

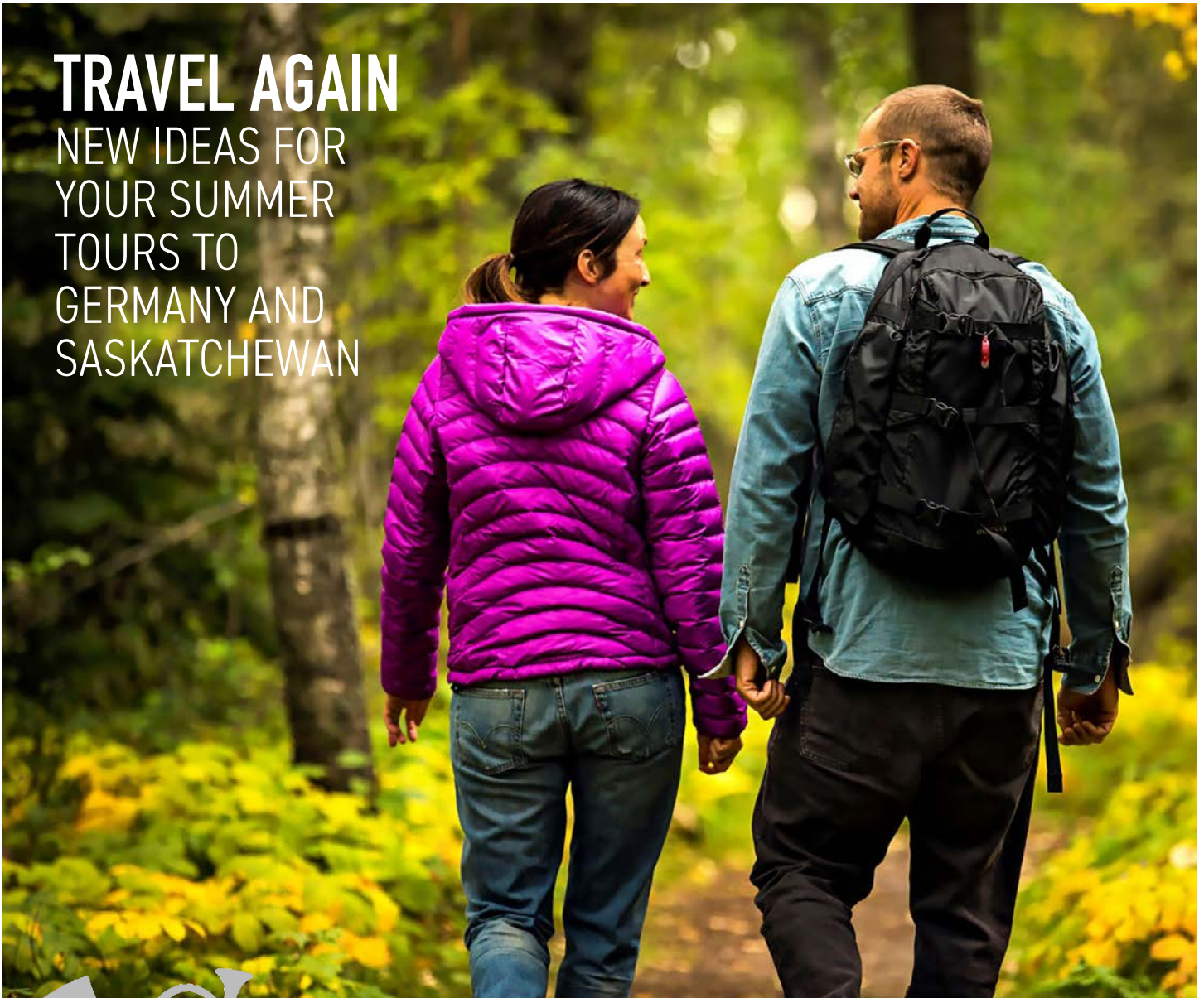
# POSTILLION

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

Volume 37, Issue 1  
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## TRAVEL AGAIN

NEW IDEAS FOR  
YOUR SUMMER  
TOURS TO  
GERMANY AND  
SASKATCHEWAN



*Spring 2022*  
Featuring:

My Father's Immigration Story • von der Arbeit des Honorarkonsuls

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## IN DIESER AUSGABE IN THIS ISSUE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

"Travel to Germany" - endlich wieder ohne großen Aufwand möglich. Endlich freuen sich die Verwandten und Freunde auf das langersehnte Wiedersehen und auf der anderen Seite lockt das Land mit vielen touristischen Attraktionen, die es zu entdecken gilt. Leider ist die Reise nach Deutschland oftmals fast minutiös verplant. Alle wollen den Besuch aus dem fernen Saskatchewan nun endlich wiedersehen und die Zeit für einen Ausflug ist knapp bemessen.

Nehmen Sie sich trotzdem Zeit für das Land. Es lohnt sich, wie Sie auf unseren Reisetippseiten lesen können. Und für alle die nicht nach Europa fahren, stellen wir Ihnen einige Ziele hier in Saskatchewan vor, die einen deutschen Hintergrund haben. Lassen Sie sich von uns mitnehmen auf eine spannende Reise durch den Frühling in den kommenden Reisesommer hinein. Ihr Gerald Freyer

"Travel to Germany" - now possible again without much effort. Finally, the relatives and friends are looking forward to the long-awaited reunion and on the other hand, the country has many tourist attractions that are worth discovering. Unfortunately, the trip to Germany follows for a lot of us a tight schedule. Everyone wants to see the visitors from faraway Saskatchewan and the time for a private trip is limited. Nevertheless, take your time for the country. It's worth it, as you can read on our travel tip pages.

For those who don't go to Europe, we'll introduce you to a few destinations here in Saskatchewan that have a German background. Let us take you on an exciting journey through the spring into the coming travel summer with exciting news and helpful information.

Your Gerald Freyer

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

MERV WEISS



the world has not stood still these last two years. Kudos to the Postillion team.

Actually, the Postillion team is working on a new cover design and page layout for our quarterly magazine. Hopefully it can be introduced with the Summer 2022 issue. Never a dull moment for our hard-working SGC office. The office team Gabi and Franziska along with Josephin Dick as contract project coordinator are currently working on other projects:

The annual Heritage Festival of Saskatoon (Feb 26-March 6) will feature an online SGC cultural calendar about the Black Forest. If you have not already done so, you can check it out here: <https://saskgermancouncil.org/celebrating-culture/festival-major-events/>

I was pleased to see the photo of our newly-appointed Governor General at the Frankfurt Book Fair on the front cover of the last Postillion (Winter 2021). The photo of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon reminded me that Canadians live in a diverse and multi-cultural society. Her attendance at the Frankfurter Buchmesse also reminded me that we are global citizens, and that

By the time you read this, the new "Culture in the Kitchen" cookbook should be ready. SGC continues to add videos to its YouTube channel, the latest ones show you how to make Spätzle/Käse-spätzle and an Easter craft for kids. Some exciting exhibitions are being planned that will involve

SGC. Executive Director Gabi Waidelich-Harrison and Dr. Michael Oelck met recently with Remai Modern (art museum) in Saskatoon regarding a summer exhibition with Berlin-based artist Tino Sehgal. Watch also for details about an exhibition celebrating one of Canada's greatest research scientists, Nobel-Prize winner Dr. Gerhard Herzberg. This project is being coordinated by the German Embassy in Ottawa, in conjunction with "Defining Moments Canada".

It was my pleasure in December to interview Andy and Ida Grzesina of Regina for their stories about immigrating with their families to Saskatchewan. Be sure to check it out on the SGC website, under Immigration Stories.

By now, most SGC members are aware that SGC will no longer be able to offer Immigrant Settlement Advisor services. And so we are sorry to see ever-smiling Brigitte Strzeszewski leave the SGC office. I can however happily report that Brigitte has accepted a new position with Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, also working with new immigrants to Saskatchewan.

I cannot end my President's message without expressing my admiration for the people of Ukraine. They have shown amazing resilience and courage in their desire to define a future on their own terms. Best wishes to everyone for a healthy Spring and Summer.

.....  
Auf der Titelseite des letzten Postillion (Winter 2021) war ein Foto Ihrer Exzellenz, die Right Honourable Mary Simon, Kanadas neu ernannter Generalgouverneurin, zu sehen. Das Foto von Ihrer Exzellenz auf der Frankfurter Buchmesse hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Es erinnerte mich daran, dass wir Kanadier in einer vielfältigen und multikulturellen Gesellschaft leben. Auch dass wir Weltbürger sind und dass die Welt in den letzten zwei Jahren nicht stillgestanden hat. Ein großes Lob an das Team Postillion.



### Die Winterausgabe 2021 ist Online unter <https://saskgermancouncil.org/>

Derzeit arbeitet das Team Postillion an einem neuen Umschlagdesign und Seitenlayout für unser vierteljährlich erscheinendes Magazin. Hoffentlich kann es mit der Sommerausgabe 2022 eingeführt werden. Für unser fleißiges SGC-Büro wird es nie langweilig. Unser SGC Team Gabi und Franziska, zusammen mit Projektkoordinatorin Josephin Dick arbeiten derzeit an diesen weiteren Projekten:

Im Rahmen des jährlichen Heritage Festival of Saskatoon (26. Februar bis 6. März) wird ein Online-SGC-Kulturkalender über den Schwarzwald erscheinen. Wenn Sie es noch nicht getan haben, können Sie es hier nachlesen: <https://saskgermancouncil.org/celebrating-culture/festival-major-events/> Vielen Dank auch für Ihre Teilnahme von: Fritz Stehwein Galerie, Deutsche Jugendvolkstanzgruppe, und Kulturgarten. Bald sollte das neue Kochbuch „Kultur in der Küche“ fertig sein.

SGCs YouTube Kanal wächst weiterhin mit kulturellen Videos. Die neuesten Videos beinhalten ein Kochrezept für Spätzle/Käsespätzle sowie Basteln für Ostern.

Es sind einige spannende Ausstellungen geplant, an denen das SGC beteiligt sein wird. Im Remai Modern (Kunstmuseum) wird im Sommer eine Ausstellung mit dem Berliner Künstler Tino Sehgal stattfinden. Interessant wird auch eine Ausstellung sein, die einen der größten kanadischen Forscher, den Nobelpreisträger Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, würdigt. Dieses Projekt wird von der deutschen Botschaft in Ottawa in Verbindung mit „Defining Moments Canada“ koordiniert.

Im Dezember war es mir eine Freude, ein Interview mit Andy und Ida Grzesina aus Regina zu führen, in dem sie über die Einwanderung ihrer Familien nach Saskatchewan berichten. Ida wurde in der heutigen Ukraine geboren, Andy in Rumänien. Sie können den Artikel auf der SGC-Website unter Immigration Stories nachlesen.

Leider wird SGC in der Zukunft keine Beratungsdienste für Zuwanderer anbieten. Wir bedauern daher, dass die immer lächelnde Brigitte Strzeszewski das SGC-Büro verlässt. Ich kann jedoch mit Freude berichten, dass Brigitte eine neue Stelle bei der Saskatchewan Intercultural Association angenommen hat, wo sie ebenfalls mit Neueinwanderern in Saskatchewan arbeitet.

Und zuletzt kann ich meinen Bericht nicht beenden, ohne meine Bewunderung für die Menschen in der Ukraine zum Ausdruck zu bringen. Sie haben erstaunliche Widerstandsfähigkeit und Mut bewiesen in ihrem Bestreben, eine Zukunft nach ihren eigenen Bedingungen zu definieren. Ich wünsche Ihnen allen einen gesunden Frühling und Sommer.



# ...von der Arbeit Eures Honorarkonsuls...

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



**Dr. Michael Oelck**

At a time when everybody talks about Ukraine and the terrible war which Wladimir Putin has waged on Ukraine, I do not want to talk about it as we all hear more from the Putin war than we like. As Honorary Consul, it is not my responsibility to take sides or explain political issues, instead I will give you some glimpse of my work and the work that I am doing for people in Saskatchewan.

First and foremost, my work consists of receiving a lot of phone calls on my cell phone which I usually accept myself, every day of the week, not just during office hours and not only from

German citizens. However, I am drawing the line with "private number" calls which I do not accept, because often they are spam calls, and not worth my time because often I have to call people back which private calls do not allow. Also marketing calls are annoying when you do not know if somebody needs help or wants to sell something. My solution when I receive a phone call from an unknown number outside of Saskatchewan, is that I will use a Google screening service which asks the caller to say his name and why he is calling. The effect is usually that most of these callers hang up. Then I will report those numbers to Google to track them worldwide as spam. I consider it a small service to others to flag those calls as spam and Google will silence the calls if they try again.

However, there are some phone calls of emergency situations which I will always accept. In summer I usually have several cases like the call from Herrmann Unordentlich who had lost his passport, or a tourist like Marita Sorglos whose wallet had been stolen and she was in despair and did not know what to do to get home. The first thing I instructed them was to report the loss to police. In addition, I put them in direct contact with my colleagues in Toronto, Vancouver

or Montreal who issued a travel document or even issued some cash loan to be paid back once in arrived in Germany.

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from Sergeant Hunter from Canadian Border Service in Saskatoon. He told me about Julius Finanzler, a German Permanent Resident whose passport RCMP had confiscated when he went into jail. The officer asked me to accept a passport application for Julius Finanzler, because they had decided to expel him from Canada, and to send him back home to Germany. I told Sergeant Hunter that the applicant had to come himself into my office to provide all needed documents and for his signatures.

To my surprise, Officer Hunter told me, that he will come into my office together with Julius Finanzler, because his office had the responsibility and will do what is required to escort Mr. Finanzler out of the country. And this is how it happened: At the appointment, Herr Finanzler sat on one side of my office, Sergeant Hunter sat on the other side, paid for the passport and underlined strongly, that the passport was to be mailed to his office, and not to Mr. Finanzler. A few weeks later, I received a phone call from Officer Hunter informing me that the passport had arrived and he gave me the date when Herr Finanzler would be put on an Air Canada flight to Toronto, and a colleague of his office would accompany him to make sure he would get on the flight to Frankfurt/Germany.

A few weeks later, I received an email from Julius Finanzler then in Germany complaining when his passport would arrive. I told him that the German Consulate in Vancouver had decided to provide CBS with a travel document for him, not a passport. As a result, he would have to apply for his passport in Germany, because a travel document is only valid for one single trip to get back to your home country. Usually this kind of document is issued for tourists, who lost their passport during vacation.

**In some cases a consul has to deal with the RCMP**





Quite often, I am getting emails from older Germans in Saskatchewan who made an inheritance from a German family member. They either tell me “das lohnt sich” meaning that they want to accept the inheritance, or sometimes they provide me with a letter from the German “Nachlassgericht” the probate court which says that some bills have to be paid, or there is no last will and a fight is going on who gets what. A German notary public can usually figure out quickly what has to be done, and will send a power of attorney document to me (Vollmachts-erklärung) to the effect of authorizing e. g. the sister who still lives in Germany to sell the house of their parents in which they both grew up. Alternatively the heirs often set up a community of heirs (Erbengemeinschaft) who then often have trouble to agree what to do next.

I had this old lady living near the southern border of Saskatchewan telling me that she could not come to Saskatoon to sign the document in my office “because in winter she could not drive anymore, and she had so many animals to feed, and to find somebody to drive her would also be difficult”. I told her that as a resident outside of Germany, she had six months’ time since first hearing about the death of the relative to sign a power of attorney or a renouncement document in my office. I would then contact the notary in Germany and explain the reason of the delay to him.

Another day, I received a phone call from a German lady from Saskatoon who was in tears about her sister and her son in Alaska, because her son had committed suicide the same morning. The son had lived with his aunt in Anchorage. American police had phoned the mother in Saskatoon, because the aunt of the young man was still at work, and police had discovered him in the apartment, found his passport and other papers with the address in Saskatoon. Alaskan police called the mother, before her sister was even home from work, and then she phoned me asking what to do. .

The American police had also informed the Honorary German Consul of Alaska, so he was informed, and shortly after the phone call from the sad mother, I received an email from the German Honorary Consul from Anchorage to establish contact to work together on this case. A few hours later, I also received an email from the German General Consulate in San Francisco, because Alaska is part of their territory of res-

pensibility (Zuständigkeit). The two sisters decided for a burial in Anchorage. This happened in 2020 when Covid had just started, and after this terrible incident, the unhappy aunt in Anchorage decided that she was unable to continue to live in Alaska after this tragic event, and she wanted to go back to UK, because she had an English passport from her husband, and felt too alone in Alaska after the suicide of her nephew in her apartment. In addition, the German mother in Saskatoon wanted to be with her sister for support and grievance, but there were all the bad Covid restrictions. I worked with the General Consulate in San Francisco, in spite of Covid to issue a letter for our unhappy mother in Saskatoon enabling her to leave Canada and enter UK, and meet with her sister in London, to weep for the lost son together and to give sisterly support to each other.

Very interesting was also the case of Katharina Reich who hired a German lawyer in Cologne to help her getting the German citizenship back that she had lost when she applied for the Canadian passport. She lived happily ever after as a Canadian, but when her granddaughter told her that she was intending to go to Germany to live and study, she recognized that it was a mistake to have given up German citizenship. The lawyer told her that in order to give the granddaughter the German citizenship, she first had to prove that the mother, her daughter, was still a German citizen, and only then could the case of her granddaughter be unraveled.

Many people do not know that, there is no fee to study in public universities in Germany, it is basically free, except for insurance and living expenses, but they exist in Canada as well. Many German universities offer degrees and education in English language with international bachelor and master degrees. Katharina Reich dug up lots of documents to prove that she was German, she even had a birth certificate with original signature of Heinrich Himmler, and I was stunned to see that. I reviewed all her many family documents and submitted to the General Consulate in Toronto, because they are the only German authority in Canada that deals with citizenship questions. Her case was brought in front of the German Bundesverwaltungsgericht in Köln where it sat for a while to investigate if she could re-apply for German citizenship. A few months later, her lawyer sent me a note that Katharina Reich had passed away peacefully, case closed, no citizenship for her granddaughter.

## HELP FOR GERMAN CITIZEN



361 German honorary consular officials are active worldwide. German honorary consuls run their office on a voluntary basis. The tasks to be carried out by the honorary consuls on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany consist primarily of protecting the interests of Germany and its citizens in Canada and promoting relations between the two countries.

In addition, the Honorary Consuls support the German Embassy in Toronto and the German Consulate General in Vancouver in a variety of ways, such as consular activities, maintaining economic and cultural relationships and spreading a modern image of Germany abroad.

### Office:

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Telefon +1 306 491 4912  
3 Simpson Crescent, Saskatoon, S7H 3C5

### Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., passport applications by appointment only

### Consular district:

Province of Saskatchewan

The office offer following services:

- passport applications
- name declarations
- birth registrations
- consular assistance in emergencies (i.e. accident, death, arrest of a German citizen)
- certification/authentication of signatures (i.e. police clearance certificate application, letters of approval, power of attorney, renouncement of succession)
- certification of photocopies
- consular attestations



# Rolling Calendar

## APRIL



### **Apr 8 SPARGELFEST 2022 FROM THE REGINA GERMAN CLUB**

Springtime is asparagus time, which means the Regina German club will treat you to a delicious Spargelfest come April.

### **Apr 1 - 8 EASTER BAKING BOX FROM KOCHLÖFFEL AND NUDELHOLZ**

Each Easter Baking Box includes the recipes and ingredients to make mini Quarkknödel (dumplings) with poppy seeds and berries, mini Hefekränze (braided wreaths) and Thusner Hosenknöpfe (Trousers Buttons from Thusis, Switzerland), along with history/cultural background on each recipe!

### **APR 11 HERZBERG TRAVEL EXHIBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

This travelling exhibition commemorates Gerhard Herzberg and 50 years of scientific collaboration between Canada and Germany. See the exhibit at the Place Riel North Concourse at the University of Saskatchewan from April 11 to May 5, 2022.

### **APR 23 GERMAN SERVICE AT MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Mount Olive Lutheran Church is happy to announce that their German Worship Services are resuming on the last Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM.

### **APR 23 SCHUBERT OCTET – REGINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Spring into step with the melodic Schubert Octet – played with energy and emotion by the RSO Chamber Players. The first concert takes place from 2pm to 3pm. The second concert takes place from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.



## MAY

### **MAY 7 MAHLER SYMPHONY 4 – SASKATOON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Eric Paetkau, Musik Director, leads the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra at the Sid Buckwold Theatre in Mahler's ethereal 4th Symphony. Starts at 7:30PM

### **MAY 28 BRUCH & BEETHOVEN – REGINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Erika Raum returns to the Queen City to perform the beloved Violin Concerto No 1 by Bruch. Holy Rosary Cathedral will be filled with the cheerful sound of Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, last performed by the RSO in 1981. First concert taking place from 2pm to 3pm. Second concert taking place from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.



## JUNE

### **JUN 17 - JUN 18 SOMMERWENDE**

The Regina German Club is putting on their Sommerwende event again. More details to come.

### **JUN 18 - JUN 19 TREFFPUNKT WEEKEND & AGM**

The Treffpunkt Weekend hosted by SGC will take place on June 18 and 19, 2022 at the Park Town Hotel Saskatoon. Details and registration forms will be sent out at a later date.



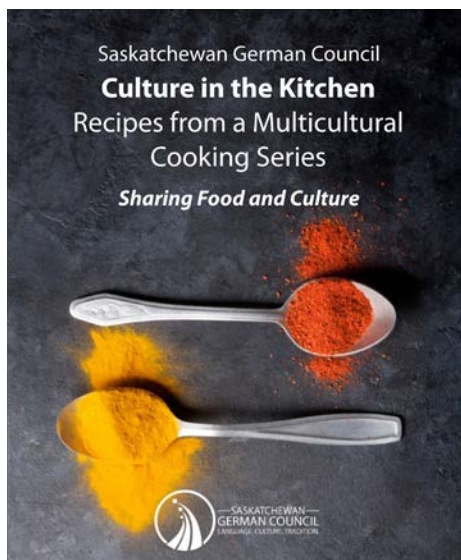




# News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

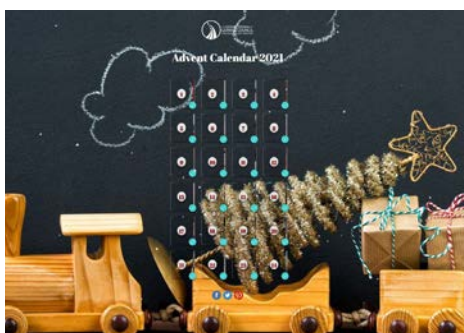
## CULTURE IN THE KITCHEN COOKBOOK



Culture in the Kitchen – A Multicultural Cooking Series started in 2016 as an initiative to bring together different cultures to share food, and to promote better understanding of Saskatchewan's multicultural society. After Covid limited SGC's in-person programming, the next logical step was to compile a cookbook with the many recipes that were taught over the course of 15 classes in Saskatoon and Regina. Some classes were hosted by member groups and others were sponsored from organizations in the community. The office staff is happy to announce that the cookbook will be available for purchase by the end of April. Amy Jo Ehman, sums up the cooking classes nicely with "when we open our kitchens to the flavours of afar, we cook up friendship understanding and fun".

Franziska Davies-Perret

## ADVENT CALENDAR 2021



Thank you for making our 2021 Online Advent Calendar introducing technology and innovations from Germany, Austria and Switzerland another success! During the month of December, over 1,200 people enjoyed the fun calendar with its information, photos, and interactive quizzes.

Congratulations to the three winners of the draw for a Herrnhuter Star: Robert L. from Newfoundland and Labrador, Barbara R. from Saskatoon, SK and Heike M. from Saskatoon, SK! We're already collecting ideas for our 2022 advent calendar, see you again in December!

## SING-ALONG IN DECEMBER

Christmas with all its many festive traditions plays a significant role in the culture of German-speaking countries, and many of those traditions are celebrated here in Saskatchewan as well.

On December 19th, 2021, the SGC along with the Saskatchewan Choral Federation hosted the 2nd annual Christmas Sing-Along. Participants joined in for an afternoon of German or English traditional and contemporary seasonal songs.

About 30 participants attended the virtual event and sang along Christmas favorites like Jingle Bells, Oh Tannenbaum, Joy to the World and many more. A big thanks to Blair and Carol Mills in Regina, our song leader and accompanist, for a wonderful afternoon of seasonal music and bringing people together through music.

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF SASKATOON



The 2022 Heritage Festival of Saskatoon celebrated Saskatoon and area's civic, natural, cultural, and artistic heritage from February 26-March 6 with the theme, Our Changing Times.

For the virtual part of the event, the SGC was happy to make a contribution about German heritage in form of an interactive cultural calendar about the Black Forest with its culture, costumes, cuisine, and traditions, many of which made its way to Saskatchewan. Participants met fairy tale characters, learned about the origin of the Cuckoo Clocks and got inspired to make a Black Forest Cake. Links to cultural crafts, story time and games, made this calendar fun for children as well! Thank you to the following members and affiliated groups who also made



contributions to the festival and therefore preserving our heritage and with that our identity: CFCR 90.5FM, German Junior Folk Dancers, KulturGarten Saskatoon, and Fritz Stehwien Gallery.



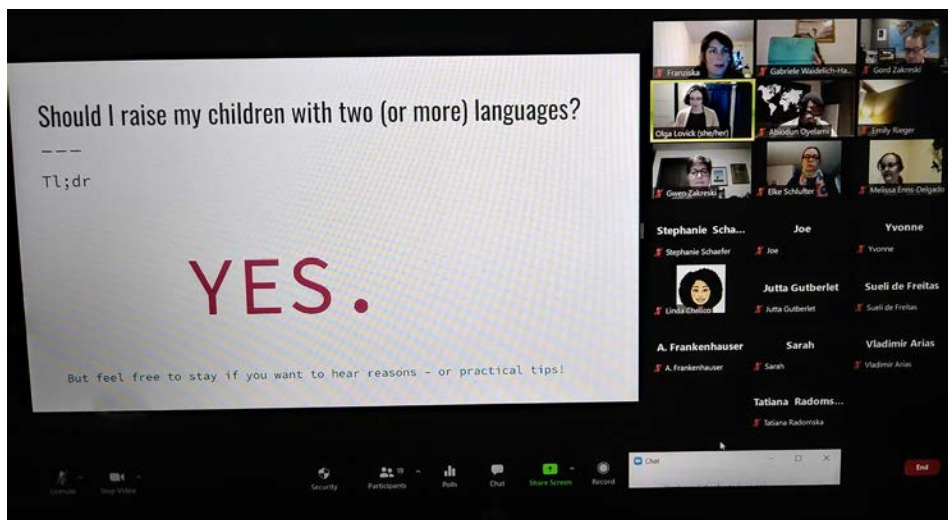
## SGC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL



If you haven't yet discovered our YouTube channel, make sure to check it out! YouTube allows us to share videos we created about German culture with a broad audience, therefore creating awareness about our culture. Videos have a long shelf-life, appeal to our visual sense and engage participating community members. Visit our YouTube channel to find Cultural Crafts for Kids, German-English Story Time for Kids,

Recipes for Käsespätzle (Cheese Spaetzle) and Griesnockerlsuppe (Semolina Dumpling Soup), listen to the Glockenspiel in Regina, join A Walk through Berlin, watch A Brief History of Saskatchewan or enjoy a message to the community by His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. As of now, SGC's 20 videos were viewed 6,800 times in total!

## WORKSHOP BILINGUALISM



On March 10, the SGC in partnership with the Saskatchewan Association of International Languages (SAIL) hosted the workshop & discussion "Bilingualism – Raising Children With More Than One Language". Dr. Olga Lovick, Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics at the University of Saskatchewan led the workshop and previously also developed a brochure for SGC about the topic.

Participants learned about the importance of bilingualism, passing on a mother tongue, maintaining active bilingualism, advantages & disadvantages of bilingualism, promoting language learning, and sustaining interest in languages. Did you know that it is common to be anxious about not being good enough when using another language but that we should not expect perfect bilingualism from ourselves? "Language" is part of who we are! It grounds us in our cultural identity".

Articles by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison

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## A CHOCO STOP IN WALDENBUCH - QUADRATISCH. PRAKTISCH. GUT. Travel tips by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



### Everybody loves Ritter Sport chocolate.

I grew up in Steinenbronn, Baden-Württemberg, a town between Stuttgart and Tübingen in southern Germany. Steinenbronn is close to the National Park "Schönbuch", a densely wooded nature park near picturesque towns and cities full of culture, history and beautiful nature.

Waldenbuch is a small city between Steinenbronn and Tübingen and the place of my daily visit as a child to go to school. Waldenbuch with its 700-year-history is worth visiting to see its Old Town Hall Town, (Altes Rathaus), the Marktbrunnen (Market Fountain), Stadtmauer (City Wall), Altes Backhaus (Old Bakehouse), and castle (Schloss). The Schloss was once a hunting lodge of the Dukes of Württemberg and is now hosting the Museum der Alltagskultur (museum of folk culture).

The main focus of this report will be on the Ritter Sport Museum. The Ritter Sport headquarters in Waldenbuch is a must see, not just to buy the 1 metre long package of chocolate in the Choco Shop. Nestled in a beautiful valley, Ritter Sport is famous for its chocolate square bars with 16 smaller squares which can also be found in many stores in Saskatchewan. The company is still a family run business in its 3rd generation and Alfred Theodor Ritter can be found cycling over the fields on a warm day.

Whether you love plain milk chocolate, the good old Olympia (my favorite), marzipan or the latest quinoa & almond bar, Ritter Sport is worth a visit. Take a tour through the Choco Exhibition to learn about all about the Ritter Sport history and production. When traveling with the family, book a Choco Workshop for the kids and create your own chocolate. Staff there speak German and English. In the Ritter Museum which was designed by Swiss architect Max Dudler, discover a collection of contemporary geometric and abstract art that revolves around the square.

To round off the visit, stop in at the Museum Café and sit outside under a canvas sun umbrella, overlooking the beautiful valley while enjoying delicious cakes, breakfast, lunch, salads, or their famous chocolate specialties. For the adventurous spirit, the "Schoko-Spätzle" – egg noodles with vanilla cream and hot chocolate cubes might just be the right choice!

More information:  
[www.waldenbuch.de](http://www.waldenbuch.de)



### HOW TO TRAVEL TO GERMANY



### History, heritage and even the trace of German family roots makes Germany a great country for traveling

Thousands of travellers are coming to Germany every year. Berlin, Munich and Bavaria are the hot spots for international guest. There is much more to see in Germany. Do you know there are nice beaches in the northern part? Or lots of history in the eastern country, the former GDR. Even after 30 years you can find a lot of traces of this German history part. In this list of websites you'll find a lot of informations about traveling to Germany:

1000 of informations about traveling to Germany from the government travel center:  
[www.germany.travel/en/home.html](http://www.germany.travel/en/home.html)

Information about travelling during COVID  
[www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de](http://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de)

German Car drivers club  
[www.adac.de](http://www.adac.de)

German Museum association:  
[www.museumbund.de](http://www.museumbund.de)

German Foreign Office with news and information for incoming travellers  
[www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

### Waldenbuch Panorama



## BRAUNSCHWEIG OR NEW BRUNSWICK?

This Canadian province was once named after the German town Brunswick. So let's visit this historic city in Northern Germany. - Gerald Freyer



**"Altstadtmarkt" with farmers market**

After its founding in year 1031, the city of Braunschweig was shaped throughout the centuries by the Guelphs and the Hanseatic League. Today, Braunschweig, with its population of around 250,000, is the largest city between Hanover and Berlin. Everything is easy to get to, which is characteristic of a big city - just as the wonderful parks and nature which offer peace, quiet and balance along the banks of the Oker river.

In the city of Henry the Lion, the presence of medieval times can still be felt today. Henry the Lion (1129 - 1195) was a member of the Welf dynasty who ruled as the duke of Saxony and Bavaria from 1142 and 1156. Henry was one of

the most powerful German princes of his time. Castle Dankwarderode, St. Blasii cathedral and the old city walls still echo the reign of Henry the Lion and his son Otto IV. Both Guelphs chose Braunschweig as their residence and developed the city into a powerful centre of trade.

After Otto IV was crowned emperor in Rome in 1209, Braunschweig became a focal point in Europe as an Imperial City. The city continued to be the residence of the Guelph Dukes into the 20th century, with just one interruption.

Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museum is one of the oldest museums in continental Europe. It is home

to around 190,000 pieces of art from 3,000 years of art history and has been enriching the lives of generations since 1754. The Municipal Museum is also of great importance with its extensive collection and is among the largest art and art-historical museums in Germany. Numerous other museums, galleries and art associations supplement the diverse range of offers in the Lion City - from the Kunstverein Braunschweig through the Museum for Photography to the Braunschweig State Museum. Today, the Lion City are among the world leaders with their extensive research activities at their in-



**Don't miss it - Pickled pork in sour gelatin**

ternationally renowned institutes. Science from Braunschweig accompanies the German citizen every second of the day, because the atomic clock at the "Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt" (PTB) defines the precise time for Germany. There are many green oases in Braunschweig. As the Oker River forms a ring around the city



**Oker River in the Harz Mountain**

centre, parks and nature can quickly be reached from the city centre. The Harz mountains and the Lüneburger Heide heathland are easy to travel to, making Braunschweig an ideal starting point for trips deeper into a remarkable region of culture.

More information:

[www.braunschweig.de](http://www.braunschweig.de)



**Braunschweig Cathedral**



**Famous Christmas market**



## THE THURINGIAN FOREST

By Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek



**View of the Wartburg from a hike**

Here's what we love to do when we visit our home area surrounded by the Thuringian Forest. My family can't wait to travel back to Germany this summer. For us, going back means exploring Europe and then visiting family in Eisenach and Finsterbergen for two weeks.

Once there, we only need our hiking boots and off we go hiking in the Thuringian Forest. We sing the Rennsteig song, but only when there are no other hikers around, it's the unofficial anthem of

Thuringia. There are so many interesting places on our way. In my hometown of Eisenach, hiking to Wartburg Castle is a must. The place where Martin Luther hid for 300 days and translated the Bible into German at that time in history. Another highlight for us is the Viba Nougat World in Schmalkalden. Here you can immerse yourself in the production of fine nougat and chocolate by looking over the shoulder of the confectioners, the so-called production behind



**Nougat fountain at the Nougat World**

glass. If you love good nougat, good food, ice cream and interesting workshops, you've come to the right place. Hiking means "einkehren". We love the restaurants along the hikes or the snack on a bench with a beautiful view. And of course, all the bratwurst stands. Here you can get delicious Thuringian sausages or Rostbrätel.

More information:  
[www.thueringen.info](http://www.thueringen.info)

## TRAVELLING TO FLENSBURG

By Inken Kessel

Let's travel to the northeast City of Germany: Flensburg. It is not only part of the land between the oceans (Schleswig and Holstein) its right on its own fjord in the Baltic Sea.



**Flensburg Harbour**

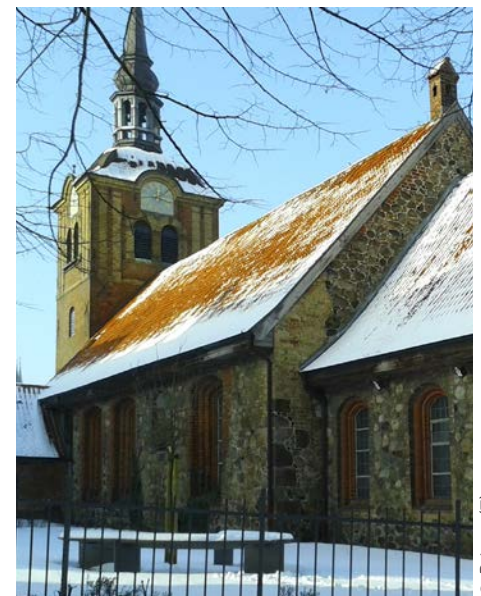
Some of my favourite activities as a former local include bicycle rides, walks in the different parks, forests and beaches and shopping in boutiques downtown. An evening out would mean wal-

king down to the harbour to my favourite Gasthausbrauerei – Hansens Brauerei. They serve delicious food and even better beer, brewed right there.

If you want to do an afternoon trip I highly recommend hopping over the border into Denmark and eating a danish hot dog from Annies Kiosk followed by a danish soft ice cream. Also Flensburg offers a lot of historic attractions like the Nordertor (town gate from 1595), different churches like St. Johannes, St. Marien and St. Jürgen. You can also take a tour on the Steamship the Alexandra (1908). After an exploration through the old city you might like to take a coffee break ideally with a Torte at Marien-Café.

More information:  
[www.flensburg.de](http://www.flensburg.de)

**Church in Flensburg**



© Privat (7)



# MOZART AND AUSTRIA - TRAVEL TO SALZBURG

By Deana Karner, Das Schulhaus.



**Garden and castle Mirabell**

If you are travelling to Austria, the province of Salzburg really has it all. If it's history you're looking for, you can visit Festungsberg – the fortress on a mountain right in the middle of Salzburg's Altstadt. Also to be found in the Altstadt is Mozart's Geburtshaus (birth house) and Salzburg's

famous Dom. There is no shortage of beautiful palaces to tour, such as Schloss Mirabell and Schloss Leopoldskron. And only a one hour drive from Salzburg, you must also visit beautiful Hallstatt, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



**Play in the garden**

If it's the culture you're looking for, visit Salzburg in July and August and attend the world-famous Salzburger Festspiele. Jedermann is the central, and most famous performance at the Festspiele, but there are 199 performances to choose from ranging from operas, to plays, to concerts, and even children's programming. Visit one of the approximately 50 art galleries in Salzburg, or even just walk around Salzburg's Altstadt, and admire the baroque architecture that has been preserved in almost perfect condition.

If it's nature you're looking for, beautiful Untersberg stands guard over the city of Salzburg's southwestern flank, and is a popular mountain for hiking in the summer, ski-touring in the winter, or you can ride the gondola to the peak at any time of the year. If you go in the winter, there are 65 ski resorts within the province of Salzburg alone! And if you prefer the summer, the province of Salzburg is home to the Salzkammergut – a region that contains more than 30 crystal clear mountain-fed lakes.

More information:

[www.salzburg.info](http://www.salzburg.info)

**Salzburg with river Salzach**



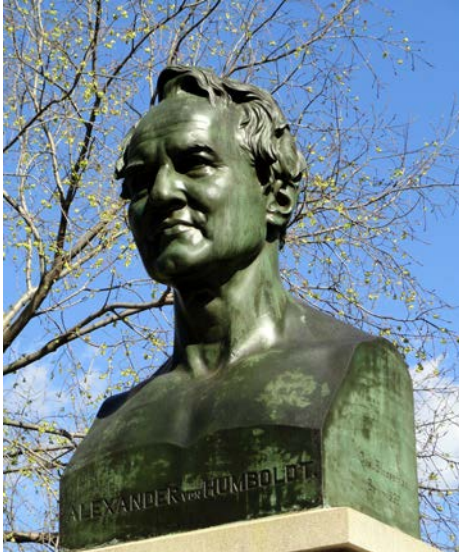


## GERMANS IN SASKATCHEWAN

There are many places in our province that have a German connection. Find the traces of Germans in museums, places and small country towns.

### HUMBOLDT MUSEUM

Humboldt



The city is named after Baron Alexander von Humboldt, a world famous German scientist and naturalist.

A businessmen formed the German American Land Company in 1903 and purchased 100,000 acres of land in the district to sell to settlers who wanted more land than a quarter section. The company enticed German Catholics living in the United States to homestead in St. Peter's Colony by boasting that there were "churches and schools and German neighbors in the district, which also offers the best in material matters, the spiritual advice and activity lies in the hands of the Benedictine fathers."

[www.humboldtmuseum.ca](http://www.humboldtmuseum.ca)

### ST. JOSEPH'S COLONY

South Qu'Appelle



In 1886, German Catholics fleeing religious persecution in Russia emigrated to Canada and formed a settlement they named St. Joseph's Colony. Their Roman Catholic faith was central to their identity and within a year they constructed their first church on this site.

Schooling began in 1887 with classes in the original church. A one-room schoolhouse was built in 1903 and classes were conducted in that building until it closed in 1966.

### MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Swift Current



The Mennonite Heritage Village was founded in 1992 to establish a historical Mennonite Village depicting the life and times of early settlers in the Swift Current area, and to develop appreciation for the contributions made to this country by Mennonite immigrants.

The Homesteader Gardens are a wonderful attraction at the Mennonite Heritage Village, and bring many visitors to the site each summer.

<https://mennoniteheritagevillage.ca>

### GRAF BERTHOLD VON IMHOFF MUSEUM

St. Walburg



The German born artist Berthold von Imhoff studied painting at various academies in Germany. In 1914, he moved to northwestern Saskatchewan, where he lived and painted until his death in 1939. It was at this studio that Imhoff produced much of his artwork, including still lifes and portraits. Well-known for his religious artwork, which he painted for little or no pay, Imhoff's work appears in over 90 churches and cathedrals throughout Saskatchewan and the United States.

[www.imhoff.stwalburg.ca](http://www.imhoff.stwalburg.ca)

### GERMAN TRACES ONLINE

There are many places in Canada that have a German connection. The Goethe-Institut Canada has come up with an app to view these sites across Canada. Once downloaded, you can explore what German connections there are from the east coast to the west! Learn more about the traces of Germany in Saskatchewan, the Egg Money Sculpture, the Cathedral of the Holy Family or the "first family of Saskatoon".

[www.goethe.de/ins/ca/en/kul/ges/dsk.html](http://www.goethe.de/ins/ca/en/kul/ges/dsk.html)



## 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT GERMANY

Premier of Saskatchewan Scott Moe visited Germany on a business trip in March 2022. Postillion asked him about his thoughts about the relationship between both countries.



**Where do you see the biggest difference between Germany and Saskatchewan, where do you see the commonalities?**

Saskatchewan and Germany have long-standing economic and cultural ties through our vibrant German Canadian community. Given recent events, the importance of enhancing our relationship with likeminded allies is increasingly important to ensure stability and security in supply chains, particularly as it relates to energy and food security.

Saskatchewan is an agricultural powerhouse and, like Germany, has a long history of innovation in agricultural production and manufacturing. Saskatchewan and Germany have shared interests in clean energy production and low carbon intensity mining. In fact, the German company K+S is one of Saskatchewan's largest investors producing some of the cleanest potash in the world at its site in Bethune. Most importantly, Saskatchewan and Germany share a desire to do more – to strengthen partnerships and improve quality of life in our growing communities.

**Premier of Saskatchewan Scott Moe on his trip to Germany and UK in March 2022**

**German technology, research, and economy – what are important aspects for you from which we can benefit here in Saskatchewan?**

Germany is a world-leader in innovative and environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing and mining. At the same time, Saskatchewan is an energy and critical minerals powerhouse. By partnering Saskatchewan's critical mineral resources with Germany's cutting edge, reliable electricity solutions, we can make our energy systems more sustainable. There is also significant potential for collaboration in other areas of shared interest such as sustainable agriculture. Saskatchewan, which is home to more than 40 per cent of Canada's cultivated farmland and some of the most fertile land in the world, is internationally recognized for supplying sustainable, high quality food and ingredients. Some of the other avenues for collaboration include value-added processing and forestry management.

**Next to high-tech, Germany also stands for history, customs, and traditions. How important are those identity-forming aspect of a culture for you?**

Saskatchewan and Germany's shared values and shared history are a catalyst for expanding our commercial partnership. Saskatchewan and Germany share an innovative spirit, and a resilience and determination to address even the most complex challenges facing the world today. Our experience in Germany reinforced the importance of this relationship and solidified the importance of our commitment to forge closer ties with Germany and other European partners.



## IMMIGRATION - HISTORY - FAMILY



Saskatchewan - for a lot of German immigrants a getaway from the old country.



## MY FATHER'S IMMIGRATION STORY

by Arlene Fedorchuk



**Karl's passport photo 1952. His name at birth was actually Carl.**

My father, Karl Friedrich Seemann, was born on August 12, 1930, in Großsoltholz, Germany to Carl and Helene (nee Jordt) Seemann. Schleswig-Holstein is a quaint, pastoral area in northern Germany that has coastlines on both the Baltic and North Seas. Most of the land is used for agricultural purposes and it's one of the regions where Holstein cattle originated. Karl's father, Carl, was born December 11, 1904, in Obdrup, Germany. His mother, Helene, was born on November 11, 1911, in Großsoltholz. My grandparents eventually settled in the village of Sörup where they worked diligently to provide for their family. Carl was a Müllermeister (master miller), and Helene worked in Bakery Lensch in Sörup until she was well into her 70s. Carl and Helene had six children, with my father, Karl, being the eldest followed by Hans, Helma, Peter, Marga and Traute. I never met my Opa because he died before I was born. I met my Oma for the first time when I was 18 years old and living in Germany for a year with relatives whom I had never met before.

My father would have been nine years old at the outset of WWII. When I was growing up, my father seldom talked about his life in Germany during the war. It was unusual for him share stories, so when he did, they stayed with me. Once my father told me about Nazi soldiers coming into classrooms at his elementary school to offer innocent children a shiny Pfennig in exchange

for information about their parents' loyalty to Hitler. If a child candidly revealed that their father didn't support Hitler, that father would suddenly disappear never to be seen again. Food and clothing rations for German citizens were minimal, and they certainly didn't allow for luxuries like chocolate, coffee, whipped cream, or leather goods. One of my aunts shared about the time Oma had a pig's head, which young Karl acquired through the black market, cooking in a soup pot. When a Nazi soldier entered their house, Oma stood nervously by the stove keeping the pig's head submerged with a wooden spoon. If the soldier had seen it, they would have all been punished.

When my dad was 12 or 13 years old, he was sent to the Kinderlandverschickung in Melk, Austria on the Danube River for six weeks, which today is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Kinderlandverschickung is a German term for a Nazi state program that evacuated German children to the countryside to provide them with safety and better nutrition during the war. It was also an extension of the Hitler Youth and was an opportunity to indoctrinate the children into the ideology of the Reich. The Nazis had expected a quick victory to the war and initially children were not expected to be away for more than a few weeks, but apparently some children were away for several months and longer. Children lived with families unknown to them or in camps. I recall my father talking about the abundance and variety of good food and that they spent a lot of time outdoors playing sports. My Tante Helma, recently shared that she remembered Karl coming home with several plastic pins shaped as wine bottles and grapes that you would pin onto a jacket or hat. At 88 years old, she still has a very clear memory of this because she had never seen anything like them. It would have been around this time, 1941 - 42, that Opa Carl was drafted to Neustrelitz. Sending a child away to Kinderverschickung was ultimately the parents'/guardians' decision, yet there would have been pressure from the Nazi state to do so. Oma would have been raising their five oldest children alone in these war times and having to make the decision alone to send her young son away. Although my father never talked in detail about his experience, I can only imagine how he and the other children felt being separated from

their families and sent away to a foreign country to live with strangers during the chaos of war times.

As a soldier, Opa spent time as a prisoner of war in Crimea, where he secretly hand carved a complete set of chess pieces out of bullets. From there, Opa walked to Austria then eventually served in the German Navy on the Danube before returning to Sörup. Tante Helma shared that one day Helene saw a man in a jeep through her window and commented that he looked like her husband. Within a short time later, her husband did return home. Unfortunately, he was forever changed after his experiences in the war, and he was diagnosed with heart disease. He eventually suffered a pulmonary embolism and was taken by ambulance from Sörup to Flensburg, the nearest city with a hospital. In his frail condition, he could not withstand any movement, so the ambulance drove at a walking pace to Flensburg, a 20-minute drive that would have taken at least 4 hours at that pace.

As with all male youth in WWII, dad and his younger brother Hans, were recruited into the



**My grandparents Helene and Carl Seemann on their wedding day in 1930.**



**Five of Carl and Helene's children. From left to right: Helma, Peter, Hans, Marga and Karl, affectionately called None.**

Hitler Youth. Strong-willed Karl didn't like the constraints of the Hitler Youth and would often run back home. The group leader in Sörup told his mother that if Karl didn't willingly participate, he couldn't do anything to help him, implying there would be consequences. What a dilemma Oma faced! The story goes that Karl and Hans organized a lot of trading on the black market, such as the pig's head mentioned earlier. My father was bold and brazen, the type of man who was mechanically inclined and could improvise anything. He obviously had these skills as a teenager, too, because he covertly tapped into the Nazi telephone lines and strung wires throughout their village so he and Hans could speak with their friends. When the British Army came to occupy Schleswig-Holstein near the end of the war, Helene quickly tore down all phone lines and destroyed their pictures of Hitler. Tante Helma said that the British soldiers gave the children chocolate, but her mother forbade them to eat it because it was surely poisonous! The children ate it anyway and, of course, they survived. In fact, Tante Helma recalled that the chocolate was especially delicious!

After WWII, as with most of Germany, Schleswig-Holstein endured social, economic and unemployment issues. However, Karl got an

apprenticeship in the office of the Deutsche Bahn (German Railway), which was at that time as good as winning the Lotto! Later my hands-on father trained as a Schmied (blacksmith) where a piece of hot metal flew into his eye. He spent weeks in a hospital in Kiel recuperating from eye surgery. He also worked as a Torfarbeiter (peat worker) and for a business delivering goods. After the war, it was nearly impossible to find permanent work in Germany. Dad hoped he could find work in South Africa, but that country was not accepting German workers at that time. During the war, an older friend from his village, Sigi, had been recruited by the Nazis. Sigi was captured and spent time in a POW camp in Taber, AB. Apparently, the camp in Taber even allowed the prisoners to have a cake to celebrate Hitler's birthday in the POW camp.

When the war was over, these soldiers were released and left to find their own way. Sigi opted to stay in Canada and wrote letters to encourage my father and other young men from their village to come to the land of opportunity. My Oma had saved a recruitment pamphlet from the Great Lakes Paper Company in Fort William, Ontario and the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Co in Espanola, Ontario. This pamphlet was entitled Kanada braucht mehr Holzarbeiter (Canada needs more lumberjacks). The requirements listed in the pamphlet wouldn't be allowed by today's politically correct standards. The company was specifically recruiting single 20- to

40-year-old men, with preference given to those under 30 years of age. The men must weigh a minimum of 65 kilograms (143 pounds), be at least 1.68 meters tall (5 feet 5 inches) and be capable of doing heavy, physical work in the forest. Hard work was one thing my father never shied away from, and so, my determined, intrepid father accepted the challenge.

In February 1952, with passport and immigration documents in hand, Karl boarded the M.S. Columbia in Bremerhaven headed to Halifax, NS, being one of the 693 passengers on board. He reached Canada on March 8, 1952. My father was proud to be one of the few on board that wasn't seasick who enjoyed extra portions at mealtimes. When he landed in Halifax, he took a train to Montreal before heading to Fort William, Ontario, a city on the Kaministiquia River on Lake Superior. His work as a lumberjack would be on St. Ignace Island in northern Ontario, the 11th largest lake island in the world. As a condition of employment with the Great Lakes Paper Company, he had to sign an 18-month contract and pay back his employer for his crossing expenses through deductions from his wages. I recall my father saying that they lived in tents, even during the harsh Canadian winter. Workers had to pay for this lodging, as well for meals. On payday, he had very little to show for his labour since most of it went to the employer. Yet, he did his best to send money and coffee home to his family and even to some of the other families in Sörup.

As my father was just getting settled in this foreign land, back home in Germany his terminally ill father lay in hospital dreaming of his son's transatlantic journey. At the same time, coincidentally, Karl had a dream that his father had died. Karl didn't learn of his father's death until three weeks after his passing because he was working in a remote location in the bush where mail wasn't delivered. This letter containing such sad news was the first one Helene had written to her son since he left home just two months earlier. Carl left behind his wife and six children ranging in age from 6 years to 22 years of age. I believe at this point my father would have returned to Germany if he could have afforded the passage. He was quickly realizing the Canadian dream wasn't all that he anticipated, and as the





**My parents Karl and Sarah Seemann, on their wedding day Sept. 26, 1954.**

eldest son of the family, it was his duty to take care of his family. I sensed this dishonour weighed on my father for the rest of his life, although he never said as much in words.

Eventually, Karl made his way to Saskatoon, SK where he found employment as a brakeman with the CNR earning \$3,700 per year. He had a friend, Ozzie, with whom he shared a one-bedroom studio apartment. Ozzie worked in the day time and dad worked nights, so sharing one bed worked out fine. At some point, Dad was injured on the job and ended up in hospital. He didn't speak much English, but a friend knew that my mother spoke some German, so she arranged for mom to visit this handsome, home-sick German in the hospital. Karl was very glad to be able to speak to someone in his mother tongue. Their first date was on Valentine's at the Club 400. Within seven months, they married and in due course had six children.

In the beginning, Karl regularly wrote letters home to his family and friends. In one of his earlier letters to his mother in Sörup, my father wrote that the canned kale she had sent at Christmas had exploded all over the customs office's white walls. The officers thought it was a bomb! Dad insisted that his mother not send him any more gifts because, after all, he was now living in

Canada and wanted to buy Canadian goods. After their marriage, and as their family grew, dad's letters home became few and far between.

In his last letters, he often wrote how difficult it was to make a life in Canada. In fact, it was almost more difficult in Canada than in Germany and it was better if his brother Peter and friends from their area didn't follow in his footsteps, especially if they couldn't speak English and had no training.

My father neither spoke German at home nor referred to his family when I was a child. I remember being surprised to learn that he was born in Germany and that he had family there. I had also been sheltered from the stigma of the assumed association with Hitler and Nazis that German immigrants were subjected to. I didn't understand until I was older why my father worked extra hard to be accepted, why he was overly generous, why he got his Canadian Citizenship as soon as he could, and why he suppressed his German-ness. In my Master's Thesis, a narrative inquiry into refugee students' experiences, I wrote: My father had stepped into the anti-Nazi tensions in Canada following World War II, with an undeniably deutscher Akzent that betrayed his roots, at a time when the government had implemented a set of initiatives designed to develop a sense of Canadianism among members of the so-called foreign-born population. The underlying hostilities against the foreign-born population were accentuated by the corresponding set of initiatives meant to educate 'old stock' Canadians about the threat that prejudicial attitudes posed to national unity. My father often talked about this dissonance and the affect it had on his position on the landscape of his new country. He told me how shortly after his arrival he felt as if he were the only person in the entire city that was charged to walk on the city sidewalks. He had interpreted the poll tax charged to all citizens as being charged solely to him because he was a foreigner, creating conflicting emotions for him simultaneously being singled out and unaccepted. His misinterpretation was not far-fetched considering that my mother's father, who had emigrated from Prussia in the late 1920s to begin farming here, had his rifle impounded during WWII because he was seen as a potential threat, for after all he was foreign looking and foreign-born.

My father was a man of morals, ethics, and values. When he asked for my mother's hand in marriage, her father had agreed, but only if they stayed in Canada. Karl was true to his word. He took pride in working hard to support his family, despite the cloud of racism that hovered around him. I remember him often saying, "If there's a will, there's a way", words he lived by. He was eventually hired by the Anatomy Department at the University of Saskatchewan where he worked until his retirement. During his first-year probationary period, he continued to work nights for the CNR and days for the university. After his retirement when dad became legally blind from macular degeneration, he taught himself how to turn wood and created beautiful pieces by feel. Craving freedom and independence he also took up cycling – as a blind person – and amassed nine bicycles, some manual and some electric.

My father had left Germany at 22 years of age for an unknown land, a long journey from which he would not return to his homeland until 27 years later. When I was 18 years old, Karl's brother, Hans, reunited with my father in Saskatoon. I jumped at Onkel Hans' invitation to live in Germany with his family for a year and to get to know my relatives there. I didn't understand a word of German when I arrived, so I interpreted my father's homeland through sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. Living in Germany and getting to know my newly found relatives over the years has given me an understanding of the milieu that had shaped my father. I have come to realize the courage it took my grandparents, my father and his siblings to survive in a country at war. I can finally appreciate what it meant for dad to leave his family and his country to start over in a foreign land that wasn't welcoming. I recognize the tension he felt throughout his life to maintain one foot planted in Germany and the other foot planted in Canada. When my father passed away in 2014, part of his ashes were buried alongside his mother in the cemetery in Sörup; part of them were scattered at the Gardiner Dam in Saskatchewan, and the remainder rest beside my mother here in Canada.

If you would like to share your own story here, send an Email: [office@saskgermancouncil.org](mailto:office@saskgermancouncil.org)

# 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.

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## NEW YEAR, NEW CULTURE & BAKING BOXES

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



Different types of bread offered in the February Baking Box



We're already weeks into the new year, days are getting longer, and spring will be here in no time!

The first box for 2022 was offered in February and included breads from different Swiss cantons. The boxes were a bit heavy this time around with almost 2kg of flour for 3 recipes. This was interesting in that I had to do some research on flour. The flour names in Switzerland and Germany are very different to the names here in North America. While the different types of flour available here are getting better, it's nowhere near the long grocery aisle of flour in Germany. You'll also find that German recipes are not easily converted to using all-purpose flour, sometimes the dough is too dry or too wet. It takes a little bit of recipe testing and even then, doughs turn out different in my kitchen compared to someone else's.

Doing research on breads and flour led me to communal baking ovens. Found in Germany and Switzerland (and I'm sure in other countries as well!) these types of baking ovens were

found in the center of villages and were huge. It was a place for all things baking, sharing stories and being part of the community. These ovens have been well recorded in history books since at least the 12th century. Each household would make their breads and bring them to these ovens to bake and to recognize loaves each family would stamp theirs or have a specific family mark. Wouldn't it be great to have these communal baking ovens back in use?

I've only scratched the surface with my research of flour, so I encourage you to do your own research to see what interesting tidbits of information you can find!

The next Culture & Baking Box will be released in April or May. To those of you who bought a February Box, thank you! I'm grateful for your support!

If you're interested in getting the information for future baking boxes to your inbox, email [kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com](mailto:kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com)



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### NEWS FROM HANSEL & GRETEL PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon — Ulrike Hecker



**Celebrating Fasching and scaring winter away**

Winter seems to stay with us, longer than we all wish. The highlight of the season in our preschool was the visit of Nikolaus in December. Our children surprised Nikolaus by singing a variety of songs and rhymes that they had learned over the past few months. In return Nikolaus filled

their boots with treats, some fruit and little pine twigs.

In January we tried to escape winter by having a beach party in the classroom. Students showed up in sunglasses, shorts and summer dresses.

Our classroom turned into an ocean and children were sitting in inflatable canoes while singing "row, row, row your boat". We had a surf dance on beach towels and rocked away to the song "Surfing in the USA". A little video clip of that dance (posted on FB page) made waves! CBC Radio 1 called to hear more about that fun day and had an interview with Ulrike Hecker. It was a wonderful opportunity to share thoughts on the importance of bringing happiness into a preschool classroom during times of a pandemic. On February 28th and March 1st, we turned up the volume again. It was time to celebrate German "Fasching". Kids dressed up in their costumes and marched through the school, singing German carnival songs to scare winter away. The classroom was filled with giggles of joy when it was time for the traditional candy toss parade at the end of the day.

In March we are holding a raffle fundraiser in conjunction with SPF (Saskatoon Preschool Foundation), a non-profit organization, that provides tuition subsidy for families in need.

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**Registration for the 2022/23 school year is open. Classes are starting to fill up!**

For more information on Hansel & Gretel Preschool or requesting a personal tour, please contact Ulrike Hecker @ (306) 281-4428 or visit <http://hanselandgretelpreschool.blogspot.ca> and Facebook



**Making friends in preschool**



**Rowing your boat!**



**Traditional German Fasching Krapfen**



### HELLO FROM THE KARNEVALSGESELLSCHAFT HARMONIE GROUP

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina — Sheila Aldous



At the TeleMiracle

Happy 2022 Everyone, we hope you and your families are doing well.

We are very happy to announce that we finally had our Karneval Crowning on January 29th, 2022. Princess Theresa and her Prince Claude were crowned at the German Club with about 35 people attending. Princess Theresa had all the usual crowning party paraphernalia. Lovely decorations, speeches, Die Buttenreder, great meal served by the German Club, and they even organized a "Guess That German Song" game. Congratulations to our new Prinzen Couple.

Our Dancers have taken part in a few events. They did a taping for TeleMiracle on the 8th of



Frost

January. They are now waiting to hear when it will be shown on the broadcast. Thank you to everyone who donated to TeleMiracle and especially those who made their donation under our account. The Dance Group was also lucky to performance at Regina's first Frost event. They took part in both weekends. Everyone had a great time. We are still hosting our SARCAN Drop & Go bottle drive fundraiser for our young ladies' new uniforms, "The Sparklers". If you have any bottles/cans laying around that you would like to donate to the cause, the girls would really appreciate it. Their Group Name at SARCAN is KGH.

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



Crowning

© Privat (5), Pixabay (2)



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers — Brenda Booker



**Now for a New Challenge - Inner and Outer groups.**



**Way to go Luke.**

We ended 2021 with a bit of a different Christmas celebration. In years past we have had a potluck with a craft table and games. We replaced it this year with a performance that we recorded. Later it was posted on Facebook, for family and friends to enjoy. It was great to see everyone in their costumes and performing again. The first performance in almost 2 years. After the performance all the Dancers were sent home with a Gift Bag of activities, including some special treats.

By now we are all becoming accustomed to the constant changes during these times. For us, we again had our practices interrupted due to an

increased Covid transmission risk, creating a bit of a longer Christmas break.

After a few extra weeks off we started practices again, in February and did so with a bang. We had our new Maypole brought to practice and the ribbons started to fly. We have struggled in the past with trying to make a Maypole, that could be disassembled for transporting and still remain stable. Then along came our fabricating genius, aka Mack. He did a great job on the Maibaum and has also been kind enough to help us get started with it, at practice.

"Thanks Mack, we really appreciate all the time you have dedicated to this project." It has taken a few practices for us to catch on to the Maibaum assembly process and to sort out the music and dance steps. Now we just need to perfect the art keeping a grip on the ribbons, while making the right moves in order to create the beautiful patterns on the Maibaum. Everyone has been very patient while we try to untangle the ribbons whenever we've messed up on the steps. Overall, it has been a lot of fun. we get better with each practice and we hope to show it off at a performance in the near future.

Frühlingsgrüsse!

**Who made this Tangled Mess?**

### VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE

Alvin Knoll

Hello everyone. After almost two years of not being able to get together in person our choir executive held an in person planning meeting in February to discuss the way forward for the choir. It was decided that we should resume choir rehearsals in mid March, depending on Covid of course. I am expecting that our first rehearsal night will mostly be of visiting, conversations and very little practice! I am looking forward to seeing all our friends in the choir after this two years hiatus.

Unfortunately, there will not be enough time to prepare a spring concert which traditionally takes place the first Sunday of May. We are hoping to be able to prepare some music for some performances in Senior centers and at

cultural events yet to be determined in the coming months. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at the Regina German Club and new members are always welcome.



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### CONCORDIA BRASS BAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — Yvonne Kristoff



Concordia Brass Band has just begun rehearsing again after our winter break. It was great to see all our friends again after a difficult winter due to Covid and other situations. I think Concordia Brass Band can be proud to have survived the pandemic as not all groups have been able to do

that. We are looking forward to playing concerts as they are requested, and we hope that Folkfest will be in person this year so we can play our concerts as in the past. Our summer concerts in the park were such a success and so much fun to play that I am including 2 more pictures

taken at one of the concerts. These were taken by C. M. Foley. We were so happy to have them because it isn't very often that we get pictures of the whole band because one person is always left out to take the pictures.

### UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGATEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon — Brigitte Boldt-Leppin



Mit der anhaltenden Pandemie waren wir weiterhin gezwungen unseren monatlichen Stammtisch Treff via Jitsi Meet abzuhalten. Die Themen bezogen sich auf wann, wie und ob im Jahr 2022 Veranstaltungen vom KulturGarten durchgeführt werden könnten. Aufgrund der gesundheitlich politischen Unsicherheit und der über 20% -igen Preisanstiege für Konsumgütern haben wir entschieden dieses Jahr keine in Haus, sondern eine, die in vielen Teilen von Deutschland auch heute noch im Freien verbreitete Ostertradition, zu präsentieren.

Ostern, das Fest des Frühlingserwachens (in den meisten europäischen Sprachen genannt, z.B.französisch Pâques , italienisch Pasqua, schwedisch Paskdagen oder Niederländisch Pasen, abgeleitet vom Griechischen und Lateinischen Wort Pascha) , in der christlichen Tradition ein kulturelles Fest zur Erinnerung der Auferstehung Jesu von den Toten, wie beschrieben im Neuen Testament. Die Herkunft des Namens Ostern oder Easter ist

Detail eines fränkischen Osterbrunnens /  
Detail of a Easter well in Frankonia

in der Literatur umstritten. Zum Einen wird hingewiesen auf die Himmelsrichtung Osten – aufsteigende Sonne oder Morgenröte, zum Weiteren auf eine heidnische Frühlingsgöttin mit Namen Eostrae, deren Entsprechungen im griechischen die Göttin Eos, im lateinischen Aurora sein sollen. Beide gelten als Göttinnen der Morgenröte und des zunehmenden Lichts. Eine weitere Theorie ist die Verknüpfung des Namens mit dem nordgermanischen Begriff austr – begießen. Wasser, ein Symbol für Leben und Fruchtbarkeit, wird daher auch als gesegnetes Taufwasser genutzt.

Es gibt viele Traditionen und Bräuche ([www.brauchumsseiten.de](http://www.brauchumsseiten.de)), oft basierend auf vorchristlicher Zeit, die das neu erwachende Leben im Frühling begrüßen und ehren. Die bekanntesten Symbole zum Osterfest sind sicherlich die gefärbten Ostereier (Fruchtbarkeit), der Osterhase (Fruchtbarkeit, neues Leben), das Osterlamm (Unschuld), aber auch das Osterwasser (Fruchtbarkeit und Schönheit). In heidnischer Zeit glaubte man, dass Wasser, geschöpft zum Frühlingsanfang und Sonnenaufgang vom Osten her fließendem Wasser, besondere



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

Heilkräfte besäße. Vor etwa 100 Jahren begannen die Bewohner der Fränkischen-Schweiz ihre Brunnen im Frühling zu schmücken. Der Ursprung des Brauchtums liegt vor allem in der Bedeutung des Wassers als lebensspendendes Element für die wasserarme Hochebene der Fränkischen Jura. Noch heute werden in vielen Regionen im deutschen Sprachraum die Brunnen der Dörfer und Städte zu Ehren des Wassers zur Osterzeit, dem Fest der Auferstehung und des neuen Lebens, geschmückt.

Mit erwartender Erlaubnis der Stadtverwaltung von Warman planen wir den dortigen Rathaus Brunnen in einen Osterbrunnen zu verwandeln. Aufgrund der anhaltenden frostigen Temperaturen kann der geplante Brunnen vor Ostern nicht aus dem 'Winterschlaf' geholt werden. Considering the ongoing pandemic we were continuously forced to conduct our monthly Stammtisch meeting via Jitsi Meet. The subjects included when, how and if KulturGarten can organize any events in the year 2022. Because of the political uncertainties concerning health issues and the over 20% increase of consumer costs we decided not to organize any indoor events, instead we will present an Easter tradition, still carried out outdoors in many areas of Germany.

Easter, the celebrations of the arrival of Spring (in most European languages called Pâques (French), Pasqua (Ital.), Paskdagen (Swed.) or Pasen (Ned.), derived from the Greek and Latin word Pascha), in the Christian tradition a cultural celebration to honour the resurrection of Christ, as described in the New Testament. The origin of the name Easter or Ostern is debated in the literature. One theory points out the orientation East – direction of the raising sun or morning glory, an other one to the pagan Goddess of Spring named Eostrea, with similarities to the Greek goddess Eos, in Latin also called Aurora. Both goddesses of the Morning Glory and the raising light. An other theory is the association of the name with the North Germanic word austr – to water. Water, a symbol for life and fertility, is therefore also used as blessed baptism water. There are many traditions and customs ([www.brauchtumsseiten.de](http://www.brauchtumsseiten.de)), often based on pre-Christian times, which celebrate and honour the newly awakening life in springtime. The best known symbols for Easter celebrations are arguably the coloured Easter Eggs (fertility), the Easter Bunny (fertility and new life), the Easter Lamb (innocence), but also the Easter Water (fertility and beauty). In pagan time it was believed that water had special healing power if collected in Spring at sunrise from a stream flowing from the east.

About 100 years ago, the inhabitants living in Franconia, an area located in southern Germany, started decorating their water wells in Spring. The origin of this tradition is mainly based on the importance of water as life-giving element in this drought prone Jurassic geological formation of the area. Still today, in many villages and town in the Germanic language regions, the wells and fountains are decorated at Easter time, the celebration of resurrection and new life, to honour the importance of water.

We are planing, still waiting for permission of the City of Waldheim, to decorate the fountain situated in front of City Hall, and transform it into an Easter Fountain. Due to the persistently frosty temperatures, the planned well cannot be brought out of 'hibernation' before Easter.



Osterstrauss mit handgemalten Ostereiern/  
Easter bunch with hand painted Easter Eggs ( Photo by Rosa Gebhardt)



Festively decorated Easter Fountain in Germany (Photo by Vicky Magnus and Andreas Denz).

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### BACK TO EATING OUT

German Club, Regina — Patrick A. Kossmann



**Flammkuchen with Bacon and Onions**

With restrictions lifting in the province the Regina German Club is looking forward to inviting patrons back into our building. In-building lunches will start on March 15th. From Tuesday to Friday patrons will be able to come into our lounge and take part in a mid-day meal. Menus will be posted on our social media pages daily. Meals will still be able to be picked up to be enjoyed at work or home, but orders should be picked up in the lounge.

As the club is reopening this is a good time to renew memberships to ensure you can take advantage of these in building meals. As a private members club, the lounge is accessible to members and their guests. Memberships are \$20 for



**Warm soup for cold weather**

the year and do give you some discounts on beverages and events. Evening meals will still be available for pick-up. Stay tuned to our social media posts to see what specials will be available daily.

Our monthly Mahlzeits are also starting again in person. Our first date has been chosen as March 23rd. Our cook will be selecting a menu soon and patrons will be invited to reserve spots in our hall to take part in a special meal.

Spargelfest is on the way! We will be celebrating the wonderful vegetable, Asparagus in a four course meal taking place in our lounge. Tickets will go on sale soon for the April 8th event. Seating will be limited so please contact the club



**New Oven - Made in Germany**

quickly as soon as the tickets become available. The kitchen has run into a spot of bad luck with our Combi Oven breaking. This piece of equipment has been instrumental in allowing Bryce to make our fantastic meals. To help raise money for a new oven we are holding a 50/50 draw. Go to our facebook page to find the link to the online raffle. Help us get a new oven, and win some money too. Maybe you can buy a new oven for your home.

Make sure you check out our website ([www.reginagermanclub.ca](http://www.reginagermanclub.ca)) for details regarding future activities happening at the club.

### GREETINGS FROM THE GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

German Club, Regina — Alvin Knoll

Hello everyone and greetings from The Germans from Russia. Our group has been quiet these past few months but not totally. In January a group of us got together and relocated our library. No easy job moving all those books, maps and journals but we did get it done. We are still in Trinity Lutheran Church but a different location within the church. I think this new spot may work out well for us, the access to all reading material is better. Our librarian, Pauline, may not appreciate the way we filed everything, I know she will have a little extra work in getting everything shipshape. Sorry Pauline. In February we

had several new people contact us looking for family history. We were able to accommodate some of them and in the process gained several new members. This is encouraging as it tells me that genealogy is still an active pursuit for some people.

Now on a different note, many people I know have had their DNA tested for ancestral genealogy. I have heard some interesting stories. One of my older cousins, blond and blue eyed, was very surprised by her results. Her genealogy came back as almost 100% Scandinavian; interesting. An older member of our group also had his DNA

done and his family history came back as 60% Iberian, yet he is full German for generations.

So, I guess one can ask the question how accurate is this DNA testing? I asked another person who recently had her DNA done and she explained that up until now most Germans from Russia had their DNA included with other groups but apparently that has changed in that more Germans from Russia are now getting tested and this apparently has an effect on the outcome. Not sure how this works but I think one day I shall take the plunge and get tested as well. Stay tuned.



## ONLINE WORKSHOP FOR “TRACHTEN”

Saskatoon German Junior Folk Dancers — Barbara & Amanda Stehwiien



Our recent presentations featured our updated Trachten or Heritage Dress map:

<https://vimeo.com/682031352>



A postillion coach in a parade we watched with our hosts in southern Germany



Dancing with our hosts in Austria

Events on our agenda are still virtual and have been for two years now. A bit bizarre all around, and very uncertain when looking to the future. Looking back has been a lot of fun though, and more and more memories have been compiled into easy-to-share digital presentations.

We had the opportunity to do an online workshop for the Regina Public Library and are once again part of the Saskatoon Heritage Festival. The digital material of archived photos, videos and dances was all at hand, thanks to the extra

time at home and some funding support from SGC.

The ever growing doll collection helps as well, as we don't have the young dancers to show off their heritage dress in person. Of the countless different Trachten throughout Europe, the initial Germany map now includes photos of some of the neighbours dressed in their heritage outfits. We have fond memories of having performed with many groups representing these countries, with a similar mandate as

ours: "Having fun with old, and new traditions". Other great memories are those of our dance tour travels to some of these spots on the map just

over 10 years ago. Those young dancers are all grown now, but will no doubt remember the trip to southern Germany and Austria in pursuit of the source of the dances we do. Compiling photos and videos from this adventure is also part of upcoming projects as our group stays in the 'inactive' status for now.

# KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

Viele Wörter in der deutschen Sprache sind fast vergessen. Ratet doch mal was diese Wörter bedeuten oder fragt Eure Eltern, ob sie diese Wörter noch kennen. Viel Spaß dabei.

Die Auflösung findet Ihr auf unserer Webseite:

[www.saskgermancouncil.org/news/spring-postillion-and-kinder-jugendseiten](http://www.saskgermancouncil.org/news/spring-postillion-and-kinder-jugendseiten)

Many words in the German language are almost forgotten. Guess what these words mean or ask your parents if they remember these words. Have lots of fun with it.

You can find the answers on our website:

[www.saskgermancouncil.org/news/spring-postillion-and-kinder-jugendseiten](http://www.saskgermancouncil.org/news/spring-postillion-and-kinder-jugendseiten)

1. Fisimatenten
2. Goessel
3. Kabaeuschen
4. Kniestock
5. Mumpitz
6. Stoffel
7. antichambrieren
8. Tintenkiller
9. Schlafittchen
10. Hundsfott
11. Frisiertoilette
12. Remmidemmi
13. Freibank
14. Ratzefummel
15. Katzentisch
16. Federlesen
17. verhohnepipeln
18. salbadern
19. Fersengeld geben
20. Fidibus



# SGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**You can make a difference in our community to keep the German culture flourishing and relevant in Saskatchewan!**

The Saskatchewan German Council is seeking volunteers for the Board of Directors. In keeping with the board's commitment to excellence in governance, the board strives to locate candidates for the directorship who have characteristics which enables them to govern the organization. These characteristics include:

- ✓ **Interest in the values and objectives of the SGC**
- ✓ **Commitment to further German cultural representation in SK**
- ✓ **Demonstrate some knowledge of diversity and of the diversity within the German culture**
- ✓ **Ability of having a vision and to deal with long term goals and issues**
- ✓ **Ability to cooperate and work on a board and honor previous decisions**
- ✓ **Ability to think critical, analyze, evaluate**
- ✓ **Willingness for leadership**
- ✓ **Accounting knowledge an asset**
- ✓ **Member of an SGC member group and active involvement in the group, or individual members**



If you are interested in taking on a position as director or would like more information, please contact us: [office@saskgermancouncil.org](mailto:office@saskgermancouncil.org) or call 306.975.0845

## NOTICE 2022 SGC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting
4. Business Arising
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2022/2023
8. Elections
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. will hold its virtual Annual General Meeting on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Financial Statements can be requested from the SGC office. In accordance with the SGC Bylaws, nominations to the SGC Board of Directors will be accepted up to 14 days prior to the AGM. Nomination forms are available from the SGC office.

## 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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