

POSTILLION

Das Magazin des Saskatchewan German Councils
The quarterly magazine of the Saskatchewan German Council

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MORE THAN JUST BOOKS
CANADA AND SASKATCHEWAN AT
THE INT. BOOK FAIR IN GERMANY



Winter 2021
Featuring:

German Christmas in Saskatchewan

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Saskatchewan German Council Inc.
510 Cynthia Street, Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K7

Treaty 6 Territory & Homeland of the Métis

phone: 306-975-0845 fax: 306-242-8007

e-mail: office@saskgermancouncil.org

website: www.saskgermancouncil.org

Cover image: The Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon on the Int. Bookfair Frankfurt 2021. © Marc Jacquemin / Frankfurter Buchmesse



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IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

"Sehnsucht Saskatchewan" - das galt für mich schon seit vielen Jahrzehnten. Denn schon in den späten 1980 Jahren war ich als Austauschschüler in den Weiten des Westens. Zwar in Montana, doch erkundete ich auf Reisen mit meiner damaligen Gastfamilie die Weiten der kanadischen Prärie. Irgendwie muss es dann wohl Klick gemacht haben, denn es zog mich auch in den späteren Jahren immer wieder zurück in die Provinz Saskatchewan. Nach meiner Lehre als Fotograf und Studium der Volkskunde arbeitete ich als Redakteur für verschiedene deutsche und internationale Magazine. Nun sind meine Familie und ich also hier angekommen und ich freue mich darauf, das Magazin „Postillion“ für alle die Spass und Interesse an der deutschen Kultur haben, machen zu dürfen. Umso mehr freut es mich von Ihnen zu hören und werde den „Postillion“ weiterhin ein Sprachrohr für die deutsche Gemeinschaft in der Provinz sein lassen.

Ihr Gerald Freyer

"Sehnsucht Saskatchewan" - that has been true for me since a few decades. In the late 1980s I was an exchange student in the West. At that time I was in Montana but my guest family and I explored the Canadian prairie during my time here in the West. I think these travels had a deep impact to me, so I always returned to Saskatchewan with its great landscape and heartwarming people. After my apprenticeship as a photographer and study of folklore, I worked as an editor for various German and international magazines. So now my family and I have arrived here and I am looking forward to being able to do the magazine "Postillion" for everyone who is interested in the German culture of Saskatchewan. So I am all the more pleased to hear from you and will continue to let the "Postillion" be a mouthpiece for the German community in the provinces.

Your Gerald Freyer

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



First of all, we welcome a new Postillion editor – Gerald Freyer, and at the same time we send a huge Thank You to Sabine Doebl-Atchison for her work and dedication to our publication since 2018. SGC hopes to introduce a new look to the Postillion through the development of a new template by Rock & Bloom, the same firm which developed our new website.

Twenty-five participants attended the annual Round Table Meeting (October 16), held virtually again this year. Many member groups described their current and proposed future activities. The unknown future, thanks to Covid, was the main topic of conversation. This was discussed again at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting (October 29), also virtual. What can SGC do to motivate and rejuvenate our Member Groups after Covid? The Board continues to discuss a communications strategy – how can SGC do a better job of getting our "message" out to the Saskatchewan public?

It is nice to see people traveling again. I know several of our members enjoyed some time in Germany this fall. Michael Oelck wrote about his experiences in the last Postillion. Meanwhile your SGC office has been busy with a wide variety of activities, about some of which I would like to report.

October was once again German Heritage Month in Canada. This year the Town of Assiniboia proudly flew the German flag, at the same time that the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia hosted the Scissorcuts/Scherenschnitte Exhibition by artists Jessica Richter and Waltraude Stehwien.

A change at SGC will be the regrettable closure of the Immigrant Settlement Advisor office, as a result of recent changes to the way the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada wish to re-organize immigration services. We will miss Brigitte Strzeszewski's presence in the office, but we know that our paths will continue to cross. SGC has also entered into a formal agreement with several partners to host the permanent Eaton Memorial Internment Camp Exhibition at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum. We are hoping for a formal opening in the Kopko Interpretive Centre in May, 2022.

Gabi and I traveled to Regina (Oct 19) to attend the official re-dedication of the Glockenspiel in Victoria Park. It was a pleasure to connect with many SGC members who attended. Equally enjoyable was the virtual Berlin Tour (Oct 17). I found the presentation to be entertaining as well as very informative regarding the political history of Berlin.

The SGC website has added one new Immigration Story, this one from Arlene Fedorchuk. [Click here and read more](#). There are many more such stories out there, and we need you to write them. I continue to research statistics regarding immigration from Germany to Saskatchewan – something seemingly simple, but proving to be very difficult.

And that wraps up the year 2021. I wish all SGC members, staff and their families the joys of the Christmas season, and I wish

everyone a satisfying and healthy New Year. Frohe Weihnachten. Und Alles Gute zum neuen Jahr.

Schön dass Leute wieder reisen können. Mehrere unserer Mitglieder haben schon ihre Heimattorte in Deutschland besucht. Herr Michael Oelck hat schon im letzten Postillon von seiner Reise berichtet. Ihr SGC-Büro ist weiterhin mit einer Vielzahl von Aktivitäten beschäftigt, von denen ich Ihnen einige vorstellen möchte.

Zuerst begrüßen wir einen neuen Postillon-Redakteur, Gerald Freyer, und gleichzeitig bedanken wir uns herzlich bei Sabine Doebel-Atchison für ihre Arbeit und ihre Zueignung seit drei Jahre als Redakteurin. In der Zukunft wird der Postillon ein neues Aussehen haben, als SGC und Rock & Bloom eine neue Vorlage entwickeln. Rock & Bloom hat auch unsere neue Website entwickelt.

25 Mitglieder nahmen am jährlichen Runden TischTreffen(16.Okt)teil. Wieder fand es virtuell in diesem Jahr statt. Viele Mitgliedsgruppen berichteten über ihre derzeitigen und geplanten künftigen Aktivitäten. Das Hauptthema des Gesprächs war dank Covid die ungewisse Zukunft. Dies wurde auch bei der Herbstsitzung des Verwaltungsrats (29. Okt) diskutiert. Diese Sitzung fand ebenfalls virtuell statt. Was kann SGC machen, um ihre Mitgliedsgruppen nach Covid zu motivieren und zu verjüngen? Der Vorstand diskutiert weiterhin eine Kommunikationsstrategie - wie kann SGC unsere "Botschaft" besser zu den Menschen von Saskatchewan kommunizieren? In Kanada ist Oktober als Monat des deutschen Kulturerbes bekannt. In diesem Jahr zeigte die Stadt Assiniboia stolz die deutsche Flagge. Gleichzeitig präsentierte die Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia die Ausstellung "Scissors Cuts/Scherenschnitte" der Künstlerinnen Jessica Richter und Waltraude Stehwien.

Leider muss SGC das Büro des Beraters für die Niederlassung von Zuwanderern schließen. Die Regierungsbehörden wollen die Art und Weise, wie diese Dienstleistung geliefert wird, ändern. Wir werden Brigitte Strzeszewski im Büro vermissen, aber wir wissen, dass sich unsere Wege weiterhin kreuzen werden. Alles Gute in der Zukunft, Brigitte! SGC hat nun eine formelle Vereinbarung mit mehreren Partnern unterzeichnet, um die dauerhafte Ausstellung des Eaton Memorial Internment Camps im Saskatchewan Railway Museum unterzubringen. Wir hoffen auf eine offizielle Eröffnung im Kopko Interpretive Centre im Mai 2022.

Gabi und ich reisten nach Regina (19. Okt), um an der offiziellen Wiedereinweihung des Glockenspiels im Victoria Park teilzunehmen. Es war ein Vergnügen, mit vielen SGC-Mitgliedern in Kontakt zu kommen, die dort waren. Sehr spannend war die virtuelle Berlin-Tour (17. Okt). Ich fand die Präsentation über die politische Geschichte Berlins lehrreich und auch sehr informativ.

Die SGC-Website hat eine neue Einwanderungsgeschichte hinzugefügt, diese kam von Arlene Fedorchuk. [Hier klicken und weiter lesen](#) Wir wissen, dass noch viel mehr solcher Geschichten da draußen sind. Wir bitten Sie, sie zu schreiben. Ich recherchiere weiterhin nach Statistiken über die Einwanderung aus Deutschland nach Saskatchewan - etwas scheinbar Einfaches, das sich aber als sehr schwierig erweist.

Und jetzt ist das Jahr 2021 fast vorbei. Ich wünsche allen SGC-Mitgliedern, Mitarbeitern und ihren Familien ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein gesundes und erfolgreiches neues Jahr. Frohe Weihnachten und Alles Gute zum neuen Jahr.



Honorary Consul Column

Dr. Michael Oelck,

Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

My term on the board of SGC will be coming to an end soon, and I will not be up for renewal. I have enjoyed my time serving SGC, and I was involved in a lot of discussions about the direction, the strategy and the communication. In this column, I will talk about the future of SGC as I am looking at it from my subjective perspective, but also as a father of four children and as an immigrant with 30 years of Canada in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Nowadays, I am focusing on the second and third generation Germans in Canada. When I came here as an expatriate of a German company, I was working hard to fit into Canadian life with my family, but our family bridge to Germany was my most important life line. Letters and parcels from home were our biggest joy, also for the children. On my first year in Saskatoon on Oktoberfest Day, we all went to the German Club, but were disappointed, because the sausage was different, no "Löwensenf" was available, and the "Kartoffelsalat" was not like in Germany either – and worst I felt was that the waitress spoke only English. At that time, for me, Saskatchewan was very nice in terms of nature and canoeing, and it gave me a great job, but for me the cultural experience of Germany was missed dearly and by my wife even more.

Over the years, things changed, and my experience with Germans in Canada has grown. I have made friends and learned to love Canada in what it offered to me. Excellent sausage¹ was discovered in Saskatoon, and some of their products are better than in my home town in Germany. German bread² is available, too. I also started to like the few bits of German customs and culture that we found here, not so much for their authenticity but for the effort and enthusiasm of the people behind it. And for such reasons, I joined SGC, because I wanted to contribute and be part of what Saskatchewan Germans were doing.

Most recently, SGC has taken the Covid bull by the horns, and we used the money that was not requested by its members for events, and invested it in the new website which is up to see for everybody much beyond Saskatchewan. The new Christmas Calendar by SGC with the

help of Josephin Dick is a highlight again as it had been last year. I hope this will become a Saskatchewan tradition similar to the Festival of Trees at the WDM³. I see the website and the people behind it as the central element of German speaking people in Saskatchewan. Online we can easily keep things bilingual, because the language is the heart of every culture, and while we could not afford full bilingualism in print, it is quite easy online. We should never be lazy and say it is more work to write in two languages. It is that additional effort which has made Germany successful in the last 80 years, and in my view, Saskatchewan German Council should be the Saskatchewan Bridge to Germany in culture. Also Germans in Germany should be our audience, because technology makes it easy.

In Saskatchewan, this means, we should contribute to the Canadian mosaic of cultures, but not to the extent of losing our own culture and identity. And "we" means us Europeans, because we have a lot to give to all those people who may have lost a purpose. For example, while all positive things are taught as polite in Canada, in Europe kids learn in schools that every coin has two sides.

It was my own purpose to raise four children, one of them first generation Canadian, three still German nationals, and so we are an example how immigrant families develop further. For me, focusing on the future also means to focus on our young people. Our young second and third generation Germans in Saskatchewan are not only part of our future, but also our best ties to the European continent, because that is where they want to travel. Asia is just very far, and has very different cultures! Consequently, the Saskatchewan German Council should facilitate to bring our young generation into close contact with European culture, learn European languages, help them to travel to Europe, and create tools which would be available to everybody online. I am very certain that our French friends in Saskatchewan have the same goals and objectives as the Dutch, the Fins or the Swedes. If Canada wants to connect with Europe, there has to be an exchange of young people, and

SGC should be one of the groups facilitating and helping young people doing this.

The European Union has been a marvellous, historic, democratic development during our lifetime which will tame global technology giants, which pushes environmental and energy change, and which seems to be making impressive progress in science and social life and justice. A few birthing problems like dealing with nationalists and populists in various countries will need to be dealt with which will take time, but this should not obscure e.g. the shining example of the CETA⁴ partnership between Canada and our European countries. Canada, Germany and the European Union are all democratic systems which are similar in some ways, but not identical. Yet we all believe in liberal-economic, social-democratic governments. How they work, we want to teach our young generation.

Standing on this basis, I want to add that SGC should become the central authority in Saskatchewan to bring many young Europeans and many Canadians from Saskatchewan together. To learn about each other's' culture, to learn how to become tolerant to people of different cultures, to earn your own income as industrious citizens in economic progress and technology developments, and to feel responsible for shaping our world by contributing to public life, this is my view of where SGC should help young people in Saskatchewan to be, and the new website is a good starting point.

¹ Emco Foods and Prairie Meats

² Night Oven on 1st and Christies Mayfair Bakery on 33rd

³ Western Development Museum

⁴ Canadian European Free Trade Agreement

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021



On October 6, 2016, the Government of Canada signed the contract for Canada's Guest of Honor at the 2020 Frankfurt Book Fair. Because of COVID the International Book fair was postponed in 2021. The Department of Canadian Heritage has been entrusted with overall management by the Canadian government and is responsible for coordinating the engagement of the national, provincial, and territorial partners involved in the Guest of Honor project. Compared to the European cultural industries with its long history, Canada's book industry is very young, which is also reflected in its size. The branch consists of 260 English-speaking and over 100 French-speaking publishers. Its total turnover was estimated at 1.4 billion euros in 2018. It is extremely dynamic, open to new voices and increasingly reflects the diversity and cultural diversity of the Canadian population.

The Canadian provinces were also represented with their publishers and authors. Saskatchewan was doing well. With its almost 300 libraries alone, the Prairie Province is one of the top places in Canada for public libraries. Among the authors, representatives of the German community also traveled to Frankfurt.



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon opens the International Book Fair in Frankfurt Germany.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the 2020 International Book Fair was postponed by one year and did not take place until October 2021 with around 70,000 visitors from all over the world. In previous years this event had more than 300,000 visitors. This shows the great radiance of this fair in the international book market. First and foremost, the fair serves to present new books but also to the licensing business and thus to the publishers to present their books to an international audience. Anyone who is represented at the fair in Frankfurt has a great opportunity to present their products in the international book market. That is why the trade fair

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021



The book fair in Frankfurt is like a giant book store. Visitors enjoying their time and exploring new books.

appearances of the host countries are followed with particular attention. Because controlled by a specially established committee, small publishers and lesser-known authors from Saskatchewan now have the opportunity to present themselves to the international book industry and to market their products. The Canadian share of the international book business is certainly small, but the publishers were nevertheless able to generate sales of around \$ 80 million through the sale of book licenses through the book fair.

The importance that the Canadian government accords to the International Book Fair is also evident in Governor General Mary Simon's first trip abroad.



Due to the COVID restrictions, only 70,000 visitors came to the fair in October 2021.

MEMORIES OF THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

**GABRIELE WAIDELICH-HARRISON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SGC**

This year, Canada was the Frankfurt Book Fair Guest of Honour - a very special recognition. Congratulations Canada on this great honor!

In the 15th century, the German inventor, printer and publisher Johannes Gutenberg (Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg) introduced the mechanical movable-type printing press, starting the printing revolution in Europe. About 500 years later, in 1949, German exhibitors met in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt, for the first post-war book fair. Today, the Frankfurter Buchmesse (Book Fair) is the largest book fair in the world, the world's leading venue for printed and digital content, and host to many cultural events.

Before coming to Canada in 2001, I lived in Munich and worked for the renowned Carl Hanser Verlag (publishing house) as "Verlagsherstellerin" which translates into book producer/designer. After an apprenticeship in reprographics and studying printing technologies at the Johannes Gutenberg School in Stuttgart, I worked for a big book printing company in Ulm before moving to Bavaria's capital. I always loved producing books with clear layouts and typography for good readability, high-quality book binding materials, embossings, and more, sometimes transforming manuscripts written with an old-fashioned typewriter into aesthetic publications.

Carl Hanser Verlag (CHV) had an exciting atmosphere with its mix of artists, editors, proof-readers, translators, press staff, advertising professionals, reading events, and more. I was able to snatch autographs of visiting authors and illustrators and was excited and nervous when my produced books were hitting the printing machines, before discovering them on the shelves in the bookstores.

At the time, CHV published many non-German authors, including German translations of Canadian authors such as Michael Ondaatje and Mordecai Richler. Those books immigrated to Saskatchewan with me, lining bookshelves in my house in their original shrink-wrap.

Needless to say, my trips to the Frankfurt Book Fair as a member of the publishing world were thrilling! I remember catching the 5:00 am fast-speed train for the trip to Frankfurt, compartments packed "German-style" with staff of different publishing houses and other travelers. I recall wandering the exhibition halls with the wonderful booths, artistically displaying thousands of books. My favorite display was a suspended wooden ceiling with children's books hanging off long steel cables at eye-height, right in your face, ready to be looked at.

I look back on chats about the latest printing and publishing technology, luncheons with colleagues of other publishing houses, learning about new publishing trends, visiting the international publisher halls and getting inspired. The Frankfurt Book Fair is big, the most relevant international marketplace for content, and the largest gathering of publishing industry professionals in the world.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021

She opened the Frankfurt Book Fair with a celebratory speech and in her speech pointed out the greater importance of the indigenous population: *"Canadians and Germans have a lot in common: basic values, personal ties and common interests and goals. More than three million Canadians are of German descent, which further deepens our personal ties. In the recent past, Canadians have turned their attention to the importance and need for reconciliation with the indigenous peoples and faced the bitter truth about their treatment throughout our history. So we face our past and see it in a different light. Even if the truth hurts sometimes, we are stronger when we deal with it together and combine the mistakes of the past with the hope of the future. By listening to and learning from one another across borders and languages, we can promote inclusion and diversity in our respective countries and around the world. Better understanding can be promoted, among other things, by our deep and growing cultural relationships. Canada is proud and grateful to be the guest of honor at this year's Frankfurt Book Fair. I look forward to attending the opening ceremony and opening of the Canada Pavilion. We want to share the best of Canadian literature and culture with all Germans and the world."*

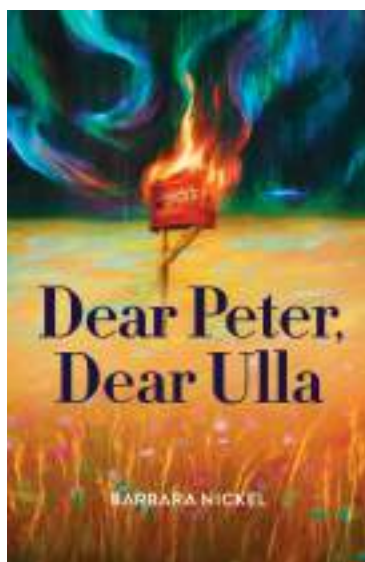
In general, the five days at the Frankfurt Book Fair were a great success. So



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon with visitors of the International Book Fair in Frankfurt Germany.

that you can find out more about the book fair, we have also made a list of the books by the authors from Saskatchewan available for you on the SGC's website. [Click here for the list](#)

WAR TIME MEMORIES



Dear Peter, Dear Ulla,
by Barbara Nickel, ISBN:
9781771872171, Sept.
2021 C\$16.95

Cousins Peter and Ulla were born on the same day but continents apart, Ulla in Danzig and Peter in a Mennonite farming community in Saskatchewan. Though they've never met, they've become close friends through the many letters they write to one another, until the outbreak of World War Two interrupts their conversation.

Are they supposed to consider one another enemies now that Canada and Germany are at war? While Peter deals with Bruno, a bullying neighbour boy, Ulla is secretly aiding Erwina, a Polish friend severely burned after her home in the Polish Post Office was attacked by the Nazis.

Dear Peter, Dear Ulla will have readers in thrall to the entwined lives of these two fiercely intelligent cousins who must confront issues of bullying, prejudice, and racial violence - some of the most challenging issues of their time, and ours.

ARTIST IN PRISON



The Power of a Paintbrush, by Chantal Stehwien and Barbara Stehwien, ISBN 9-780991-964963, C\$29.95

While it may be difficult to picture a mild mannered artist being forced to don a military uniform and go into war, this man's post-WWII escape story is definitely worth reading. Being held prisoner in Poland by the Russian Allied forces, Fritz Stehwien resorted to ingenious tactics to escape and make his way back home in 1946. This book tells the story of the power of a paintbrush across his journey, along with the unexpected kindness shown by supposed enemies -- revealing a level of humanity in times of war that is often left unreported.

This 30 page hardcover includes high resolution images of surviving original artworks by German/Canadian artist Fritz Stehwien, a map of the European locations, photos and more. Also available in the German language, on request.



Rolling Calendar

DECEMBER

Dec 1 - 24 24 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Kochlöffel and Nudelholz will be posting 24 non-traditional and traditional Christmas recipes, one per day, right up until Christmas! To get the recipes and to see how they are made, check out their YouTube channel.

Dec 1 - Dec 21 ADVENT WREATH AT THE NUTRIEN WONDERHUB

Visit the Nutrien Wonderhub and stop by the traditional, hand-bound Advent Wreath made by one of our member groups – the KulturGarten Saskatoon! For more information on Covid protocols and opening times, visit the Nutrien Wonderhub website.

Dec 14 - 17 & 21-22 ROULADEN MEAL FROM THE REGINA GERMAN CLUB

The Regina German Club is offering a jumbo frozen Rouladen meal for pick up from December 14-17 and 21-22, between 10:30am and 6pm.

Dec 19 KLANGFABRIK - GERMAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Listen to "Klangfabrik" – contemporary German music on a Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on CFCR 90.5 FM Saskatoon Community Radio.

JANUAR

Jan 22 BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY

Join the Regina Symphony on January 22 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm as they perform Beethoven's iconic Ninth Symphony.

FEBRUAR

Feb 1 - 23 JESSICA RICHTER AND WALTRAUDE STEHWIEN: SCISSOR CUTS / SCHERENSCHNITTE

In special partnership between the Organization of Saskatchewan Art Councils (OSAC) & the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC), the Scissor Cuts/Scherenschnitt exhibition will be at the Allie Griffin Art Gallery in Weyburn from February 1, 2022 to March 23, 2022.

MAY

MAY 7 MAHLER SYMPHONY 4

Eric Paetkau, Musik Director, leads the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in Mahler's ethereal 4th Symphony.



ERICA'S DIARY A PERSONAL HISTORY OF FLIGHT AND SAFETY - PART 2

DR. PATRICIA (TRISH) SPINDEL

She very much enjoyed the sea voyage and being a young girl became friends with some of the young sailors. After an uneventful trans-Atlantic crossing that only featured a storm right in the middle of the Atlantic for a day and a half, the weary travellers arrived in Montreal where they did not stay long before getting on a train.



Group photo on the ship Andania including Erika and her parents.

After travelling for a long time and seeing nothing but wheat fields my mother began to get a bit worried, and missed the mountains of her homeland. At Saskatoon they got a royal welcome but she was too weary to enjoy it although she described the Mayor's speech as being very nice. He reassured them that it would be peaceful in their new homes and that they would not have to worry about the Gestapo getting them out of bed in the middle of the night anymore. She said that appealed to her very much because she was so sick of it all, and that all she could dream of was peace.

The rest of the trip from Saskatoon was more interesting – more trees and hills and she describes arriving in St. Walburg – a town without electricity or trains. She says they all lived in granaries for a while before getting their farms. That meant seven families having to live and work together. Because they had all been city dwellers they had no idea about farming, but settled on the Tomlinson Ranch. They had a house with only 2 rooms for 2 families with skunks and rats in the basement. They never went down there.



**Erika and
parents, St.
Walburg.
(Erika, Oma,
Opa)**

She describes the area as very quiet with little entertainment except what they created themselves and a lot of hard work. She kept to herself, enjoying her dog and cats and says there were lots of disagreements in the early days. She generally avoided these but got into a couple of tussles herself on behalf of animals she felt were being mistreated, and prided herself on her ability to milk cows.

The family finally built a new home in an even quieter location than the Tomlinson Ranch where she could enjoy the horses and cows. She had to go to a new school that was in an ordinary house and had grades from one to twelve in one room. Because her English was not good she describes the other kids staring at her. Until she got better acquainted with their neighbors she felt lonely and cried every day. Having new friends meant she started going to parties and square dances and learned how to ride horses and round up cattle. It also helped her to learn English and she became special friends with a young man who was a trapper and taught her a lot about nature.

Leaving Saskatchewan was one of the hardest things she ever did, but her parents decided to move to Vancouver. She had to say goodbye to her beloved animals and she recalls crying and crying about that. The saddest thing was her horse neighing a good-bye as he was being led away.

As a grown woman my mother often recounted very fond memories of Saskatchewan and living on the farm with her animals. She had a fondness for nature and gardening all her life and that was a special gift that Saskatchewan bestowed on her.

Life was not easy for the Sudeten Germans who arrived at St. Walburg, but all worked hard and became prosperous. They were thankful that they had not perished in Europe and were able to build their new lives in Canada.

There had been two groups of Sudeten Germans sent to Canada – one to St. Walburg and the other to Tupper Creek, British Columbia. Approximately 300 Sudeten families settled in these two areas as a result of international agreements to save them from Nazi concentration camps. They had been a minority in Czechoslovakia – a result of treaty agreements after World War 1. Those who fled were members of the German Social Democratic Party, so found themselves in opposition to both the Nazis and the Czechs. After the Sudetenland was ceded to Hitler in 1938 life became very dangerous for the Social Democratic Sudeten Germans.

My mother's account tells the personal story of what life was like for an eleven year old girl having to flee for her life with only a suitcase, leaving behind all that she had known. Throughout her entire life she felt grateful to Canada for granting her and her family asylum. She went on to contribute to Canada by becoming a hospital board member, working all her life and raising a family, belonging to various peace groups, and even running for public office. My own deep love for Canada is a direct result of the struggles I know my forebearers had. Especially during a pandemic, my thoughts return to what they had to



Author with mother and grandmother in Toronto.

endure and I feel grateful to live in Canada. My mother's diary, on which this is based, is both a cautionary tale about how quickly someone's life can change, and a testament to the human spirit, which, it seems, is capable of rising irrespective of circumstances.

Especially during trying times like this, it is sometimes helpful to recognize the struggles of our ancestors to maintain our perspective.



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TIME TO SAY GOODBYE AND HELLO

Message from the Executive Director



Brigitte Strzeszewski

The first goodbye goes to our Immigrant Settlement Advisor Brigitte Strzeszewski, who joined SGC two years ago. With changes happening in the settlement sector, the SGC will no longer provide settlement services to newcomers after December. If you were lucky enough to have Brigitte as your settlement advisor, you will know that there was hardly a time of the day (or night) when she didn't pick up the phone, looking after the needs of her clients. Brigitte is very passionate about her newcomer clients, offering extra resume help to ensure their success in securing a job. While we will miss Brigitte's smiles and upbeat mood around the office, we look forward to continuing to work with her in future. Vielen Dank Brigitte und alles Gute!



Sabine Doebel-Atchison

We also have to say farewell to Sabine Doebel-Atchison who has been SGC's Postillion Editor since 2018. As a young woman fresh from Germany, Sabine started at the SGC as Office & Program Assistant in 2005, was appointed

Acting Executive Director in 2007 and became the Executive Director in 2008. After extending her maternity leave, Sabine left the SGC in early 2017. In recognizing her accomplishment, Sabine was made an Honorary SGC Member the same year. In 2018, Sabine took on the Postillion Editor position and contributed from her new home in Ottawa. We were very lucky to have an SGC representative in Canada's capital as it brought an outside perspective to the table and resulted in the high-level Postillion interview with Germany's Ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Sabine Sparwasser.

A huge thank you goes to Sabine as outgoing Postillion Editor, for many years of contributing to the Saskatchewan German Council in various ways. Sabine will continue to write the odd article as our SGC Ottawa correspondent and provide input and feedback for SGC with an honest perspective. We wish you all the very best Sabine!



Gerald Freyer

Hello and a warm welcome to Gerald Freyer, who is taking over as the new Postillion Editor. Gerald is a new German immigrant to Canada and brings along many years of experience as chief-editor, photographer, and project coordinator for exhibitions. Gerald has a background in ethnology/folklore and settlement history, all of which makes him a great addition to SGC. Welcome Gerald, we are very happy to have you on our team!

SGC EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

For the past 12 years the Saskatchewan German Council has proudly supplied the position of an Immigrant Settlement Advisor to the benefit of the community. In all those years the Settlement Advisor was supporting newcomers to Saskatoon and the region with all aspects of the settlement process and has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of newcomers.

Regrettably, this chapter is coming to an end, for the SGC as an organization and myself. The government made changes in how it will administer the settlement services with focus on 3 big settlement coordinating centres. Going forward, the SGC would like to keep its full focus on the cultural work which benefits its members and the community in Saskatchewan and beyond. "Every ending is the beginning of something else. Every exit is an entry somewhere else." According to this popular quote we are looking forward to the year 2022, which will bring new ideas and opportunities.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the team at the SGC, the board of directors, and everyone who helped me succeed in this role. It is my hope to stay connected, continue to contribute and be part of the SGC in the future.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein gutes Neues Jahr!

Brigitte, Immigrant Settlement Advisor

Truth and Reconciliation

Day on September 30 was made a federal statutory holiday in June 2021. It was created for all Canadians to honour survivors of the residential school system, their families, and communities. SGC staff spent time at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in recognition and to learn and listen. Some of the events attended were the Truth and Reconciliation Discussion with TJ Warren and the Bison Kinship Walk – Reconciling land and spirit with Dr. E. Walker. After a shared lunch, staff members went their separate ways to reflect, to see Wanuskewin's new exhibits and art galleries and walk some of the trails. It was a day

to remember that past and learn how to move forward. Wanuskewin Heritage Park was the perfect setting to do this, while being immersed in indigenous culture and celebrating it as well.

Franziska Davies-Perret, Office & Program Assistant



October – German Heritage Month

In 2016, October was declared German Heritage Month to recognize the contributions that German Canadians have made to Canadian society. To celebrate German Heritage Month, the Town of Assiniboia flew the German flag from October 1st to 8th, 2021. This fit well with the exhibition Scissor Cuts/Scherenschnitte with Jessica Richter and Waltraude Stehwen that was displayed in the nearby Shurniak Art Gallery during October. The Scissor Cuts/Scherenschnitte exhibit is a result of a partnership between the Saskatchewan German Council and OSAC's Arts on the Move program. German Heritage Month featured many other community events such as the Oktoberfest Auftakt Meal at the German Club Regina, German Unity Day Meal Distribution for People in Need at the Friendship Inn provided by the German Consulate & Honorary Consul, German Worship Service at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, a Baking & Culture Box by the cooking group Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, and more.

Round Table Member Consultation

Chaired by Vice President Andrea MacLeod, the annual Round Table took place on October 16, 2021 via Zoom. Regrettably, the presentation "Directors' Liability" had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, but the rest of the meeting agenda went ahead as planned with an SGC update, a Member Forum with discussions, accomplishments, and issues, and more. COVID-19 has impacted all our organization, leaving some groups hesitant to gather, depending on their situation, age-group and therefore risk group, but also due to low demand for public performances. In many instances, events were planned but had to be cancelled again due to high COVID-19 numbers. For many members, in-person exchanges were rare in the past year and a half. Other groups were able to re-start their activities with increased safety measures in the traditional way, and some members continued to be active throughout the pandemic in a new and often virtual format. When asked, our members attending the Round Table mostly valued: receiving an update about SGC activities and connecting with fellow SGC members and learning about their situation.

The SGC will continue to support its members in a variety of ways - stay safe and contact the office!

As a special offer to its valued members, the SGC booked an interactive private live tour to Berlin. On October 17th, approximately 40 participants followed tour guide Walid to explore what life was like behind the Berlin Wall - the Cold War's most brutal symbol. The fascinating virtual tour provided insight into life on both sides of the Iron Curtain. At the Berlin Wall Memorial, guests experi-



Berlin Wall: A City Divided (Tour via Zoom)

enced how the division affected the lives of so many East and West Berliners for 28 years. The tour wandered along the famous Bernauer Strasse, where the Wall and former death strip were built, and Berliners attempted dangerous escapes from their apartment windows. Participants also learned about escape tunnels, and the Stasi - the East German secret police.

As an alternative to real travels, virtual live tours are educational, a fun way to learn about German culture and history, and to connect to modern life in Germany.

Jubilee Residences Oktoberfest

The Saskatchewan German Council is a proud sponsor of the Jubilee Residences Oktoberfest 2021. What was planned as a wonderful gala at the Western Development Museum had to be changed to a smaller Oktoberfest celebration at each of the Jubilee Residences' lodges in order to



keep the vulnerable members of the community safe and to protect their elders, families and staff.

On October 26th & October 27th Elders in Stensrud & Porteous Lodges celebrated Oktoberfest. A thank you goes out to everyone who made these days possible! Neil Stubbs, Concordia Alpen Rose Schuhplattler Verein dancers, the volunteers and all of our loving Care Partners. Danke schön!

With SGC's sponsorship of \$1,000, the community was able to enjoy a wonderful German dinner, accordion music, beer tasting, photobooths and German dancers.

Jubilee Residences Foundation wishes to thank the Oktoberfest donors and sponsors for their commitment.

Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



SILENT NIGHT, CHRISTKIND AND ROAST GOOSE

Christmas in Germany has many regional customs and is not very different from the holidays in Saskatchewan. At first glance, there seems to be a lot in common that can be traced back to a common historical tradition. But many customs that are summarized as typically Christmas in the western world have German or German-speaking roots.

Christmas music

The Christian music tradition of the German-speaking area has had a strong influence on Christmas music in North America as well. Many immigrants brought their music with them in the 19th century. These songs were then provided with an English text and thus became part of the Canadian culture of German origin. Who does not know "Oh Du fröhliche", a song from 1815 that originated in Weimar in Thuringia. Translated it sounds under the name: "Oh you joyful, O you blessed" or "Oh, how joyfully; oh how merrily ". This song is not only sung in the Lutherans churches, it is also often on the song sheet of the Catholics and Mennonites at Christmas time.

One of the most famous Christmas carols is the "Silent Night, Holy Night", which was heard for the first time in 1818 in a small community near Salzburg, Austria. For many people it is the Christmas carol in general.

Translated into more than 300 languages worldwide, it was recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage in Austria in 2011. As "Silent Night" it found its way into Canadian music tradition, and not just because of the version by Bing Crosby. After a short research, countless German melodies with English text can be found in the denominational hymn books of the parishes of Saskatchewan.



**A gift for generations -
the Bavarian advent manger stays in the families forever.**



Traditional German Christmas baking is still popular in many families of the German community.

Christmas baking

Baking at Christmas makes up a large part of the Advent season. The first Christmas cookies as we know them today were very likely baked in medieval monasteries. The emerging trade brought rare spices from the Orient such as cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, ginger and cardamom to Northern Europe. Due to their regional background, these ingredients enjoyed great popularity as part of the celebration of the birth of Jesus and thus established the tradition of German Christmas bakery. Baking cookies has been an integral part of the German Christmas tradition for many decades and is therefore also a family experience. Children design and decorate their own little cookies. The cutting out of biscuits with the help of cutting molds or models goes back very likely to a pre-Christian tradition. Even in the time before the birth of Christ, people were designing "Gebildbrote" baked goods, which in its shape are reminiscent of figurative representations, such as human or animal figures or artistic weaving of dough. The world-famous Stollen is a typical Christmas bread and with its white sugar coating, is supposed to symbolize the Christ child wrapped in diapers. The stollen was probably baked much earlier, but it was first mentioned in writing in the East German city of Naumburg in 1329. However, today's recipes with almonds, candied fruits and raisins can only be first found in recipe books at the beginning of the 18th century in Saxony.

Christmas customs

Advent wreath - the symbol of Protestant Christmas goes back to the protestant theologian Johann H. Wichern. In the 19th century the theologian held devotions in the orphanage "Rauhes Haus" in Hamburg and illustrated the time until Christmas with 24 candles on fir green and an additional four

larger candles for the Advent Sundays. Today the Advent wreath consists of a thick wreath made of fir green and usually four candles for decoration, one more of which is lit on each Advent Sunday.

In addition, the Christmas tree was a typical representative of the Lutheran German Christmas. This is partially correct, because the decorated tree enjoyed great popularity among the Reformed denominations. On the other hand, in the Catholic tradition, the manger is more a symbol of the birth of Christ. The division of the Christian Church, which has been in existence for more than 500 years, also gave rise to customs which were confessional in their form and which only became a generally valid cultural asset over time. Many of these breaks came to Canada through the German emigrants in the 19th century and have hardly changed in their form.

What customs do you still celebrate today? Do you have a special Christmas story, a nativity scene or an old tree ornament? Do you still bake according to your grandparents' recipes? Write to us and send a photo to postillion@saskgermancouncil.org and we will also post your special Christmas tradition on our Facebook page to match the occasion.

VANILLA CRESCENT BISCUITS



1¾ c all-purpose flour, sifted, ½ c sugar, 4 vanilla pods, scrape out the seeds, ¾ c sweet, ground almonds, 1¼ c butter, room temperature, Icing sugar vanilla flavour to dust

In a large bowl, add flour, sugar, the seeds of two vanilla pods, almonds and butter. Knead into a dough. Form a roll about 1 ½" in diameter and cut into thick slices. Shape these into crescents and place on a baking sheet lined with baking paper.

Bake in the preheated oven at 350°F for around 10 to 15 minutes. Let the biscuits cool down briefly. In the meantime, mix the icing sugar with the seeds of the remaining two vanilla pods. Scatter half of the icing sugar over the top of the biscuits while they are still warm. Repeat the icing sugar process after 5 minutes.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS STOLLEN



For the Stollen:

1¼ c raisins, ¾ c orange peel, ¾ c lemon peel, ¾ c chopped almonds, 6 drop bitter almond oil, 3 tbs rum, 4.5 c whole wheat flour, ½ tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon, ½ tsp cardamom, ½ tsp nutmeg, 2 cubes of fresh yeast, 1 c raw cane sugar, ½ c milk, lukewarm, 2 tsp vanilla extract, 4 oz (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened, 2 egg yolks

For the Topping:

1 c (2 sticks) butter melted, ¾ c icing sugar

Mix the raisins, orange peel, lemon peel, sugar, the chopped almonds and the bitter almond oil with the rum and leave to stand, covered, for about 6 hours, turning every now and again, then drain and mix with the almonds, almond oil and rum.

Preheat the oven to 350° F

Sift the flour into a large bowl, add salt, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, make a well in the middle. Crumble in the fresh yeast and sprinkle 1 tablespoon of sugar over it. Pour the lukewarm milk and vanilla extract over them and mix into a pre-dough. Let it rise for about 15 minutes. Then add the remaining sugar, the softened butter and the egg yolks and knead to a smooth dough. Cover and let the dough rise for another 30 minutes.

Press the dough a little flat on a floured work surface and spread the raisin-fruit-almond-rum mixture on top. Knead everything together well and cover and let rest for another 30 minutes. Knead the dough again and roll it out into a 1- 1 ¼" thick, oval shape. Tilt one half of the dough lengthways towards the middle and place the other half over it. Remove any raisins that are sticking out (they will burn when baking). Line the baking sheet with parchment paper and bake the Stollen in the 350°F preheated oven for about 30-40 minutes on the lower rack until golden. Remove from oven, let stand for 5 minutes, use a toothpick to poke holes all over the Stollen. Generously brush the Stollen with the melted butter while the Stollen are still warm. Immediately sprinkle with the icing sugar, rubbing it into the creases and down the sides. Let the Stollen cool completely.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SHORTBREAD



1½ c butter, 2 c all-purpose flour, sifted 1 c sugar, 2 whole eggs, 1 vanilla pod, scrape out the seed, ½ tsp baking powder, 1¾ oz melted chocolate

In a large bowl mix and knead all ingredients well and work them into a smooth dough. Cover and let the dough rest overnight under a kitchen towel. The next day, line a baking sheet with parchment paper and preheat oven to 350 °F . Put the mixture in a piping bag and pipe 3" biscuits on the lined baking sheet. Bake for about 10-12 minutes until light golden color. Keep a close eye on the cookies at the end of the baking time to prevent them from burning or becoming too dry. After the cookies have cooled down, melt the chocolate and drizzle across the top.

CHRISTMAS BUTTER COOKIES



4 c all-purpose flour, 1 ½ tsp. baking powder, ¾ c sugar, pinch of salt, 1 c butter, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, 2 eggs

In a large bowl mix flour with baking powder, sugar and salt, add the butter in small pieces, vanilla extract, eggs and knead until you get a nice smooth dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and let rest for 30 minutes in the fridge.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line several baking sheets with baking parchment. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to a thickness of 0.08 inch (2mm). Use cookie cutters in any shape you want and place the cookies on the prepared baking sheets. Bake one baking sheet at a time for 10-12 minutes. Let the cookies cool down on a wire rack.

Stille Nacht, Christkind und Gänsebraten

Weihnachten in Deutschland hat viele regionale Bräuche und unterscheidet sich nicht groß von den Feiertagen in Saskatchewan. Auf den ersten Blick scheint es viele Gemeinsamkeiten zu geben, die auf eine gemeinsame historische Tradition zurückgehen. Doch viele Bräuche, die in der westlichen Welt als typisch weihnachtlich zusammengefasst werden, haben deutsche oder deutschsprachige Vorlagen.

Weihnachtsmusik

Die christliche geprägte Musiktradition des deutschsprachigen Raumes hat einen starken Einfluß auf die weihnachtliche Musik auch in Nordamerika gehabt. Viele Einwanderer brachten im 19. Jh ihre Musik mit. Viele dieser Stücke wurden dann mit einem englischen Text versehen und wurden so Teil der kanadischen Kultur deutschen Ursprungs. Wer kennt nicht „Oh du fröhliche“, ein Stück aus dem Jahr 1815, das seinen Ursprung im thüringischen Weimar hat. Übersetzt klingt es dann unter dem Namen: „Oh you joyful, O you blessed“ oder auch „Oh, how joyfully; oh, how merrily“. Diese Lied wird nicht nur bei den Lutheranern gesungen, auch bei den Katholiken und den Mennoniten gehört es in der Weihnachtszeit oftmals auf den Liederzettel.



Advent wreath - first time made from a Lutheran pastor in 1818 in Hamburg.

Zu den wohl bekanntesten Weihnachtsliedern zählt das 1818 in einer kleinen Gemeinde in der Nähe des österreichischen Salzburgs erstmals erklangene „Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht“. Für viele Menschen ist es das Weihnachtslied überhaupt. In mehr als 300 Sprachen weltweit übersetzt wurde es 2011 von der UNESCO als immaterielles Kulturerbe in Österreich anerkannt. Als „Silent Night“ hielt es, nicht nur durch die Version von Bing Crosby, Einzug in die kanadische Musiktradition. Nach einer kurzen Recherche finden sich unzählige deutsche Melodien mit englischem Text in den konfessionellen Gesangbüchern der Kirchengemeinden Saskatchewan.

Weihnachtsbäckerei

Backen zu Weihnachten macht einen großen Teil der Adventszeit aus. Die ersten Weihnachtskekse, so wie wir sie heute noch kennen, wurden sehr wahrscheinlich in den mittelalterlichen Klöstern gebacken. Durch den aufkommenden Handel kamen seltene Gewürze aus dem Orient wie Zimt, Nelken, Muskat, Ingwer und Kardamom nach Nordeuropa. Bedingt durch ihre regionalen Hintergrund erfreuten sie diese Zutaten im Rahmen der Feier der Geburt Jesu großer Beliebtheit und begründeten so die Tradition der deutschen Weihnachtsbäckerei. Plätzchen backen bildet schon seit vielen Jahrzehnten einen festen Bestandteil der deutschen Weihnachtstradition und ist schon daher auch ein familiäres Erlebnis. Kinder gestalten ihre eigenen kleinen Gebäckstücke und verzieren sie. Das Ausstechen von Gebäckstücken mit Hilfe von Stechformen oder Modellen geht sehr wahrscheinlich auf eine vorchristliche Tradition zurück. Schon in der Zeit vor Christi Geburt gestalteten die Menschen „Gebildbrote“ Backwerk, das in seiner Form von figürlichen Darstellungen, wie beispielsweise Mensch- oder Tiergestalten oder kunstvolle Teigflechtungen erinnert. Der weltbekannte Stollen ist so ein typisches Gebäckbrot und soll mit seiner weißen Zuckermantelung das in Windeln gewickelte Christkind symbolisieren. Gebacken wurde der Stollen wahrscheinlich schon viel früher, doch sein erste schriftliche Erwähnung findet er in der ostdeutschen Stadt Naumburg im Jahre 1329. Jedoch die heutige Rezepturen mit Mandeln, kandierten Früchten und Rosinen findet sich erst zu Beginn des 18. Jahrhunderts in den Rezeptbüchern der Kurfürsten zu Sachsen.

Weihnachtsbräuche

Adventskranz – das Zeichen der protestantischen Weihnacht geht in seiner Tradition auf den evangelischen Theologen Johann Hinrich Wichern zurück. Der Theologe hielt im 19. Jahrhundert im Waisenhaus „Rauhes Haus“ in Hamburg Andachten ab und veranschaulichte die Zeit bis zum Weihnachtsfest mit 24 Kerzen auf Tannengrün und zusätzlichen vier größeren Kerzen für die Adventssonntage. Heute besteht der Adventskranz aus einem dicken Kranz aus Tannengrün und meistens vier Kerzen zur Dekoration, von denen an jedem Adventssonntag eine mehr angezündet wird. Darüber hinaus zählte auch der Weihnachtsbaum als ein typischer Vertreter der lutheranischen deutschen Weihnacht. Bedingt ist das richtig, denn erfreute sich der geschmückte Baum bei den reformierten Konfessionen großer Beliebtheit. Hingegen in der katholischen Tradition sich eher die Krippe als Sinnbild der Geburt Christi steht. Durch die seit mehr als 500 Jahre alte Teilung der christlichen Kirche entstanden somit auch Bräuche, die in ihrer Form konfessionell gebunden waren und erst im Laufe der Zeit zu einem allgemein gültigen Kulturgut geworden sind. Viele dieser Bräuche gelangten durch die deutschen Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert nach Kanada und sind in ihrer Form kaum verändert worden.

Welche Bräuche feiern Sie heute noch? Haben Sie eine besondere Weihnachtsgeschichte, eine Krippe oder einen alten Baumschmuck? Backen Sie noch nach Rezepten ihrer Großeltern?

Schreiben Sie uns und schicken Sie ein Foto unter postillion@saskgermancouncil.org und wir stellen auch ihren besonderen Weihnachtsbrauch auf unserer Facebookseite passend zum Fest vor.

News from Member Groups

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has 33 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.

KOCHLÖFFEL CLASSES HAVE A NEW LOOK

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



Our first ever Culture & Baking Box.



Sue and her father Martin, enjoying their baked goodies.



Prepping for Christmas videos – Spekulatius Gugelhupf.

While writing my Autumn edition article, exciting news was under way for Kochlöffel! In the summer we finished with our 7th anniversary celebration via Zoom, and it seemed interest in zoom events were low, on top of having a difficult time finding more speakers, we changed gears once again and offered Culture & Baking Boxes for 3 more months to have 10 anniversary celebrations for Kochlöffel turning ten.

The anniversary celebrations and videos have been an undertaking, but when my email box is full of people proudly sending me their pictures of the goodies they have made or a daughter telling me of her baking adventures for her dad or people simply sharing family memories with me - it makes every minute spent on this project worth it!

What are Culture & Baking Boxes you might wonder? Well, it's simple – it's a box that includes ingredients, recipes and a bit of culture or history of the recipes chosen for that month. October had a regional German recipe theme to also

celebrate October German Heritage Month, November's box had an Austrian theme to it and December is a Christmas Cookie box.

Keeping Covid and a lack of a kitchen in mind, these Culture & Baking Boxes offer a chance for Kochlöffel to still share culture and recipes with everyone. They also open the opportunity for families to have a baking night together and offer flexibility as to when to bake, especially to those who were unable to make it to Monday night cooking classes.

Going forward, boxes will be offered at the same price as the in-person cooking classes used to be. Pick will be in Saskatoon. If you'd like to get our monthly updates or information, please email kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com

Happy cooking and Merry Christmas!

NEWS FROM HANSEL & GRETEL PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon — Ulrike Hecker



St. Martin on his horse



Ich geh mit meiner Laterne

As winter is approaching, we are well into the school year 20221/22. The last months have been busy for us, getting to know each other and settling into our routine.: On November 9/10 we celebrated St. Martin and introduced the legend of Martin who shared his red cape with an old beggar. Our children were very excited to use all the props that we used for a little play.



The hibernating bears .

On November 22/23 we celebrated our annual "Hibernation day". Tables turned into bear caves and tents into shelter places for animals. Our little "bear cubs" showed up in their PJ's and had lots of fun pretending to be bears hibernating in their dens. Nature continues to be the extended classroom for our preschool and we try to go outside every day, even with the colder temperatures.



Team work!

Registration for the 2022/23 Preschool Year

Registration starts on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Families will be able to register online. Classes can fill up very quickly! We recommend to register early. If you have a child that will be eligible for preschool, please contact us or check our website (www.hanselandgretelpreschool.blogspot.ca). You can also find more information and pictures on our Facebook page.

On behalf of our board of directors we wish SGC and all member groups "Frohe Weihnachten" und ein "Gutes Neues Jahr"!

NEWS FROM THE REGINA VOLKSLIEDERCHOR

Volkliedchor Harmonie, Regina — Alvin Knoll

It seems we just did the Fall edition but here we are again. Our choir has been very quiet since our September get together. We had great hopes in the fall of resuming practice but with the rising COVID numbers we decided to wait a little longer.

It was tough not practicing this fall and tougher yet not having a Christmas performance. This is our second year of not hosting a Christmas concert. The annual Christmas concert is a

favourite with the choir members and has become a tradition for many in our community. German Christmas music means so much to so many.

Some choirs that have resumed rehearsals are managing even with masks and this maybe is something that we will have to work with as well. We are now looking into the new year to resume practice.

In closing I hope that many of you are enjoying the familiar and beautiful Weihnachtslieder from your own collections and taking advantage of the opportunity to sing along.

Frohe Weihnachten

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

HELLO FROM THE KARNEVALSGESELLSCHAFT HARMONIE GROUP

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina — *Sheila Aldous*



Best wishes to Debra & Brian.

Our Princess Elect Theresa and her Prince Claude would like to invite you to their Crowning on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at the Regina German Club. Doors open at 5:00 pm. The German Club will be serving dinner at 5:30 pm. Program will begin at 7:11 pm. Please RSVP by January 8, 2022, to Darlene Rubrecht at 306-591-0428. Theresa and Claude would love to see you there.

This summer saw three of our lovely young ladies get married. Kris Rubrecht married Joel Douglas on May 8th. Joelle Salter was married on August 14th to Wade McFadden. Debra DuMont married Brian Dodman in August on



Best wishes to Joelle & Wade.

the 21st. We would like to congratulate all the happy couples and wish them all the best in the future.

Our group has been slowly returning to normal. Although, the Elferrat has been still holding zoom meeting. Some members of the group have taken part in events held by the Regina Multi-Cultural Association. The dancers returned to practice in September and are looking forward to the Crowning. They were also invited to dance at a few events in the city. The Sparklers are still hosting their SARCAN Drop & Go bottle drive fundraiser for new Karneval uniforms. If



Best wishes to Kris & Joel Douglas.

you have any bottles/cans laying around that you would like to donate to the cause, the girls would really appreciate it. Their Group Name at SARCAN is KGH.

If you are interested in joining the group or dancing with us, our contacts are: President - Erika DuMont (306-527-3163) (erika.dumont@sasktel.net) or Vice-President - Darlene Rubrecht (306-591-0428) (darrubrecht@myaccess.ca).

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and fall.

SCHUHPLATTLER NEWS

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein, Saskatoon — *Heidi Armstrong*



The Concordia Alpenrose dancers are happy to report that practices resumed this September for the first time since March 2020! We are very happy to be dancing weekly again while following the COVID-19 guidelines. We were able to perform at an Oktoberfest event at the Nutana Legion and had a blast dancing in costume again. We were also able to perform for two of Jubilee Residence's homes and it was so nice to bring some Oktoberfest joy to the residents.

Oktoberfest at the Nutana Legion.

We are ready to take a small winter break and get back to dancing in the new year!

The Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein wishes everyone a "Frohe Weihnachten" and Happy New Year.

Stay in touch with the Alpenrose dancers by liking our Facebook page "Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein" or by following us on Instagram @schuhplattlersyxe.

SKAT CLUB SASKATOON NEWS

SKAT Club Saskatoon — *Shelley Hungness*

Our members have managed to stay in touch throughout the COVID pandemic and loss of our GCC venue. We have been meeting regularly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at our new home – Sports on Tap on the Exhibition Grounds. They have us set up in the private Huskies Dog Pound room so please stop by for a visit and coffee on any Wednesday evening!

This fall members of our group were lucky enough to be able to attend SKAT Tournaments in Kelowna, Edmonton, and Red Deer. Not only did they win prizes, they were able to reconnect with fellow SKAT Players from across BC, AB,

MB and Texas! The Saskatoon SKAT Club was fortunate enough to have a local Thanksgiving Tournament where 3 Games of SKAT were played, and lunch was provided.

We are also playing a local Christmas Tournament December 11th. We will host a Saskatoon ISPA Tournament in May of 2022 should Covid restrictions allow. In the past we have had participants from BC, AB, MB, Texas and Germany attend!

In the new year we will begin SKAT lessons (should COVID restrictions allow)



more information forthcoming in 2022. Wishing you all the best throughout the holiday season from ALL the Saskatoon SKAT players!

UPDATE FROM THE GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

German Language School Saskatoon, Saskatoon — *Kathleen Schroeder-Brass*



Der Start ist geschafft/Off to a good start

It is almost December and these past months have cherished all of us with an unusual long and colorful fall time with lots of mild and partly even warm weeks or days.

September has been busy for most of my teachers to do the last prep before starting their classes over the course of this month. It is very much appreciated how much effort each one of them puts in for a smooth start into the school year. The start date for a few classes needed to be pushed into October to allow for proper planning time and availability of teacher. Administrative work is very busy throughout September way into October to make sure students are sorted into the right classes, books needed are available, new

inquiries are found the best fitting classroom and paperwork for funding and such is starting to set deadlines already again. This didn't stop me to join the start of each of our in-person classrooms. It was great to see so many familiar faces return to their classes after such a long time bridging with online classes. It was even better to finally be able to put a face to all the new students/ families joining into our classrooms, who I have been in touch with over the phone or by email during the summer months.

Meanwhile all our classes with a total of almost 70 students are into the school year for several months and the feedback received is very positive. Most of our students are back to in-person instructions and are grateful for that. With the rearrangement of some of our adult



classrooms, adding new students and moving some of our long-term students into higher levels, positive feedback was received for the good new challenges ("homework") and the flexibility my teachers put in to include students with various language levels into their classrooms. Attendance shows clearly how much our in-person as well as online classes are appreciated.

Thank you to my wonderful team:
Franziska Davies-Perret, Josephin Dick, Theresa Kliem, Brandon Smith, Sophie Frankenhauser, Regina Prost and Anton Schroeder
Ich wünsche euch allen eine schöne Adventszeit und ein besinnliches Weihnachten!

Kathleen Schroeder-Brass (principal)
germanschoolsaskatoon@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Regina — *Berbel Knoll*

Ich klopfe an zum Heiligen Advent und stehe vor der Tür. So spricht der Herr. O selig, wer mich kennt und eilt und öffnet mir!

With this familiar song, our choir began the Advent season at Trinity. It is good to have the choir back even though we are masked and still small in number. We haven't been able to sing since March 2019.



Advent, the season of preparation and anticipation, saw our congregation moving forward with our transition. The pew removal is now complete and items from the hall are finding new homes in the main building. A big project! The social committee held a cabbage roll fundraiser on November 27 and proceeds from the sales will go towards a tech infrastructure upgrade so that we may continue to reach those who cannot be with us in person. Trinity has a few German hymnals available that are looking for a new home. If anyone is interested, they can contact the church office.

Christmas services will include an in-person Candlelight service on Christmas Eve and a German Christmas worship service on Christmas Day. All are welcome!

Please check our website for details and follow us on Facebook.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas season and blessed new year.



CONCORDIA BRASS BAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — *Yvonne Kristoff*



Concordia Brass Band had been working really hard getting ready for several concerts that were booked. With Covid 19 and the 4th wave, one by one they got cancelled. For a group that likes to share our music as much as we do this was a major disappointment. We decided

to go to the parks and play for the squirrels! If some people came that was a bonus. We chose a couple lovely late summer Saturdays and people did come. We even had people dancing. It shows how starved people are for live music and concerts to go to.

We have several concerts booked now and we are into Christmas music. With Covid winding down these concerts are likely to go through. The best of the season to everyone and we will see you in the new year!

UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGATEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon — Brigitte Boldt-Leppin

Warten auf das Christkind

Nächsten Sonntag feiern wir den ersten Advent. Dies bedeutet für viele Familien, dass die Vorbereitungen zum Weihnachtsfest beginnen. Jede Familie hat sicherlich ihre eigenen, oft seit Generationen überlieferte Traditionen. Für meine Familie, die als aus Pommern vertriebene, 1954 in der Eifel ansässig wurde, bedeutete dies, für uns Kinder die Bräuche der neuen Heimat einzugliedern. Wir warteten also nicht mehr auf den Weihnachtsmann, sondern voller Herzklopfen und Neugierde auf das Christkind. Unser Wohnzimmer wurde eine Woche vor Weihnachten abgeschlossen! Selbst das Schlüsselloch gab kein Geheimnis preis! Mit jedem Tag stieg die Spannung.

Das Backen und Verzieren, wir Kinder nannten letzteres "Belecken", des Pfefferkuchens und des Weihnachtsgebäcks war von Oma abgeschlossen. Der Adventskranz, von meiner Mutter aus frisch geschlagenem Tannengrün gebunden, hing seit dem ersten Adventssonntag, mit vier roten Stumpenkerzen dekoriert, an roten Bändern von der Decke. Jeden Nachmittag wurden die Kerzen angezündet und eine Schale mit Weihnachtsgebäck aufgetischt. Wir Kinder bastelten dann an unseren Geschenken, übten unsere Gedichte welche wir vor der Bescherung vortragen mussten. Dann kam der große Tag: Heilig Abend! Nun begann das Warten auf das Christkind. In Aufregung und Vorfreude übten wir nochmal unsere Gedichte.

Endlich klingelte die Glocke. Wir durften eintreten in den vom Kerzenlicht strahlenden Raum. Und dann trat das Christkind ein! Eine wunderschöne Gestalt gekleidet in Weiß, silbern funkelnd, übermittelte uns im Glanz des Hauses die Weihnachts Botschaft. Diese Vorfreude auf das Weihnachtsfest soll auch dieses Jahr wieder durch einen Adventskranz symbolisiert werden, der von den KulturGarten Mitgliedern für das Kindermuseum Nutrien Wonderhub in Saskatoon gebunden und aufgestellt wurde. Mögen die Lichter der Advents- und Weihnachtszeit uns in ein gesundes Neues Jahr leiten, sodass wir unsere Traditionen wieder im Gesamten feiern, und nicht nur die Symbole ausstellen dürfen.



KulturGarten Harvestcrown in the Cathedral of the Holy Family for Thanksgiving 2021.



Vicky und Andreas - Preparation for binding the Adventwreath.



KulturGarten Executive Members - After a long work day.

bilingual
submission

Waiting for Christmas

Next Sunday we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. For many families this is the start to prepare for Christmas. Families often have their special traditions, passed on since generations. For my family, displaced from Pomerania by the events of WW II and settled in the Eifel in 1954, it meant the integration of the traditions of the new home into the family traditions. Since, we children did not wait anymore for Santa Clause, rather, full of anxiety and curiosity for the Child Christ. One week before Christmas the door to the living room got locked. Not even peeking through the keyhole offered any release. With each day the tension increased.

Oma had finished the baking and decoration, later we children called "licking", of the gingerbread and Christmas cookies. The Advent wreath, bound by my mother from freshly cut greenery, hung on red ribbons and decorated with four columnar red candles, from the ceiling. Every afternoon the candles were lit and a plate filled with cookies was offered. We children crafted our gifts, studied the poems to be presented before gifts opening on Christmas Eve. Then, THE day finally arrived: Christmas Eve! After the animals had been taken care of and dinner eaten, the waiting for the Christ Child began. In excitement and anticipation we once again practiced our poems. Finally, the bell rang from the living room. We were allowed to enter into a room filled with candle light reflecting in the silver tinsel. And then, the Christ Child entered! A magical figure dressed in white and sparkling with silver, holding a lantern, presenting us with the Christmas message.

Also this year, the anticipation and preparation for Christmas shall be symbolized by an Advent wreath. The members of KulturGarten bound a large wreath which will be displayed until Christmas at the children Nutrient Wonderhub museum. May the lights of Advent and Christmas guide us into a Happy New Year, so we again can celebrate our traditions publicly rather than only display their symbols.

GETTING COLD IN THE CAPITAL

German Club, Regina — Patrick A. Kossmann



Schnitzeltaco

The German Club has been soldiering on through COVID. We have maintained our meals being available to takeout over the last year and have continued to feed all in the city who want good, traditional German cooking for lunch or supper. We have had to cancel our Christkindel Markt due to provincial restrictions but are con-



Schnitzel Cordon Blue

tinuing to be positive for what 2022 may hold. Keep watching our social media and website for events and fundraisers as well as our daily food specials, Like out Christkindel Mahlzeit on November 26th.



Apple pudding Hörnchen "Croissant"

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 (reginagermanclub.ca).

RINGING THE BELL

Glockenspiel Victoria Park, Regina — Gerald Freyer



Listen to the German chimes of the Glockenspiel in Victoria Park in the Regina city centre. After a decade of storage and restoration, the glockenspiel is now back home. Through a collaboration between the Regina Multicultural Council and the local German community, the glockenspiel was installed in 1986. The glockenspiel was removed in 2010 for the construction of City Square Plaza. Now more than 10 years later,

the chimes are ringing in Victoria Park. Everyday except Sunday at 12:00 and 18:00 you can hear the Glockenspiel with traditional folk songs and seasonal tunes. Or check out the SGC Youtube Channel for a video about the German Glockenspiel in Regina.

[Click here and listen to the Glockenspiel](#)

CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers — Brenda Booker



Clap Happy Sisters

We continue to practice weekly at Augustana Lutheran Church. We are so grateful to them for this opportunity as it has been working beautifully for us. A big thank-you to the SGC for their assistance in helping to fund this expenditure. We have a great appreciation for our Dancers and their parents for following all the extra protocols in place and staying home when they are experiencing any cold type symptoms.

Practices have been going well. It's amazing watching the dancers pull together to remember the intricate dance moves. The light that sparks in their eyes, when the music starts for one of their favourite dances, is a joy to see. We've also had a lot of laughs as we bravely attempt a dance from pre-covid, only to find the music runs out before our dance is complete.



Learning New Dance Moves

I can't talk about practice without mentioning all the time and effort put forth by our Dance Instructor, Danielle. She teaches all day and has other extracurricular commitments but still has enough positive energy and patience left for our Dancers. Thanks Danielle for all your volunteer hours.

Our group has seen a few changes. The addition of a new dancer, our third dancer that is a second generation dancer. Welcome to Elizabeth!. Our youngest dancer at 3 years old and already catching on to the dances like a pro. Another young dancer joined us just as Covid settled in and I don't think we had a chance to properly introduce her. Welcome Selma! Selma unofficially joined as a baby watching her older sisters dance and officially joined us last spring.



Teaching Dad his Moves

At 4 years old now, she has some strong dance skills. We also have had three of our teenagers, Satine, Jordan and Ethan join the senior dance group. They are loving the challenge this brings. At the same time we appreciate their continued participation in the junior group. They are such strong leaders. From coaxing a shy dancer onto the floor, to patiently taking our preteens through some new, intricate dance moves.

A huge Thank-You to Joan for coming to practice to do some costume fitting. Thanks to her hard work we should have everyone in costumes before the year is out. No plans for performances at this time, however we will be ready as opportunities arise in the future.

KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

Bald ist Weihnachten. Das Fest der Familie und der Freunde. Doch wenn es wieder mal länger dauert bis der Weihnachtsmann oder das Christkind kommt helfen unsere tollen Spiele die Zeit des Wartens zu überbrücken. Viel Spaß und eine schöne Weihnachtszeit.



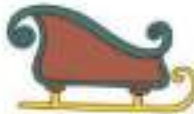
Umkreise die richtigen Wörter.



- a) der Schneemann
- b) der Weihnachtsmann



- a) das Rentier
- b) der Schnee



- a) der Schnee
- b) der Schlitten



- a) die Kappe
- b) die Kerze



- a) das Geschenk
- b) der Engel



- a) die Kerze
- b) der Adventskranz



- a) der Schneemann
- b) der Weihnachtsmann



- a) die Kugel
- b) der Schnee



- a) der Weihnachtsbaum
- b) der Tannenbaum



- a) der Weihnachtsbaum
- b) der Tannenbaum



- a) die Kugel
- b) die Kerze



- a) das Geschenk
- b) die Glocke



- a) die Kappe
- b) die Kerze



- a) der Schlitten
- b) das Geschenk



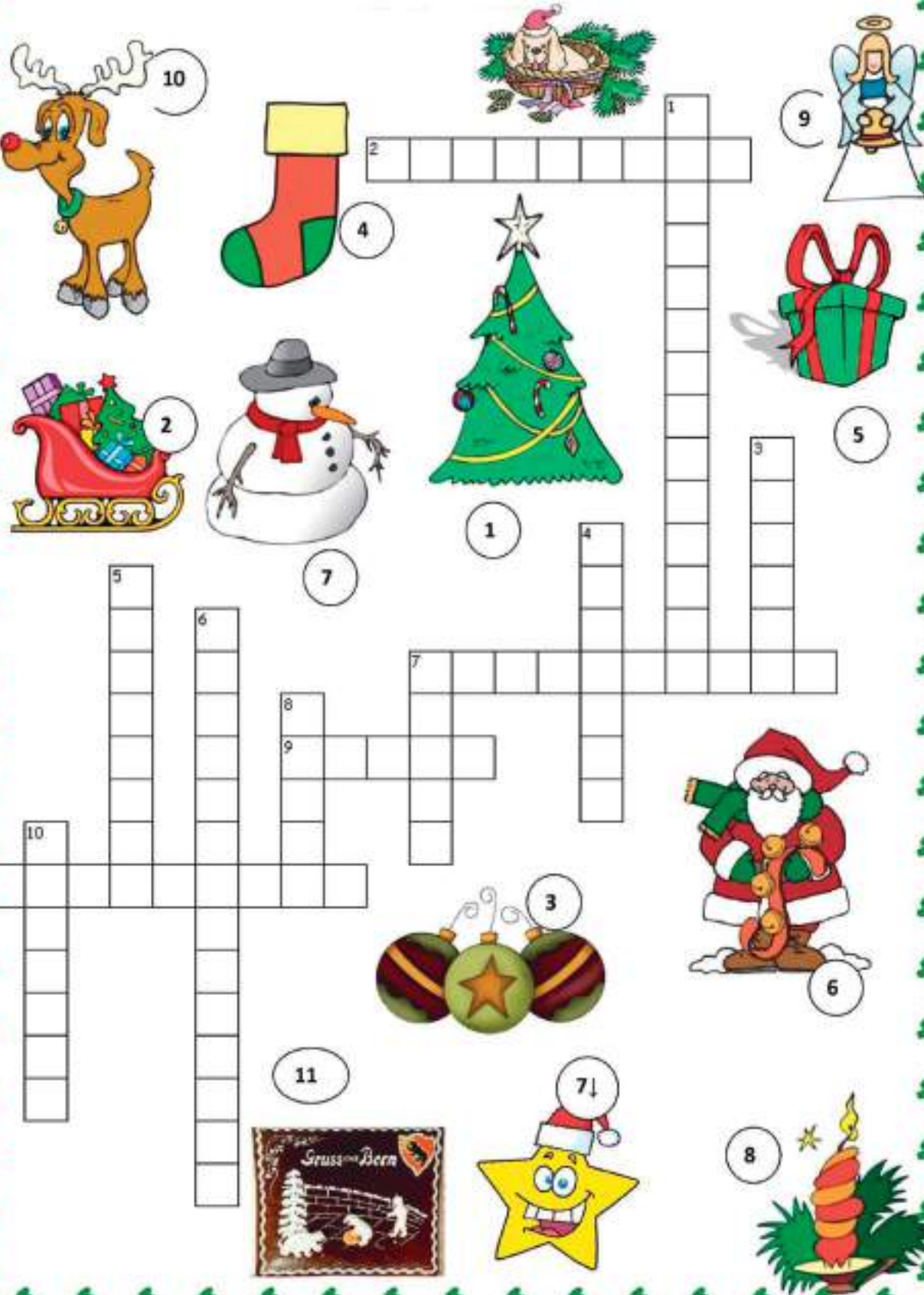
- a) das Neujahr
- b) der Weihnachtsabend



- a) Bücher lesen
- b) Lieder singen

Einfach die Zahl suchen und ausfüllen. Achtung die 7 kommt zweimal vor.

1 Weihnachtsbaum, 2 Schlitten, 3 Kugeln, 4 Stiefel, 5 Geschenk, 6 Weihnachtsmann, 7 Schneemann 7 Stern,
8 Kerze, 9 Engel, 10 Rentier, 11 Lebkuchen



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.
Hansel & Gretel Preschool Inc.
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

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John V. Remail Center
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Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K7