teepee, lit a sacred fire, and displayed photos of dozens of people who have died by suicide in Saskatchewan in recent years. Durocher then began a 44-day ceremonial fast – one day for each MLA who voted against the bill. Several people in the city and from across the province made pilgrimages to the site to pay their

respects to Tristen, and to honour the dead, all while following safe COVID protocols. Many members of local faith communities, including ELCIC congregations, were among Durocher's supporters.

During Tristen's fast, we at Trinity showed our support for him and his vigil by holding him in prayer. In the evenings, some members of our congregation gathered at the teepee to sing and pray for Tristen's health and strength, for those suffering thoughts of suicide, and for those grieving the loss of loved ones who died by suicide. We know that there is a terrible suicide epidemic in our province. We know that this epidemic disproportionately affects

Northern and Indigenous communities, and we know, too, that this is not simply a Northern or Indigenous problem. As people of faith, who believe that all are beloved children of God, we felt deeply called to be present as allies to this young man's ceremony of grieving and crying out for justice. A few members of Trinity were honoured to be invited to participate in the early morning smudge and pipe ceremony at the end of Tristen's fast on Sunday, September 13th. We also joined in the public feast and celebration that marked the completion of this powerful ceremony. It was a privilege to be welcomed into this grieving community. It has inspired us to continue to find ways to uphold those whose voices are often unheard.

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGATEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon — Brigitte Boldt-Leppin

Six months have passed since all activities, which made the summers in Saskatoon so enjoyable, were cancelled. The city, in "normal times", buzzing with outdoor activities and festivals, felt empty and sleeping. But, the SGC was not sleeping, rather held the annual board meeting and took care of business via Zoom, electing the new board members electronically and announcing this year's volunteer award winners.

I feel very honoured to have received the 2020 Special Volunteer Award and thank the board for their appreciation, and thus the acknowledgement for all the contributions of KulturGarten showcasing German culture to the community of Saskatoon.

During our monthly meetings much creative brainstorming was carried out to find a way to

continue KulturGarten's mission. This pandemic and ongoing times of social distancing asks for possible future programs, locations and activities to present our German culture. The question which came up during our discussions was: "What is culture? How is it defined?"

When I asked my Canadian born neighbour, he answered: "Plumcake!". That was after he had just tasted my freshly baked Zwetschkuchen. But, is this it? Searching the internet I found a variety of definitions; e.g.:

"Kultur" bezeichnet ebenso die Gestaltung des Zusammenlebens zwischen Menschen. ... Die gesamte Kultur einer Gemeinschaft umfasst also die Regeln des Zusammenlebens, Sprache und Schrift, Religion, Bräuche, Sitten und alle Formen der Kunst - eben all jene Dinge, die von den Menschen geschaffen, gestaltet und

geformt wurden. (July 19, 2012 <https://www.helles-koepfchen.de>)

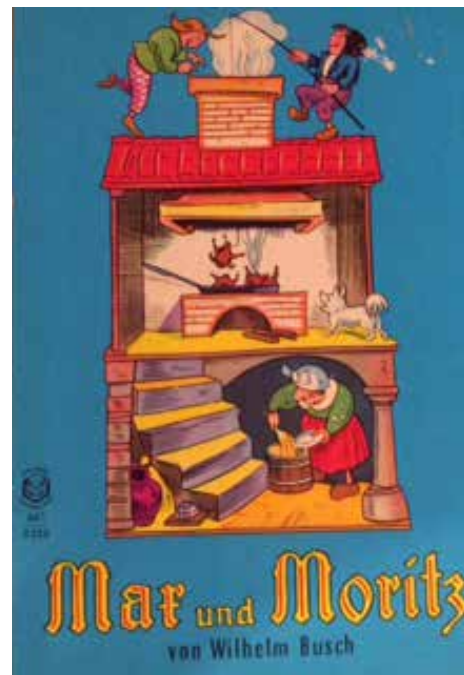
The most comprehensive definition I found was:

Culture is a word for the way of life of groups of people, the behaviour, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next generation.

I spend the first two years of my life in the village where Wilhelm Busch (photo 1) lived and was buried. According to above definition his literature works, especially Max und Moritz, (photo 2) which brought generations of German children pure joy and hilarious laughter, are part of our culture. Will it be passed on to the next generation?



Meckshausen am Harz



HAPPY FALL FROM THE REGINA AUSTRIAN DANCERS

Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers, Regina — Allison Ekdahl-Johnston

We are excited to announce the Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dance Group will be starting up practices on October 6th!

We were a bit slow out of the gate but we were able to secure a practice space again at St. Anthony's Parish in Regina. It is very important to us as

a dance group to provide a safe, trusting and fun extra-curricular activity. In order for our dancers to be safe we are requiring all to wear masks and to keep partners and groups together in family/extended household groupings. In order to attend the practices our dance instructor or parent volunteer will be taking temperatures of the participants and we ask that

dancers and or parents complete the online COVID-19 screening tool. We have scoured the stores for cleaning supplies and have created our COVID bin to take to each practice.

We are excited to add this activity to our schedules and see our friends and family once again at dance. We are also a bit intrigued by some of the younger siblings trying out dance for the first time. The curiosity for

the opportunity to perform is definitely on our minds but we aren't sure if there will be chances to perform for others. Thinking outside the box may be the way for the near future in sharing our culture and joys. We look forward to any suggestions from the community and hope we can get cleaned up and toned up before the first invite arrives!

Wish us luck and enjoy all that fall has to offer!

AN UPDATE FROM THE BRASS BAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — Yvonne Kristoff

Concordia Brass Band is so pleased to report that we are back practicing. We have secured a church that is not being used through one of our members.

We have had one practice and by the time this is printed we will probably

have completed a couple more. It felt so good to be back practicing. We are managing to keep our distance. Musical instruments require 4 square meters of space so we have room for about 16-18 in the church. We take a short break and everyone has to bring their own drink since, unfortunately, there is no heat or water in the church - only power.



NEWS FROM THE VOLKSLIEDERCHOR

Volksliederchor Harmonie, Regina — Anita Jadischke



We thank Gregor and Ilona Beck for hosting an outdoor gathering in the garden at their farm on August 16, 2020. A group of 16 enjoyed a warm afternoon in the most beautiful surroundings. It was great to visit with several choir members. All those in attendance practised social distancing.

There is no indication when our choir might reconvene.

NEWS FROM THE SCHULHAUS

Das Schulhaus - German Language School Regina — Stephanie Schäfer

A short history of the School Cone or Sugar Cone.

The first day of school for any first grader is a very special day and will be filled with lots of memories.

In Germany it is a lovely tradition to give a cone-shaped “Schultüte” (literally “school bag”) filled with some special school supplies and sweets to make this day even more unique. Every child displays their school cone with great pride as they enter this next step in life.

This wonderful ritual started in the late 1800s when people gave first graders a small cone shaped paper bag (similar to a paper bag for roasted sugar coated almonds!) filled with some goodies to sweeten the child’s transition from play to school and therefore to “real life!” Over time, the look of a Schultüte changed from its humble beginnings of the small brown grocery paper bag to hand crafted school cones or even some very extravagant art projects. Meanwhile, you can spend up to €40 (~\$60 CAD) just for the bag itself or you can make your own. The fillings usually consist of small school supplies like pencils, erasers, sticky notes, name tags, pens and colouring pens as well as some small toys and yummy sweets, or anything else a parent may think of.

Das Schulhaus Team was busy this summer and created some beautiful Schultüten for a small fundraiser and is selling them for \$12 each in Regina. Come and join us to bring this lovely German tradition to Saskatchewan. We also have an ongoing fundraiser with Sarcan’s Drop&Go program, where you can donate the money from your recycling returns to Das Schulhaus. The account name is “Das Schulhaus” and our group phrase is: GERMAN SCHOOL IS COOL.

Due to COVID-19 Das Schulhaus is offering language classes for the 2020/2021 school year in an online classroom setting until we are allowed back into regular classrooms. Our teachers have been busy with online



teaching workshops and are looking forward to seeing and teaching their students again. For more information and to register for classes, please, visit our comprehensive website at dasSchulhaus.org.

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Buchstabengitter

In dem Buchstabengitter haben sich 10 Wörter zum Herbst versteckt.
Finde die Wörter und kreise sie rot ein. Viel Erfolg!



Blätter, Regen, Sturm, Hagel, Kastanie,
Eichel, Halloween, Eichhörnchen, Regenschirm, Pilze



E	D	P	I	L	Z	E	D	C	V	B	N	M	Z	W
R	R	D	D	G	Z	H	J	U	R	E	G	E	N	S
T	T	A	D	S	X	Y	S	H	J	K	L	T	L	X
Z	K	A	S	T	A	N	I	E	B	F	H	S	K	D
H	D	F	F	F	T	G	H	H	L	V	N	T	I	F
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D	K	J	R	E	G	E	N	S	C	H	I	R	M	D
C	H	Z	J	U	I	K	O	L	I	U	Z	T	B	N

Witze

Treffen sich zwei Mäuse und plaudern. Auf einmal fliegt eine Fledermaus vorbei. Da sagt die eine Maus zur anderen: «Wenn ich gross bin, werde ich auch Pilot!»

Frage: Welcher Zahn beißt nie?

Antwort: der Löwenzahn

Fritz fragt den Lehrer: «Kann man eigentlich bestraft werden, wenn man nichts gemacht hat?»

«Natürlich nicht!», entgegnet dieser.

«Prima», meint Fritz, «ich hab nämlich meine Hausaufgaben nicht gemacht!»

Die Mutter zu ihrem Sohn: «Kannst du bitte schnell den Salzstreuer auffüllen?» Eine Stunde später kommt der Kleine schluchzend und schniefend aus der Küche: «Ich schaffs einfach nicht das Zeug durch die Löcher zu stopfen!»

Frage: Was antwortet in allen Sprachen? Was spricht ohne Mund? Was hört ohne Ohren?

Antwort: Das Echo.

Johanna zum Papa: Ich wünsche mir als Geschenk ein Pony zu Weihnachten.

Papa: Geht in Ordnung.

Johanna: Wirklich, ich liebe dich über alles!

Papa an Heiligabend: So Johanna, dein Friseurtermin steht.

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ROSA GEBHARDT & FRANZISKA DAVIES-PERRET

APPLE STRUDEL

VIENNA STYLE

(Wiener Apfelstrudel)

Ingredients:

Dough:

- 300g sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1tbsp. vegetable oil
- ½tsp. salt
- 1tsp. lemon juice
- Warm water

Filling:

- 1.5kg Golden Delicious apples
- 120g sugar
- 1tsp. cinnamon
- 75g flaked almonds toasted
- 100g raisins or currants
- 1 lemon – zest
- 75g melted butter
- 1cup fine bread crumbs
- ¼cup rum (optional)

Preparation:

Combine all ingredients and knead with machine into a silky smooth elastic dough. Shape into ball, place under warm bowl and let rest for 20 min.



Roll out on floured surface into rectangular shape. Transfer onto floured cloth and pull dough with back of your hands until dough is paper thin.

Peel, core and slice apples. Combine with sugar, cinnamon, raisins, lemon zest and rum (optional).

Brush dough with melted butter and sprinkle with bread crumbs and almonds. Spread apple filling along long side of dough. Lift up cloth on long side and roll up. Transfer to greased baking sheet, tuck ends under to prevent juice from running out. Brush with remaining melted butter and sprinkle with bread crumbs.

Bake at 200°C for 45-50 min.

SAVORY APPLE TART

(APFEL FLAMMKUCHEN)

Ingredients:

Ingredients:

For the dough:

- 200g flour
- salt

1 egg yolk

2 tbsp oil

For the topping:

- 150g crème fraîche
- 3 tart red apples
- 3 tbsp cinnamon sugar mixture
- 50 g sliced, roasted hazelnuts (optional)



Preparation:

Combine flour, a pinch of salt, egg yolk, oil and 100 ml of water to form a smooth dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and let rest for 30min. at room temperature. Roll out the dough very thinly and place on a baking sheet lined with baking paper.

For the topping, spread a thin layer of crème fraîche

on the dough. Core the apples, cut into thin rings and place on the dough. Bake in a preheated oven at 400°F for 10 minutes or until the edges get dark.

Remove the tart from the oven and place on a wooden board, sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture. If you like some crunch, sprinkle with hazelnuts and serve hot!



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