

# POSTILLION

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

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*Winter 2020*  
Featuring: Traditions & Science

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## IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

SABINE DOEBEL-ATCHISON, EDITOR

Wer hätte im Frühjahr erwartet, dass wir uns zum Ende des Jahres noch in einer Pandemie befinden würden? Viele Gruppen haben ihre Programme den neuen Umständen anpassen können. Andere Gruppen warten noch darauf, dass Mitglieder sich wieder in größeren Gruppen sicher treffen können. Vielen Dank an alle Gruppen, die ihre Neuigkeiten im Postillion teilen.

Wissenschaftler auf der ganzen Welt arbeiten an Impfstoffen, Medikamenten und erforschen die Ausbreitung und Übertragung des Coronavirus. Für diese Ausgabe hatte ich die Gelegenheit zu einem Interview mit Markus Brinkmann von der University of Saskatchewan. Er spricht darin über Abwasser-Epidemiologie im Zusammenhang mit COVID-19.

Sie finden in dieser Ausgabe eine weihnachtliche Ausschneideseite mit Rezepten für Vanillekipferl und Zimtsterne - Lieblingsplätzchen in meiner Familie - und einer Anleitung zum Basteln von Fröbelsternen.

Fröhliche Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!

Who would have expected this spring that we would still be in a pandemic by the end of the year? Many groups have been able to adapt their programs to the new circumstances. Other groups are still waiting for members to meet safely in larger groups again. Thank you to all member groups who share their news in the Postillion.

Scientists around the world are working on vaccines, treatments and research the spread and transmission of the coronavirus. For this issue I had the opportunity to interview Markus Brinkmann from the University of Saskatchewan. He talks about wastewater epidemiology in connection with COVID-19.

In this issue we included a Christmas cutout-page with recipes for Vanillekipferl and cinnamon stars - favorites in my family - and a guide to crafting Fröbel stars.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



Saskatchewan, Barbara Hoggard-Lulay, and two Canadians presently living in Berlin. I really enjoyed Barbara's article in our last Postillion, called Celebrating 30 years of German Unity: Ottawa - Birthplace of "Two-plus-four".

- The City of Humboldt flew the German flag for German Heritage Month in Saskatchewan. I fondly remember our trip to Swift Current last year to initiate German Heritage Month.

- Gabi and I met with author, Dr. Alan Andersen, to discuss a separate publication based on his research for his popular book "Settling Saskatchewan". We have shared several emails since that meeting.

- I enjoyed a special webinar led by Laura Larsen regarding the history of Saskatchewan, sponsored by SGC.

- I also enjoyed the webinar with Nora Krug, sponsored by the Consulate General in Vancouver, as she talked frankly about the guilt her generation grew up with regarding the Holocaust.

- Probably my favourite webinar has been "Beyond All Memories - the Semer Ensemble and the Rescued Treasure of Jewish Musical Life in Nazi Berlin," sponsored by the Canadian Embassy and the Federal Republic of Germany. The musical selections were very moving, but I was most fascinated by the story of the incredibly talented people who discovered this lost and unique style of music and re-created it for posterity.

It has only been two months since last I wrote my message for the Postillion, but so much has been going on that I hardly know where to begin. So, in point form:

- In September, I gave my first virtual presentation at an online Germans from Russia genealogy conference, hosted by the AHSGR chapter in Edmonton.

- I really enjoyed the webinar sponsored by the Germany Embassy in Ottawa, the theme of which was 30 years of German reunification, and the special role Canada and then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney played in the process.

- There was a special video from Berlin by our previous Honorary Consul of Germany in



- The Finance Committee met to discuss ways to distribute unclaimed Member Group Funding in the form of Emergency COVID Funding. This was also discussed widely at SGC's virtual Board of Directors' Meeting on 8 November.

- Lastly, a word about the Postillion. Kudos to Sabine, Gabi and Franziska for producing another excellent publication. I want to also mention Brigitte's story about Max and Moritz in the last Postillion.

- A huge thank you goes out to all the member groups for the extra effort to keep communications alive within their groups, as they plan for a post-COVID future. This genuine effort was clearly evident at the 21 November SGC annual Round Table event. Thank you to all the representatives who attended this virtual Zoom event.

- A special mention goes out as well to Franziska for her series of cooking videos for her Kochlöffel and Nudelholz group.

- Gabi and Franziska are constantly working on other new initiatives to cooperate with other groups as an avenue of widening our sphere of interaction within Saskatchewan, i.e., the Nutrien Wonderhub Children's Museum, and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's planned celebration of the music of Beethoven, in the 250th anniversary year of his birth. He was born 17 December 1770 in Bonn.

Special Advent greetings and a Merry Christmas to everyone from the SGC Board of Directors. Auch einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!

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Nur zwei Monate her, als ich meinen letzten Bericht für den Postillion geschrieben habe. Aber so viel ist passiert, dass ich weiss kaum wo ich anfangen soll. Um es also kurz zu machen, beschreibe ich die vergangenen Ereignisse stichwortartig.

- Im September hielt ich meinen ersten virtuellen Vortrag bei einer Online-Konferenz zur Genealogie

der Deutschen aus Russland. Alles war von einer Gruppe in Edmonton organisiert.

- Zum Thema 30 Jahre deutsche Wiedervereinigung förderte die deutsche Botschaft in Ottawa ein Webinar in dem die besondere Rolle Kanadas und des damaligen PM Brian Mulroney diskutiert wurden. Es hat mir sehr gefallen.

- Zum selben Thema hielt Barbara Hoggard-Lulay, ehemalige Honorarkonsulin von Deutschland in Saskatchewan, zusammen mit zwei derzeit in Berlin lebenden Kanadiern, ein spezielles Video aus Berlin. Auch ihr Artikel im letzten Postillion hat mir sehr gefallen: Ottawa – Birthplace of "Two-plus-four".

- Die Stadt Humboldt hat die deutsche Flagge für den German Heritage Month in Saskatchewan gehisst. Ich erinnere mich gern an unsere Reise nach Swift Current im vergangenen Jahr zur Eröffnung des German Heritage Month.

- Gabi und ich trafen uns mit dem Autor, Dr. Alan Andersen, um ein neues Druckwerk zu besprechen. Er möchte die Recherchen für sein weitbekanntes Buch "Settling Saskatchewan" weiterführen. Seit diesem Treffen haben wir mehrere E-Mails ausgetauscht.

- Mir gefiel ein interessantes Webinar unter der Leitung von Laura Larsen bezüglich der Geschichte von Saskatchewan, das vom SGC unterstützt wurde.

- Mir gefiel auch das Webinar mit Nora Krug, das vom Generalkonsulat in Vancouver gesponsert wurde, in dem sie offen über die Schuld spricht, mit der ihre Generation in Bezug auf den Holocaust aufgewachsen ist.

- Mein Lieblings-Webinar hieß „Jenseits Aller Erinnerungen – das Semer-Ensemble und der gerettete Schatz des jüdischen Musiklebens im Nazi-Berlin“. Es wurde von der kanadischen Botschaft und der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

gefördert. Ein verlorener Musikstil wurde gefunden und neu erschaffen. Eine erstaunliche Geschichte!

- Durch die COVID-Pandemie wurden viele Aktivitäten der SGC-Mitgliedsgruppen abgesagt. Daher wurde ein Großteil der normalen Finanzierung der Mitgliedsgruppen nicht ausbezahlt. Dieses Geld soll nun verwendet werden, um den Gruppen zu helfen, die es jetzt am dringendsten brauchen, um diese Krise zu übersehen. Der SGC Finanzausschuss hat schon diese Situation begutachtet und sie wurde auch bei unserer virtuellen Vorstandssitzung am 8. November ausführlich besprochen.

- Noch ein Wort zum Postillion. Hut ab vor Sabine, Gabi und Franziska für noch eine weitere ausgezeichnete Publikation. Dank auch an Brigitte für die Geschichte von Max und Moritz!

- Ein großes Dankeschön geht an alle Mitgliedsgruppen für die große Bemühungen, die Kommunikation aufrechtzuerhalten, da sie für eine Zukunft nach dem Virus planen. Dieses aufrichtige Bemühen wurde am 21. November beim jährlichen Runden Tisch des SGC deutlich sichtbar. Vielen Dank an alle Vertreter, die an dieser virtuellen Zoom-Veranstaltung teilgenommen haben.

- Eine besondere Erwähnung geht auch an Franziska für ihre Serie von Kochvideos für ihre Kochlöffel- und Nudelholz Gruppe.

- Gabi und Franziska arbeiten ständig an weiteren neuen Initiativen zur Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Gruppen, um unseren Wirkungskreis in Saskatchewan zu erweitern, z.B. mit dem Nutrien Wonderhub Children's Museum und dem Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra für Feierlichkeiten zu Beethovens 250. Geburtstag. Er wurde am 17. Dezember 1770 in Bonn geboren.

Zum Schluß sendet der SGC Vorstand besondere Advents- und Weihnachtsgrüße an alle. And a Happy New Year!



# Honorary Consul Column

Dr. Michael Oelck,

Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

Innovation is an important driving force of collaboration between Germany and Canada. When I came to Canada in 1988, I was working for one of the largest German companies bringing German agriculture technology to Canada. For 15 years, I was involved in developing the first herbicide tolerant canola for Canada. Today, 25 years later, herbicide tolerant canola covers over 99% of Canadian canola acres. Between Bayer Crop Science and BASF, the technology is still largely in German hands, but brought to market by Canadian seed companies. So this was a huge success for the companies who invested billions into this technology, and it has changed the Canadian seed industry and agriculture until today. Over 20 million acres in Canada and more than half of this in Saskatchewan have been grown in 2020 contributing over \$9 billion last year to the income of Canadian farmers and processors.(1)

The German Ambassador Sabine Sparwasser decided that as a consequence of restricted meeting guidelines in these testing COVID days, she would initialize a number of webinars and one of them focused on Hydrogen. The result

was basically that we are at the beginning of another major collaboration between Germany and Canada for hydrogen technology – potentially even more successful than the canola innovations.

The Canadian federal government is about to launch a hydrogen strategy that will launch Canada into a leading position for hydrogen production as Natural Resources, Minister Seamus O'Reagan said on November 12, 2020. "The puck is going to Hydrogen, and Canada is destined to lead this industry which shall generate 350,000 jobs in Canada". Last month, Alberta released a natural gas strategy to produce a hydrogen supply chain which would also produce hydrogen fuel replacing oil for gasoline, and sequester carbon emissions. Hydrogen from natural gas is called blue hydrogen. All industrialized nations are developing their own strategy for hydrogen technology (2), and Germany has a very ambitious plan to pump \$9 billion into industry over four years to help its industry energy and transportation sector to transform. Trucks will run with hydrogen, and electric vehicles will

contain fuel cells using the hydrogen for battery powered electric engines. Germany will need to import 80% of the hydrogen it needs, and most of it may come from Canada. Most of the hydrogen should come from wind, water and solar power, producing green hydrogen which will render Carbon Capture and Storage obsolete. (3) However, the cost of producing hydrogen has to come down by half in order to be competitive with other energy sources.(4)

(1)

Canola Council of Canada, Winnipeg, accessed November 2020 <https://www.canolacouncil.org/biotech/about-canola/herbicide-tolerant-canola>

(2)

<https://www.corporateknights.com/channels/energy/hydrogens-big-moment-15996456>

(3)

Raffaele Piria of Adelphi, a Berlin based think tank in Germany

(4)

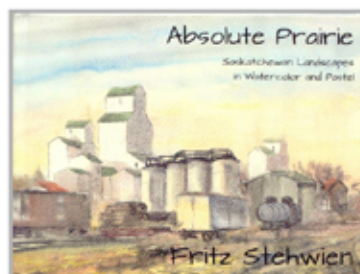
<https://www.corporateknights.com/channels/transportation/ev-production-can-help-refuel-post-pandemic-economy-15861868/>

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## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

### German Heritage Month

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, SGC Executive Director

Since German Heritage Month was first celebrated in 2017, the German flag was flown in Regina, Saskatoon, and Swift Current. This October, the City of Humboldt raised the German flag from October 1 – 8th to celebrate Culture Days and with it the diversity of cultures in their community.



In December 2016, the Canadian Parliament officially declared October “German Heritage Month” in order to “recognize the contributions that German-Canadians have made to Canadian society, the richness of the German language and culture, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon German heritage for future generations, and that the Waterloo Region is host to the largest Oktoberfest outside of Germany, by declaring October, every year, German Heritage Month, and the nine days commencing the Friday before Thanksgiving, every year, Oktoberfest”.

### Sankt Martin: Virtual Youth Night

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, SGC Executive Director

Nutrien Wonderhub in partnership with the SGC hosted a Virtual Youth Night with German cultural stories and lantern crafts. The event took place as a Facebook Live Event on Friday, November 27th, telling the story of Sankt Martin, a humble man whose act of kindness is honored each year by lasting traditions such as lighting lanterns and carrying them in processions, lighting a bonfire, re-enacting the Martin's story, eating goose (Martinsmas) or sweet pastries (Stutenkerl, Weckmänner).

German story tellers read the story of Sankt Martin and talked about their own childhood memories in celebrating Martinstag in Germany. The audience heard about the importance of passing on traditions and the message that Martinstag sends – kindness, helping, sharing, warmth and hope.

Participants were able to learn some lantern songs (Laternenlieder) along with the German vocabulary for some of the words. Anyone could follow along the live craft to create a lantern made out of sticks, crepe paper, glue and markers. To receive a lantern building kit, Wonderhub entered names into a draw.



A special thanks to the Nutrien Wonderhub team for creating this Virtual Youth Night and to Jessica Forster (CFCR Community Radio) and Kathleen Schroeder-Brass (German Language School Saskatoon) for being part of the event.

The video of the event as well as the accompanying booklet can be found on Wonderhub's facebook page under “Virtual Youth Night – German Cultural Stories & Lantern Craft.”

### Update from the SGC Immigrant Settlement Advisor

by Brigitte Strzeszewski, Immigrant Settlement Advisor

Our settlement advisor Brigitte continued to provide support to clients arriving in Saskatoon, mainly with the country of origin being India, Nigeria, Bangladesh and China. Clients with a university degree were in the majority, similar to previous years.

The main part of the service remained offered by phone, email and zoom, however we have expanded our presence at the Newcomer Information Centre on a regular basis. Clients were scheduled to meet there with the settlement advisor, and also qualified walk-ins were attended to.

A successful settlement process after all takes a considerable amount of time, especially because of the expanded service of bridging the gap to career success. Every client is assessed for their particular situation, needs and barriers. The case-by-case analysis enables the settlement advisor to target the individual support and connect clients to resources and community organizations.

The newcomer community was provided with regular “Community Updates” focusing on current issues and topics relevant to their settlement process.

In October, in cooperation with Dr. Laura Larsen, we organized our second WebEx webinar in 2020 “A Brief History of Saskatchewan”. Laura Larsen is



a Canadian prairie historian who holds a recent PhD from the University of Saskatchewan. Her research centers on the societal and historical understanding of agriculture as a form of regional, economic, and political identity on the Canadian prairies.

The webinar was a great success with attendees from the newcomer community, settlement agencies, LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) students and the interested general public. We received very positive feedback and comments, even from outside of our province.

The informative and entertaining video consisting of three segments, "A Land of Variations, Treaty People and Building the Province" can be watched on SGC's YouTube Channel. Feel free to share with family and friends!

Visit SGC's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1P4BUASik8UaTKRoxHf8ug>

Go directly to "A Brief History of Saskatchewan": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vzlvu8Yw5Y>

### Round Table 2020

by Franziska Davies-Perret, SGC Office & Program Assistant

The Round table usually takes place in Davidson and is held for SGC member groups, along with the SGC Board of Directors and staff. In a normal year there would be an education session, a break out session, and member consultations. The office staff would also update everyone on SGC's activities. However, since our province is still under COVID-19 restrictions and to follow health and safety guidelines, SGC opted for a virtual Round Table.

This year's Round Table took place on November 21 and focused mainly on COVID-19 transitioning and experiences. Members of KulturGarten Saskatoon and Kochlöffel & Nudelholz each gave a mini presentation about their activities during the pandemic and the importance to stay connected.

Representatives of 19 member groups as well as directors were divided into break out rooms with facilitators to lead the discussion. At the heart was finding out how member groups have been handling the pandemic, their currently level of activity and what the future looks like. The smaller discussions allowed for people to connect, share their experiences and need for support.

The office also updated the member representatives on a new initiative - COVID Emergency Funding. It was created to help better support member groups who have had to deal with the effects of the current pandemic. Regarding SGC programs and projects, the new interactive Advent calendar was introduced along with other programs and projects that involve some of the member groups and partner organizations.

At the end of the session, it was concluded that the member groups are still committed to continue promoting culture, language, customs and traditions reflecting a continuous strong provincial community.

### Advent Wreath Display

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, SGC Executive Director

SGC and its member group KulturGarten Saskatoon are bringing a beautiful

German tradition to Nutrien Wonderhub! An authentic, hand-made Advent wreath is displayed at the children's museum from November 30 to December 14, 2020. Members of KulturGarten Saskatoon cut greenery and bound it into a beautiful Advent wreath with red candles and ribbons. The wreath is hung off a wrought-iron stand, the big red candles are hand-colored and the candle holders were made by a blacksmith at the Western Development Museum.

SGC developed an accompanying booklet providing information about the Advent wreath, its history, traditions & customs and meanings & symbols. At Wonderhub's Create Space, children can complete a wreath craft, all in the spirit of this wonderful German Christmas tradition.



### Christmas Gift available from the Saskatchewan German Council



The SGC in partnership with Kochlöffel and Nudelholz: German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio have published a cookbook that contains a collection of Austrian, German and Swiss recipes. The recipes range from appetizers to soups to main dishes to desserts.

Available for \$25 from the SGC office.

# WE FOUND A HOME IN CANADA , PART 2/4

MERVIN WEISS & ADELE WAGNER

*Fast fünf Monate waren wir unterwegs.* We were on the road for almost five months, camping alongside the trail at a different spot each evening. Occasionally we were offered shelter from the winter weather in barns and other outbuildings along the way. The retreating German Wehrmacht was supposed to be responsible for feeding us, after our own provisions had run out. But we often had to beg for food from farmers along the way. At some point we were loaded onto a train and we eventually arrived at a refugee camp in eastern Germany. Our refugee registration forms were processed 03 March 1944 in Crimmitschau, Kreis Zwickau, Sachsen (Saxony), about 70 kilometres south of Leipzig. These forms now declared that we were German citizens. We were no longer Russians or Ukrainians. I remember thinking that this was rather odd, because I had thought we were Germans all along!

**CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY** 1203 86233

This certificate is issued to refugees who are the co-operation of the International Refugee Organization, with the approval of the American Section of the Allied Commission for Austria, through the International Refugee Organization. Its purpose is to serve as a temporary certificate pending the issuance of an international travel document, in so far as it affects the nationality of the bearer.

Surname: Engel Forename: Adele

Place and date of birth: Soukron, Ukraine, 10.12.35

Wife's name: -

Place and date of birth: -

Present residence: 130 Children's Home Bad Schallerbach

\*Minors accompanying and ages: -

Date of leaving former country: 1943

Particulars of identification documents: CM/1 No. 999.985

Occupation: Pupil Also: -

Country of destination: Canada

Countries of transit: Germany

Height: 151 cm Weight: 42 kg Eyes: blue Hair: blond

Signature: Engel Adele

The above information has been properly inscribed in my presence.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 20 July 1950

Office: [Stamp]

\*May include children, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews. If minors are between 16 and 21 years their pictures must be affixed.

I do not know how long we remained at Crimmitschau, but I do know that we were next re-located to German-occupied territory in Yugoslavia – all of us, Grandfather, Grandmother, Mother, Paul and I. My mother and grandparents worked on a farm near the rural community of Haselbach, about 50 kilometres northwest of Zagreb, Croatia, in what is today the Balkan country of Slovenia. The only compensation was room and board for all of us. The time in Yugoslavia was chaotic. The constant and persistent partisan resistance against the German occupiers resulted in frequent and unpredictable attacks on Nazi troops. Supporting air power from

the Western Allies lead to air-raid sirens and time spent in tightly-packed underground air-raid shelters. I remember well the claustrophobic fear of being trapped underground. By January of 1945, the Wehrmacht forces had crumbled and the Soviet Red Army began to steam-roller through Eastern Europe. By February, refugees were fleeing Poland by the tens of thousands ahead of the advancing Russian troops. The goal was simply to head west, away from the Russians, and towards the areas already held by the Allied powers.

The situation in Yugoslavia was slightly different because the German army was able to hold out longer against the anti-German partisans. Marshal Josip Tito had gathered a large force of partisans which gradually gained military control of most of Yugoslavia ahead of the Russian army. Just as the battles in our area began to intensify, Grandfather had a gall bladder attack and was rushed to a hospital for an emergency surgery. He died 18 February 1945 in Rau, Yugoslavia, where he was also buried. In March, the German authorities re-located us to Bruck an der Mur, a scenic town on the edge of the Alps in southeastern Austria. We were among the last of the Germans to be moved out of Yugoslavia. In Bruck we were given a small bungalow in which to live, and Mother worked on a nearby farm.

Germany finally surrendered to the Allies on May 8, 1945. But allied forces had not yet arrived in southern Austria to take control. The Russian forces were pressing from the east. The last of the Wehrmacht Army units from Yugoslavia, along with Croat partisans who had fought alongside them, began streaming through Bruck, heading towards Germany. Fearing reprisals, the Croats desperately wanted to surrender to British forces in Austria rather than being captured by Tito's men. The German soldiers were equally anxious to surrender to British or American forces, rather than being taken prisoners by the Russian Army.

On the morning of May 9, our family group, now reduced to Grandmother, Mother, Paul and I, along with several hundred other civilians, clambered aboard a kilometre-long convoy of Wehrmacht army vehicles which was retreating to Germany. Mother was placed in a separate vehicle while Grandmother, Paul and I traveled in a different one. During the night of May 12, the vehicle carrying mother broke down, and the rest of the convoy rolled on without stopping. We did not find out until morning, when we became frantic. Paul wanted to run back, but was stopped by the soldiers. We pleaded with officials to send someone back for our mother. But it would be sixteen years before we would see her again. We would later learn that Russian-backed partisans quickly surrounded the abandoned truck, arrested the Nazi soldiers as prisoners of war, and took the civilians, our desperate mother among them, to a concentration camp held by the Russians.

Within a day or two Grandmother, Paul and I arrived without our mother in the Austrian State of Kärnten or Carinthia. One night we slept in Army trucks which had been abandoned on the side of the road. We were directed to a refugee camp for displaced persons at Sankt Veit an der Glan. We had no luggage because it had been in the same vehicle as mother. We arrived literally with only the clothes on our backs. But here we found ourselves in the protection of the British Occupation Zone of Austria. Paul and Grandmother immediately made inquiries with authorities about finding our missing mother. Our poor Grandmother, 71 years old, was



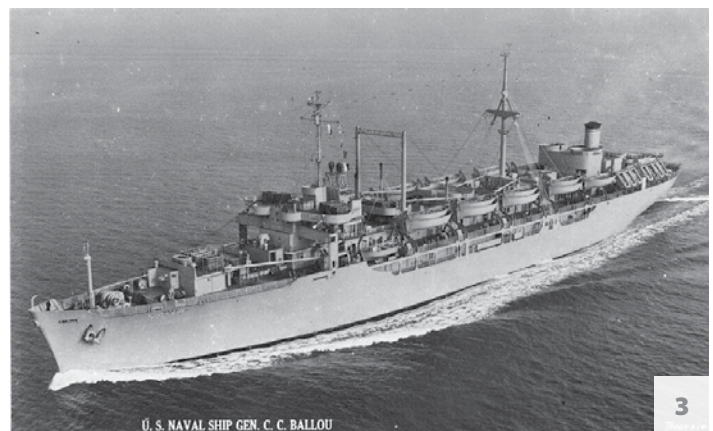
given work cleaning houses. One day, after cleaning in the rectory, she suffered a heart attack and died right in front of me. I remember crying over her body, vaguely aware of another woman behind me shrieking at the sight. It was 26 June 1945, and now we were just two – Paul and I. We were devastated, two orphans in a strange land. Unknown to us, our Uncle Alexander Engel, Father's brother, was also in Austria, also separated from his family, except for his adult son. He read Grandmother's obituary notice in the newspaper. He contacted us, and Paul and I then joined them in a Displaced Persons camp in Klagenfurt, Austria, which was only about 15 kilometres from where we were. We lived in a large barrack structure with long rows of bunk beds which served as a Displaced Persons camp. I was nine years old going on ten. Paul was nearly fourteen. The only food offered was a thin soup, twice a day, and occasionally a bit of bread. So Uncle sent Paul and me out into the village begging for food door to door. He felt that younger children would generate more sympathy and would be offered more food, which we dutifully took back to him for the four of us to eat. I remember foraging in the fields for frozen potatoes and turnips which had been missed by the farm workers. We looked for discarded apple cores, even food tins which we could lick out. We were always hungry.

Because so many able-bodied men had been lost in the war, farmers were always looking for help. One day a man observed Paul begging door-to-door and told him that he was certainly capable of working for food. There was no need for begging because there was lots of work available, and that is how we came to live with Franz and Maria Talk at Picheldorf. They had no children, and so Paul worked on the farm to provide both of us with shelter and food. The Talks were good to us. I started going to school, my first school!! This was probably in 1946. It was still a time of strict rationing after the war. Yet Maria, the mother, scrounged enough ingredients to make a birthday cake for me, my very first birthday cake! She pulled all the blinds so that the neighbours could not see that she was baking a cake. I remember swimming with some girlfriends from school in a nearby pond. I enjoyed the farm chores like picking apples and watching the cows in the pasture because there were no fences. Of course, I was barefoot all the time! I have good memories of living with the Talks. We spent the better part of a year with them.



The Talks wanted to adopt us, but Paul refused to admit that we were orphans. Until proven otherwise, he believed our parents were still alive, and that we would be re-united with them. We now fell under the authority of the IRO – International Refugee Organization founded by the new United Nations General Assembly. I was next placed in a Children's Home in Leoben, Austria. This was likely 1947 or 1948. Paul was too old already to live in the Children's Home, and so he worked as an apprentice, first in a bakery, and then in a blacksmith shop. Paul lived in another town, and I was able to take a train to visit him. Life was good. I had a clean bed to sleep in, plenty of food to eat, and lots of clothes to choose from as care packages arrived from overseas. This Home was actually a convent managed by nuns, and financed by Americans. I continued to attend school right across the street in Leoben, making some life-long friends there. I was growing up.

As the authorities found homes for the orphans, they began to consolidate the Displaced Persons camps. The last camp I lived in was the IRO Children's Home in Bad Schallerbach, Austria, northeast of Salzburg, close to the German border, in the American Occupation Zone. Lists of children needing homes were circulated. About this time, a couple from Australia offered to adopt us, but Paul refused, reasoning that we would never find our mother, or our father, if we moved to Australia. We still had no idea where our parents were. While we were still in Klagenfurt, Paul had met a neighbour from Neukron who told him that we had relatives in Canada. This turned out to be Fred and Frieda Krutsch in Davin, Saskatchewan. Frieda was a first cousin to my mother Emilie. Paul arranged to send a letter through the Red Cross. Fred and Frieda immediately sent a care package of food and clothing. The Krutsch family agreed to sponsor our emigration. An English Major with the IRO took us to Salzburg for our passports and emigration transit visas. They are dated 20 July 1950. We had lived in Austria for more than five years.



Paul and I and our small suitcases traveled by train to Bremen. Because neither of us spoke a word of English, tags were attached to our coats which stated our names and final destination. The American Authorities had arranged for our passage to Halifax aboard the USS General C.C. Ballou, a U.S. Navy transport ship. We arrived at Pier 21 on 19 October 1950. I was seasick for most of the voyage. Our Canadian sponsors paid the rail fare to Regina. We arrived in Regina, and then Davin, six days after leaving Halifax. Paul was 19, and I was almost 15. It would be another new beginning, but I was used to them by now!

*Photos: 1. Adele's Certificate of Identity. 2. Paul and Adele in Salzburg. 3. Photo of USS General CC Ballou.*



# Rolling Calendar of Events



## Events

### Every Sunday, 1pm-3pm: CFCR 90.5 Saskatoon Community Radio

Hosts are back in the studio for the newly renamed German program "Deutsche Klangfabrik"! Listen live on Sundays from 1pm-3pm! You can also listen live at [www.cfcr.ca](http://www.cfcr.ca).

### Regina German Club

The Regina German Club continues to provide a menu from Tuesday through Friday between 11:30am and 5:30pm. Meals will be available only for curb side pick up. Watch their social media for menu items and contact the club to place your orders.



### Kochlöffel and Nudelholz: German- Canadian Koch- und Backstudio

December 1 – 12: 12 Days of Christmas Recipes, each day a new recipe will be posted! Check out Kochlöffel's YouTube channel for cooking videos.

January 18, 2021: Invasive species and their cultural, culinary and medicinal history. Presentation via Zoom. Register at [kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com](mailto:kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com)

## Fundraiser

### Das Schulhaus – Regina German Language School Inc

Das Schulhaus has signed for a "Drop & Go" account at Sacran. Drop off your recycling at any one of the Sacran locations across the province and the proceeds will go directly to Das Schulhaus.

Das Schulhaus is doing another fundraiser with Norwex. Anybody can purchase and ship Norwex products to family and friends across Canada. Go to [http://cyndydoxtator.norwex.biz/en\\_CA/customer/party/5126757](http://cyndydoxtator.norwex.biz/en_CA/customer/party/5126757)

### German Language School Saskatoon

The German Language School has signed for a "Drop & Go" account at Sacran. Drop off your recycling at any one of the Sacran locations across the province and the proceeds will go directly to the German Language School Saskatoon.

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# Research and Innovation in Saskatchewan: Wastewater Analysis and COVID-19

## An Interview with Dr. Marcus Brinkmann, Assistant Professor at the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan

Sabine Doebl-Atchison

We are still in a global pandemic and words like Coronavirus, COVID-19 and SARS-Cov2 will likely be with us for a long time. While the development of a vaccine is making progress right here in Saskatchewan and around the world, scientists from various fields are doing their part to assist in controlling and fighting the virus. One field that is likely not among the first ones many people think of in conjunction with COVID-19 is wastewater based epidemiology. Though in recent weeks and months it has gained some public interest. At the University of Saskatchewan's School of Environment and Sustainability, Dr. Marcus Brinkmann is analyzing Saskatoon's wastewater and able to identify trends with regard to the spread of the virus in the community.

**Postillion:** I am sure many of our readers have never heard of wastewater based epidemiology. What is the science behind it and what makes this field interesting to you?

**Markus Brinkmann:** Humans infected with the novel coronavirus shed virus particles through their feces. The goal of this research is to use composite wastewater samples to obtain epidemiological information about an entire population, e.g., Saskatoon, instead of relying on data from individual nasopharyngeal swab samples. The advantage is that this method also detects asymptomatic and, to some extent, pre-symptomatic individuals even before they would show up at the testing sites.

**Postillion:** Has this method been used for other viruses before?

**Markus Brinkmann:** Wastewater based epidemiology is not a brand-new idea. It has previously been used to track other viruses, such as influenza. Since wastewater is reflective of a whole pool of human excretion products, there is more that can be analyzed, ranging from illicit drug use to pharmaceutical consumption patterns to markers of population-level health markers.

**Postillion:** With regard to COVID-19, what information can your testing provide, that regular COVID tests in humans cannot?

**Markus Brinkmann:** With our method, we can obtain a more nuanced picture of an outbreak. Due to the ability of the method to catch asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases, we can provide an advance warning to health care professionals and public health officials. In our experience, we can predict increases in case numbers about 7 to 10 days ahead. This helps to prepare for potential increases in testing volumes or hospitalizations. Nonetheless, it is important to stress that this method does not replace tests performed on individual swab samples. These are still required for contact tracing and individual quarantine orders, etc.

**Postillion:** How long have you been tracking the concentration of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the city's wastewater?

**Markus Brinkmann:** We started this research in July and have been tracking the levels of

the virus in Saskatoon's wastewater since then, with an increase in sampling frequency since October.

**Postillion:** What is the current status of Saskatoon's waste water? How high is the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in the waste water? What trend are you seeing?

**Markus Brinkmann:** In our latest news release, we had seen a steep increase of viral traces in the wastewater, which was followed by a spike in cases leading to up to the weekend of Nov. 21. More recent samples are currently processed, and we are curious to see if we can hope for the situation to relax a little.

**Postillion:** Is this wastewater research currently done in other communities in Saskatchewan as well?

**Markus Brinkmann:** A group at the University of Regina is working with the treatment plant there, and other plants and municipalities have indicated their interest. We are currently in the process of securing funding for this research to go forward, and that would ideally include the monitoring of many more communities across Saskatchewan.

**Postillion:** How responsive are the various levels of government to your findings?

**Markus Brinkmann:** We are working directly with the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Health Authority and provide frequent updates on our findings. Various levels of government have signaled that they value our data as an





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additional line of evidence. Going forward, it is our plan to provide a public online dashboard that will provide easily accessible and frequent updates to the general public.

**Postillion:** Can residents be certain that water is not contagious once it's been treated?

**Markus Brinkmann:** While some of the virus that is being shed through feces can still be infectious, most studies to date show that conventional wastewater treatment removes virtually all of it. Especially when combined with a chemical and/or UV sanitation step, like here in Saskatoon, the water can be expected to be non-contagious.

**Postillion:** In the summer issue of the Postillion we printed an interview with Volker Gerds from VIDO. His children, like yours, attended the Hansel & Gretel English-German Preschool Program in Saskatoon. I would like to ask you a question that I asked him as well. How do you explain the pandemic to your children?

**Markus Brinkmann:** We have had many conversations around illnesses with our children when it was time to get our annual flu shots or any of

the other standard immunizations our kids receive. So explaining the current pandemic flowed naturally from these conversations. It is a prime example of why we need vaccines to control the spread of diseases. In my opinion, it is important to keep a solutions-oriented mindset in these trying times, and with Volker Gerds at VIDO, it fills us with pride to have a German expert leading the Canadian efforts to find a vaccine.

**Postillion:** You've been in Saskatoon for four years. How important is it for you to maintain the German language and culture and also pass it on to your children.

**Markus Brinkmann:** Saskatoon has become home for us in just four short years. Our sons moved to Canada from Germany with us, and our wonderful twin daughters were born last year. Maintaining our language and culture is very important to us, and having access to the excellent programming and teachers at the Hansel & Gretel English-German Preschool program is key to achieve that. The Saskatchewan German Council and Saskatoon's German community also helped us a lot getting settled in Saskatoon, for which we are very grateful.

## **TRANSLATION & NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES AT SGC**

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# Weihnachtsplätzchen

## Vanillekipferl (about 100 pieces)

200 g flour  
1 knife tip of baking powder  
100 g sugar  
1 package of vanilla sugar  
1 egg  
125 g butter  
100 g ground almonds

50 g icing sugar  
1 package vanilla sugar

Prepare your cookie sheets by lining them with baking paper and preheat the oven to 180°C.

Combine flour with baking powder in a bowl, then add the rest of the ingredients. Combine all with the dough hook of your mixer on the low setting. Then turn it up to high to form a dough. Turn the dough onto a floured surface and knead into a smooth dough.

Roll the dough pencil thick and cut it into 4-5cm long pieces, roll the ends of each piece a little thinner, then form a croissant shape. Place them on the cookie sheet and bake for 10 minutes.

Combine the sugar with vanilla sugar and dust the Vanillekipferl while still hot. Let them cool down and dust again.



## Zimtsterne

500 g ground almonds  
3 egg whites  
400 g icing sugar  
1 1/2 tbsp cinnamon  
2 tbsp Kirschwasser (cherry liquor) or lemon juice

Whisk egg whites in your mixer until foamy and stiff. Gradually add sifted icing sugar until it forms into a meringue. Put about 1/3 of meringue aside for later use (cover well) and mix the rest together with ground almonds, cinnamon and Kirschwasser or lemon juice into a dough.

Dust the working table with icing sugar and roll out the dough about 1/2 cm thick. Take a star cookie cutter and cut as many as possible. They might stick to the working table so use a cookie spatula. Place them on a cookie sheet lined with baking paper. Rework the dough until finished. Take out the meringue you set aside earlier and glaze all cookies. Let the cookies sit until the next day and then bake at 180°C for about 8-10 minutes. The meringue should stay white or only be slightly brown on the edges.



# Fröbelstern

## History:

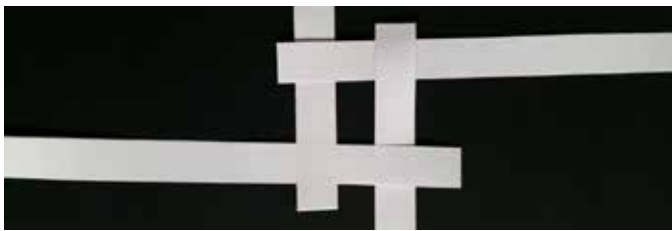
The Fröbel star (Fröbelstern) carries the name of the German educationist Friedrich Fröbel (1782–1852), founder of the Kindergarten concept. He encouraged the use of paper folding in pre-primary education with the aim of conveying simple mathematical concepts to children. It is, however, likely that Froebel did not invent this item and that it had already been within the realm of general knowledge for a long time. Froebel did encourage paper folding as an activity for young children and he popularized discourse about children's activities, which is how his name and the folding instructions might have become related.

Descriptions of how to fold a Froebel star date back to at least the 19th century. In Germany the name Fröbelstern has been the common name for this paper decoration since the 1960s. It is used as an ornament on Christmas trees and wreaths, and to make garlands and mobiles. Fröbel stars are very common in Germany, although few people know how to make them. (Wikipedia)

## Instructions:

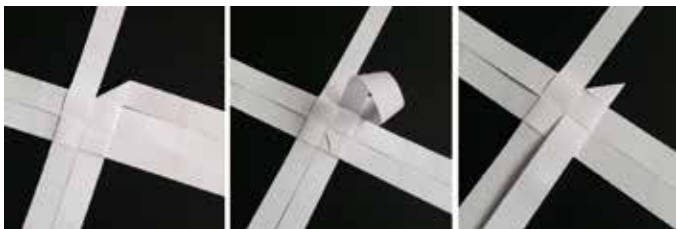
### Materials:

- A package of weave strips – or make themselves. Strips sized 1.5 cm x 44 cm gives medium stars.
- Scissors
- Thread or wire for hanging



### Base – Center:

1. Take – or make 4 strips- fold them in half. Cut the ends pointed or slanted, it makes them easier to weave with.
2. Assemble them as shown to form a locked, but not too tight square.
3. Take the top strip and bend it across the middle.
4. Repeat with the remaining strips. It does not matter whether you go clockwise or counter clockwise. Insert the last strip under the first. Gently pull through to form a locked square again.
5. Now the centre of the Christmas star is finished. It is time to make the characteristic triangular flat prongs.



### Side flat prongs:

6. Start with the right strip and fold it back and down the side so that it is flush with the centre. Press it flat it should form a triangle.
7. There are some people that make the triangle flat here. I think that

it's easier to get it folded neatly if you fold it like I do in the picture. Turn the strip halfway and stick it down under making the pointed triangle.

8. Repeat with the remaining strips. It is an advantage to turn the star when you fold it. I have not shown that in the photos.

Now turn the star over and repeat steps 6 to 8.

You can stop here and get a nice flat star, cut the loose ends and the star is ready.



### The cone-shaped tips in the middle of the star:

9. Bend the strip on the right side backwards so you can see the bottom of the star. Take the bottom strip and bend it upwards.
10. Now bend the strip backwards and away from the centre to create an even-cut triangle at the top. Squeeze carefully on the top and bend it around.
11. Continue all the way around – it's making it much easier to see where to insert the strip.
12. Insert the first strip under the upper horizontal strip. Push the strip through so that it comes out in the middle of the flat side prong on the opposite side. Gently pull to form a cone-shaped tip.
13. Repeat step 12 to form the other cone-shaped tips – go counter-clockwise and continue until all four tips are formed. If you want to glue the star on a card or a gift stop here.
14. Turn the star around and repeat steps 9 to 13 to form the 4 cone-shaped tips on the opposite side.
15. Cut the ends of all the flat prongs with a scissor. Be careful not to cut into the star itself. You have finished your Fröbel star!

Instructions from: <https://danishthings.com/en/froebel-star-a-classic-danish-christmas-decoration/>



# 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.

## WINTER IS HERE IN THE QUEEN CITY

**German-Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina** —Patrick Kossmann



1



2



3

Activity at the Regina German has reduced significantly since last March when restrictions started being placed on our lives. With the loss of large gatherings inside the board started making plans as to how the club could still remain open and a source of German Cultural content in Regina. With that in mind we placed our efforts into our food production and specifically Bryce and the Schnitzel he makes.

The club, which was normally opened for lunches Tuesday to Friday, continued offering food for take-out. We opened up the hours food is available to include supper (11:00 am to 6:00 pm). Schnitzel is featured every day we are opened, but there are also often daily specials that allow you to try other offerings from the

kitchen. Patio BBQ's were popular during the summer. Many patrons came to the club on a Saturday to enjoy a beer outside and some Bratwurst. Once limitations had been lifted for inside meetings we added twice monthly Mahlzeits. These events offered patrons the option of dining in our hall in a physically distanced manner, or taking their food home as takeout. These events have been well attended for the most part, but with new restrictions in place will be moving to a takeout only option. Go to the Regina German Club facebook page to see our daily meal options as well as our Mahlzeit meal options.

The club has been working with the city of Regina to restore the Glockenspiel to its place

in Victoria Park. The Glockenspiel had been a gift to Regina by the German community and had been removed 10 years ago when the park was being renovated. We are happy to say that after several years of work the new structure is ready for use. The bells will play again and can be heard weekdays at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm and on Saturdays at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. It is nice to see the bells standing again and hear them ring out as a sign of friendship between the German community and all people of Regina.

To find out more about what we are doing and take part in any of our upcoming events please follow us on Facebook or visit our website

*1. German meal at Mahlzeit. 2. Hall setup with physical distancing. 3. Glockenspiel in Regina.*

## NEWS FROM THE CONCORDIA BRASS BAND

**Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon** — Yvonne Kristoff

Concordia Brass Band has been completely shut down by COVID-19 restrictions at this time. The mandatory mask indoors requirement shut it down as well as the no gatherings over five people. We received a grant to purchase music

but we can't even work on that because we cannot gather as a small committee in anyone's home. We have no pictures to share at this time because when we were rehearsing we had to do it from such a distance that it was not possible

to take pictures. This is certainly an unusual year with difficult circumstances. It will be so good when everyone is vaccinated and things can return to normal.

## 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

## UPDATE FROM THE AUSTRIAN SCHUHPLATTLERS

**Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers, Regina** — Allison Ekdahl-Johnston

Wow, it's hard to believe it's already December!

After consultations with our Board of Directors and with St. Anthony's Parish we decided to start our dance practices on October 6th! Many of us were happy to see familiar faces and get back to a new normal with dancing. It was lovely having something to look forward to on Tuesday nights. The "new normal" with all dancers wearing masks, lots of hand washing/sanitizing, recording all who came into the Church and of course sanitizing as we left the Church. We had about 6 practices until we were approached by many families stating with the increase of COVID-19 cases they wanted to step back until 2021. As a group we very much understood why, and that with the Christmas season coming up families wanted to stay safe and healthy. With this change of participation it left us with limited number of dancers, so it was a clear decision that we needed to put all dance practices on hold until we could come together as a whole. We don't want to leave dancers behind. We hope that the case numbers come down and that we can all feel safe and relaxed at Christmas. Until then we are on hold, but are hopeful 2021 brings our families back together having fun and preparing for when we can perform again.

## NEWS FROM THE REGINA VOLKSLIEDERCHOR

**Volksliederchor Harmonie, Regina** — Anita Jadischke

Due to COVID-19, our choir practices have been suspended since March 17, 2020.

We are not expecting to resume our rehearsals this coming January, although we do hope to be back for the fall session in 2021.

We wish everyone a Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!

## NEWS FROM THE CONCORDIA CLUB

**German-Canadian Club Concordia, Saskatoon** — Flo Broten

I'm sad to say that the German Cultural Centre property has still not sold.

We had a very successful garage sale. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make the sale successful! We still have a few items for sale – primarily office furniture and dishes. If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, please contact me at flobroten@gmail.com.

After the closure of the Club, a number of members were getting together for coffee on Friday afternoons. With the alarming increase of COVID-19 cases in Saskatoon, our Kaffeeklatsch is now virtual. We are able to join via Zoom or telephone, which works very well for those without a computer. Dr. Megan O'Connell at the U of S has established a program to help older adults stay in contact with each other while COVID is keeping us from getting together. You can get more information at SupportOA.ca.

Wir wünschen allen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und gesundes neues Jahr! And we hope 2021 will be better than 2020. Stay safe!

# UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGATEN

**KulturGarten, Saskatoon** — *Brigitte Boldt-Leppin*

Keeping the required distance due to the ongoing epidemic, the KulturGarten members met monthly for their Stammtisch. We brainstormed and discussed future projects, as well as options to visually display them.

The purchase of two upright banners to depict the cultural events hosted by KulturGarten was decided. The final design is in progress and hopefully can be unveiled next year at the Heritage Festival.

Unfortunately, the Advents Kaffee, planned for this year, had to be canceled. However, we were approached to bind and decorate our large Adventskranz to be displayed at the Nutrien WonderHub (formerly Children's Discovery Museum) in Saskatoon as part of their Heritage Exhibition. The meaning and story of Advent will be featured virtually by the Museum.

What is Advent?

Advent is the four-week period beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) through the following three Sundays. Historians estimate that Advent, which derives from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming" has been celebrated since the 4th century. Originally, this was the period of time for converts to Christianity to prepare for baptism, but it's now more commonly associated with the anticipation of the anniversary of Christ's birth on December 25.

Like many others aspects of modern Christmas practices, the Adventskranz and calendar are of German origin. From the early nineteenth century German Protestants began to mark the days of Advent either by burning a candle for the day or, more simply, marking walls or doors with a line of chalk each day. Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Hamburg, Germany is credited for the Advent wreath. In the year 1839 he built a large wooden ring which was made from an old cartwheel. This wheel had 20 small and 4 large white candles which would be lightened as countdown to Christmas.

A new practice of hanging a devotional image every day led to the creation of the first known handmade, wooden Advent calendar in 1851. Sometime in the early twentieth century the first printed calendars appeared, followed by Gerhard Lang's innovation of adding small doors in the 1920s. Calendars filled with chocolate began to appear from the late 1950s around the time that they also began to spread around the world.

References:

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/26522/brief-history-advent-calendars>

<https://doinghistoryinpublic.org/1-advent-calendars>

<http://www.sellmer-verlag.de/shop2/index.php>

1. *Traditional Adventskranz bound by KulturGarten.*  
2. *Illuminated wooden Advent calendar.* 3. *Advent, the time to prepare for Christmas.*

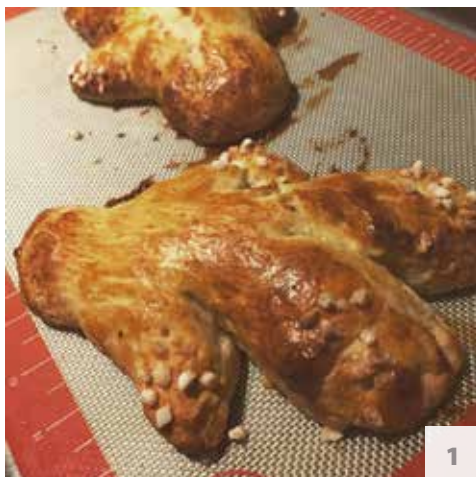


## WINTER SEASON AND CELEBRATIONS AT KOCHLÖFFEL

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

As of the end of November, there are 30 videos up on our YouTube channel ranging from drinks to appetizers to how to make your own Lebkuchen spices for Christmas. By the time you're reading this, I'll be in the midst or almost done posting recipes for my 12 Days of Christmas recipe videos. Granted, the 12 Days of Christmas start on December 25, but this year is full of exceptions so this can be added to that list.

Looking forward to the new year, I'm in the middle of planning 10 anniversary events since Kochlöffel is turning 10 in 2021 and after this year, it's important to celebrate milestones! The





## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

detailed information will be posted on SGC's event calendar and on the eupdate. If you want the information to come directly to your inbox, send a message to [kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com](mailto:kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com) to be added.

Thank you to Valerie Martz who attended SGC's Round Table on November 21! There was a good exchange between SGC's member groups on what this year looked like, how the groups are coping and what the future looks like for everyone. My take away from the meeting was that there will continue to be a solid community

in the future and when everything opens up again/returns to normal, we'll be ready to go!

"If you are what you eat, then I only want to eat the good stuff" – Remy (Patton Oswalt) in "Ratatouille" (2007)

Wishing everyone Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!

1. *Weckmänner* - a German Tradition. 2. *Weißer Glühwein* for cold winter days! 3. *Honey Apple Sponge Cake*.



## DAS SCHULHAUS MOTTO: KEEP GOING AND SURVIVE!

**Das Schulhaus - German Language School Regina** — *Stephanie Schaefer*

Das Schulhaus team is working hard to continue with language instruction by switching to virtual classrooms and we maintained two-thirds of our membership.

The Regina German School is teaching children classes on Saturday mornings and adult classes during the week on two evenings. We have about forty students this year, that's children and adults, down from 63 last year. Our children classes are: Grundschule (7-13), Mittelstufe (14-17, Teen Beginner & A2) and a Native Speaker Class (Muttersprache). We have three adult courses: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced/Conversation.

Our cultural events: Der Laternenumzug (lantern walk) was done on November 7. according COVID19 regulations. All other cultural event will be put on hold right now. Until we know it's safe to have them. Our "DeutschTreff" once a month was going well until COVID hit. As long as the weather was nice we met with lawn chairs 2M apart in Wascana Park.

All our big fundraising events like our Brunchraiser at BeerBros Gastropub and the Christkindlmarkt at the German Club had to be cancelled. We are trying smaller fundraisers like a continuous "Drop&Go" with Sarcan and a Schultüten sale that brought in small amounts of dollars. This will leave a huge hole in our budget.

Challenges were to get teachers and students ready for online teaching/learning and they give their best to adjust to the new situation. Our teachers took part in several workshops provided by KVDS, SOHL and a School internal workshop. After a few hiccups at the start of the school year the classes are running more smoothly and students, parents and teachers can breathe a little more easier.

We are always looking for people interested in teaching. If you know someone, please feel free to contact us at [dassschulhaus@gmail.com](mailto:dassschulhaus@gmail.com)

We would like to thank the SGC for their ongoing support - financially and through communication.



1. *Laternenumzug*. 2. *Teacher/Board Meeting with 2 metre physical distancing*.

## NEWS FROM HANSEL & GRETEL PRESCHOOL

**Hansel & Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon** — *Ulrike Hecker*

This preschool year started out as a very different year and our main focus will be to keep our children safe while helping them to learn and grow. Despite the challenges that we are facing due to the pandemic we feel profoundly grateful to being able to meet and teach our children in person.

In order to allow students to physically space out more, we had to adjust our curriculum. Instead of teaching inside, we spend a big part of our day outside and learning activities such as number and letter recognition are now implemented in nature play. Sticks turn into letters, rocks into math counters. Walking through the deep has

helped children to improve their gross motor skills (balance, body awareness etc.) and of course strengthened their immune system.

Teaching our students German happens "as we go". As one of our little ones was getting dressed for outside play the other day, he looked at me,



asking: "Frau Hecker, can you help me? I can't find my MÜTZE (hat) and my HANDSCHUHE (mitts)!" No flashcards needed!

Celebrating cultural events such as St. Martin and St. Nikolaus will look slightly different this year as visitors are not permitted in our classroom. In November we introduced our students to the St. Martin legend and the traditional lantern walk. Due to the school safety plan, Nikolaus won't be able to visit our school in December. Instead he will send our students a little video and visit

them virtually. I am sure he will use his magic to still fill their boots with special Nikolaus treats!

It has been heartwarming to watch the children build a community through play and exploration.

Even though we are dealing with unprecedented challenges this year, we will do our best to keep German traditions alive and will continue to provide a place for young children where "FUN meets LEARNING".

Registration for the 2020/21 preschool year will be online. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

*1. St. Martin is splitting his cape. 2. Outdoor learning! Covering the letter "A" with leaves. 3. Two bears hibernating in a cave.*

## GERMAN JUNIOR FOLK DANCERS UPDATE

**German Junior Folk Dancers, Saskatoon** —Barbara & Amanda Stehwien

As a very eventless Christmas season approaches, our group remains in an indefinite 'inactive' status.

With the recent large snowfall, we're hoping our kids are enjoying lots of outdoor activities and that many snowmen and snowforts have been built! This early winter wonderland is definitely the envy of the anyone we chat with 'back home' in Germany.

Our Culture Days work with Wonderhub (formerly known as Children's Museum) through SGC and SaskCulture was completed in October at the new riverside facility. We were excited to discover that we were Wonderhub's first venture into the world of dance, and in particular, cultural dance. As a result, there was a lot of curiosity, making this a great opportunity for us to show off our colourful costumes and dance, and talk about this age old tradition.

Of the hours of film footage taken, a short video resulted and was put online:

<https://www.facebook.com/wonderhubsk/videos/748964939018446/>

Also requested, was a downloadable activity to

go along with the above link. While that seemed like a challenge at first, our costume designer came through and offered help once again: Classic paperdolls to cut out and dress with two of our traditional dress, or Trachten. There are three sheets in total, with one pictured here. We're happy to email these at full size to anyone on request, as they seemed tricky to locate online: [barbaragjfd@gmail.com](mailto:barbaragjfd@gmail.com)

Our fundraising is ongoing, featuring our Trachten puzzles that can be ordered online at

[www.Stehwien.art](http://www.Stehwien.art) and a virtual Lebkuchen sale via email communication only this year.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday! Frohes Fest und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!



*1. Screenshot from the video: Demonstrating the trademark hand knotting found in German folk dance. 2. 1 of 3 activity sheets for our online Culture Days 2020*

# KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

## Witze

Der Hase zum Schneemann:  
"Gib mir deine Möhre oder  
hohl meinen Föhn raus."

Was hat Dezember, was  
andere Monate nicht haben?  
Den Buchstaben "D".

Warum können Weihnachts-  
bäume nicht gut häkeln.  
Nach einer gewissen Zeit  
lassen sie immer die Nadeln  
fallen.

Wo tanzen Schneemänner?  
Auf einem Schneeball.

Lehrerin: "Wer kann einen  
Satz mit Weihnachtsfest  
bilden?"

Fritzchen: "Der Elch hält sein  
Geweih nachts fest."

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."

Eine Schnecke kriecht im  
Winter einen Kirschbaum  
hoch. Kommt ein Vogel vorbei  
und fragt: "Was machst Du  
denn da?" Die Schnecke: "Ich  
will Kirschen essen." "Aber da  
hängt doch nichts dran," sagt  
da der Vogel. "Wenn ich oben  
bin, schon," antwortet die  
Schnecke.

## Fehler Suchen

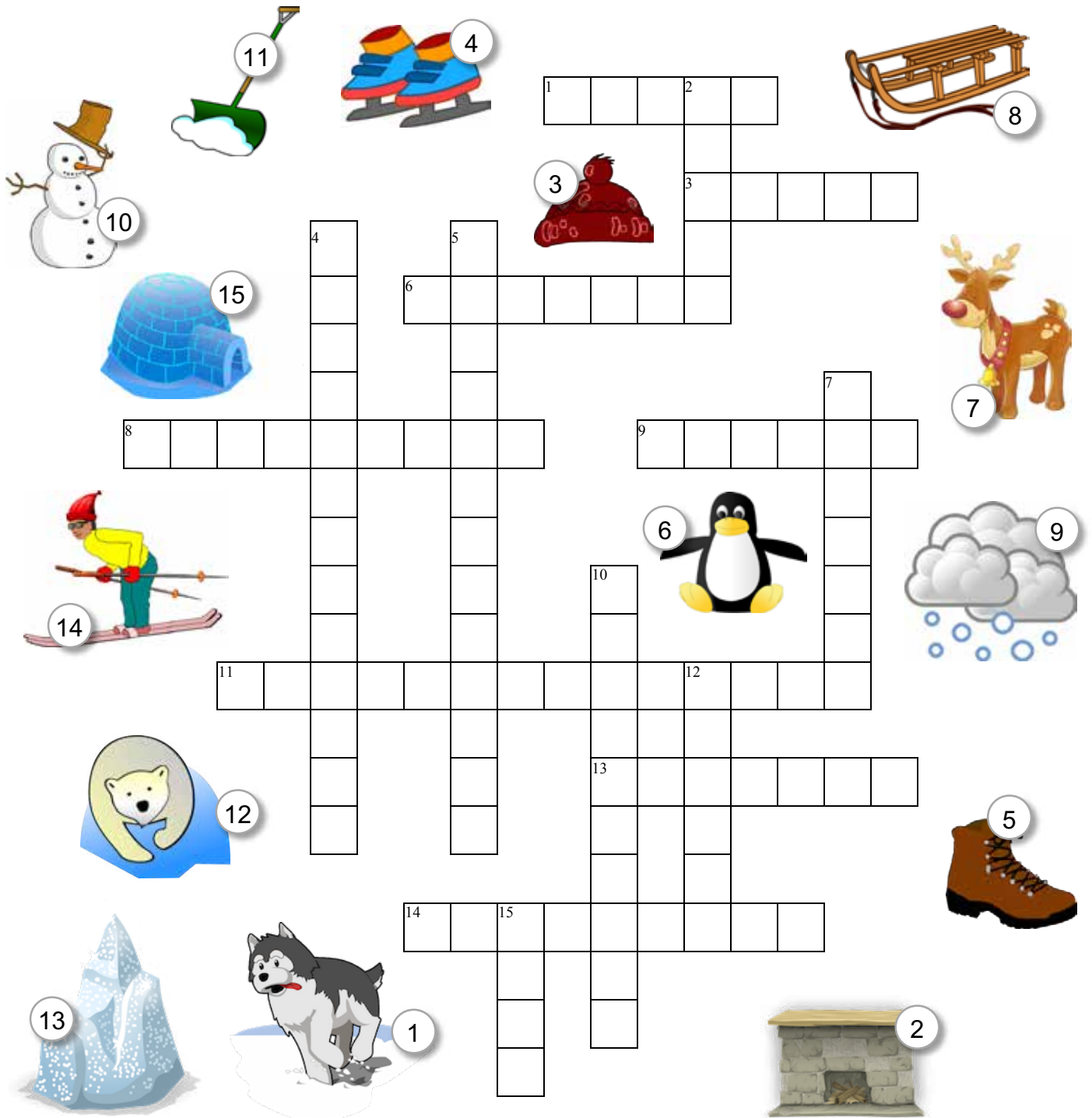
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# Kreuzworträtsel



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## RECIPE CORNER

SABINE DOEBEL-ATCHISON & FRANZISKA DAVIES PERRET

### RED CABBAGE

#### COLESLAW

(Rotkohl Rohkostsalat)

##### Ingredients:

- 1 small cabbage , shredded
- 2 carrots , shredded
- small piece of celery root, shredded
- 1 apple, finely diced
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 3 tbsp canola oil
- 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp sugar
- salt & pepper to taste

##### Preparation:

Place shredded cabbage, carrots, celery and diced apple and onion in a large salad bowl. Set aside.

In a seperate bowl, mix remaining ingredients and add to the shredded and diced vegetables.

Mix well and serve cold.



### RED CABBAGE

(Rotkohl)

##### Ingredients:

- 1 red cabbage (750g)
- 1 tbsp butter
- 2 onions
- salt & pepper
- 3 tbsp currant jelly/jam
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 juniper berries
- 500ml vegetable stock
- 200g apples
- 1 tsp corn starch
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar

##### Preparation:

Clean and remove outer leaves of red cabbage. Quarter and remove stem of cabbage. Cut strips from the pieces of cabbage. Dice onions.

Add butter into a pan, fry onions until clear and then add strips of red cabbage, let cook for 5 minutes. Add salt, pepper, and currant jelly. Next add bay leaf, juniper berries and vegetable stock, cover and let simmer for 20 minutes.

In the meantime, peel and remove seeds from apple. Dice into 1cm big pieces and all to the red



cabbage mixture, continue to simmer for another 10 minutes. Mix cornstarch and red wine vinegar, stir into the red cabbage mixture and bring to boil. Once done, take the red cabbage off the heat and serve.



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