

POSTILLION

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

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GERMAN AS A MOTHER TONGUE
STILL POPULAR IN SASKATCHEWAN



Winter 2022

Featuring: German Christmas Tradition • Immigration Story

• News from the SGC Members



OFFICE & PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The Saskatchewan German Council is hiring an Office & Program Assistant to contribute to the efficient day-to-day office operations and supports the work of the executive director and the Board of Directors.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

Office Duties

- Provide administrative support to the executive director and board of directors
- Data entry and upkeep of the organization's databases, ensuring a high level of accuracy
- Ensuring timely payment of bills and initializing of payment processes
- Update the SGC website using Word Press and communication via social media accounts
- Assist in planning and carrying out of meetings and events
- Assist with SGC projects as required
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of the German language
- A passion for culture & multiculturalism; knowledge of the German culture and traditions
- Work experience in similar administrative, accounting or marketing functions an asset

- Proficiency in the use of or willingness to learn the following programs and applications:

- Microsoft Office Suite , Graphic Design Applications, Social Media Applications
- Ability to maintain positive working relationships with SGC staff, board, members, and affiliate organizations
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, lining up with the SGC brand

Hours: 37.5 h/week with some flexibility for approx. 6 weekend days for board meetings and some evenings for events required.

Work Location: 510 Cynthia Street, Saskatoon, SK

Send your resume & cover letter to:

gabi@saskgermancouncil.org

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IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

In einem deutschen Schlager aus den 1960 Jahren heißt es: „Winter in Canada so weiß war das Land“ und auch nach vielen Jahrzehnten stimmt diese Liedzeile ein in das große Abenteuer des kanadischen Winters. Zwar spürt man die eisigen Temperaturen doch auf der anderen Seite zeugen die vielen Aktivitäten unserer deutschen Vereine davon, daß der Winter in Saskatchewan zwar die Temperaturen in den Keller bringt, aber nicht die Stimmung der Menschen. Freuen Sie sich auf einen schönen Winter und auf eine neue Ausgabe des POSTILLION, der gerade in der kalten Jahreszeit Lust macht aufs Lesen.

Frohe Festtage

In a German hit from the 1960s it says: „Winter in Canada so white was the land“ and also after many decades this song line tunes into the great adventure of the Canadian winter. Although you can feel the icy temperatures, on the other hand, the many activities of our German clubs show that the winter in Saskatchewan brings the temperatures down, but not the mood of the people. Look forward to a nice winter and to a new issue of POSTILLION which makes you want to read especially in the cold season.

Happy holidays

Your Gerald Freyer

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Reader,

The cold months have begun and so has the snow shovelling. As someone who has “only” moved to Saskatchewan a little over 10 years ago, I am still getting excited about it. Winter without snow is just not the same, so when snowflakes are falling, I do get excited.

Christmas time is approaching and it is one of the best times in Germany with Christmas Markets in almost every city and town. Were you able to take in one in Regina or Saskatoon? Maybe you are able to attend a Christmas concert or a Weihnachtsfeier? There are so many wonderful traditions during Christmas time.

I hail from Saxony with its rich tradition of Holzkunst (wooden art). It dates back centuries when coal miners would create decorations and toys for Christmas to boost their income during the cold months. Schwibbogen, Räuchermännchen, Adventskranz and other things come to mind and now are renown throughout the world.





The SGC will once again have a digital Advent calendar. The theme this year is Artists, so head over to our website to discover what is behind each door.

We wish you a wonderful winter season and a blessed new year.

Lieber Leser,

die kalten Monate haben begonnen und somit auch Schnee schieben. Ich wohne gerade „mal“ seit 10 Jahren in Saskatchewan, und ich freue mich immer noch, wenn der erste Schnee fällt. Denn Winter ohne Schnee ist einfach nicht das Selbe wie ein weißes Wunderland.

Weihnachten naehert sich mit grossen Schritten und ich finde es ist eines der besten Zeiten in Deutschland, mit Weihnachtsmärkten in fast jeder Stadt. Hatten Sie Zeit einen Markt in Regina oder Saskatoon zu besuchen? Vielleicht haben Sie ein Weihnachtskonzert besucht? Es gibt so viele schöne Weihnachtstraditionen.

Ich komme aus Sachsen wo Holzkunst eine grosse Rolle spielt. Vor Jahrhunderten fingen Bergarbeiter an, Weihnachtsdekor und Spielzeug herzustellen, um ihr Gehalt während der Wintermonate zu verbessern. Schwibbogen, Räuchermännchen, Adventskranz und vieles mehr ist heute Weltweit bekannt.

Der Saskatchewan German Council wird dieses Jahr wieder einen digitalen Adventskalender für Sie haben. Das Thema sind Künstler, also schauen Sie doch mal auf unserer Webseite vorbei und entdecken Sie wer hinter jedem Türchen steckt.

Wir wünschen ihnen eine wunderschöne Weihnachtszeit und ein gesundes Neues Jahr.

Christmas market Nov. 2022 at the German Club Regina



...von der Arbeit Eures Honorarkonsuls...

Dr. Michael Oelck,

Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan



Dr. Michael Oelck

As many of you know, I had to postpone some of my office appointments, because I needed to extend my stay in Germany. I am sorry that I had to let you down, but my health is my priority right now, so I am hoping for your understanding. I am sorry to messing up some of your plans. However, being in Germany, I have observed remarkable things which are less visible in Canada. Obviously, I am one of those people in Saskatchewan who was happy to be not affected by the terrible war fights that are happening in Ukraine since the Russian attack on February 24th 2022, now lasting already nine months. I have some good Ukrainian friends in Canada. Some of them were part of my nine years in Ottawa and some were part of my recent history in Saskatoon at the University and in the Start-up scene. Most of them have guests in their house now, relatives, friends, and people who they know, some fleeing from their homes in Ukraine for good, some just seeking a rest.

I am meeting many more Ukrainians every day, at the bus station, in the streets, in stores and on the way to the train station. Right in front of my house in Dorsten, there is a little oak tree grove, and behind it, there was a nice open space with fields and an athletic training field. During the present year, the administration of our county (Regierungsbezirk Münster) decided to place one of their four immigrant camps in the open space. NRW is the most populated Bundesland in Germany with 17,3 Million inhabitants in five counties. Next is Bavaria with 13,08 Million (in 2019). Germany has almost a million more people now than a year ago, and most of them are immigrants. Our camp is housing about 1000

people, most of them from Ukraine, but not only. Africans are also here, and they have their own tent, because the cultures do not like to mix, I was told. In total we have eight huge tents, similar to Oktoberfest tents in Munich. Who wants to know more: https://www.bezreg-muenster.de/de/presse/2022/2022-08-18_nu_dorsten/index.html

Most tents are for sleeping, divided in small rooms with four beds. One tent is for the restaurant, because the immigrants are getting 24/7 service with foods and beverages. When I walked around the camp, I saw long line-ups of people who were waiting to be served with food. The Malteser-Hilfsdienst has taken over the task to take care of all needs of our immigrants. One tent is full of showers and medical facilities and the office area where all immigrants have to register. There is a fence erected around the whole camp site which has only one entrance with guards on duty for 24 hours, because in other parts of Germany, immigrants have been attacked by right wing haters. Paved streets have been created between the tents.

Some people are afraid of the masses fleeing into Germany and into other parts of Europe. They are certainly straining budgets of all levels of government in Germany. Newspapers are reporting that Poland has accepted to receive even more immigrants than Germany. Both Polish and Ukrainian people learned Russian in school which builds closeness. Here in Germany, most Ukrainians speak English, but in German stores not every clerk is fluent in it. Some days, I am translating for them. Often I recognize Ukrainians in our stores. Most of them wear big fluffy coats which you rarely need in this part of Germany which is near Holland. It is not usually cold here, even in winter.

When I am looking out of my window, I see many things happening at the camp. Sometimes, usually late at night, a big bus is entering the immigrant camp. They usually come from Berlin, and the distance to Dorsten is 600km. Our mayor told me, that the stay at the camp is limited to a maximum of three weeks, so there is a lot of turnover of people - coming and going. Every morning people are streaming out of the guarded gate with suitcases, strollers, backpacks. Usually, I see couples walking hand in hand or

families with children walking to the bus stop or the regional train station which is in walking distance. Very few old people are here, they must have stayed home in Ukraine. The train leads to Essen every hour, from where you can catch ICE high speed trains bringing you anywhere in Germany or beyond. At least half of the people coming out of the camp have a mobile phone on one ear. They must be checking for latest events in Ukraine, if family members are still ok, and if there are news from the male family members at the front lines. Sometimes ambulances are entering the camp with emergency signals, or even police cars, but only rarely. Every day at least one 20t food truck enters the camp, every day. Being the curious person that I am, I sometimes talk to the immigrants at the bus station. Many are telling me that they do not like to live in the camp, because it is so crowded. During their time in the camp, they have to find a way to move on, to other places. We have a large Ukrainian diaspora in Germany from years before the war which started in 2014 by Russia occupying Crimea. Many came here already when the wall came down in 1989 and after. In my consular office, I am often meeting them, who received a German passport when the wall came down, and many moved on to Canada after that.

But those who have established themselves in Germany are now helping the fresh arrivals. They offer living space, help with schooling the kids and how to apply for the financial support that Germany provides to all immigrants monthly. Ukrainian teachers are allowed to work in German schools, because they know how to talk to the children in Ukrainian. It is a huge effort by many people to deal with all these newcomers. And the energy crisis and the inflation are on top of the costs. Germany has changed a lot. I am a little proud that all this effort is taking place. It does not make up for the pains, losses and deaths Ukrainian families are going through at the hand of Putin's warlords, but it seems it is all we can do. It is good to know that Canada is standing by to help as well, although you do not see all the misery from far away in Canada. Quite a few of those Ukrainians passing by my house may fill out immigration forms for Canada. Germany is very strong on infrastructure and economy, but some Ukrainians are looking for more space. Canada has the luxury of space.



Rolling Calendar

WINTER 2022-23



Nov 28 to Dec 19 ADVENT WREATH AT THE NUTRIEN WONDERHUB

Visit the Nutrien Wonderhub and stop by the traditional, hand-bound Advent Wreath made by one of our member groups – the KulturGarten Saskatoon!

December KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ: GER.-CAN. KOCH- UND BACKSTUDIO

Enjoy one recipe every day up until Christmas Eve. Make sure to tune in to their YouTube Channel

Tuesday to Friday REGINA GERMAN CLUB

The Regina German Club continues to provide a menu between 11:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Every Sunday TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm German Service

Every Sunday CFR 90.5 SASKATOON COMMUNITY RADIO

Join hosts for the German program "Deutsche Klangfabrik" - contemporary German music on a Sunday afternoon. Listen live 1:00 pm - 3:00pm!



Dec 4 at 2PM MELVILLE AND DISTRICT GERMAN HERITAGE CLUB

Kaffee, Kuchen und Spass - Have some fun and fellowship while trying to speak some German. German Heritage Hall.

Dec 4 at 2:30 PM VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE

Christmas Concert join for some Christmas spirit. German Club, 1727 St. John Street, Regina

Dec 4 at 12:00 PM GERMAN CANADIAN SOCIETY HARMONIE

Weihnachtsfeier at the German Club, 1727 St. John Street, Regina

Dec 11 at 4:30 PM GERMAN CANADIAN CLUB CONCORDIA IN SASKATOON

Christmas Party with entertainment by Slim Chance at Smiley's. Please, RSVP.

Dec 12 CONFEDERATION PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SASKATOON

An international cooking series featuring recipes from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Philippines. Recipes from Austria. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, please register.

Dec 16 at 7:30 PM SASKATOON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN SASKATOON

Handel's Messiah will be performed.

Dec 17 at 2PM MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

German Service in Regina. From January on, German Service will be on the last Saturday of each month again. 2015 4th Avenue North, Regina



SPEAKING GERMAN

The German language has a long tradition in Saskatchewan and is still going strong.

by Gerald Freyer



Canada has always been a country of immigrants. For more than two hundred years, people from all over the world have been drawn to our part of the world to find a new life. All immigrants bring with them not only their culture and traditions, but also their language.

It can be assumed that the first German settlers arrived in Saskatchewan around 1885. Among them is the Kusch family, to whom a monument is dedicated in Saskatoon. Many of the first German settlers retained their language on the often remote farms. Only when visiting the nearest town did they use the predominant English language.

It was also common for these early immigrants to speak the dialect from their home region. For even in Germany at that time, the linguistic landscape was characterized by two basic uses of language. First, the everyday language, which consisted of a strongly regional or even local dialect, and second, the official language of High German, which was already in use at that time. It is based on the language of Martin Luther, which

was used in his Bible translation of 1545. An important step towards a unified German language was taken by Prussian domination in many regions of northern and western Germany in the 19th century. The Prussian state introduced the compulsory use of High German in schools and government offices. Above all, this was also to consolidate its political power.

Speaking German - For touristic reasons people in Canada want to learn German

For many German emigrants, there was no reason to stick to High German. They used the everyday language of their region of origin. For most of the emigrants the mother tongue was not High German but their dialect. Only with the next wave of immigrants around 1910 to



Russian Mennonites arrive in Rosthern in the year 1923.

GERMAN AS A LANGUAGE



Even in 2021, German is the language at home for 7,845 people in Saskatchewan.

1920, High German became more and more accepted as a language. Since this became now also in Germany a generally used language. In summary, German in its many forms was the language of many people in Saskatchewan.

Based on the Canadian Census of 1941, it is clear that immigrants from a German-speaking country are number one on the list of all countries of origin. However, it should be noted that Germany at that time covered a much larger region than today. Thus, the linguistic influences such as from the eastern German areas were also visible in the peoples language. Mennonite immigrants from Russia and Ukraine brought their own regional language based on a German dialect. Also known as Mennonite Low German in the North American-speaking world. It is a Low Prussian variety of Eastern Low German that developed in the 16th and 17th centuries in the Vistula Delta.

All these linguistic differences make it clear that German as a uniform language was not spoken until later and is therefore still divided into different sub-areas in current surveys. However, High German is the predominant German language variant in Saskatchewan with more than 80%. In addition, the nature of German immigrants has also changed significantly in recent decades. They are often well-educated professionals who find a new home in Saskatchewan through pro-

fessional opportunities. For these immigrants, German is no longer the sole language. English as the international language of commerce and science is spoken by these immigrants even before they decide to emigrate to Saskatchewan. For many earlier generations of emigrants this was not true in this form. English remained a foreign language for many of these people.

The province of Saskatchewan has a complex linguistic history and the language demographics of the region continue to evolve. English is indisputably the most dominant language in Saskatchewan, spoken by 94.5% of residents; in contrast, French is spoken by only 4.8% of the population (2017). With respect to first languages, Anglophones make up 82.4% of the province, whereas Francophones represent only 1.4%.

Whereas bilingualism rates in Canada's two official languages remain relatively low in Saskatchewan, the province is nevertheless experiencing a significant increase in linguistic diversity. In terms of first languages, 2021 14.15%, 2016 14.5%, 2011 12.7% of Saskatchewan residents reported speaking a first language other than English and French. This population includes newcomer allophones as well as many Indigenous communities.

Indeed, the five most widely spoken languages other than English and French in Saskatchewan, followed by their percentage of the total population, are as follows: Tagalog (2.4%), Cree (1.7%), German (1.2%), Dene (0.8%), and Urdu (0.8%) (2017). In 2021 German (without Low Saxon-Low Franconian languages) there are still 1.42%. Speaking German at home is still important for more than 7,845 (0.7%). All figures are based on surveys conducted by Statistic Canada.

All this shows that German is still a living language in Saskatchewan and the tradition is still active by many people. Worldwide, German ranks tenth in terms of the number of native speakers and fourth in terms of the number of people learning it as a foreign language (after English, Spanish, Mandarin). Among the languages from which the most translations are made into others, it ranks third (after English and French). On Wikipedia, German is the second most important language - only in English does the Internet encyclopedia offer more keywords. And according to Unesco, German is the number one language worldwide into which translation takes place.

LEARNING GERMAN



Anyone can learn German – whether for travel, business, global understanding or to connect to the heritage, from youth to adults!

If you are traveling to Germany for leisure or work and want to learn German, there are a variety of German schools in the province for you to choose from! Classes are available for everyone, from children's classes to adults, credit classes to individual tutoring.

German Language Schools & Preschools

- Das Schulhaus – Regina German Language School
- German Language School, Saskatoon
- Hansel & Gretel Preschool

Highschools

- Luther College, Regina
- Central Collegiate Institute, Moose Jaw
- Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon
- Walter Murray Collegiate, Saskatoon
- German Language School, Saskatoon

Universities

- University of Regina, Regina

Goethe-Institut

To prove German language skills the Goethe-Institut exam is the best way to do it. The Saskatchewan German Council is an accredited Goethe-Institut Examination Centre in Saskatchewan. The certified examiners at the Saskatoon centre will be able to test for German language proficiency level A1 & A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

For more information about German language classes
www.saskgermancouncil.org

LITTLE SCENES OF CHRISTMAS

Nativity scenes have a long tradition for European people by Gerald Freyer



Marble palace with the adoration of the magi from Italy around 1750 in the Bayrisches Nationalmuseum in Munich

The term nativity scene refers to a pictorial representation that depicts the birth of Christ or related events by means of adjustable figures distributed in a three-dimensional space. These compositions are usually built only for a few weeks a year. If they are engraved, painted, or carved representations in two dimensions that are often seen throughout the year because of their decorative or utilitarian nature, then instead of the term nativity scene, people prefer to use the term birth of Christ. Only 150 years ago, setting up the nativity scene was only a tradition in Catholic countries.

The oldest known nativity scene appeared at the end of the 13th century in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, but the marble figures are still embedded in the floor and wall. It is therefore an unchangeable composition. In the following centuries, isolated works were found here and there.

In the period of the Counter-Reformation, the nativity scene experienced a significant revival in churches and monasteries, without, however, becoming widespread. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) decreed a series of measures con-

cerning religious art, recommending a greater diffusion of carved representations with strict adherence to the texts from the Gospel.

During the 18th century, rationalism and new philosophical ideas caused a decline in interest on the part of the clergy. Some even went so far as to consider this custom childish. The nativity scenes were banned for a time by the religious or secular authorities. The Ordinariate of Cracow even put nativity scenes on the index in 1780. Thus, in 1782, 30 years the Austrian Emperor Joseph II announced that in his states the mystery plays performed by actors and the church cribs were forbidden.

As a result of these prohibitions, the faithful endeavored to recreate in their homes the scenes they were deprived of in the churches. Smaller figures were made for domestic use.

At the same time, some technical innovations contributed to reduce the production costs: for example, the serial production through clay casts that were left untreated or fired depending on the region, the use of other simple materials sometimes picked up in nature, the use of

plaster by the Tuscan figurine makers, the cutting of paper.

Nativity scenes experienced a renaissance in the 19th century. Especially the Nazarene representations of the nativity figures were very popular. In addition, the emergence of crib associations, such as in Bamberg in 1919, promoted the enthusiasm for cribs.

The reception of the house cribs was different in Protestantism. In the Protestant reformed area, they were long rejected as a typical Catholic custom. Detached from the context of the church room, the Christmas crib (typically set up under the fir tree) became in the course of the 20th century a more decorative than religious object, similar to a dollhouse assigned to the theme of childhood (memories) and included as a „Christmas stimulant“ in the course of the family celebration.

Nativity scenes are still an integral part of church and domestic Christmas decorations and are made in every conceivable artistic style and material.

CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE

Due to the inexpensive production in the casting process, nativity scenes could also be set up in poorer families at Christmas time. An important manufacturer for the Art Nativities is the company Marolin from Steinach in Thuringia. Soon the figures made of very fine papier-mâché were known beyond the borders of Germany and were already shipped overseas in the 1920s. Until about 1920, the founder of the company, Richard Mahr, created the models of his figures himself. Later, the artist Julius Weigelt modeled

these objects - most of the figurines produced today bear his signature. Diligence and high demands on the quality of the products were the basis for the company's rise in the 1930s.

The papier-mâché mass developed by Richard Mahr, which contains precisely determined proportions of kaolin, chalk, paper fibers, vegetable glue and clay, is processed as casting and pressing mass. Figures from about twelve centimeters high are produced as hollow bodies in

the casting process. The surfaces of the finished figures are first leveled in a glue bath to ensure an even application of paint. Then the large surfaces, such as dresses and pants, are colored with fine brushes. Master painters then add expression and vibrancy to the figures. A final carefully applied patina reinforces the impression of plasticity and depth. The figures are completed by applying various gold decorations.



INFORMATION

You can find a lot more of the MAROLIN and the beautiful German christmas tradition www.marolin.de

Papier-mâché scene in the style of the 1900 from Marolin.



1. Hundreds of figures forms



3. Out of the form



5. Coloring by hand



2. Pouring the mass



4. Cleaning after drying in the form



6. Working with fine brush



News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION "THE NEWCOMERS"

SGC in collaboration with two other organizations brought the film "The Newcomers" by German Canadian director/producer Theresa Kliem to the Broadway Theatre Saskatoon. The documentary screening on November 17th attracted an audience of about 200 to see the film, listen to the panelists and get engaged in the Q & A session.

The film was the winner of the 2022 Golden Sheaf at the Yorkton Film Festival for the category multicultural film (30 minutes & over). It explores contemporary immigrant experiences and weaves in historical context from the early waves of immigration into the province. The documentary chronicles the lives of five immigrants facing isolation in small-town Saskatchewan as some of them struggle to find acceptance in their new homes.



The evening was opened by two Elders, Senator Nora Cummings and Knowledge Keeper May Henderson, bringing their blessing to the event. After the film screening, a moderator presented a variety of questions to three panelists who brought their different opinions, knowledge and perspectives about the film, Saskatchewan's history and immigrant life to the table. It was also very interesting to hear the comments and questions from the audience. The film and panel discussion helped to create greater awareness about the challenges immigrants face, with focus on life in rural Saskatchewan.

The film screening & panel discussion was a partnership event between the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA), and Saskatchewan German Council (SGC). And a big thank you to Rhonda Rosenberg (MCoS) and Michael Afenfa (SAISIA) and the staff of both organizations for this wonderful collaboration!

We also thank moderator Janvi Tuteja (SAISIA), and the following panelists: Theresa Kliem, director/producer; Dr. Bill Waiser, historian and film advisor, and Icasiana de Gala, ED Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre, for their participation and contributions to make this event a huge success!



Theresa Kliem is presenting her film to the audience at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Tea Time "The German Way": following an invitation from the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (SIA), the SGC joined their virtual "Tea Time" on October 4th for an exciting morning filled with all things German such as German language lessons, singing, Oktoberfest talk, German food info and more.

Featured guest Dr. Alan Anderson shared his vast knowledge about the diverse German community in this province. SGC presenter Josephin Dick offered a mini German language class for

participants, Franziska Davies-Perret introduced our wonderful culinary highlights, and Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison explained the historic and cultural background of Oktoberfest. Participants were able to win Global Story Boxes filled with German goodies and souvenirs.

Tea Time has the purpose to inform, educate, and present different ways of knowing that brings about acceptance and understandings of different cultural perspectives.

SENIORS CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS SASKATCHEWAN

SGC had the pleasure of presenting the German culture to seniors over the phone. On October 12, a dozen seniors between the ages of 55 and 98 joined the conference call for an hour of learning about German facts, food, cultural information, Q & A, and sharing stories.

Seniors Centre Without Walls Saskatchewan (SCWW) provides the opportunity to join in on educational lectures, brain-stimulating activities and more, over the telephone. They provide chances to learn and socialize, hoping to reduce loneliness and isolation caused by Covid-19.

© Privat (5)

PRAIRIE PRISM



SGC is back to in-person outreach activities! On September 25th, we participated at Prairie Prism, a showcase and celebration of cultural heritage, highlighting the diversity and rich mosaic of cultures that exist within Saskatoon. Prairie Prism takes place bi-annually and is a platform for intercultural sharing and interactions which helps to build connections between newcomers, 'old-comers' and Aboriginal Peoples. During the afternoon, many visitors of diverse backgrounds stopped by our table to learn about the

Mira Behl and Josephin Dick at the SGC table during Prairie Prism

Saskatchewan German Council and the German community, to play German language games, and hear stories of German traditions that have been brought to Canada by immigrants.

After the long Covid break, it was very enjoyable to share our culture with the many visitors and re-connect to other cultural groups present at the event.

MEMBER WORKSHOP „NON-PROFIT LIABILITY“

As umbrella organization to over 30 member groups, the SGC has a mandate to support its members in various way. On September 21st, our members and their boards were invited to the Non-Profit Liability Workshop presented by Henderson Insurance. Participants were introduced to topics around risks and liabilities of

board members, what roles and responsibilities directors have, measures that board members can take to protect themselves, and risks that cultural groups working with volunteers should think of. Thank you to all participants for taking advantage of this learning opportunity!

MEMORIAL OF TRAGIC EVENTS

Members of the Ukrainian community and Saskatchewan government officials attended the service to commemorate an event that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-33. The Holodomor was the great famine that took place during those years cost more estimated three to seven million

people. One of the causes was the Soviet government's reprisals against opposing Ukrainian peasants. SGC Director Merv Weiss participated in the meeting on behalf of the SGC and the Germans in Russia and Ukraine.



Premier Scott Moe, Ken Krawetz, Elena Krueger, Gerald Luciuk, Terry Dennis



Merv Weiss, Elena Krueger and Danylo Puderak

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MARKUS AND ULI HECKER

written by Mervin Weiss



German themed farewell party in Michigan before coming to Canada.

Markus and Uli Hecker have fully embraced their lives here in Saskatchewan, and at the moment, cannot imagine living anywhere else! Of course, they have not always lived in Saskatchewan, having emigrated from Germany and spending a few years in Michigan before arriving in Saskatoon in 2007.

Uli was born Ulrike Barth in Würzburg, Bavaria (Bayern). Situated on the Main River, Würzburg lies at the center of the Franconian wine country. Uli has a twin sister, and the twins have an older sister as well. Uli's fondest memories of her youth revolve around Christmas and German Christmas traditions in her family. Both parents were teachers. Her dad was the principal at a Gymnasium (German high school). So it was natural for Uli to follow in the footsteps of her parents. She received all of her education in Würzburg including a university degree in Education. Degrees from

Bavarian universities are highly rated in Germany, and it was easy for Uli to find a teaching position in Hamburg, which is where she met Markus Hecker.

Markus was born in Neuss, North Rhine-Westphalia, a city located on the west bank of the Rhine River opposite Düsseldorf. Markus was an only child. His dad worked in manufacturing as a machine programmer, and his mother worked for Germany's Federal Central Tax Office. At an early age, Markus became intrigued with the underwater world of Jacques Cousteau, and by the first grade, he knew he wanted to be a marine biologist. Markus fondly remembers picking mushrooms with his parents, sailing with his dad, windsurfing, and enjoying other water sports. After completing his high school in Neuss, he attended the University of Hamburg, earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees there. In Hamburg Markus met Uli Barth.

Uli had gone with friends to a dancehall in Hamburg. At one point she boldly introduced herself to a nearby table of young people. Markus Hecker happened to be at that table, and the rest, as the saying goes, is history! They married in 1998 in Hamburg. Their son Jan was born in Hamburg the following year. Markus was studying at the University of Hamburg qualifying for a PhD in Marine Biology in 2001. Markus began his post-doctorate research in Hamburg, but was advised that doing post-doctorate research abroad would greatly expand his career opportunities. In 2002, the young family moved to East Lansing, Michigan where Markus worked in the Food Safety and Toxicology Centre, a department of Michigan State University, where he worked with Dr. John Giesy, a prominent professor and researcher in the field of environmental toxicology. Their daughter Hannah was born in Michigan in 2003, and thus holds dual German-American citizenship. The Hecker family would remain in Michigan for 5 years until 2007, when they made the move to Saskatoon where the U of S was developing one of the world's largest toxicology research centers.

Both Markus and Uli had studied the English language during their school years. However, through Markus's academic work, he had been exposed to more English than Uli, so that Markus's English was much better than Uli's by the time they arrived in the United States. Uli remembers being very nervous and unsure of herself when trying to converse with others in Lansing. And so many things were different than back "home" in Germany. Uli recalls watching the children's television program with Jan and Hanna about Caillou, an inquisitive four-year old boy fascinated by the world around him. And so they learned conversational English together. Uli is a very outgoing social person, and she quickly connected with a Moms' playgroup, which she credits with improving not only her English skills, but also giving her a sense of confidence through interaction with others.

The transition to Canada was easier than the move from Germany to the United States. Markus is still amazed, however, at the inefficiencies of Canada's immigration department, citing long delays and a confusing array of documents coupled with a very poor communication system.

IMMIGRATION STORY

Nevertheless, Saskatoon became their home, and Markus became absorbed in his work as a professor/researcher in the Toxicology Centre and the School of the Environment and Sustainability of the University of Saskatchewan. The Heckers rented their first home in Sutherland while they got established. At a nearby park, a lady heard Uli and Hanna conversing in German. It turned out that his lady taught a Preschool program directed at German children in Brevort Park School, which was called "German Pre-Kindergarten". Uli enrolled Hanna in the program, and shortly after Uli was asked to take over as teacher of the school. And so began their introduction to the close German community in Saskatoon. Uli eventually changed the name of the program to the Hansel and Gretel Preschool, and became its lead teacher, principal and administrator!

While all 3- and 4-year old children are welcome, the program has a distinctive German background. The passion which Uli brings to this program and the dedication she devotes to the children is obvious to anyone who meets her.

As well Uli taught German to elementary-school children through the Saskatoon German Language School for 11 years. This is how she met Gabi Waidelich-Harrison who is currently Executive Director of the Saskatchewan German Council. Uli served a full eight years as a director with the Saskatchewan German Council. The Heckers soon decided they wanted a home of their own. Not finding anything to their liking at the time, their realtor convinced them to consider purchasing an acreage and having a house custom built for them. Uli did not even know what the word "acreage" meant! But they quickly appreciated the attractions of the rural setting, and were able to move, in March of 2008, into their beautiful new home a few kilometers beyond the eastern outskirts of Saskatoon. Uli and Markus are now committed Saskatchewanians! Uli recalls that in the first years, they would say they were "going back home" whenever they traveled back to Germany to visit family and friends. Now, she says, they still use that term, but only when they are in Germany and they are getting ready to leave for "back home" in Saskatchewan.



Markus engrossed in his work, seen here with a large river sturgeon



Christmas is Uli's favorite time of year, but also the time of year when she is most homesick for Germany. She misses the Weihnachtsmärkte or Christmas markets, the German Christmas traditions and the Christmas atmosphere in Germany which is more traditional than here in Canada. She still likes to decorate a "real" Christmas tree and would prefer to put it up only on December 24, but has learned that if she waits that long, all the good trees have already been sold. Uli refuses to consider anything but a "real" Christmas tree. Uli loves to share her German culture and traditions, so at Christmas time, all of the Hecker neighbors are invited to share some mulled wine and Christmas cookies around a large outdoor fire.

When asked, Uli will admit to missing the foods and restaurants of Germany, especially the outdoor restaurants in the town market squares. She misses the architecture of Germany's towns and cities, and she misses the way Germans celebrate their culture. She still admires the formalities of German life and the detailed attention to appearances which are obvious in homes, on the streets, in the shops and restaurants, and in commercial buildings.

"Home" at Christmas time enjoying the Weihnachtsmärkte and mulled wine.

IMMIGRATION STORY



A “real” Canadian. Chopping trees warms you twice!

However much Uli may miss Germany and things about Germany, they cannot compete with what she has come to enjoy, and appreciate, about her new life in Saskatchewan. The pace of life here is so much slower, she says, and not near-

ly as hectic. People are so friendly, and always happy to help. People in Saskatchewan seem so “down-to-earth”; they are less self-centered than Germans. She finds the casual atmosphere in Saskatchewan to be very relaxing, even if that attention to detail and concern for appearances is sometimes lacking. She loves her acreage and her home, something totally un-obtainable in

Germany. Here, she says, “you can hear the quiet.” That is, when the coyotes are not yipping on a cold winter’s night, and the northern lights seem close enough to touch. Saskatchewan, Uli admits, has turned her into a true nature-lover. Her children grew up, camping on weekends, learning to love the outdoors.

When asked, Markus echoes many of Uli’s thoughts. He too misses the old buildings and the architecture of Germany and Europe. Markus too mentioned the attention to detail, and the atmosphere of the restaurants and the town squares, so noticeable in Germany once a person has lived somewhere else. He admits to having the luxury of living in both worlds, as his work often involves travel to Germany and Europe. (Markus is in India as I am writing this article!)

Markus related an interesting story which, he feels, illustrates the contrast of life in Saskatchewan with life in Germany. Shortly after their arrival in Saskatoon, Markus and Uli were having lunch on the rooftop of the Yard & Flagon Pub on Broadway Avenue. A nearby couple heard them speaking German and realized they were newcomers. They introduced themselves, and two days later, Markus and Uli were invited to a backyard barbecue at the couple’s home. That, says Markus, would never happen in Germany. “People here, in the community, and at work, are so welcoming.”

Despite his first impressions of Saskatchewan that it was cold, and there were no trees (because they first landed in Regina!), he now lives surrounded by trees in a lightly forested area, and he has come to embrace the climate. “I really now prefer the weather here, as compared to the climate in Germany.” Markus loves the outdoors. Germany has no true natural areas left, he says, except for high alpine zones. The countryside in Germany has been cultivated for over 1000 years. Here he can find wilderness and un-touched natural areas within a two-hour drive. He loves to hunt and fish, and recently took up bow-hunting, “to give the deer a fairer chance!” He loves Saskatchewan’s lakes. Both Uli and Markus love camping and hiking, and they are planning to hike the West Coast Trail (Pacific Rim National Park Reserve) in 2023, to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. And to complete his conversion to being a true Canadian, Markus took up hockey a few years ago, and plays regularly in a U of S Faculty Recreation League at the Merlis Belcher Arena.

Making lanterns for St. Martin’s Day during Covid times.



IMMIGRATION STORY



Uli engrossed in her work.

Work, and his profession, brought Markus to Saskatchewan, where he found a work environment that values his expertise and encourages his passion for sharing and collaboration. His research work now involves a lot of travel as he, and the Toxicology Centre, collaborate with universities around the world. Markus stresses that the University of Saskatchewan has collaborative arrangements with several excellent universities in Germany.

To date, Markus and Uli live in Saskatchewan under Canada's Permanent Resident (PR) status, but the renewal process every five years has become a nuisance to them, and they have begun to look into obtaining dual German-Canadian citizenship. Markus says he wants the right to vote so that he can have a voice as to who should represent his interests at all levels of government. He wants a voice as to how his tax dollars are spent. One complication involves Hanna who already holds both German and American citizenship. And apparently it is not so easy to voluntarily give up one's American citizenship, especially because she was born in the USA.

Both Markus and Uli recognize that Saskatoon is a small city, but it has all the services one needs, and the natural outdoors are so easily accessible. They cannot imagine living anywhere else. The Heckers are a very social family. Their passions for life, and for their German heritage, and for their love of Saskatchewan are quickly obvious. Equally obvious are Uli's passion for teaching, and Markus's passion for toxicology research. Together they represent the best of Germany here in Saskatchewan and Canada.



Trying hard to enjoy the winters during the early years in Canada.

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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FALL AND HEADING INTO WINTER AT KOCHLÖFFEL

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



Recipe from the September Box - Hanseaten



Recipe from the September Box - Flachswickel



Recipe from the September Box - Fummel

brought up so many food memories! Needless to say, food makes me excited, especially when I find ingredients that remind me of home and Oma.

Now back to regular Kochlöffel items: the September Culture & Baking Box included recipes for a Kardinalschnitte (traditional Austrian recipe) and one for a Kirsch Streuselkuchen. I was able to try the results of the Kirsch Streuselkuchen recipe from one of my regulars and it was yummy!

For the October Culture & Baking Box and to celebrate German Heritage Month, I picked out regional recipes that aren't well known. So we had Fummel, Flachswickel and Hanseaten. All very tasty, some more difficult to make than others.

A December Culture & Baking Box is planned, recipe testing is currently in progress and this box might be one of the last ones for now. I'm looking at getting back to in-person cooking classes in the new year. Classes will most likely be smaller to accommodate a smaller kitchen.

Other exciting news—we're also working with the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers on a baking box fundraiser so make sure to look out for those!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

FALL AND WINTER IN REGINA

Regina German Club - *Patrick A. Kossmann*

Just before winter set into the queen city, the Regina German Club ran their annual Oktoberfest, celebrating the German tradition of a thankful harvest. The club was packed again, which was a heartening experience after the last two years of being forced to stay in our own houses. People came out in droves to dance, drink, eat, and be entertained in a fashion we have shown we can do very well. We thank everyone who came out and look forward to seeing the club packed again for future events.



The club is busy preparing for our Christkindlemarkt on November 26. Come brave the snow and cold to warm up in the club with some shopping and Glühwein. Local vendors will be displaying their craft wares for your consideration and Christmas purchasing. Space may be limited inside the club, but we will keep you warm outside with good food and a fire you can stand close to.



Oktoberfest at the Biergarten



With life returning to normal-like conditions, the various groups at the Regina German Club have started meeting again. There are many opportunities for you to learn a bit more about German culture by taking part in singing and dancing groups, or through the shared interest group like our Hunters. Contact the club through our social media and website to find out more information.

Meals are available at the club for members and their guests from Tuesday to Friday. We have space for sit down lunches where patrons can enjoy Schnitzel and sides prepared by our talented cooks. We offer takeout suppers on these days as well, so if you would prefer to take the food home to share you have that option. Once a month we are holding our Mahlzeit suppers in

the hall, where a special supper has been whipped up and people can come in and enjoy the food in the shared space of the hall. All are welcome to these suppers.

For more information about various events we are holding or things that are happening at the club go to our website

www.reginagermanclub.ca



Christmasmarket 2022 at the Regina German Club

HAPPY WINTER IN PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool Saskatoon - Ulrike Hecker



Ready for fall and winter.

As winter is approaching, we are well into the school year. The first months have been busy for our little ones, getting to know each other and settling into our daily routine.

The beautiful fall weather allowed us to spend lots of time outside. As nature plays an essential part in our curriculum, a lot of language learning took place in the park. Children learned how to say colours and numbers in German by collecting leaves, sticks and pinecones. We even sang all our Herbst Lieder (Fall songs) outside.

On October 18th and October 26th, we took our classes on their first field trip. Dutch Growers hay maze was a blast, and the highlight was when

students had to find their teachers, hiding in the maze! On Halloween, all children dressed up and snack time turned into a "spooky buffet" with lots of special treats! In November we celebrated St. Martin and introduced the legend of Martin who shared his red cape with an old beggar. With many Covid 19 restrictions being lifted, we could invite all parents to come into the classroom and watch a little play before everyone joined the traditional St. Martin's lantern parade.

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 16th. Thank you to our fundraising committee, who organized a "Mom's Pantry" fundraiser in November to support Hansel & Gretel Preschool. Registration for the 2023/24 school

year is not open yet as Ulrike Hecker, the Coordinator and Lead Teacher of the past 15 years, will be retiring by the end of this preschool year. The board of directors is currently looking for a new Coordinator/Lead teacher for the 2023/24 school year. Any information and updates regarding the next school year will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

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



Exploring inside of a pumpkin.



Everybody is listening.



Spooky math.

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

KULTURGARTEN WINTER 2022

Kulturgarten Saskatoon - Andreas Denz

Es fühlt sich an als ob Treffpunkt Weekend erst vor kurzem war, und doch ist schon wieder Winter. Leider konnten wir diesen Sommer nicht mit dem Singkreis zusammen kommen, entweder war das Wetter nicht kooperativ oder andere Verpflichtungen hatten Vorrang. Und auch das Erntedankfest konnten wir mangels geeignetem Veranstaltungsort nicht feiern (hoffentlich nächstes Jahr wieder). Aber dennoch gab es eine Erntedankfeier mit dem KulturGarten-Samenbild. Beim Thanksgiving-Gottesdienst der École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville schmückte das KulturGarten-Samenbild den Altar und die rund 300 Schülerinnen, Schüler und Lehrkräfte erfreuten sich sehr daran. Es kamen viele positive Rückmeldungen, und auch viele „Ah’s“ und „Oh’s“.

Nun sind wir in den Vorbereitungen für den Adventskranz, der diesen Advent wieder im Nutrien Wonderhub Children’s Museum in Saskatoon ausgestellt sein wird.



It feels like Treffpunkt Weekend happened just a couple weeks ago and yet it is Winter again. Unfortunately we couldn’t get-together with our ‘Singkreis’ this summer, either the weather wasn’t cooperating or some other commitments had priority. Also we were not able to celebrate our German Harvest Festival due to the lack of a practical location. Nevertheless there has been a Thanksgiving celebration with the KulturGarten-seed picture. For the Thanksgiving church service at the École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville the seed picture embellished the altar and delighted the almost 300 students and staff. There has been often repeated positive response and a lot of “Ah’s” and “Oh’s”.

Right now we are in the middle of the preparations for the annual Advent wreath display at the Nutrien Wonderhub Children’s Museum in Saskatoon.

KulturGarten seed picture at the École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville

WINTER UPDATE

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein - Anna Schmidt

Our dance group has just finished our ‘busy season’ of dance! We were lucky enough to be able to perform at five different Oktoberfest’s throughout Saskatoon this fall. We performed at a few Seniors Centers, the Nutana Legion, the Concordia Club’s Oktoberfest as well as Jubilee Residence’s Oktoberfest. It was lovely to have so many opportunities to share German culture with Saskatoon. After practicing weekly throughout the

summer and fall, our group is ready for our short winter break. Everyone is always welcome to come and try German Dancing! You can find us by liking our Facebook page “Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein” or by following us on Instagram @schuhplattlersyxe. We would like to thank the SGC for their support! The Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein wishes everyone Frohe Weihnachten und Guten Rutsch!



SCHNITZEL AND MORE

Austrian Edelweiss Club of Regina - Janet Jost

After a long hiatus, members and friends of the Austrian Club were excited to gather on October 28, 2022. We hosted a Schnitzel Supper where more than 100 people enjoyed a delicious traditional meal catered by Bryce and the German Club’s staff, followed by delectable tortes made from Das Backhaus.

This night proved to be so much more than a supper out. The crowd was entertained by the Austrian Edelweiss Dancers who were out in full force. We were so pleased to watch ethnic dances performed from all three of the Austrian dance groups. Due to the restrictions, it has been a

long time since some of the dancers performed in front of a crowded room. Their lengthy performance was so wonderful to see and hearing Austrian music filling the hall again was pure joy. Up next to entertain that evening, was the lovely voices from Volksliederchor Harmonie. Our president proudly is a member of this choir, and it was so nice to hear this group sing traditional songs from German speaking countries.

This special evening brought together five member groups of the Saskatchewan German council in a perfect mixture of good food, talented entertainment, and great friends. We would

like to thank the Sask German Council for their sponsorship and all those that joined us that evening.

Members of the Austrian Club will be gathering again shortly for a family Christmas party, a card night, and more events in the new year. We are especially looking forward to hosting a pavilion again as a part of Mosaic in 2023 as a wonderful opportunity to showcase our Austrian heritage. If you are interested in learning more about upcoming events, please contact us at austrianclubregina@gmail.com

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

LOTS OF CONCERTS

Concordia Brass Band - *Yvonne Kristoff*

Concordia Brass Band played many concerts and had several different experiences this summer. We played at the Dundurn Army Base as well as a concert in Landis to which the surrounding communities were invited. This was the highlight of our summer concerts. We had a sellout audience and we were not background music as in several of the other concerts. We played for an hour to an audience enjoying tea, coffee and dainties. They were quiet and listening the whole time. When we finished they asked for an encore. It felt very good to be so apprecia-

ted. They provided a lovely evening meal to the band members and asked if we would return next summer. We most certainly will! We also played our usual care homes and assisted living facilities – taking our music to those who can't get to concerts.

By the time you read this we will have donned out Santa caps, played Christmas music to several groups and we will be on our winter break. Merry Christmas!



DRESS UP AND DANCING

KG Harmonie Regina - *Sheila Aldous*

Fall has been a busy time for our group. After all the planning, our Princess Gala came and went on September 24th. There were Present and Past Royalty in attendance. The meal provided by the Regina German Club was amazing. Thank you to everyone that dressed up in Royal attire or Medieval attire as per Princess Theresa's request.



Practice at the Spot

This really added to the evening. Everyone had fun dancing and taking part in the games. Princess Theresa probably will not want to play music chairs again. A special thank you to our raffle draw donors.

Since we didn't have a Karneval Crowning this year, our group planned a couple of different events instead. Friday, November 4th saw the group going out for a nice meal to open Kar-

neval. Six of our members were presented FEN medallions for their volunteer service: Annette Clute, Debi Dodman, Michelle Lang, Theresa Granger, Joelle McFadden and Samantha Knaus. Next day, November 5th was a free public event held at The Spot in Southland Mall in Regina. The public was invited to come in and make a paper medallion, join us in some dancing and games. Learn something about our German Karneval traditions. Thank you to everyone who came to support us and to everyone that donated their time and assistance.

We are looking at doing a St. Nicholas evening for our members and a public Kinder Fasching in February. The dance groups have been practicing and had some practices at The Spot which was a fun opportunity for them. They danced at the Regina German Club's Oktoberfest on October 1st. It was great to see the club have such an awesome turn out. A small group of dancers went to Summer Bash's Cultural Event on October 30th.

We are still hosting our SARCAN Drop & Go bottle drive fundraiser for our young dancers. 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.

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

We hope you all have a nice winter.



Princess Gala - Elferrat

CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers - Brenda Booker



Tricky Spiderman Move at Oktoberfest

Fall has been a very busy time of year for our dance group,,, as it usually is. Getting everyone out of summer mode and back into their school schedules is one thing. Then add on all the extracurricular activities and it can seem a bit wild at times. Crazy as it can get, we love it all.

As mentioned in our last article we had a few new dancers join early in September. We managed to get them fitted for costumes and through their tremendous efforts, after just a few practices they were ready to perform. Special Thanks to Joan, for getting Gabi's dirndl ready, so that she could start off the new season in a Teen Dirndl. After just 2 practices we headed into a whirlwind weekend of performances. The Saskatoon German Club's Oktoberfest on

Saturday and then we were off to Prince Albert's Tapestrama on Sunday. We had a great Oktoberfest afternoon with our German Community and then went on to have a lovely afternoon at Tapestrama, the following day. This was our first time at this multicultural festival and we really enjoyed it. Great venue, amazing food options and lovely hosts. Thanks to all of the parents that were able to make the trip.

These fall performances also provided an opportunity to dust off our Bench and show off the 'Bankltanz'. The older boys had a great time putting on a show for everyone. After these first few performances we went right back into our regular practice schedule, yet again with 3 more new dancers. This time all boys. How could we be so



Bankltanz at Tapestrama

lucky. I think we'll need more benches for next Oktoberfest. Welcome to Kain, Nicholas and Dean! Danielle has done a terrific job getting so many new dancers ready for our performances. Of course it wouldn't be possible without the support of all our dancers, as well. The Teens are great about stepping in to partner on the beginner dances whenever they are needed, our intermediate dancers are such patient role models and the new dancers have been eager to join in and learn. We are proud to end this season with a few Christmas performances for Seniors in the community.

Vielen Dank to the German Club, Saskatchewan German Council and all of you for your ongoing support.

BACK TO ROUTINE

American Historical Society Germans from Russia — Alvin Knoll

Hello from the Germans from Russia. I am pleased to say that our group has settled back into the routine of monthly meetings. We are also quite happy to say that we have increased our membership. Several members have returned to us saying that an afternoon meeting is much preferred to an evening meeting. I'm glad we made the time switch.

We held our annual elections in November. I would like to welcome Shelly Brenner as our new secretary and Bob Reid as our new treasurer. Thank you both for stepping up. A little sidenote here, our previous secretary Jeanette who had been taking our meeting minutes always said

that once her typewriter ribbon wore out, she would retire. Well Jennette's ribbon retired and so did Jeannette! Thank you, Jeannette, for all those years of being our faithful secretary. At our October meeting we had a quest speaker, Mary Ann Hueser. Mary Ann spent a large part of the summer doing more of her family history. Her 40 day tour took her south into the United States where her family has history. She touched on 13 states on the road visiting court houses, cousins and even the occasional graveyard. Mary Ann is a wealth of information, and I would like to thank her for sharing her family genealogy and taking the time to come out and speak to us.

Our group has also been very busy discussing the Postillion articles as presented by Merv Weiss. We enjoy these articles and many of our members can relate to those times, having gone through them themselves. It seems that the Regina area has a very large number of these stories and surprisingly many in our group know the families.

Our annual year end party or Christmas party was held at the Regina German Club and we had an exceptional meal. Thank you to the staff at the German Club. It seems that the fellowship at Christmas time is always so special. Till next time.

DAS SCHULHAUS HOLDS ANNUAL LANTERN WALK

Das Schulhaus - Dave Wentworth

Students, friends and families of Das Schulhaus Regina German Language School gathered to celebrate the coming of colder weather, longer nights, and of course the legend of St Martin, by hosting an annual Lantern Walk at Wascana Park in Regina.

Back in October, children decorated lanterns in the classroom, with the plan of showing their lanterns earlier in November, however weather impacted the school and created two delays. "Our first planned night ended up being an Alberta clipper passing through the region, our second planned night ended up being bitterly cold," explains coordinator Dave Wentworth. "Nevertheless, our board of directors was dedicated to making this event happen no matter what!"

In usual fashion, a warm fire burned bright as the day gave way to the night sky, setting the stage for a welcoming environment for all. A hot punch was served, which in addition to being delicious, also added to the warmth of the gathering. It also warmed the vocal cords for singing of traditional songs while a short walk around the park took place.

Since the school's origins over a decade ago, Das Schulhaus aims to promote German language and culture with events such as these. Except for an interruption caused by the pandemic, the St Martin Lantern Walk holds a special place for the school as one of its most anticipated annual events. For the school, it is an important way to bring everyone together, especially at the mid-semester mark and with the holidays soon approaching. "It's a busy time for all, so it's nice to take time to be together and to cherish an opportunity to interact with one another," said Wentworth.

For Das Schulhaus, the Lantern Walk also symbolizes the start of a busy season ahead, with the resumption of Christkindlmarkt later in the month. "Last year we tried a Christmas raffle via our website, and that was fruitful, but the true passion of this group is to be in front of people. The Christkindlmarkt not only lets us engage with members of the community, but it allows us to show off German Christmas decor, some of which is handmade by our board of directors," explains Mr. Wentworth, "To return to doing this is fundamentally important for us, we are truly thankful."



For anyone looking to connect with the German-speaking community in Regina and its environs, keep an eye on the school's website (www.dasschulhaus.org) and Facebook page for all the latest on what's going on. These events are open to native speakers and learners at all levels, to create a positive and inclusive environment for all.

WINTER GREETINGS

Volkliedchor Harmonie - Anita Jadischke

Volkliedchor Harmonie started rehearsing for the fall semester on September 20, 2022. We are thrilled to be back singing together as a choir and although we are a smaller choir, we are so happy to welcome three new members. We are hoping that several former choir members will re-join for the second semester. We welcome new members.

We were pleased to be asked to entertain at the Austrian Club fundraiser which was held at the German Club on October 28. A large crowd enjoyed our singing.

Members of the choir participated in the Christkindl Markt on November 26. A huge thank you to all those who assisted with set-up, take down, baked cookies to be sold as a fundraiser for the choir, and served food in the kitchen area. We were able to advertise for our concert by attaching invitation cards to the cookie trays sold at the market. We sincerely thank Maria Hartman

and Julia Lacey for co-ordinating the bake sale. It was a very successful fundraiser.

On December 4, our Weihnachtskonzert performance was enjoyed by a capacity crowd in the beautifully decorated festive environment at the German Club. Coffee and dainties prepared by choir members were served after the concert. We were especially happy to welcome and visit with many former choir members. Thank you, to the audience for sharing the afternoon with us – it makes all our hard work worthwhile.

Residents at the Renaissance Care Home enjoyed our entertainment on December 6. We are hoping to entertain at additional events in the new year. Sincerest thank you to our director, Blair Mills and accompanist, Carol Mills for their patience and guidance during rehearsals and performances. Thank-you to the Saskatchewan German Council for their continued support and assistance of the Volkliedchor Harmonie.



We will begin rehearsals in late January in anticipation of our Spring Concert which will be held on May 7, 2023. If you would like to join our choir, we rehearse at the German Club on Tuesdays, from 7 – 9 p.m. New members are always welcome.

LOTS TO DO BEFORE WINTER

Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers - *Richard Russell*



Summer is gone and as I write this, winter seems to be upon us. The time in between is by far one of our busiest and most fun seasons. That's right, fall! Why fall you ask? One word, Oktoberfest! The Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dancers enjoyed the Oktoberfest season to its fullest. We had the pleasure of performing at four functions throughout the month of October.

Our first performance was at the German Club here in Regina for their Oktoberkinderfest. Our Junior and Intermediate groups put on a fantastic performance. Some even stuck around for a good old fashion corn on the cob eating contest. Our second performance took us to the nearby town of Lumsden. The Lumsden & District Volunteer Fire Department put on a wonderful event in their Centennial Hall. Lots of laughs were had by all.

med at this wonderful event with music and dancing. Our show stopping rendition of the "Tiger Dance" got many up out of their seats and joining in. We look forward to the upcoming year and all that it can be. As always, a huge thank you to the Saskatchewan German Council and Saskatchewan Lotteries for their ongoing support in the sharing of our culture with others.



The next stop on our tour took us back to the German Club in Regina where our own parent club, the Regina Austrian Club, held a gathering for its members. A wonderful meal was provided by the German Club consisting of schnitzel, purple cabbage and spaetzle followed by fantastic desserts from Das Backhaus. A performance from our Junior, Intermediate and Senior groups followed the meal. A sensational performance from the German Choir was also enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The past couple of years have been quiet so it was great to see so many familiar faces and get a chance to have conversations once again.

Our last stop was out in White City for the White City Museum Oktoberfest. Our Juniors perfor-



KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

ELFCHEN

What is an "Elfchen"? It is a short poem, which can be written by anyone. Even if you learned German just for a short time. You need only eleven words in five lines. That's it. First line, one word – a color or some title. Second line, two words – something having the color, or being

connected to the title. Third line, three words – where do you see the color, or what is the subject doing? Fourth line, four words – include yourself, using I or me. Fifth line, one word – conclusion.

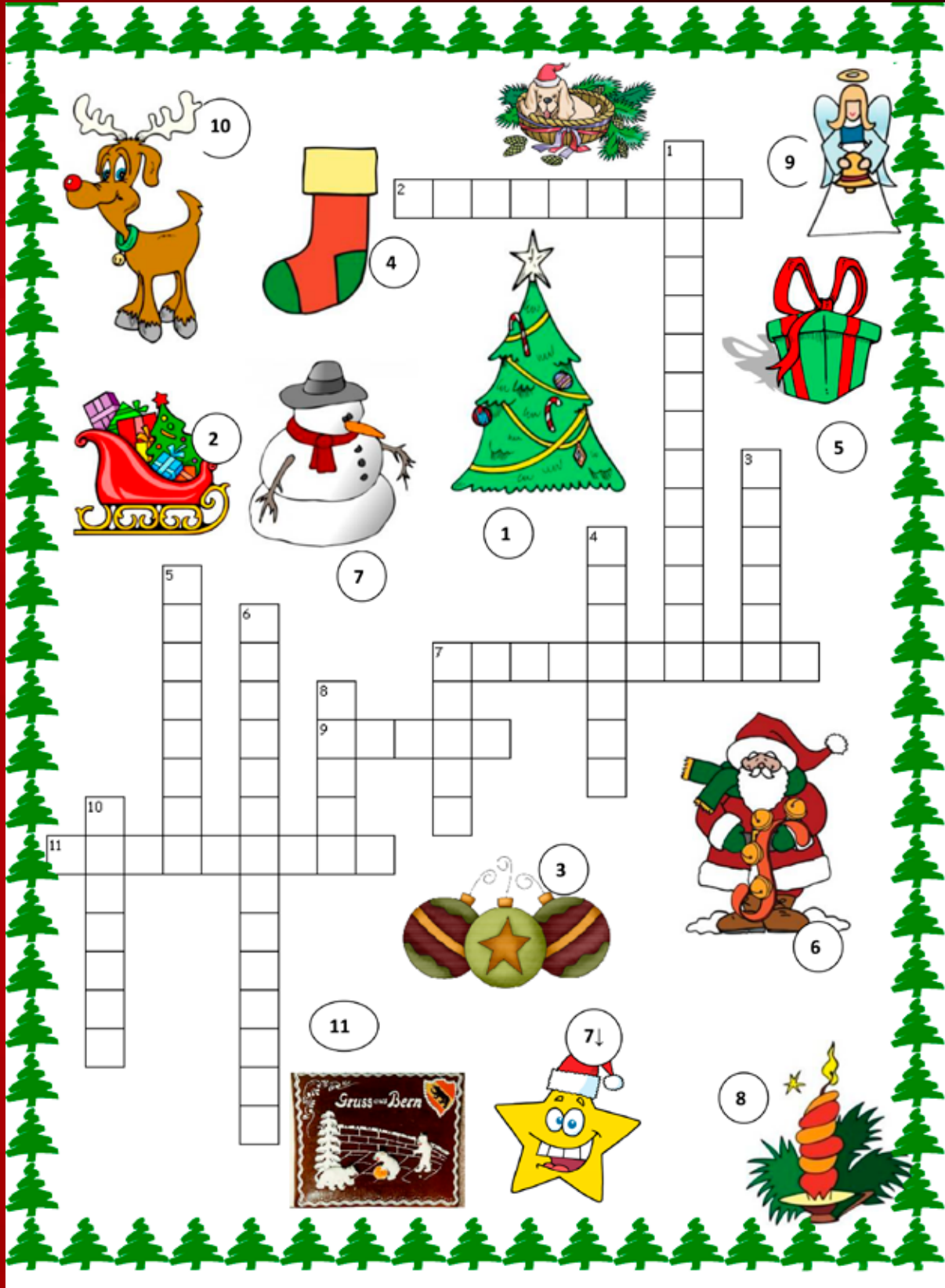
Our credit classes at the German Language School Saskatoon, German 10, 20, and 30, made some poems for you.

Enjoy.

Schnee Alles weiß Bäume, Häuser, Gras Meine Schlittschuhe wachen auf Spaß	Nikolaus Saubere Schuhe Vor der Tür Meine Vorfreude auf Schokolade Süß	Winter Eis, Schnee November bis April Ich hasse die Kälte Kaminfeuer
Ski Große Berge Die Steile Piste Ich fahre schnell Ski Angekommen	Weihnachten Fröhlich, glücklich Rot und grün Der Baum ist dekoriert Geschenke	Winter Kalter Winter Die schönste Jahreszeit Ich liebe den Anblick Fröhlich
Frühling Warmer Frühling Die langweiligste Jahreszeit Ich liebe die Vögel Ruhig	Sommer Blöder Sommer Die heißeste Jahreszeit Ich schwimme im Meer Eis	Weihnachten Milch, Kekse Rot, grün, weiß Die Kinder sind glücklich Vorfreude
Dezember Taurig, müde Eis, kalt, Winter Wo ist die Sonne? Schlafen	Winter So kalt Der See gefriert Ich gehe Schlittschuh laufen Kalt	Winter Heiße Schokolade Ski, Eis, Dezember Ich mag Kälte nicht Weihnachten
Winter Eis, rutschig Kalten Schnee sammeln Ich mag lange Winter Kalt	Weihnachten Eis, Essen Eis ist kalt Essen ist sehr gut Fröhlich	Winter Heiße Schokolade Weiß, kalt, Eis Ich spiele im Schnee Fröhlich
Weihnachten Mariah Carey Rot und grün Ich liebe meine Familie Nikolaus	Wetter Immer windig Schnee im Juli Mir ist immer kalt Saskatchewan	Tannenbaum Schöne Blätter Steht in der Ecke Schützt Geschenke für mich Lieblingspflanze

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

PLACE THE MATCHING WORDS TO THE NUMBERS



- 1 Weihnachtsbaum
- 2 Schlitten
- 3 Kugeln
- 4 Stiefel

- 5 Geschenk
- 6 Weihnachtsmann
- 7 Schneemann
- 7 Stern

- 8 Kerze
- 9 Engel
- 10 Rentier
- 11 Lebkuchen

SGC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia, Regina
Austrian Hunting and Fishing Club, 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
German Canadian Club Concordia, Saskatoon
German Canadian Society Harmonie, Regina
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.
Saskatoon German Heritage Society, Saskatoon
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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