

# POSTILLION

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

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## TREFFPUNKT WEEKEND 2022 MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



*Summer 2022*

**Featuring:**

Immigration Story • Eaton Internment Camp Exhibition

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## IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

Sommer in Saskatchewan - das heisst aber auch, dass sich nach mehr als zwei Jahren endlich wieder Menschen treffen. So auch zum ersten Treffpunkt Wochenende nach zwei Jahren. Es war ein voller Erfolg. Endlich wieder sich persönlich austauschen, endlich wieder zusammen sitzen und über die Arbeit in den deutschen Clubs sprechen koennen.

Denn Sommer in Saskatchewan heisst auch immer draussen sein und Menschen treffen und gemeinsam Neues zu gestalten, dass macht auch die Arbeit des SGC aus. Für uns alle war das Wochenende wie ein Startschuss in eine andere Zeit, in eine neue Normalitaet.

Viele haben sich dafür engagiert, dass das Wochenende so über die Buehne gehen konnte. Alle die dabei waren, finden in dieser Ausgabe viele Berichte und Fotos über das Ereignis. Für alle die nicht da waren, hier bekommen Sie alles über das Treffpunkt Wochenende zu lesen.

Summer in Saskatchewan - but that also means that after more than two years people are finally meeting again. So also at the first Treffpunkt weekend after two years. It was a complete success. Finally being able to exchange ideas in person again, finally being able to sit together again and talk about the work in the German clubs.

Because summer in Saskatchewan means always being outside, meeting people and creating new things together, that's what the work of the SGC is all about. For all of us, the weekend was like the start of a different time, a new normal.

Many have committed themselves to the fact that the weekend could go over the stage. Everyone who was there will find many stories and photos about the event in this issue. For those who weren't there, here you can read everything about the Treffpunkt weekend.

Your Gerald Freyer

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VOM PRÄSIDENTEN

ANDREA MACLEOD

How do you start your very first "Greetings from the President"? With "Hello, my name is..."? With a witty remark or joke? To be honest, I've been looking at the blank page for a while, and I've read Mervin Weiss' last greeting to see what I could possibly say.

So, I will start with Hello, my name is Andrea MacLeod and I am the newly elected President of the SGC, a position which Mervin Weiss' filled for the past three years. He did a marvelous job, especially considering the circumstance. I'd like to thank him for his work with the SGC and look forward to his wisdom as Past President.

For those who do not know me, I was born and raised in Leipzig, Saxony/Germany. Thanks to a year abroad in the US, I met my husband, who hails from Saskatoon. After completing my Masters degree in Germany, I immigrated to Saskatoon in 2010. Five years later we moved to Regina, and you can find me there at the Regina German Club frequently.



© Gerald Freyer (1)



Since I moved to Saskatchewan, it was always part of my plan to be involved in German culture in one way or another. I was part of both, the Saskatoon German Language School and Das Schulhaus in Regina, I ran the CFCR German radio program once a month, I was involved in Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, and have taught cooking classes in Regina.

I enjoy meeting other Germans here in Saskatchewan, to exchange our different cultures and traditions, and to learn from one another. I can honestly say that I now own more dirndl that I ever thought I would. Being from a large city in Saxony, Tracht was never something important. However, I enjoy wearing them and you do have to cater to some expectations.

.....  
Finally, I would like to say that I look forward working with our Board of Directors. We have some new members and it will be exciting to see how they will look at the SGC and what ideas they will bring to the table for the organizations.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see you at an event.



hiermit herzlich Danken und hoffe, dass ich viel von ihm als Past President lernen kann.

Für diejenigen, die mich nicht kennen, ich komme aus Leipzig, Sachsen, Deutschland. Dank eines Aufenthalts in der USA habe ich meinen Mann kennengelernt. Er kommt ursprünglich aus Saskatoon. Nachdem ich meinen Magister in Deutschland vollendet habe bin ich in 2010 nach Saskatoon ausgewandert. Fünf Jahre später sind wir dann nach Regina umgezogen. Man kann mich leicht im Regina German Club antreffen.

Kurz nach meiner Ankunft in Saskatchewan, war mir klar, dass ich gerne mit meiner deutschen Herkunft auf die ein oder andere Art verbunden bleiben will. Ich habe in beiden deutschen Schulen in Saskatoon und Regina unterrichtet, ich habe das deutsche Radioprogramm beim CFCR einmal im Monat geleitet, ich war teil des Kochlöffel & Nudelholz, und habe Kochunterricht in Regina gegeben.

Ich freue mich immer andere Deutsche hier in Saskatchewan zu treffen und mich mit ihnen über unsere unterschiedliche Kulture und Traditionen zu unterhalten. Ich muß zugeben, dass ich jetzt mehr Dirndl besitze als ich mir jemals erträumt hätte. Wenn man aus einer Großstadt in Sachsen kommt, dann ist eine Tracht nicht unbedingt so wichtig. Allerdings muß ich auch gestehen, dass ich Dirndl gerne trage und man muß dann auch mal den Erwartungen erfüllen.

Zum Abschluß möchte ich noch sagen, dass ich mich auf die Zusammenarbeit mit dem neuen Board of Directors freue. Wir haben neue Direktoren und ich bin gespannt, wie sie die SGC sehen und was für Ideen sie haben für uns.

Ich wünsche Ihnen allen einen schönen Sommer und hoffe, dass wir uns bei einer Veranstaltung treffen.

Die FRÜHLINGS AUSGABE 2022 ist Online unter <https://saskgermancouncil.org/>

Wie fängt man seine ersten „Grüße vom Präsidenten“ an? Mit „Hallo, meine Name ist...“? Mit einem Witz oder einer Anekdote? Um ehrlich zu sein, ich habe jetzt eine gute Weile auf die leere Seite gestaart, und die letzten Grüße von Mervin Weiss gelesen um zu sehen was ich denn möglicherweise sagen könnte.

Lassen Sie mich mit Hallo, meine Name ist Andrea MacLeod anfangen. Ich bin die neu gewählte Präsidentin des SGC, eine Position, die Marvin Weiss für die letzten drei Jahre ausgeübt hat. Er hat wundervolle Arbeit geleistet, vorallem im Angesicht der schwierigen Lage. Ich möchte ihn

**Saskatoon Southeast Constituency**

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**(306) 955-4755**

**Don Morgan, MLA**

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

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



**Dr. Michael Oelck**

This article was written right after the Treffpunkt Weekend of our Saskatchewan German Council where Mr. Stocker, the Deputy Consul and head of administration of the Vancouver General German Consulate visited us and participated not only in the banquet, but also in the Annual General Meeting, the next morning. He told me that he was very pleased to see that SGC is being such a vibrant and active organization, and that it is quite unique in Canada. He was also impressed to see all the young faces on the board of SGC, and he noted that SGC appears to have many more active women than men in the organization. I have taken my leave from the board after eight years serving SGC, and it was a very interesting activity. My emphasis has always been to live in the presence and reach into the future, instead of resting in the past. While I value and participate in traditions and culture, for SGC to be a voice of Germany in Saskatchewan is a new role that should be part of the mix, and only then, can young Germans be attracted to the board like it was confirmed at the recent Treffpunkt Weekend.

It was announced at the banquet that a new General Consul will start in his role on July 1st in Vancouver. Mr. Stocker also announced that we have identified a new honorary consul as my successor. "Das Auswärtige Amt of Ministerin Baerbock" has processed the credentials, so the transition should be flawless. Now Bundespräsident Steinmeier also has to sign his assignment,

and issue the certificate. After this, the file will go to the Global Affairs Canada Ministry in Ottawa who have to also support the Candidate to provide him with the Definitive Recognition to be allowed to be acting on behalf of the German Government on Canadian soil. I am expecting that the new General Consul of Vancouver will introduce the new HK of Saskatchewan in his office in the early spring 2023.



**Hans Stocker, Deputy Consul and Head of Administration, Consul General Vancouver at the Treffpunkt Weekend**

Chrystia Freeland in her time as Foreign Affairs Minister had to deal with a case of the Honorary Consul of Syria in Montreal whose behavior sparked uneasiness and disagreement from the Syrian immigrants as well as many Canadians, because he openly supported and promoted Bashar al Assad, the Syrian President who according to international agreement is responsible for so much bloodshed in the recent Syrian war. As a result of this case, the Canadian government has closed the Montreal consulate and has reviewed their guidelines what the criteria of eligibility are for honorary consuls in Canada.

By the way, when I was introduced to my office as HK, I was told that this office does not constitute a consulate. As a volunteer, I have to do my job for passport applications in my own office, but it is not a consulate. It is a consular office, because we are doing consular work, but I cannot call it a consulate. So I have to disappoint everybody, that although we will continue to have an Honorary Consul of Germany in Saskatchewan, but we will not have a Saskatchewan Consulate. Our German Consulates in Canada are only in Vancouver, in Toronto and in Montreal. The Embassy in Ottawa is not a Consulate and does (almost) no consular work.

So what are consular services? We can give travellers information on local lawyers, doctors, hospitals or other local services, help you in case of accidents, death or crime, contact your family and provide guidance in case of missing or injured people or abducted children.

We help Germans in Canada with renewal of German documents like passports and birth certificates, and I am always proudly explaining that the German passport is also a European passport, as it says on its front. This shows that the European integration has progressed more than many people realize. We help in case of lost or stolen documents, immigration problems, dealing with inheritance cases in Germany, pension and tax questions from a laymen's level. We are not accepting visa applications which are handled by the Suisse Consulate in Vancouver for Saskatchewan citizens for the whole Schengen area of 26 states which have no border controls between them. There is a good overview what consular services are on the website of the Canadian government <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/consular>. And the services that Canadian HKs offer outside of Canada is not all that different from the services that German HKs offer in Canada.



## BRICKS FROM THE PRAIRIE THE CLAYBANK BRICK PLANT

Gerald Freyer



About an hour southwest of Regina there is not only a piece of industrial culture to visit, but also a piece of German culture. The Claybank Brick Plant has been designated a Canadian National Historic Site because: It is an exceptionally intact example of an early 20th century brick manufacturing complex. The plant was one of Canada's largest manufacturers of clay refractory products used by the railroad, oil refining, power and metals industries. The clay was quarried on site in

the nearby Dirt Hills. They also made facade bricks that were used to construct buildings on the prairie and in many other regions of western Canada.

The historic value of the Claybank Brick Plant lies in the relatively intact condition of the entire site, which was established in 1884 and consists primarily of buildings from the late 1930's. Until two years ago there was always a Heritage Day

**The Claybank Brick Plant offers a great view from the Dirt Hills to the wheat fields of the prairies.**

in summer. On this day, the historic brick presses were put back into operation and shown how bricks were then made from the clay. Unfortunately, those days are over, because entering the building has been forbidden for some time due to the threat of structural damage.

In addition to its location and orientation in relation to the adjacent Dirt Hills, key elements relating to the historical value of this site include; the factory site in development until the 1930s with its compact grouping of low-rise buildings with gabled and flat roofs, notably the 10 circular brick kilns and its layout with the kilns and stacks arranged in two rows between the factory buildings and the warehouses.

But in the bunkhouse, the old workers' accommodation, there is a small exhibition about the technology and history of the Claybank Brick Plant and a nice cafe. The exhibition also includes a printed list of many residents and employees. Many of these people have German names. For many immigrants, Claybank would be the first spot after arriving in Canada.

**Made out of Claybank Bricks - the bunkhouse with the exhibition and the museum cafe.**





## GERMANS IN SASKATCHEWAN



Also many farmers of German origin from the Spring Valley region also found additional income in the Claybank brick production. So it was not uncommon for a few of these workers to speak German.

Speaking to many former workers and residents it was hard work but all have fond memories of their time at Claybank. Since this work meant a permanent income for many families in addition to the proceeds from the farm work. In 1950, for example, an hourly wage was .88 cents an hour for a simple worker. Even then there was food in the Bunkhouse. A meal cooked by Chinese

cooks cost only .35 cents and an overnight stay in the bunk beds 1 dollar. Because in winter the roads were often only usable with horses and sleighs. So many workers stayed in the factory. There are many anecdotes about life at the Claybank Brick Plant. It was said that the Chinese cook's wife always worked in traditional costume in her small vegetable garden. There was already a special community in Claybank back then.

Despite the fact that the buildings are closed to visitors, the trip to Claybank is worthwhile. Because you can take a hike from the bunkhouse around the facility and into the adjacent



**Ferruginous clay gave the Claybank bricks a special surface.**

**The Dirt Hills are just a short walk from the Brink Plant.**

Dirt Hills to explore the places where the clay was mined. And maybe because of the many visitors in the summer, those responsible for the state Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation can get the current owner of the facility to raise the necessary funds for a general renovation of the facility and thus secure a special piece of cultural history for Saskatchewan.



**In the Dirt Hills there are still many traces of the former clay mining.**



**The characteristic circular kilns were the special feature of brick production.**

### INFORMATION

Address:

Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site and Museum

Brick Plant, #1, Claybank, SK S0H 0W0

<https://claybankbrick.ca/>

Virtual Museum with many stories from former workers:

<https://bit.ly/3bFbgjP>

PDF with historic pictures from

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

<https://bit.ly/3bLAuNJ>



# EATON INTERNMENT CAMP EXHIBITION

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison & Gerald Freyer



**Exhibition in the main building at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum.**

The former Eaton Internment Camp, also known as Hawker, located at the site of the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, was an internment camp in 1919. The Eaton Internment Camp was one of 24 internment camps across Canada, created

under the War Measures Act in 1914, to house “enemy aliens” during 1914-2020. 8,579 enemy aliens – nationals of countries at war with Canada – were interned in Canada during WWI, the majority of them were of Ukrainian and German ethnicity. Most of the men of Eaton were of German origin.



**Dr. Bohdan Kordan talks about the background of the War Measures Act.**

Under the War Measures Act, the government could censor and suppress communications. It could arrest, detain and deport people without charges or trials. It could also seize private property. People could be arrested and interned for their political beliefs. The decision about an arrest lay with the local police constabularies. A denunciation by a neighbor or business partner was often enough to be imprisoned in one of these camps. Legal control of all measures had been circumvented by the War Measures Act.

Sent as prisoner to one of these war camps meant for these people, they had to work. Forced labor as a cheap way to get Canada's ailing economy moving again. The civilian internees were used as forced labourer, working on federal and provincial public work projects as well as for private industry, including railway companies. As the economy expanded and the labour market contracted, internees were released into Canadian society. There was also no awareness of

**SGC President Mervin Weiss spoke about the role of SGC in this exhibition project.**





## GERMANS IN SASKATCHEWAN



Opening the exhibition at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum

From left to right:

Cal Sexsmith, President, Saskatchewan Railway Museum (SRM)

Dr. Bohdan Kordan, WWI Internment Expert  
Adrian Boyko, Shevchenko Foundation

Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Director, Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH)

Patricia Mialkowski, Daughter of Internment Camp Survivor  
Elena Krueger, President, Ukrainian

Canadian Congress Saskatchewan (UCC-SPC)

Mervin Weiss, President, Saskatchewan German Council (SGC)

### INFORMATION

Saskatchewan Railway Museum  
Trans-Canada Hwy 60, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9  
[www.saskrailmuseum.org](http://www.saskrailmuseum.org)

Open during the summer months only.

wrongdoing among the authorities, because the same law was applied in a similar way during the Second World War.

In 2004, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) of Saskatchewan in conjunction with the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH), built and erected a monument to commemorate the site at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum (SRM). In 2018, the UCC, the PCUH and

the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC) erected an interpretative plaque in four languages, along with a reflective bench beside the monument. Together, the four partners, including the SRM, dedicated a garden to the site. The UCC, the SGC, and the PCUH have partnered with the SRM to develop the Eaton Internment Camp Permanent Exhibit.

In 2022, the Eaton Internment Camp Permanent Exhibit to recognize and commemorate the history of the location, as one of many internment camps across Canada, was opened on June 4, 2022. This powerful exhibit, together with the large Tyndall-stone Fortitude Monument and the Memorial Garden, will serve as an educational gateway to this period of Canada's history during World War I.

### LISTEN TO THE OPENING

For those of you who missed the opening of the Eaton Internment Camp Exhibit, consider watching the recording of the event here.

<https://saskgermancouncil.org/news/recording-opening-of-the-eaton-internment-camp-exhibit/>



Videos and audio files make history more touchable.



## TREFFPUNKT WEEKEND IN SASKATOON

Celebrating German culture with a workshop, tour, entertainment, good food & friendship.

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



Treffpunkt Weekend (June 18 & 19, 2022) is an annual get-together of representatives of our individual members, German and Austrian members groups, friends, and guests, to recognize and celebrate the contributions to German culture in Saskatchewan.

This was the first in-person member meeting event since 2019, and therefore an important occasion for our German Canadian communi-

ty to re-kindle friendships and the passion for volunteering in our respective communities to keep the German culture flourishing and relevant in Saskatchewan.

As event host, our member group KulturGarten Saskatoon filled the weekend with activities such as a museum tour, German tourism workshop, coffee & cake, banquet, beautiful decorations, educational banner exhibition, and musi-

**First SGC Treffpunkt since 2019. Everybody enjoyed the wonderful weekend.**  
cal entertainment.

At the event start on Saturday, traditional Kaffee & Kuchen (coffee & cake) was served with homemade cakes such as Orange-Poppyseed Cake, Schneewittchenkuchen, Haskapschnitte, and more. In the German culture, sitting together for Kaffee & Kuchen is a time to socialize with family and friends, a tradition going back to the 17th century.

At 3:30 pm, our guests had the opportunity to either attend the presentation "Tourist Theme Routes in Germany" or join a private tour at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada.

Participants of the tourism workshop, which was presented by Andreas Denz, learned about Germany's theme routes with its picturesque sights such as the Deutsche Weinstraße (German Wine Route), and Romantische Straße (Romantic Road). Afterwards, participants were ready to book tickets to fly to Germany. At the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Executive Director & CEO Jen Budney provided most interesting infor-

**Andreas Denz presented the unique „Deutsche Weinstrasse“ in a workshop.**





## SGC TREFFPUNKT WEEKEND 2022



Like in Germany: Sauerbraten and bread dumplings



Jen Budney, Director of the UMC, talked about the Ukrainian culture.



Applestrudel with vanilla sauce.



Host „KulturGarten“, Rosa Gebhardt, Brigitte Boldt-Leppin, Vicky Maurus and Andreas Denz (left to right)



mation about the history of the museum. The exhibitions in the museum display Ukrainian folk arts, woven and embroidered articles, pysanky, traditional dresses, photographs and much more. The intricate embroidery on clothing as well as the tapestry work was most impressive. As an ethno-cultural group, we promote learning about other cultures and cross-cultural dialog to foster the respect for other cultures and to better understand each other. We appreciate the opportunity to learn about the Ukrainian culture during our Treffpunkt Weekend.

Sunday lunch: German Wiener Sausage and potato salad

In the evening, about 75 guests, some in traditional Dirndl and Lederhosen, joined the SGC Special Volunteer Award Banquet, which started with a Sektempfang (reception with bubbly). Members and friends travelled from places like Estevan, Indian Head, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina & area, Saskatoon & area, and Vancouver, to get together, celebrate, and enjoy a delicious meal of German Sauerbraten with red wine sauce, bread dumplings, braised red cabbage and greens. The Apfelstrudel (apple strudel) with va-



## SGC TREFFPUNKT WEEKEND 2022



**Classical music with the Arioso Quartet**

nilla sauce for dessert was a surprise for all of us! During the course of the evening, the Arioso Quartet provided wonderful and classy entertainment for our guests.

KulturGarten members Rosa and Vicky said grace in German and English and a minute of silence gave everyone time to remember the friends and community members who left us during the past three years.

SGC was honored to welcome special guests to the award banquet. Bringing greetings was Mr. Hans Stocker, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General Vancouver; Hon. Dana Skoropad, Minister of Environment; and His Worship, Mayor Charlie Clark. In their speeches, the guests mentioned their personal ties to the German heritage, they recognized the strong German Canadian culture in Saskatchewan and the contributions made to this province.

After supper, Saskatchewan German Council's president Mervin Weiss welcomed everyone with a short speech followed by the presentation of the 2022 Special Volunteer Awards to Katarina Ulbrich from Estevan.

Rosa Gebhardt, Brigitte Boldt-Leppin, Vicky Maurus and Andreas Denz deserve a huge thank you for the endless hours, commitment and care that made this 2022 Treffpunkt Weekend so memorable.

**Heartly welcome from  
SGC president Mervin Weiss**



**Hon. Dana Skoropad, Minister  
of Environment**



**Hans Stocker, Deputy Consul General,  
Consulate General Vancouver**





# SGC SPECIAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



**Award winner Katharina Ulbrich**

**„We volunteer because we get out more than we put in.“**

**Mervin Weiss**

At SGC's annual Treffpunkt Weekend, the SGC Special Volunteer Awards Banquet is always dedicated to celebrating volunteers of the community. On June 18th, the SGC President presented the SGC Special Volunteer Award to an outstanding volunteer worthy of the recognition. Congratulations to Katharina Ulbrich from Estevan for receiving the 2022 Special Volunteer Award. Katharina was nominated by the Sas-



**SGC Executive Director Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison, award winner Katharina Ulbrich, and SGC President Mervin Weiss**

katchewan Association of Teachers of German (SATG) for her involvement as Secretary/Treasurer since 2016. Besides fulfilling the responsibilities of a treasurer, Katharina was involved in committee work to review and re-draft the organization's constitution due to required changes by the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation. In representing the SATG, Katharina travelled to various conferences as a delegate, bringing back valuable knowledge about teaching the German language and sharing important information with German teachers across Saskatchewan. Katharina always filled her role at the SATG in a positive and enthusiastic way. She always works efficiently with lots of cheer which makes working with Katharina a pleasure.

Katharina has also been a member of the Estevan & District German Freundschaft Society since 2007 and the group's president since 2012, promoting German culture in various ways such as celebrating traditional German Christmas activities, and more. Around 2012, she started to teach German language classes in Estevan for which at some point she also secured funding from different sources. Over the years, classes were offered for adults & kids. German language classes for children were taught in a fun and interactive way with baking workshops, games and with a stage play. Her intention was for families to join and have fun with events like a Christmas get-together, or watching a German play put on by the language students. Katharina also served on the SGC Board from 2012 to 2015, including one year as SGC Vice President.

Thank you, Katharina for making an impact on our province by promoting the German culture, traditions, and language in different capacities throughout and beyond Saskatchewan. Enjoy your gift basket filled with German goodies!



**Taste of Germany: Special Volunteer Award Gift Basket**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



**Please meet the new Board of Directors:**

**President:**

**Andrea MacLeod (Regina)**

**Vice President:**

**Jessica Forster (Saskatoon)**

**Treasurer:**

**Victoria Oppenlander (Regina) not in photos**

**Secretary:**

**Ilona Beck (Rouleau)**

**Directors:**

**Andreas Denz (Warman)**

**Gerald Freyer (Indian Head)**

**Theresa Kliem (Saskatoon)**

**Stephanie Schaefer (Riceton)**

**Verena Siebert (Saskatoon)**

The AGM led by chairperson Mervin Weiss, took place on June 19th, day 2 of the Treffpunkt Weekend. Membership approved the agenda, minutes, president's report, audited financial statements and the appointment of a new auditor.

The SGC is pleased to have received so many articles for the Annual Report despite Covid having slowed down cultural activities. As the

AGM took place on Father's Day, chocolates were handed out to the attending dads with a big thank-you for their attendance. The election process was seen through by Ilona Beck, chair of the Nomination Committee. After the election, the new board was introduced to membership and outgoing directors Joan Rudolph, Marilyn Stehr, Dr. Michael Oelck and Mervin Weiss received thanks for their work as board members. Chair Mervin Weiss talked about the rejuvenation process of the board which started many years ago, resulting in a young board of directors.

For their notable services to the SGC, Dr. Michael Oelck and Mervin Weiss received a Lifetime Honorary Membership: Dr. Michael Oelck for 8 years of service to SGC including 2 years as Vice President. As board director and Honorary Consul of Germany to Saskatchewan, Dr. Oelck contributed greatly to the German Canadian community in Saskatchewan. Michael Oelck played a big role in establishing strong and positive relationships between the SGC and the German Embassy and the Vancouver

General Consulate. As a director, Dr. Oelck always represented the contemporary Germany, science and technology and a forward-thinking vision for the organization.

Mervin Weiss was acknowledged for this many years of involvement, service and leadership with SGC. Merv joined the board in 2017, became Secretary in 2018 and president in 2019. On top of his service as director and president of SGC, Merv looks after the online legacy project "Collection of Immigration Stories".

In his role as SGC President, Merv was part of many outreach initiatives such as the German Heritage Month celebration in Swift Current, a multicultural school event at Princess Alexandra Community School, the genealogy information table at Folkfest, presenting the public lecture "Genealogy & Identity", participating as a guest at the "German Culture Alive" podcast series, bringing greetings at the Glockenspiel celebration in Regina, and at the Eaton Internment Camp Permanent Exhibition Opening, and many more.

Thank you to both recipients of the Lifetime Honorary Membership.



**Ilona Beck, chair of the Nomination Committee, introduced the new directors.**





# Rolling Calendar

## SUMMER 2022

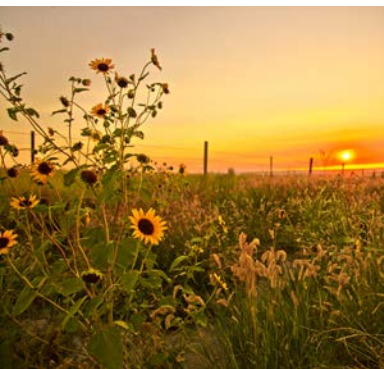


### **JUL 3 1PM "KLANGFABRIK" – CONTEMPORARY GERMAN MUSIC**

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

### **JUL 10 TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DEUTSCHER GOTTESDIENST**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is offering their German service on Sundays at 11:30am.



### **JUL 16 - SEP 5 TINO SEHGAL AT THE REMAI MODERN, SASKATOON**

From the Remai Modern: "Tino Sehgal is a leading international figure working in the realm of live arts. His acclaimed body of work consists of "constructed situations" — ephemeral art experiences activated through encounters between the museum visitor and the individuals enacting his work.

### **AUG 12 - AUG 21 SKAT WORLD TOURNAMENT**

The 22. World Skat Tournament is taking place from August 12 to 21, 2022 in Edmonton.



### **SEP 24 MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN REGINA – GERMAN SERVICE**

Mount Olive Lutheran Church is resuming their German Service at 2pm on the last Saturday of the month.

## OCTOBER

### **OCT 22 AT 9AM GOETHE-INSTITUT GERMAN LANGUAGE EXAM LEVEL A1**

Do you need to prove your German language skills for work? For immigration? For school? If you have answered yes to any of those, you have come to the right place. Take your Goethe-Institut exam A1 right here in Saskatchewan.



### **OCT 23 AT 9AM GOETHE-INSTITUT GERMAN LANGUAGE EXAM LEVEL A2**

Do you need to prove your German language skills for work? For immigration? For school? If you have answered yes to any of those, you have come to the right place. Take your Goethe-Institut exam A2 right here in Saskatchewan.

# HELMUT AND IDA TISCHLER'S JOURNEY TO CANADA

by Kurt Tischler



**Tischler Family in Poland.**

The ancestors of Helmut Tischler moved from Rhineland-Pfalz, a Province in Southwest Germany, to the Province of Posen (Poznan) Poland around 1770. They were mostly farmers in areas where many other Germans had settled. The farm that Helmut and his wife Ida inherited in 1932 was in Tonndorf located near the town of Janowitz. It was not a very large farm, but the land was fertile and by adopting current farming techniques Helmut ran a very prosperous farm. Helmut and Ida had 3 children, all boys, born in 1934, 1936 and I, Kurt, in 1939. When the war started in 1939

Helmut was not conscripted into the Polish army because he had a heart condition. However, in September 1944 he was required to join the German army under Austrian command. As the Russian army advanced relentlessly the commander of Helmut's unit gave up his command and told the men that they were on their own. Helmut and about 20 other soldiers travelled westward at night to escape being captured by the Russians. They did not want to end up in a Russian prisoner of war camp. After two weeks they were eventually taken prisoners by the American army and interred for several months. Conditions in the prison camp were very harsh but Helmut

survived. Once he was released Helmut worked for a distant relative in Alhorn, a village close to Oldenburg, West Germany. He had no information about his family – whether they were alive and where they might be located.

After Helmut was drafted into the army Ida kept the operation of the farm going with the help of two hired men. It was not easy for her. In December 1944, there were a lot of rumors circulating that the Russian army was advancing westward rapidly. One of Ida's uncles advised her to prepare for a possible trek westward ahead of the Russian army. With the help of the hired men two wagons were fitted with covers and loaded with supplies. And it did not take long when the call was made that a trek of wagons would leave Hernkirch (Zazim) on January 20, 1945. The trek travelled northwest crossing the Oder River not far from Szczecin before the bridge was blown up to slow the Russian advance. At Neubrandenburg Ida decided to follow the advice of an uncle and left the main trek to travel to Eixen. The uncle had a brother there who was a farmer. We arrived in Eixen on February 8, 1945. We were all in good health and Ida still had food left on the wagons – bread, sausages, apples, and pears. A relative of Ida's uncle agreed to board us on his farm.

Unfortunately, our lives were upended once the Russian troops entered German territory in May 1945. Before most of the troops arrived in Eixen a Russian officer stopped his car in the town square and told all those gathered that we had nothing to fear and that the soldiers were coming to liberate us. His words were well intended but he must not have told the soldiers. The Russian troops moved very rapidly across the land and seemed to have to fend for themselves. They pillaged homes for food and valuables. Women of all ages were abused repeatedly and suffered greatly. The demand for watches was constant. From May 1945 to that fall, we had enough food to eat since many farmers had hidden some of their grain and vegetables but during the winter the sources of food began to dry up. By February 1946 the food crisis was severe. Ida had little food to give us so we boys started to get food anyway we could – steal and beg - even for bread from the Russian troops. Somehow, we survived but the time of starvation affected our health and

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our determination never to waste food. By April 1946 the food crisis lessened as some goods were brought into the affected areas and a semblance of order was established. Small parcels of land were assigned to refugees who had a farming background – Ida qualified for one of these small pieces of land. It did not take long and many of the refugees were able to provide food for themselves. We also received two rooms and a bathroom for our accommodation in buildings of an abandoned estate. The bathroom was not functional, but it provided a place to sleep for the three boys. The land and the housing became available because the owner, a very wealthy man, had left Germany.

### The Family Reunited

On July 8, 1946, Helmut arrived unannounced in Kavelndorf. Through the Red Cross he had found out where we were. He had aged and was so gaunt that Ida did not recognize him. What a relief for Ida and a bit of a shock for his three sons. Helmut's plans were to return to his farm in Tonndorf as soon as possible. Unfortunately, this door was closed to his great disappointment. Helmut turned his attention to farming the small piece of land allocated to Ida. The whole family worked very hard to grow as much food as possible. Somehow Helmut managed to acquire an old horse and with some of the money Ida had hidden away, he bought a milk cow. These two animals were hitched together to plow the land and within a short period of time we grew wheat, oats, rye, turnips, and sugar beets. Ida also had a vegetable garden. By 1948 the Tischler's were producing enough food to be able to sell some. So, things were looking up. Schools were started, church services were held, and some medical facilities were opened in nearby towns.

Helmut and Ida began to notice that the East German government began the process of amalgamating farmland into state run collectives. Quotas were established and if farmers could not meet those quotas, then their land would be taken over by the government. Secondly, Helmut noticed that his boys were being indoctrinated to believe the communist ideology that there was no God and that churches were of no use and would be closed eventually. This happened gradually as youth groups were established and the school curriculum began to reflect communist ideology. Helmut and Ida, strong Evangelical Lutherans, feared for their sons' future. It became clear to Helmut that if they were going to do anything to protect their sons, they would have to act before their oldest son was pulled into the East German army for training. And so it was that Helmut and Ida started to think about undertaking another move. They did a lot of research and

planning and eventually made contact with an uncle in Canada who agreed to sponsor the Tischler family.

In February 1951 Helmut began the emigration process. This involved several family trips to West Berlin to meet with Canadian immigration officials and for medical checkups. The planning had to be done in secrecy since the East German Government tried to stem the flow of people leaving the country. Finally on January 7, 1952, we boarded the train and left Kavelndorf to West Berlin where we stayed several days before flying to Bremen, West Germany in an old American bomber. We were housed in a refugee camp till January 26, 1952, and then boarded the "Beaverbrae", a converted freighter, and sailed for 12 days to Saint John, New Brunswick. There again we were housed in a refugee holding center for almost a week before travelling by train for four days to arrive in Luseland, Saskatchewan on February 11, 1952. We were met at the train station by my uncle and taken to their farm 6 miles away by horse drawn sleigh. The temperature was -20 degrees celcius. That spring and winter Helmut and my two older brothers found jobs – Helmut wanted to pay off our debt to my uncle as soon as possible. The people in the German speaking church we attended were very generous and one of the members offered to rent a half section of land to us. In the spring of 1953 Helmut started farming. The shift of farming from using horses to mainly machines was very difficult for him. But Helmut persisted and in 1961 he purchased a farm in Minburn, Alberta. He farmed successfully until his health forced him to sell the farm and retire to Manville, Alberta. Helmut died in December, 1983 and Ida in 1991. They were both laid to rest in Manville.

### Conclusion:

The journey from Kavelndorf to Luseland was not an easy one for Helmut and Ida. They were not that young anymore and the thought of starting all over again in a strange land with a new language caused some fear and apprehension in their hearts. As we travelled west for four days through the frozen Canadian Shield and the snow-covered Canadian prairies, Helmut confided in Ida wondering if they had made the right decision to move to Canada. These thoughts were made worse by a German saying that he remembered about life in Canada. "Kanada ist so wie Siberia wo man mit der Kaffeetasse melken geht". Little did he know that his children and grandchildren would thank him from the bottom of their hearts that he and his wife had the courage to follow their convictions at great sacrifice for the sake of their children.

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# 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.

## APRIL, MAY, JUNE AT KOCHLÖFFEL

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



**One of the cakes offered in the June Culture and Baking box – Lemon Cream Torte**

As I'm writing my article I'm looking out onto my garden seeing everything growing nicely and wondering what to make with this year's vegetable and herb crop. With grocery prices increasing, I've decided to delve into the world pickling, canning and preserving – we'll see how it goes!

On to what Kochlöffel has been up to in the past few months. In April, we offered our second culture and baking box of the year, which had an Easter theme to it. The recipes included mini Quarkknödel with poppyseeds and berries, mini Hefekränze, and Thusner Hosenknöpfe (this Swiss recipe included using rose water as a specialty ingredient!).

May brought popsicle and ice cream recipes to our YouTube channel – I forgot how easy it was to make ice cream. If you're curious how to make

Waldmeister (sweet woodruff), Holunder (elderberry) or Hagebutten (rose hip) ice cream, make sure to check out the posted online videos.

The June Culture and Baking box was all about cakes, one that takes a bit more effort – the Lemon Cream Torte and one that was easier – the applesauce Gugelhupf. I'm hoping that the cakes are well received for those of you who managed to snag a box! As an additional item for this box, the recipe packet was offered at a reduced price to also encourage those of you who are unable to purchase a box to at least be able to receive the recipes.

For now, we're taking a well deserved break for July and August. Videos will still be posted but the culture and baking boxes will start up again in September... another cake box? Maybe brötschen? Stay tuned!



**Sweet Woodruff Ice Cream – recipe on our YouTube channel**

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

Now I'm off to research what I can pickle, can and preserve – wish me good luck!

Happy summer!

Franziska



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### NEWS FROM HANSEL & GRETEL PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool, Saskatoon — Ulrike Hecker



#### Special guest! Fire fighter!

The last few months of the preschool year were filled with FUN & LEARNING! Summer is here and we have been spending a lot of time outside. Our children were very excited to be able to go on chartered field trips and participate in a variety of day camps.

On May 25th/26th, we invited La La Farm to come to our school. After teaching a unit on 'farm animals', our little ones had an opportunity to explore baby animals firsthand. Nothing feels better than petting a baby lamb or watching a newborn baby goat trying to walk for the first time.

A field trip to the ZOO was another fun outing for our preschoolers. On May 31st the Forestry Farm turned into our extended classroom. The children had many opportunities to use their German vocabulary that they had learned in class. They even sang the German version of 'Old MacDonald'!

On June 16/17 it was time to say 'AUF WIEDERSEHEN' to our little ones. We finished the preschool year with a year-end celebration. Thankfully, we were able to invite all parents for their children's performance and special slideshow. It was heartwarming to re-connect in person and see families come together to celebrate the end of an amazing year of FUN and LEARNING!

Many of our students will be moving on to kindergarten next school year. It is our hope that our students will stay involved with the German speaking community and continue learning about the German language and culture.

I would like to thank all the organizations that have provided funding for our preschool throughout this school year. It helped us to invest in the future of our youngest language learners.

We still have openings for the 2022-23 preschool year. If you are interested in our program, please contact Ulrike Hecker for more information.

Phone: (306) 281-4428

Email: [Coordinator.hanselandgretel@gmail.com](mailto:Coordinator.hanselandgretel@gmail.com)

<http://hanselandgretelpreschool.blogspot.ca>

Facebook



Look at my banana smile



Craft time



Planting seeds



# HELLO FROM THE KARNEVALSGESELLSCHAFT HARMONIE GROUP

Karnevalsgesellschaft Harmonie, Regina — Sheila Aldous



### Summer Solstice Outfits

Our Annual General Meeting was held on April 12. A big thank you to our past board and to those who have organized fundraising events over the past couple of years.

Our new Elferrat is President: Darlene Rubrecht; Vice-President: Cheryl Aldous; Members: Rodney Eberle, Eckhard Rubrecht, Sheila Aldous, Theresa Granger, Claude Granger.

The first order of business was the decision about holding Western Canada Mardi Gras in Regina next February. The final decision was made that we would be unable to host the event. Our Princess still plans to organize some fun events.

Thank you to Eckhard and Darlene for being our representatives at Treffpunkt in Saskatoon.

We would like to wish a Happy 30th Anniversary to Jean & Garey Schlechter. Their anniversary was in May. Congratulations to Kloe on her Grade 8 Grad.

Our group took part in the virtual event for Spring Free from Racism this year. The dancers submitted a video from one of their recent performances. The group is looking forward to performing at the Kolos Multi-Culture School's recital in June and the German Club's Summer Solstice. Thank you to the Moose Jaw Synchronized Skating team and the Kolos Dance School for helping us out with costumes for the event. The dancers will be heading to Wascana park in Regina on July 1st to perform on Canada Day.



### Kolos Recital

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 - Darlene Rubrecht or our Vice-President - Cheryl Aldous at our group email [karnevaldancers@gmail.com](mailto:karnevaldancers@gmail.com).

Thank you to everyone who has supported our group by taking part in our fundraisers, inviting our dancers to perform and space to practice and meet in.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer.



Summer Solstice Outfits

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## CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers — Brenda Booker



**„Barber Pattern on the Maibaum“ by the Younger Dancers**

Der Frühling ist endlich da!! and the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers were ready for it. As soon as Mack had our Maibaum ready, we attached our ribbons and started practicing. It seems like it would be relatively easy, just a bit of skipping in a circle, right. Well, there's a bit more to it than that. To start off we had to work on getting a grip on the ribbons and then keeping just the right amount of tension on them. Not easy when the length of your ribbon keeps changing during the winding up and unwinding process. At the same time they tried to master the art of keeping equal distance as they moved around the Maibaum. Let's just say we are still working on that one.

All this practicing and a very beautiful Maibaum, yet no performance opportunities in sight. The effects of the pandemic had us feeling a bit disconnected from our German Club Members, as well as our friends from the SGC. During one of our regular planning afternoons, Danielle and I decided we would make our own performance opportunity. As they say 'The rest is History!' Maifest was born. We realized we needed some help if we wanted to put together Saskatoon's first ever Maifest. We approached Rosa to partner with us and she along with her crew at the KulturGarten shared their expertise, presenting the history and significance of the Maibaum. They also did all of the lovely decorations, including freshly cut table centrepieces. Not to mention the Kuchen.

We were grateful for some funding support from the Saskatchewan German Council and the German Concordia Club. We'd like to thank the entertainment that accepted our invitation to join us. They really helped to make it such an enjoyable afternoon. The Concordia Brass Band, Singkreis, the Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein. A special thanks to Mack for building our beautiful Maibaum and Neil Stubbs for his accompaniment on our Maibaum Tanzen.

Thanks to all who joined us for an afternoon of fellowship, kuchen and [coffee.If](https://www.coffeeif.com/) you want to see what the "Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers" are up to just Follow us on Facebook!

## VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE

Alvin Knoll

Greetings from the Volksliederchor Harmonie. Well, it finally happened, after a two year hiatus our choir did get back together this past March. We still took precautions, but our practices went really well. Our spring music selection was comprised of many familiar songs such as Auf, auf, zum fröhlichen Jagen and Und wieder blühet die Linde, these being some of my personal favourites. As we had a late start in the season, we were a little compromised timewise with our singing engagements. We performed at only one senior home at the end of May and at the German Club's spring Sommerwende on June 25th.



**„Double Barber Pattern on the Maibaum“ by the Entire Group**



**Older Dancers doing the Twister with Neil**

We will be getting back to our normal routine of weekly practices starting this September and I look forward to seeing all our members together again. Some of our singers had elected to stay home during the spring session but I am told by many that they will be returning this fall. So, to everyone, have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Alvin Knoll  
President of the Volksliederchor Harmonie

## CONCORDIA BRASS BAND

Concordia Brass Band, Saskatoon — Yvonne Kristoff



Concordia Brass Band has been very busy since starting up in spring. We have been practicing weekly and have guest conductors planned in the coming weeks. We have played two concerts so far and we have several more booked. We like to take our music to those who cannot get out to concerts and it is a big hit in the various venues we play. We play a combination of popular German tunes mixed with a bit of Calypso and some rock tunes. It goes over very well. We are looking forward to a busy summer and fall.

## UPDATE FROM THE KULTURGATEN

KulturGarten, Saskatoon — Brigitte Boldt-Leppin



Nach langer Corona-Pause konnten wir am 14. Mai endlich wieder eine öffentliche Veranstaltung feiern. Die Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers hatten uns eingeladen, gemeinsam ein Maifest zu feiern. Wir steuerten deutschen Kuchen und eine schönen Mai-Dekoration bei, und mit unserem KulturGarten-Singkreis unterhielten wir die zahlreichen Gäste mit deutschen Frühlings- und Mailiedern. Und wir erläuterten die Hintergründe des Maibaumes:

### Der Maibaum

Ein Maibaum ist ein geschmückter Baum oder Baumstamm, der in Mittel- und Nordeuropa zum 1. Mai aufgerichtet wird. Bei Maibäumen handelt es sich um meist große, hochstämmige, bis nahe

### KulturGarten-Singkreis

zur Spitze entastete, verzierte Bäume, die an einem zentralen Platz im Ort (i.d.R. der Marktplatz oder der Kirchplatz) bei einer festlichen Veranstaltung aufgerichtet werden. Bei diesem Fest wird dann auch am Maibaum bzw. um den Maibaum herum getanzt. Je nach Region kann die Gestaltung der Maibäume sehr unterschiedlich aussehen. Zum Beispiel werden manche Stämme geschält und mit bunten Bändern, Girlanden, Krepppapier-Streifen oder Tannenzweigen geschmückt, oder sie sind ohne Verzierung. Manchmal werden in die Rinde kunstvolle Bilder oder

Symbole geschnitzt, und manchmal werden die Bäume im Naturzustand mit Rinde belassen. Am oberen Ende wird der Baum meistens von einem Kranz und der grünen Baumspitze gekrönt. Am Stamm des Maibaumes angebracht sind in der Regel die Symbole, die unsere Freude über den Frühlingsanfang ausdrücken: der grüne Kranz mit den bunten Bändern, die für die Blüte stehen, Bildtafeln mit Tänzern und Sängern, Handwerkssymbolen und Stadtwappen steht für die Vielfalt des Lebens in der Stadt. Kurz gesagt, so wie der bunt geschmückte Kranz für das neue Blühen steht, so symbolisiert der ganze Maibaum die Freude, den Jubel und das Glückliche über das Ende des Winters.

### Zweck

Im Jahresablauf ist der Maibaum symbolischer Mittelpunkt des eingetroffenen Frühlings. Für uns auf der Nordhalbkugel Lebende wird der Anfang des Frühlings in jedem Fall als Erlösung empfunden und es ist daher ein wichtiger Grund zum Feiern.

### Maifest-Kuchen







### Maibaum-Erklärungen

#### Geschichte:

Genau lassen sich die Ursprünge des Maibaums nicht belegen, allerdings zeigen Funde in Australien, dass die Aboriginies bereits seit der letzten Eiszeit vor ca. 17000 Jahren Verzierung in Werkzeuge geritzt haben. Es ist erstaunlich, am anderen Ende der Welt Parallelen zur eigenen Kultur zu entdecken, obwohl diese Kultur sich völlig isoliert entwickelt hat. Es besteht durchaus die Möglichkeit, dass die Totempfähle von Nordamerika auch als so eine Art Jahreszeitsymbol entstanden sind. Das erste urkundlich dokumentierte Maibaumaufstellen in Deutschland stammt aus dem Jahr 1224, und laut einem Bericht des Caesarius von Heisterbach – einem gebildeten Mönch und Chronist – hat es in Aachen stattgefunden. Sechs Jahre später, im Jahr 1230, wurde es in Wien, Österreich, erwähnt.

#### Abwandlungen

Neben dem großen Maibaum auf dem Marktplatz gibt es im mittleren und südlichen Deutschland auch den Brauch, dass männliche Jugendliche am Haus der Freundin oder Angebeteten mit buntem Krepp-Papier geschmückte Birken, sogenannte Maiken, anbringen. Dies entspricht dem Rutenschlagen in Norddeutschland. Das Aufstellen folgt regional variierenden, ungeschriebenen Regeln.

#### Liedgut

Ein weiteres deutliches Zeichen für die Wichtigkeit des Monats Mai ist auch die Vielfalt des Liedguts im deutschsprachigen Raum. Es gibt unzählige Mailieder, die thematisch nahezu alle Bereiche des Frühlings ansprechen, so zum Beispiel die sprießenden Blüten und Blätter an den Bäumen, die neuen wärmenden Sonnenstrahlen nach dem Winter, die aus dem Winterquartier zurückkehrenden zwitschernden Vögel, oder auch die frisch Verliebten.

After a long break due to the Pandemic we could finally celebrate in public again this spring. The Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers invited us to celebrate a Maifest together. We supplied traditional German Kuchen and a matching May decoration, and with our singing group ( KulturGarten-Singkreis) we entertained the many guests with traditional German Spring- and May-songs. And we illuminated the background of the May tree:

#### The May Tree

A May-tree is a decorated tree or tree trunk which is usually erected in Middle- and Northern Europe on or around May 1st. May-trees are usually high-stem trees, branches removed and decorated almost up to the peak and erected during a festive celebration on the central place – like a market square – of a town or village. During this festivity there is also dancing involved, usually at respectively around the May-tree. Depending on the region the design of the May-tree can be very different. For example some tree trunks get the bark peeled off completely and get beautified with colorful ribbons, garlands, creped paper strips or fir branches, or they are without any decoration. Sometimes there are symbols and artful pictures carved into the bark, and sometimes the tree trunk is left with bark in its original state. Most of the time the very top there is crowned with a wreath and the green tree top. Usually on the trunk of the May-tree there are symbols of cheer and happiness added showing our gladness and delight of the coming spring: the green wreath with colorful ribbons stands for the blossom, plaques showing dancers and singers, trade symbols and the cities coat of arms manifests the great variety of public life in the city.

#### Purpose

During the course of the year the May-tree is the figurative center of the arrival of spring. At least for us in the Northern Hemisphere the beginning of

spring is felt like a great relieve and therefore it is an important reason to celebrate.

#### History

An origin of the May-tree can not be exactly determined. However findings in Australia of the Aboriginies showing carved decorations on tools dated since the last ice age – about 17000 years ago. It is astounding to discover parallels to our own culture at the other end of the world, even though that culture developed completely isolated. There is a possibility that even the Totem Poles of North America are also a kind of seasonal symbol. The first historically documented erection of a may-tree in Germany is dated from the year 1224. This historical report from the well-educated monk and chronist Caesarius von Heisterbach states that this took place in Aachen, a large city near the river Rhine close to the border to the Netherlands. Six years later, in the year 1230, there is a mentioning of another may-tree in Vienna, Austria.

#### Variations

Beside the typical may-tree on the market square there is a tradition in the middle and southern part of Germany where young passionate males put up colorful decorated birch trees during the night in front of the house of the beloved girl or woman. This custom is known as "Rutenschlagen" in Northern Germany.

#### Liedgut –

typical treasury of song-culture of a country Another obvious sign for the importance of the month of May is the variety and diversity of the song-culture in the German-speaking cultural area (German-speaking world). There are numberless May-songs, speaking (singing) of almost all themes regarding spring, such as the sprouting blooms and leaves on the trees, the warming shafts of sunlight after the long winter, the chirping birds returning from the wintering grounds, or the just-fallen-in-love-ones. In the German-speaking world singing has always been and still is very important and very present to almost all events, get-togethers or celebrations. Sometimes there is someone with a mouth-harp or a guitar, if not people just sing a-Capella. These songs are very old and are learned from one generation through the other. Just imagine this: a nice sunny morning on May 1st, everybody in the town is gathering on the market square where the group of bachelors is erecting the May-tree. There is beer and food and a brass band is entertaining. After the celebration the group of bachelors are going on their May-hike pulling a little toy-cart loaded with a beer barrel and some food. They are walking through the fields and they are singing May-songs!!

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### SUMMER AT THE REGINA GERMAN CLUB

German Club, Regina — Patrick A. Kossmann



**Schnitzel Taco!**



**Society for Creative Anachronism joining the Regina Club to celebrate Sommerwende.**



**Patrons enjoying Beer and Brats in the "sun"**

The Regina German Club has been making moves to fully reopen now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. Lunches at the club continue and now

members have the opportunity to come into the club and enjoy lunch. The kitchen is still working to make daily specials and patrons can order suppers for take out. Meals are available from Tuesday to Friday and specials are listed daily on all of our social media accounts. Look for delicious and interesting meals like our Schnitzel Taco! With warm weather arriving the Patio at the club has been cleaned up. Patrons can come down and enjoy their drinks or meals at our outdoor tables. Periodically throughout the summer months we will be holding special events where we will sell food and drinks on the patio itself (weather pending). Watch our social media and website for information about when these events happen, then race down to get a seat beside the ivy. Our members have been hard at work planning a summer solstice event; Sommerwende! On June

25 we will be opening all of our property (and the street in front) for various activities celebrating the European tradition of welcoming the summer. There will be food, activities, cultural entertainment, Live entertainment, and a craft sale. Attendance from 2:00 to 6:00 pm is free while tickets are required (available at the door) for attending. Come to the club and celebrate the beginning of summer in food, fun, music, and dancing! A larger list of the activities for the day is available on our website.

Our subgroups have also started back up. If you are interested in joining us in singing, hunting, or dancing look on our website for contact information. Join us in sharing our German heritage and culture through community. For more information go to [www.reginagermanclub.ca](http://www.reginagermanclub.ca).

### WE WILL CONTINUE

German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon — Flo Broten

The past two years have been very difficult for the German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon Inc. Covid forced us to sell our beautiful building and put a stop to all Club activities. However, we have been fortunate to add a few new members to our Board of Directors who are filled with enthusiasm!

Our Board of Directors consists of the following: Flo Broten (President), Danielle Brule-Lundgren (Vice President), Shelley Hungness (Treasurer), Donna Sniher (Secretary), Diane Neufeld (Events Coordinator), Reg Reiter and Johanna Tataryn (Members-at-Large). Our new Board is busy

planning members' activities for the fall. As plans are finalized, we will keep you informed through the Saskatchewan German Council. The Board of Directors changed our annual membership fee to \$10.00 per person. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email Flo Broten at [flobroten@gmail.com](mailto:flobroten@gmail.com).

With the relaxing of Covid restrictions, members have been getting together for coffee or a meal at different venues in the City. Check our website – [saskgerman.com](http://saskgerman.com) – for information. The website is still a work in process so please be patient with us. We wish to congratulate the Alpenrose

Junior Dancers on a very successful Maifest. It was great and we hope they will make this an annual event.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Markus Blumrich for getting us through the sale of the property and for all the work he did for the Saskatoon German Club.



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### GOODBYE

**Estevan & District German Freundschaft Society** — Katharina Ulbrich

It all started with an innocent request for some German baking goods. Now, the Estevan German Club is looking back to more than 30 years of promoting German culture, language, customs, and traditions in and around Estevan. The Club provided opportunities for good fellowship for the benefit of all interested Saskatchewan people, especially those with German-speaking backgrounds.

Many times the Club participated in the Multi Cultural Festival in Estevan. Members had Christmas decoration on display, we sold baking and the choir performed on stage.

The Estevan's annual Christmas kick-off organized by the local Chamber of Commerce took place every year in December. Tables were set

up for us right in the centre of the mall to display traditional German Christmas decoration. Visitor's questions were answered by Members of the Club about certain things like baking recipes or how a Christmas Pyramid works. Members of the Club prepared St. Nicholas goody bags for more than 100 kids, who included oranges, nuts, cookies and candy to follow a German tradition. A flyer explaining the German St. Nicholas tradition and a poem was also included in the bags. The Choir performed by singing Christmas carols in German and English. Many people stopped by to listen to the performance and some even sang along.

The choir also performed for residents of several nursing homes in Estevan and area every Christ-

mas season. We sang and made a donation at the United Way of Estevan's telethon and many other occasions.

With financial help from the Saskatchewan German Council, the Saskatchewan Association of International Languages and the Saskatchewan Lottery the Estevan German Club hosted language lessons for many years.

Due to an aging membership the club decided to disband this June. Everyone attending the final AGM had stories to tell and assured that the club was educational, inspiring and lots of fun while it lasted.

Thanks again to all our friends and supporters.

Katharina Ulbrich  
President

### TIME TO REMEMBER

**The Germans in Saskatchewan** — Sigrid Kirmse



#### Folkfest Kick Off

They came to settle down, to find a new working place and integrate into a new world. But, there were also several newcomers who just came to work here. Those were the miners from the Ruhr Valley. Potash mining in Saskatchewan started largely in 1965. Four well known Companies send their experienced miners to the Prairies to install those large "Tubbing Rings" in the mines to prevent the flooding of the shafts. They started in Allen, then Colonsay and later in Lanigan. The wives of those miners followed, they settled in Allan and Saskatoon. Most of those families went back to Germany after the work

here was finished, but some are still here. Their work left an important sign in Saskatoon: One of the large Tubbing Rings which was not long ago installed in front of the WDM in Saskatoon. All of those Tubbing Rings used at the Potash mines were shipped from Germany.

Those people were followed by new immigrants from Germany who installed their trade in and around Saskatoon. One of them was Klaus Traeger, the baker who soon was known all over the Province of his Deutsche Broetchen und Brot. We miss him dearly. We still can see some houses built with bricks, a sign that a German

bricklayer had done the work. All kinds of trade persons arrived and opened their business here; the artists, plumbers, painters, even a beekeeper around North Battleford was among them.

Then of course came the members of the German Canadian Club of Saskatoon. Has anyone an idea how many volunteers added to the well-being of their Club?

Folkfest, Oktoberfest, the sub-clubs of the main organization; they all contributed to the growth and well being of their forefathers and their culture. Never forget the Skat players who still take part in international competitions. There were also those who started something new: It was a German who was for 40 years the correspondent to the German Newspaper Kanada Kurier, two who started the German Radio program in Saskatoon and one who was a Charter Member of Community Radio CFCR. There are two German ladies who started the Pre Kindergarten 'Haensel und Gretel' and one who was involved in the founding of the German Language School in Saskatoon. The list goes on. Thanks to all those who gave their time and talent so generously.

"Glueck Auf"

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### A LOT OF NEWS

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church — Berbel Knoll



Sunday, June 12, marked the start of ordinary time in the church, otherwise known as the "green season." It is also referred to as the Sundays after Pentecost, and there are 24 this year. It is the longest of the church seasons and means no festivals and no high holy days to break the routine. As Pastor Diane wrote in her recent newsletter, most of our lives are lived doing ordinary life stuff . . . washing the laundry, chasing the kids, filing our taxes, cleaning the



toilets. Life sometimes becomes quite routine until something punctures the regularity.

A birthday, an anniversary, or even an unexpected call from a friend. These are the things that make the ordinary extraordinary. It is these moments that can be incredibly life-giving. Life at Trinity has most certainly been punctured by the extraordinary these past months. We were able to celebrate the ordination of Intern Pastor Diane on May 8 in an evening worship service with her home congregation at Bread of Life Lutheran Church. Bishop Sid Haugen officiated and many of Regina's clergy were in attendance. Our Pastor Sarah, who was Diane's intern supervisor delivered the sermon. On Sunday May 22 the congregation voted in favour of extending a call to Pastor Diane to be our pastor while Pastor Sarah is on medical leave.

On June 11, Trinity Sunday, another opportunity for a celebration! Pastor Diane was installed as Pastor of Trinity by Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, Assistant to the Bishop, at the 11 am worship service. We were able to mark the occasion with a reception after the service, something we have not been able to do because of COVID restrictions.

Thanks be to God for everyone who has supported the TLC Food Pantry Ministry's 2nd annual



water fundraiser through prayer and donations. We have raised enough funds to purchase over 11,000 bottles of water. The TLC Food Pantry Garden has been planted along our church sidewalk with tomatoes, peppers, marigolds and grand hopes of a bountiful harvest. There has also been plenty of ordinary at Trinity. Groups like the quilters continue to meet weekly to do their quilting, the German worship assistants, Theresia Heinek, Heinz Wefel and I along with Pastor Diane, who is practicing her German with Theresia, faithfully plan and lead German worship service every Sunday. Organist Hertha Pfeifer who turned 90 this spring, prepares the hymns and sees to the music for the services. And other volunteers come to perform the many tasks necessary for the day to day operation of the church and its programs. For more news from Trinity please check our website or follow us on Facebook. May you enjoy summer in ordinary time with an occasional puncture of extraordinary.

### GREETINGS FROM

The American Historical Society Germans from Russia — Alvin Knoll

I am happy to report that we had our first group meeting in May and we had a very interesting meeting. Everyone was very happy to be back in person and the conversations flew around the table. We even managed to get some business done. Being that our first meeting was in May we were unable to do our annual Schmeckfest which has always been held the first Wednesday in May. This was also our first get together in the new area of Trinity Lutheran Church. All went well and the fact that our library is now only steps away

from our meeting area made it that much nicer. Our library still needs to be put in order from our winter move but our librarian Pauline has assured me that all will be completed by this fall.

Now as mentioned above we did not host our annual Schmeckfest this spring and as this is always a bit of a fund raiser for us, we will have to think of some other way of raising a few funds. A thought that comes to mind is maybe borrowing a little from the Kulturgarten and the Kochlöffel group. Now I won't say anymore at this time but

stay tuned for the fall edition of the Postillion and I will let you know!

Our group will be getting back to our normal meetings starting this September. There will be one change and that is that we are now meeting in the afternoon versus evening. This time change makes it just a little more convenient for our seniors. I am also looking forward to meeting all our friends and seeing where the Germans from Russia history takes us. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### BACK INTO „POLKA“

Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers — Richard Russell



Summer 2022 is just around the corner! After a few years of isolation due to the pandemic, the Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers were very excited to get back into the “polka” of things. Our junior and intermediate groups started practi-



cing in January 2022 and came a long way despite only practicing for half of the year.

When we heard that Mosaic 2022 was not going to happen, we had to come up with another way to showcase our young performers. We decided to hold a Friends and Family night on June 7, 2022 at St. Anthony's Parish in Regina. This event turned out to be a huge success and everyone had a great time. Our performers dazzled the crowd with eight dances during the 45-minute show.

We would like to thank the SGC and Sask Lotteries for their continued support through the member funding we receive. This year, we were able to provide new lederhosen and resize any ill-fitting dirndls for our junior and intermediate performers. Everyone looked their absolute best for our Friends and Family night! Look for us next at the Regina German Club during their Sommerwende on June 25, 2022. Practices will resume in September 2022. If you or someone you

know would like to join our group, please reach out to us at [ReginaAustrianDancers@gmail.com](mailto:ReginaAustrianDancers@gmail.com). We accept dancers ages five years and older.

Have a wonderful summer!



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Lloydminster German Heritage Society — Rosemarie Schlekewy

Hello everyone, we are all well and keeping busy with other things, as we have not been able to meet together as a club, for the last couple of years. We are in the process of looking for a new meeting place and looking forward to once again getting together. We will be planning a

summer picnic, and discussing the possibility of hosting OKTOBERFEST again on FRIDAY OCTOBER 28, 2022 at the Convention Centre at the Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds. We will keep everyone informed when we have plans in order. Everyone is looking forward to a good party

after all this time. We have all been receiving the Postillion and keeping in touch with the latest news at Saskatchewan German Council. Thank you all for being there and doing the things you do to keep the Council up and running in these trying times.



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### A DECADE OF DEUTSCH

**Das Schulhaus** — By Dave Wentworth



#### **Beginner's German Class**

On June 5, das Schulhaus Regina German Language School celebrated their tenth anniversary with a brunch fundraiser. Over 60 people came together and enjoyed a brunch of German inspired breakfast foods, plus the weather was perfect! Bar Willow Eatery acted as a picturesque venue by Wascana Lake.

Das Schulhaus operates on a non-profit basis with the continued support from a network of sponsors and benefactors. From a simple begin-

ning, das Schulhaus has grown to attract learners of all ages, backgrounds, and motivations. A special thanks to Taylor Volkswagen and Taylor Audi for sponsoring the brunch – Vielen Dank!

"We have learners with German ancestry. We have people who love the language and culture. We have people who love travelling to Europe and German speaking lands. We have polyglots who love foreign languages. We have lovers of music and film, music and beer!" said coordinator Dave Wentworth at the brunch.

A return to in person learning was piloted earlier this year for youth classes. Youth classes will be in person in 2022-23. Three classes will be taught: grundschule, mittelstufe, and teenager. Our location in Regina is bright and well ventilated, and is a beautiful location to learn.

"The majority of adults expressed a preference for online classes," explains Wentworth. "During the pandemic, we had lots of students from outside of Regina join us, and it excites us to have students from near and far, including rural areas that might not otherwise have access to a German class."



**Brunch food**



**German brunch family**

Earlier this year das Schulhaus overhauled their website and added user-friendly features including a navigation bar and a calendar for classes and events. The last two years have been an insight into what technology can do for their mission of teaching and promoting German language and culture. However there is no denying the value of in person gatherings too.

"Everyone appreciates the opportunity to be together, and our June 5th brunch proves that. Moving forward, we look forward to having the best of both worlds" asserts Wentworth.

To keep up with das Schulhaus, including 2022-23 course information, registration, events and announcements, please visit [www.dasschulhaus.org](http://www.dasschulhaus.org).





## 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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