

# POSTILLION

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

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## GERMAN CARNIVAL A SPECIAL TRADITION



*Spring 2023*  
**Featuring:** New Honorary Consul in Saskatchewan  
• Immigration Story • News from the SGC Members

# SGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

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

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



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

## NOTICE 2023 SGC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting
4. Business Arising
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2023/2024
8. Elections
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. will hold its Annual General Meeting Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:00am at the Regina German Club.

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

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Cover image: Gerald Freyer





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

In den ersten Zeilen des Gedichtes macht der Dichter Eduard Mörike (1804 – 1875) Lust auf die kommende helle Jahreszeit: *Frühling lässt sein blaues Band - Wieder flattern durch die Lüfte - Süße, wohl-bekannte Düfte - Streifen ahnungsvoll das Land*". Diese Worte machen, daß der Winter vorüber und der Frühling Einzug hält. Auch hier in Saskatchewan ist die Zeit des frischen Grüns nicht mehr fern. In unseren Artikeln und Beiträgen der Gruppen und Vereine schwingt die Freude auf den nahenden Frühling mit. Lassen Sie sich einstimmen auf die kommende Zeit, die uns alle wieder nach Draußen lockt.

Ein frohe Frühlingszeit

In the first lines of the poem, the poet Eduard Mörike (1804 – 1875) talks about the coming bright season: "*Spring lets its blue ribbon - fluttering again through the air - sweet, familiar scents - streak forebodingly the country*". These words shows that winter is over and spring is coming. Even here in Saskatchewan, the season of fresh green is not far off. Our articles and contributions from our German groups and clubs resonate with the joy of the approaching spring. Get in the mood for the coming season that beckons us all back outside.

A happy springtime

Your Gerald Freyer

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Reader,

It may have been several months already, but welcome to 2023. The days are getting longer and we are getting closer to spring. While I enjoy the winter months in Saskatchewan, I am looking forward to flowers, green trees, and warmer temperatures.

This means the season for Germany's favourite vegetable is approaching: asparagus! Maybe you can catch the Sparfelfest in Regina? Maybe you have a favourite asparagus recipe? Maybe it's a completely new vegetable for you. I encourage you to explore the possibilities. If you are very lucky you may even find white asparagus in the grocery store.

The spring season also means Easter is not far off. The SGC has a German Cultural Traditions Series, which includes a booklet all about Easter: traditions, baking, cooking, and decorations. You can get a copy from the office. You can also explore the SGC YouTube channel where you will find recipes and crafts.



I also look forward to the longest day of the year – Sommersonnenwende – summer solstice. It is not necessarily a tradition people would associate with Germany. But I encourage you to look into it and see what you can discover.

I hope you will have a great spring.  
Andrea MacLeod

Lieber Leser,

Obwohl nun schon einige Monate rum sind, wünsche ich trotzdem noch ein gutes neues Jahre 2023. Die Tage werden länger und der Frühling naht. Obwohl ich den Winter in Sas-

katchewan sehr mag, wird es nun doch langsam Zeit für Blütenpracht und warme Temperaturen.

Der Frühling ist die Zeit des beliebtesten Gemüses in Deutschland: Spargel! Vielleicht haben Sie ja Zeit das Spargelfest in Regina zu besuchen? Oder Sie haben ein Lieblingsrezept? Vielleicht ist Spargel auch eher ein unbekanntes Gemüse. Trauen Sie sich etwas Neues aus zu probieren. Und wenn Sie viel Glück haben, dann finden Sie vielleicht sogar weißen Spargel im Supermarkt.

Wenn der Frühling an die Tür klopft, ist Ostern auch nicht weit. Der German Council hat eine Serie „German Cultural Traditions“, ein Buch be-

handelt speziell nur Ostern: Traditionen, Rezepte und Dekorationsidee. Sie können eine Kopie im Büro kaufen. Der YouTube Kanal vom SGC hat ebenfalls Rezept- und Bastelideen parat.

Die Tage werden nun ja länger, und bevor man sich versieht ist dann auch schon der längste Tag im Jahr da – die Sommersonnenwende. Nicht jeder denkt dabei an deutsche Traditionen oder sogar, dass der Tag in Deutschland gefeiert wird. Schauen Sie doch mal selber nach, wie der Tag gefeiert wird.

Ich wünsche einen schönen Frühling.  
Andrea MacLeod



Queen of the vegetables - white asparagus from Germany

© Gerald Freyer (2)



**Don Morgan, MLA**

**Saskatoon Southeast Constituency**

**109 - 3502 Taylor St. E**

**(306) 955-4755**

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

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



**Dr. Michael Oelck**

I am writing this column to you since I have decided that I will not continue my function as your German Honorary Consul for the province Saskatchewan. My official expiry of the Definitive Recognition by Foreign Affairs Canada was on Feb. 26, 2023. In close coordination with the German General Consulate in Vancouver and the German Embassy in Ottawa it was possible to find a successor in time, so our transition will be without interruption. The German passport service, name changes, certifications and some other consular services will continue to be available to you in Saskatoon.

On the other hand, I was forced to stay in Germany for a few months, from where I am also writing this column, because after some minor diagnosis, some uncertain details came out which required me to stay in Germany for several months for further diagnosis. The conclusion

is that with a small operation, things will be concluded, and I will be back in Saskatoon shortly. Geeta and I are planning to return to Saskatoon in a few weeks, and we will start working on donating, disposing of and selling items in the house to prepare for our move back to Germany where I own a house in Dorsten <https://www.dorsten.de/> in Nordrhein-Westfalen, where I grew up and where we are going for retirement. Dorsten is located on the Lippe <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lippe> (Fluss) and the river is accompanied by the Wesel-Datteln Kanal <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesel-Datteln-Kanal> which connects the Rhein with Dortmund-Ems-Kanal. Dorsten also profits from Naturpark Hohe Mark <https://naturpark-hohe-mark.de/>, a large, forested hiking area between Raesfeld and Haltern. The area north of river Lippe is also part of the beautiful Münsterland <https://www.muensterland.com/> which is dotted with many water castles. South of Dorsten lies the most populated area in Europe, the former Ruhrgebiet between Duisburg and Dortmund, which used to be the mining and steel production hub of Germany, but meanwhile all the mines have been closed for "Klimawandel" and the various cities are trying to reinvent themselves with new industries. Logistics, Chemistry and Digital Services seem to be the new buzzwords of industrial development in this part of Germany. The New Silk Road from China to Europe leads to Duisburg which is the largest inland port in Europe and to the seaport of Hamburg with presently 235 cargo trains per week coming from China despite circumventing Russia.

So obviously, Geeta and I are going to have many interesting places to visit, meeting with old friends and hiking and biking. In fact, the Lippe is a canoeable river, and we even have a canoe club in Dorsten. Let's see if we will be able to take some days on the water or if I am just going to meander in memories from the Churchill River to Algonquin Park. We will miss many things in Canada, no question, however. Two of my children will stay in Canada, two will live in Germany. We will have to travel if we want to see them – or perhaps they will travel to see us. Who knows?

We will miss the living skies of Saskatchewan, the cross-country skiing in spring, the easy access to everything in the city with almost no traffic jams, clean air and nice neighbors and the white hares in our street. We will miss wildlife viewing on the prairies, the Meadow Larch and the Robins and the openness of people. Geeta and I will miss our many friends in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina and many smaller towns. We have met so many of you through our passport office over the years. We are regretting none of it, but now it is time to slow down a little, to focus on family and the family home. We wish you all the best, and believe that you will be well looked after by my successor, the next Honorary Consul for Saskatchewan! The Postillion will announce his contact info shortly. Auf Wiedersehen!

## NEW HONORARY CONSUL FOR SASKATCHEWAN

On March 3rd, the official inauguration of the new Honorary Consul Benedict Nussbaum (picture r) took place in Saskatoon, in the presence of German Consul General Marc Eichhorn (picture l). Honorary Consul Nussbaum will be replacing retired Honorary Consul Dr. Oelck. Starting from March 28, Honorary Consul Nussbaum's office will be available for appointments.

### Contact Information:

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# Rolling Calendar

## SPRING 2023



### **MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

German Service on the last Saturday of the month, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

### **CRCR 90.5 FM**

Klangfabrik, German contemporary music, every Sunday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

### **March 17 DAS SCHULHAUS, REGINA GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL**

Deutschtreff - come and have a nice chat in German or English. 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

### **March 19 & 26 AUSTRIAN HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB**

Target Shooting, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm



### **March 29 REGINA GERMAN CLUB**

Mahlzeit - Supper open to everyone at the German Club in Regina, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

### **April 8 MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

German Easter Service 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

### **April 16 & 23 AUSTRIAN HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB**

Target Shooting, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

### **April 18 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ**

April Cooking Class, 6:00 pm



### **April 21-22 REGINA GERMAN CLUB**

Annual Spargfest, check their website for details.

### **April 22 SKAT CLUB SASKATOON**

Easter Skat

### **May 7 VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE**

Choir Spring Concert, Regina German Club, details will follow

### **May 7 CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS & KULTURGARTEN SASKATOON**

2nd Annual Maifest, details t.b.d

### **May 13 AUSTRIAN HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB**

Anniversary Dinner

### **May 26-28 SKAT CLUB SASKATOON**

Saskatoon ISPA Tournament

### **June 10 SASKATCHEWAN GERMAN COUNCIL**

AGM & Treffpunkt of SGC at the Regina German Club





## FASTNACHT OR CARNIVAL

**Is this an old tradition?**

by Gerald Freyer

Carnival, Fastnacht or Fasching all refer to the same phenomenon today: celebrating and dressing up together before Ash Wednesday. The original occasion is often located in the old Roman beginning of the year. At that time, the year began in March and not in January. But as we know Carnival today, its origins lie in Christianity. Or doesn't it?

Contemporary research, however, turns away from the theories presented, exposing them as untenable due to their incompatibility with historical reality. An uninterrupted custom tradition from antiquity to the present is excluded today in the general consensus of relevant investigations. Rather, it is generally assumed that the term "Fastnacht" can be defined from the pure meaning of the word, namely as a customary date in the Christian course of the year and denotes the evening or the temporal period before Lent. On the indispensable correlation between Fastnacht and lentening time in the further process still to be gone into, from purely etymological

**Thousands of participants and visitors are making the Cologne carnival to a big party.**

regard however speak for this word explanation on the one hand the analogy to "Weihnacht" as denotation for the evening preceding the birth celebration of Christ, on the other hand the linguistic roots in the old Low German word "vastavent", which finds itself today still in the Rhineland word "Fastelovend" again. According to this argumentation also the "Fasching", which

**Carneval in Cologne - Since 200 years famous for the local carnival.**

is usual in South German, is traced back to the Middle High German term "vast-schanc" - the serving of the fast drink. Summing up it is to be stated here that the today's research does not deny relations of the Fastnacht to older customs,





## GERMAN KARNEVAL AND FASTNACHT



**Carnival in small village Dansweiler. Local people still celebrating their tradition.**

On the other hand, the Christian church of the Middle Ages and the debauchery of the Fastnacht and Karnevals customs cannot be separated. The medieval church promoted carnival to symbolize sin: Down became up, people dressed as devils and wild men ran through the city, there was over-consumption, there was sexual debauchery. In the theology of the Middle Ages, the carnival is the example of God's remoteness. On Ash Wednesday, however, lent begins, the time of reflection and confession of sins, and everything begins anew.

This important point in time in the course of the year was also regarded as an important date in those regions of Germany that are far away from carnival today. Thus, folkloristic research around 1901 for the Braunschweig region already proved that Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before the beginning of lent, was filled with many customs. The Prilleken, a pastry similar in shape and dough to the American doughnut, is a special baked good there to this day.

In many particularly Catholic regions, carnival games have been popular for centuries. The



**Everybody is involved in the small town carnival.**

masquerade reaches its climax during the weeks of Shrovetide. Shrovetide is celebrated in all European countries. In the village and in the city, people indulge in carnival activities with the same enthusiasm. Although a Prince Carnival ascended his merry throne in Cologne for the first time in 1823, the Cologne Carnival itself is considerably older.

Yes, one can even learn from a report from 1785 that the monastic clergy of this city also celebrated their "Fastelovend", namely they took off their robes and veils one week before the big "Kehraus" to dress up.

The country of origin of the great carnival parades seems to have been Franconia. More than 70 old, richly illustrated Nuremberg Schembart manuscripts tell about the Nuremberg carnival life. The Schembart Laufen was once an old social dance, just as the carnival celebrations in the cities were originally in the hands of the crafts guilds. The Munich Schäffler dance, which according to legend dates back to the time of the plague, is a reminder of this. The Munich Schäffler or Böttcher, as they are known elsewhere, perform a contretemps dance every seven years at carnival time with their decorated barrel hoops, letting a full glass dance along on the inside surface of their hoops. Munich's butchers immersed their apprentices in the fish fountain



**Schembart Lauf in Nuernberg, approx. 1500**



## GERMAN KARNEVAL AND FASTNACHT



on Marienplatz on Shrove Monday with great ceremony to set them free.

All these craftsmen's dances at carnival time have their legend. For example, the beginning of the Nuremberg Schembartlaufen is fixed to the year 1349, when all Nuremberg craftsmen, with the

exception of the butchers, are said to have risen up against the new King Charles IV, but after a year finally had to give in and were mocked by the butchers in a Schembartlaufen. The resulting processions became more and more splendid from year to year. Since 1475, these masquerades also included a wagon in the shape of a ship,

**Masks of the Swabian-Alemannic Fastnacht in Rottweil**



**Masks of the Swabian-Alemannic Fastnacht in Rottweil**



**Ugly mask of Perchtenlaufen in Austria**



## GERMAN KARNEVAL AND FASTNACHT



**Not a doughnut. Its the Northern German Prilleken bakery products for carnival.**

which was called the "Hell" and in which a crowd of fools made mischief. When, in 1539, an unpopular but influential preacher of St. Lawrence's Church named Osiander was mocked in the "Hell", this man finally succeeded in having the leaders of the procession imprisoned and the Schembartlaufen banned in Nuremberg for all time.

The inhabitants of the small town of Stockach in Baden showed more self-irony with their famous court of fools. On Shrove Tuesday, people gather here on a tribune. The court of fools rides booted and spurred on a harnessed and saddled tree trunk, and all the follies committed by the inhabitants are brought up for discussion. The verdict against the accused is always "entry in the jester's book". During the subsequent procession, it is read out to them at their front door, to the cheers of all concerned and with a serious face.

Not only the big cities like Cologne, Mainz and Munich are famous for carnival. Also many small towns of the South German area have made their Fastnachtstypen far beyond the borders of their region. Thus the Baden Hansele and Narro from Villingen and Überlingen with their fox tails and smiling wooden masks, with their long and colorful garb hung with bells, are a beloved carnival couple. The children run after them in the street to get nuts, dried pears, plums and apples from their filled sacks. The magic of Shrove-tide in the Alpine villages is quite different. In the Werdenfeller Land around Mittenwald, the bell ringers dance in shirt-sleeved mountain



**Older than Cologne - the carnival in Braunschweig was strated in 1272.**

costumes, a wooden mask on their heads and heavy cowbells tied around their bodies. While the lead dancer keeps time with the ox trumpet, the ox tail beats the beat to it. The most fantastic disguises are to be found in Tyrol. With the Imst city Schemen runners, the Scheller and Roller take center stage.

They wear huge superstructures made of artificial flowers and stuffed stuffed birds on their heads, so that they often reach twice the height of a man. Large cowbells also dangle around the hips of the Scheller, while the roller in male clothing, but with a female face mask, can only be heard with small bells. With them run the beautiful and "scary" Perchten masks. Some masks appear in all kinds of variations in different parts of the country. Thus, the Wild Men, of which many a bourgeois inn still bears witness today, can be found again and again since time immemorial.

Historically, the countless masks of animals, the dead, ghosts, demons, caricatures and jokes can only rarely be recorded. Only when the carnival in the form of herring, brandy bottle or straw doll is burned and buried and Ash Wednesday puts an end to all nonsense. In the past, the shining splendor of the altars was covered with linen cloths, and when the faithful saw their altar covered at the early Mass on Ash Wednesday, they knew that the time of fasting and penance had begun and whispered to each other, "The hunger cloth hangs." The fact that people drink and eat well before Ash Wednesday, and especially like carnival doughnuts, similar to the North German Prilleken and in Bavaria the "Küachl"

baked in floating fat, is easy to see from an old oversight.

But not for everyone the glory was over with Ash Wednesday. The guilds still celebrated great festivities on this day, and a fireworks display with burning wheels, target smashing and crackling pyres finally closed the foolish carnival season on the next Sunday, Funkensonntag finally ended. Only the people of Basel begin their three-day carnival on the following Monday.

At four o'clock in the morning, all the lights in the city center go out, and the hundred carnival societies, grotesquely masked, parade through the narrow streets to the sound of drums and whistles, illuminated only by huge lanterns bearing crude local caricatures. People fortify themselves with flour soup and Zwiebelwähe and dance masked through the last night until the gray morning.

Thus there are for many regions in the German-speaking countries innumerable customs approximately around Fastnacht and Karneval. Alone they have in common that they have lost their history in many cases and are considered only as an end in itself. Many carnival events in the cities are degraded to consumer events and therefore they are threatened in their existence. In contrast, in many villages in southern and western Germany, lively parades and events are still alive and firmly anchored in the annual routine of the village.



# News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

## TRAVELING TO MOOSE JAW FOR THE COMMUNITY HERITAGE DAY

With the travelling exhibit Enterprises of the Human Spirit: 50 Years of Scientific Excellence in Germany and Canada coming to the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Moose Jaw, the SGC was interested in adding a program that compliments the exhibit and promotes the achievement of German Canadian scientist Gerhard Herzberg.



Visitors talked about German culture in Saskatchewan at the SGC booth.

On February 11, the SGC brought the presentation Gerhard Herzberg – A Life in Science to the Community Heritage Day at the WDM in Moose Jaw. Dr. Rainer Dick, professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at the University of Saskatchewan, provided a lecture talk about Dr. Herzberg, an eminent German Canadian physicist who performed trailblazing research during his time in Saskatoon that laid the groundwork for his award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1971.

The exhibit Enterprises of the Human Spirit: 50 Years of Scientific Excellence in Germany and Canada celebrates the life and work of Gerhard Herzberg, a German Canadian scientist who believed in the value of basic research and of international research collaboration. The exhibit also highlights Canada's many important collaborations with research partners in Germany. This travelling exhibit is organized and circulated by Defining Moments Canada. In collaboration with the Herzberg50 digital commemoration and is supported by the Federal Republic of Germany. At the Community Heritage Day, the SGC also set up a table with information and children's activities for visitors to learn more about the German culture and heritage in Saskatchewan. The SGC appreciates the opportunity to be part of the celebration of heritage of our country, province and the city of Moose Jaw.



Canadian German science in history - an exhibition at the Western Development Museum Moose Jaw.

Two other SGC member groups were also present at the Community Heritage Day in Moose Jaw. A big thank you goes to our member groups Das Schulhaus – Regina German Language School for having a table and display, and to the Regina Film Club for organizing the documentary screening of "The Newcomers" by German Canadian Theresa Kliem.



Dr. Rainer Dick told the interested audience about the exciting life of a Nobel Prize winner.

## ST. PETER'S ABBEY PODCAST

SGC's latest SaskScape Podcast "German Culture Alive" is ready for you. In this eighth episode, Kevin Power explores the history of St. Peter's Abbey in the village of Muenster, about 120km east of Saskatoon. The town gets named after the city of Münster, Germany and that's not the only German influence to be found here. In this

episode Kevin is joined by the St. Peter's Abbott Peter Novescosky, and Father Lawrence De-Mong as they share the history of St. Peter's from its early days to life as it is today.

"German Culture Alive" is a SaskScapes feature series sponsored by the Saskatchewan German

Council telling stories of culture, heritage, immigration, arts, and more, of German Canadians in Saskatchewan. The series is produced and hosted by Kevin Power. Please listen to this and other interesting episodes on SGC's website: <https://saskgermancouncil.org/celebrating-culture/podcast-saskscape-german-culture-alive>



## WONDERHUB ADVENT WREATH

It's a tradition! For the third year, the SGC and KulturGarten Saskatoon in collaboration with Nutrien Wonderhub, set up an authentic, hand-bound advent wreath at the children's museum for visitors to enjoy and learn about this long-standing German Christmas tradition.

Families were able to see the wreath, get an accompanying education booklet and engage their children in a themed craft to make a paper advent wreath in Create Space.

As per our partner, the total number of guests that came through the museum while the wreath was on display was over 4,000.

Thank you to the staff at Nutrien Wonderhub for the ongoing collaboration!



Adventwreath presented by Rosa Gebhardt (KulturGarten Saskatoon) and Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison(SGC)

## ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR WINNERS

Thanks to everyone who opened the doors of our Online Advent Calendar "Artists". We are happy to report that the calendar had over 1,400 views and lots of great feedback. We are glad you enjoyed it!

Congratulations to the five winners of the quiz: Arlene and Brigitte from Saskatoon, Bruno from Regina, Teresa from Swift Current and Anette from Calgary.

Thanks again to the German Consulate General Vancouver for sponsoring the books. See you again in December for the 2023 Online Advent Calendar!



## HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF SASKATOON

On Sunday, February 12, Heritage Festival of Saskatoon was celebrating Saskatoon and area's civic, natural, cultural, and artistic heritage. This was the first in-person event after some years of celebrating online. The festival brings together various cultural and heritage organizations in Saskatoon and area under the roof of the Western Development Museum.

The SGC table had many visitors who inquired about the German culture, food, the tradition of Fasching, Easter, and more. Children were able to take home cultural coloring sheets and enjoyed the scary mask that represented the tradition of Fasching.

As in past years, the German community was strongly represented at the event. Thank you to the following SGC member groups for showcasing their work and the German culture: Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers who also performed at the event, German Language School Saskatoon, KulturGarten Saskatoon, and Saskatoon German Heritage Society. The group Steh-wien Art was also present with a display about German Canadian artists Fritz and Waltraude Stehwien.

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## JOHN MICHAEL UHRICH (1877-1951)

written by Mervin Weiss

Did you know that Saskatchewan's ninth Lieutenant Governor was an Ontario-born German? Saskatchewan introduced Canada's first universal and comprehensive health care program in 1962, but did you know this same Ontario-born German laid the foundation for this program already in the 1920s.

And did you know that when he died in 1951 in Regina, he was honored with a state funeral. The Regina Leader Post devoted the front page as well as three more, to tell the story of this remarkable German physician who devoted thirty selfless years of public service to Saskatchewan. Thirty-nine files at the Saskatchewan Provincial Archives attest to the distinguished career of John Michael Uhrich as a teacher, doctor, politician, and as our ninth Lieutenant Governor. John M. Uhrich was born 07 June 1877 in Formosa, Bruce County, Ontario, not far from the shores of Lake Huron. He was the son of Ignace Uhrich, a shoemaker, and Caroline Brehler, both Germans and both Catholic. The Ignace Uhrich family appears in several Canadian censuses beginning in 1881. The family names on the census pages reveal that the Uhrichs lived in a predominantly German Catholic community.

According to information provided by Ignatz for the 1901 Census, he immigrated 1874 as a single man. He married Caroline Brehler 18 May 1875 in Bruce County, Ontario. The Brehlers lived at Midmay, a few kilometers from Formosa. Caroline's father, Ferdinand Brehler, is listed in the 1851 Census of Canada West (pre-Confederation), where he was enumerated as being single, Catholic and born in Germany. He was born in Hesse, 15 December 1826. Census records also indicate that a second Uhrich family lived in Bruce County. Ignatz's older brother Charles, also a shoemaker, had immigrated to Canada in 1854, which explains what drew Ignatz Uhrich there in 1874.

Ignatz Uhrich was born 05 Jun 1846 in Soufflenheim, Bas Rhin, Alsace, France, only 3-4 kilometers west of the Rhine River. He was one of four brothers who fought as soldiers of the French Army during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, after which Alsace became a German territory. Likely his wartime experience prompted thoughts



**Dr. John Michael Uhrich in the official Windsor uniform of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. A commissioned painting of this photograph**

of emigration. He was not alone. Many Germans began immigrating to pre-Confederation Canada beginning in the 1850s.

Ignatz Uhrich and Caroline Brehler had at least 11 children between 1875 and 1901, according to entries of the relevant censuses of Bruce County. John Michael Uhrich was the second oldest. He went to school in nearby Walkerton. After gra-

**was donated to the Saskatchewan Legislature by Dr. Uhrich's widow, Katherine. It hangs today on one of the walls of the Rotunda, Legislative Building Regina.**

duation he became a school teacher and taught in Ontario for five years. In 1902 he enrolled in the study of medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. To finance his studies, he worked as a school teacher in Saskatchewan's summer school program. In the fall, he would return to Chicago to resume his studies. Why Saskatchewan? John Michael's first cousin, Michael Joseph Uhrich (son of Charles), had already moved



## IMMIGRATION STORY

west to Winkler, Manitoba about 1901, and later further west. The 1916 Prairie Provinces Census records Michael Joseph as a grain buyer living in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. The pre-War Homestead Era (1905-1914) attracted many Ontarians to Saskatchewan. John Michael obviously developed an affinity for Saskatchewan during his summer breaks, because after graduation in 1907 as a Doctor of Medicine, he established his own medical practice at Hague, Saskatchewan in 1909. The 1916 Census lists John and his wife Katherine living in Hague, Saskatchewan with his occupation given as physician.

In 1910, John Michael Uhrich returned to Chicago where he married Katherine Tischart on 28 June. Katherine was born in 1880 in Carrick Township, Bruce County, Ontario. The 1916 Census records her as being German and Catholic. It is safe to assume John Michael and Katherine had known each other since their youth. The couple had no children. Katherine survived her husband, but no further information about Katherine was uncovered in the Uhrich files at Saskatchewan Provincial Archives.

Dr. Uhrich practiced rural family medicine in Hague for 13 years. The Archives contains his Patient Ledger from 1910 which reveal many familiar Mennonite surnames from Osler, Rosenfeld, Hepburn, Rosengart, Neuanlage, Petrofka, Blumenthal, Rheinfeld, Grunthal, Siebenfeld, etc. The majority of entries were for \$3.00 or \$5.00. As a country doctor there would have been many a night where he would have had to drive several miles with horse and buggy over muddy or frozen roads, regardless of the weather, to

tend to an ailing patient. But to Dr. Uhrich, it was "all in a day's work", as he recalled in later life.

During those years in Hague, Dr. Uhrich obviously developed a reputation as a friendly, approachable, non-judgmental professional whom the people came to respect. He had proven his commitment to the community. Such was his reputation that in 1921 he was approached to run as the Liberal nomination in the Constituency of Rosthern. After much persuasion, he accepted the nomination which he won by acclamation. He also won the election to the Legislature by acclamation. No one chose to oppose him! Dr. Uhrich went on to win every election in the Rosthern Constituency until he retired from political life in 1944.

The talents of John M Uhrich were quickly recognized. He developed a reputation as an effortless, yet persuasive debater in the Legislature. He had a way of explaining his viewpoint without condemning, ridiculing or criticizing any particular individual. On April 5, 1922, Dr. Uhrich was sworn in by the new Liberal Premier Charles Dunning as Provincial Secretary to the Cabinet, and in 1923 he was given the added responsibility as Minister in charge of the newly-created Bureau of Public Health. He held this position for six years. Although Uhrich won re-election in 1929, the Liberals were defeated. Re-elected in 1934, this time with a majority of Liberals, Uhrich took over his former role as Minister of Health under Premier James Gardiner. Elected again in 1938, he took on the added responsibility of Minister of Public Works. Dr. Uhrich served as Minister of Health under three different Liberal

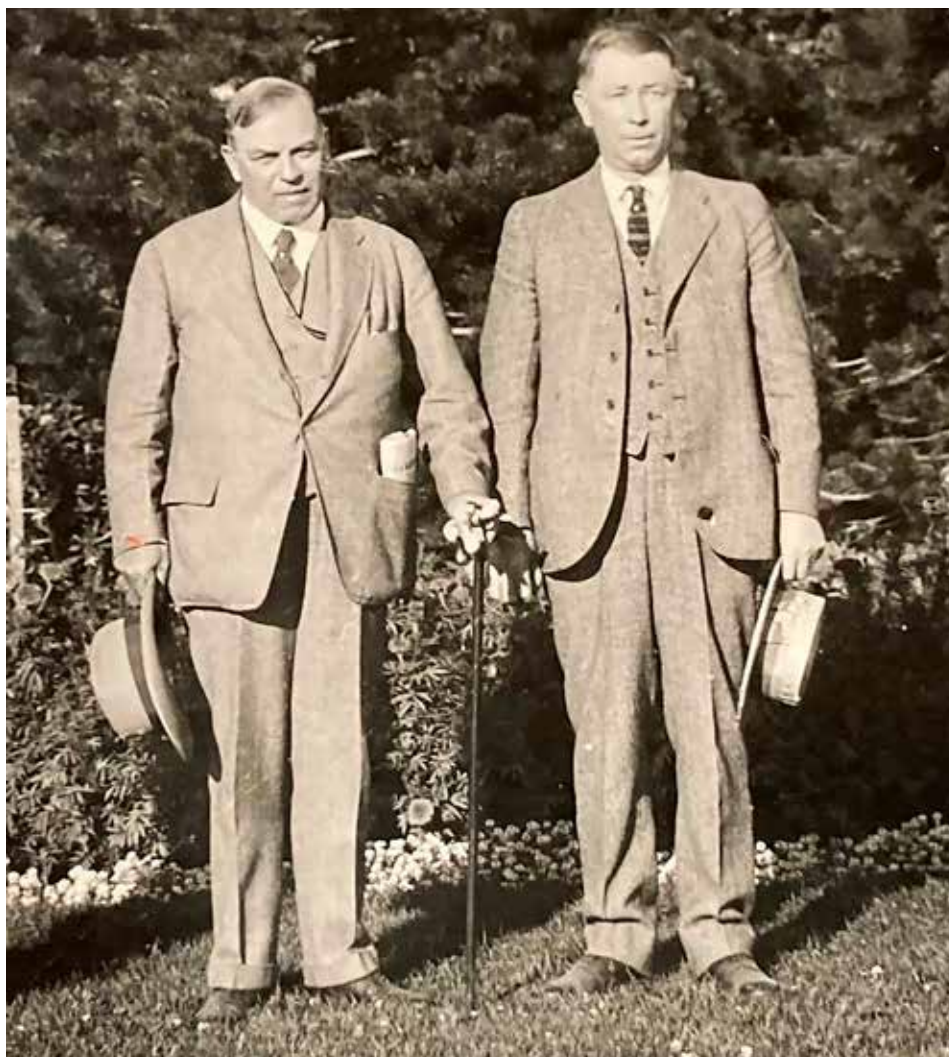
Premiers, a testament to his abilities and to the trust and respect he garnered among his peers. In 1934 he was re-elected with a majority of 7,000 votes over the closest contender, setting a record for the largest majority ever received by a candidate in either a provincial or federal election in Saskatchewan.

Under his watch, the provincial government took on a greater role in the municipal hospital system. More hospitals were built across the province to accommodate the growing population. A proponent of preventative medicine, Uhrich began public inspection of municipal water systems and of the Saskatchewan dairy system. He instigated immunization programs for smallpox and diphtheria, and the government assumed the cost of tuberculosis treatment in Saskatchewan. A traveling Tuberculosis Clinic was established. As a result, Saskatchewan quickly had the lowest tuberculosis mortality rate in Canada. In 1934 Dr. Uhrich created a health services commission to work with municipalities to collect information on the comprehensive health care needs of the province. Saskatchewan also became a leader in the reporting, care, and control of cancer, creating a Cancer Registry already in 1932. In 1934, Dr. Uhrich re-introduced a Maternity Grant Program which paid mothers to have their babies in a hospital rather than at home, greatly reducing mortality of babies and mothers at birth. Uhrich had particular concern for the province's poor and vulnerable populations. He made many trips into northern Saskatchewan to learn about the particular medical needs there. Many Archive photos show Dr. Uhrich in his role as Minister of Health, visiting northern communities around Cowan Lake, Green Lake, Ile a la Crosse, La Loche, and La Plonge. Provincial programs to protect child welfare, to control venereal disease, and to promote public health education all began to grow under Dr. Uhrich's watch.

The Saskatchewan Provincial Archive files hold many of his speeches, not only in the Legislature, but at many gatherings around the province. Early in his political career, he made headlines in the March 18, 1924 edition of *The Star* (Regina). Uhrich Passionately Defends Loyalty of Sask. Foreign Born. In a rather lengthy address, described

**Dr. Uhrich second from left, being sworn in as Saskatchewan's ninth Lieutenant-Governor by Chief Justice W. M. Martin, and Premier TC (Tommy) Douglas third from the right.**





**Dr. J. M. Uhrich with the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, tenth Prime Minister of Canada. About 1950.**

in the article as “perhaps the most eloquent that has been heard in the legislature for a long time”, Dr. J. M. Uhrich delivered a “passionate appeal for solidarity of citizenship in Canada”. He was responding to an “unwarranted and unfortunate suggestion” made at the convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers’ Association that “non-Anglo-Saxons, if put to the test, would not prove loyal” (ie. loyal to Canada).

Again, in the same newspaper dated December 11, 1925: Outstanding Speech by Dr. Uhrich on Canadian Citizenship. In a vigorous one-hour address to the Legislature, he railed against the increasing use of the term “New Canadian” in political debate. “Canada is the land where hate should die. No feuds of faith, no spleen of race, no darkly brooding fear should find a place beneath our flag....Every Canadian citizen, howe-

ver dear to him may be his own faith, serves his country well when he respects beliefs that are not his.”

The Saskatchewan Provincial Archives holds copies of his official addresses, like the Address by Provincial Secretary J M Uhrich presented to His Excellency Baron Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, on the occasion of his first visit to Regina, August 10, 1936. And the Address presented to His Majesty King George VI by the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, on the occasion of the visit to Regina of Their Majesties, the King and Queen, May 25, 1939. It is clear that Dr. Uhrich understood the significance of such historical events, and his simple, un-adorned and respectful approach to his duties shone through in his writing.

Later political observers would remark that John Michael Uhrich was perhaps at his best as an

orator and debater during his years in the government’s Official Opposition (1929-1934). During this period, he served as the Opposition’s official critic of the government’s health policies. Although Dr. Uhrich was a political person, he always felt that public health care should not be a political issue. His commitment to providing wide medical care to all of the residents of Saskatchewan was never political for him. It was simply the right thing to do.

Sports featured prominently in his life. John Michael had been an active athlete in his younger student years, enjoying competitive successes in tennis, golf, soccer, football (halfback) and baseball (second base). In later life he enjoyed watching most team sports like hockey, football and baseball games when he was able to attend. He also proved to be an enthusiastic fisherman whenever he had the opportunity. But sports were not his only interest. An avid reader all of his life, he took a deep interest in world affairs, and was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts as well. His open and friendly approach to life made him friends wherever he went in Saskatchewan. The quiet efficiency with which he dispatched his many duties won him the respect of all members of the Legislature.

He served as patron of the Saskatchewan Boy Scouts for a number of years, and always showed an interested in their activities. He had a keen interest in young people, and was always ready to help. He had an intelligent and active mind, but his first interest was always in people. John M Uhrich was the second Roman Catholic to hold the office of Lieutenant-Governor in Saskatchewan, and in 1928, Pope Pius XI made him a Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great for his contributions to the Catholic Church, and for his dedication to medicine and a life of public service. Dr. Uhrich was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Humboldt council, and a fourth degree charter member of the Knights of Columbus of Regina.

His work as Minister of Public Health won him acclaim by the Canadian Public Health Association, which awarded him a lifetime membership in 1940. Dr. Uhrich had previously served one year as President of this association highlighting his commitment to public health. The Canadian Public Health Journal of August 1940 published an extensive report on the accomplishments of Dr. Uhrich and Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Health. However, his own deteriorating health

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## IMMIGRATION STORY

forced him to withdraw from political life in 1944. Although he himself was a doctor, he had been a pipe-smoker most of his adult life. But he gave it up, and spent most of his time in retired life reading, at the same time pursuing his interests in the arts, theatre, music and literature. His contributions to Saskatchewan were widely respected, as evidenced by the fact that on March 23, 1948 the CCF Premier Tommy Douglas appointed Dr. Uhrich as Saskatchewan's ninth Lieutenant-Governor, a position he held until his death in 1951.

Although the appointment as Lieutenant-Governor came from the Premier, a reluctant Dr. Uhrich accepted only after the personal exhortation of Canada's Prime Minister Mackenzie King. The swearing-in ceremony was a quiet and unpretentious affair in the home of Chief Justice W. M. Martin. John Michael Uhrich was not a flamboyant or colorful public figure. His political career reflected rather a quiet dignity, a simple modesty and a spirit of friendliness and public service.

His last noteworthy speech was likely the one delivered on May 31 before his death, when he addressed the graduates of Notre Dame College at a private dinner presided over by Father Athol Murray. This was an annual affair which he never missed. He talked to the graduates about "the need to live in faith, and decency and good fellowship, the sacredness of family life and family prayer, acceptance of obligations as well as rights,....honesty, hard work and courage." These were in fact the foundation of his own philosophy of life. Only five days previous, he had addressed the national convention of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire in Saskatoon.

Dr. Uhrich's last official appearance occurred only a few days before his death, when he took the salute at the solemn Decoration Ceremony in Victoria Park in Regina. Lt.-Gov. J. M. Uhrich, 74 years old, died of coronary thrombosis at noon, Friday, June 15, 1951 in a Regina hospital. Upon news of his death, accolades about the life of Dr. Uhrich poured in, all reported in the Regina Leader-Post. Walter Tucker, leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, was quoted as saying: "Dr. Uhrich had been one of the most outstanding Ministers of Health in the history of Canada." C.M. Fines, Saskatchewan's Finance Minister at the time, had this to say: "His work as Minister of Health was outstanding. As the

representative of his Majesty the King, His Honor filled the position with distinction." The most glowing tribute came from Premier T.C. (Tommy) Douglas: "The memory of Lt.-Gov. J. M. Uhrich will be an inspiration to remind all that the greatest satisfaction in life comes from service to one's fellow man." In his service as Minister of Public Health under three different premiers, "he brought to this office his great capabilities as a doctor, a clear vision of the health needs of Saskatchewan and outstanding ability as an eloquent public speaker." And further: "The service which he rendered as Minister of Health over a long period of years has left an indelible mark upon the public life of Saskatchewan." Douglas went on to comment that as Lieutenant-Governor, Dr. Uhrich showed "his unfailing kindness to me and his ready co-operation on the affairs of state". This is high praise coming from a politician who himself has often been referred to as the father of Medicare.

The story of Dr. Uhrich's death was carried by Saskatchewan newspapers, but also by the national Globe and Mail, and by regional Ontario newspapers like the Owen Sound Sun-Times. A State Funeral honored the life of this highly-accomplished German man who devoted his adult life to the service of Saskatchewan's people. The service "For the Laying to Rest of The Honourable John Michael Uhrich, Ph.C., M.D., Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan" was held at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina on Tuesday, June 19, 1951 at 10:00 am, with the Roman Catholic Archbishop Michael Cornelius O'Neill presiding.

Only one of the Uhrich files at Saskatchewan Provincial Archives hinted at the interest of the German community in the work of Dr. J. M. Uhrich. Curiously it was only a newspaper headline, clipped and pasted onto a plain white sheet of paper, without a reference to the date or to the name of the newspaper. The headline reads: Dr. Uhrich für die lutherischen und mennonitischen Russlandflüchtlinge. The sub-heading reads: In glänzender Legislatur-Rede vertritt er den Grundsatz gegenseitiger Achtung zwischen Protestanten und Katholiken und hebt er die Verdienste der Französisch-Canadier hervor. A reasonable guess would be that the newspaper in question was Der Bote, published in Winnipeg, but based in Rosthern, about 1930. There is no accompanying text; presumably it was contained elsewhere in the newspaper, but its inclusion in the SPA files does indicate the local German community (ie. Rosthern) did follow



John Michael Uhrich as a fairly young man.

their former family doctor as a public persona. The headlines indicate Dr. Uhrich's passionate defense of Canadian acceptance of newcomers. The story of Dr. John Michael Uhrich is one of remarkable leadership and outstanding innovation in the field of public health. He was a trailblazer in this regard, laying the foundation for today's universal national medical insurance program, known as Medicare. He played an outstanding role in the development of Saskatchewan. He is a shining example of a German man who made a difference in Saskatchewan and in Canada.

The Archive files offer no evidence that John Michael Uhrich belonged to any German clubs or associations. There are no copies of letters he many have written to the editors of German newspapers at the time. There is no evidence that he ever offered public comments on the harsh restrictions imposed on German Canadians during WWI, or on the immigration restrictions of Germans after the war. I do not know if he retained his German language. I was puzzled by these observations until I reflected on the fact that Uhrich entered public life in 1921, hardly a time for a politician to be promoting his German heritage.

Mervin (Merv) Weiss. (Thank you to Kurt Tischler for alerting me to the story of the very accomplished Dr. J. M. Uhrich.)

# News from Member Groups

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has 33 member groups throughout Saskatchewan. Those groups include cultural clubs, language schools, dance groups, choirs, genealogical groups, and many more. The following pages contain articles by SGC member groups.

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## NEW YEAR AND A NEW KITCHEN FOR KOCHLÖFFEL

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

It seems like I was just writing an article for the winter Postillion edition and now we're already talking about spring! As I sit at my kitchen table, looking outside it doesn't really look like spring at all considering the -35C weather report for tomorrow. But soon the snow will be gone and my backyard will be back to a luscious green colour and I'll be able to pop out back to cut fresh herbs and "grocery shop" for vegetables and fruit. Although, I still have to figure out what I'm doing with all the horseradish harvested from last year. If anyone has a good recipe that uses horseradish, send an email my way!

What happened in December? Well, we offered a Culture & Baking Box, the last one for now since we're getting back to in person cooking classes and we had a chance to work with the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers for a fundraiser. It was great to work with another SGC Member Group to spread some German food culture right before Christmas with a Baking Box filled with German Christmas cookies recipes.

January and February were a bit slow in terms of posting videos since I'm mostly working on research for recipes for the in person classes, testing them out and translating the recipes. We already have a kitchen where the classes will be held and now its just waiting in anticipation to see everyone again!

I feel like this year will be a good year for Kochlöffel! If you want to join any of the cooking classes that will be offered this year, feel free to give me a shout at [kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com](mailto:kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com) or if you have questions about food related items, send over an email and I will try my best to answer!

Until next time, happy cooking!



**Christmas Quince Jam - 12 Days of Christmas Recipes**



**Marzipan Coffee - 12 Days of Christmas Recipes**



**Spekulatius Truffles - 12 Days of Christmas Recipes**



### DEUTSCHTREFF IS BACK

das Schulhaus - Dave Wentworth

Deutschtreff has come back after being dormant over the last years. Like many social occasions, Deutschtreff was halted over the last few years. However, it's back, and provides an opportunity for first-language speakers and students to Deutsch sprechen.

The group recently gathered on February 17, and the pattern moving forward will be the third Friday of the month, from 5 to 7pm. For now, the group will be meeting at the Stone's Throw Café, at 1101 Kramer Blvd in Regina. Updates and announcements will be also communicated on das Schulhaus' website and Facebook page, so please check to confirm the event before coming.

"I love going to the Deutschtreff! You meet new people and learn their stories. I'm always impressed with new German speakers and can only encourage more to come, even if it's just to listen in the beginning. I can't wait for the next Treffen," reports das Schulhaus board member Inken Kessel.

These meetups are designed to support learners of the language, from beginners up to advanced, and also to provide first language speakers with an opportunity to interact in the German language. Everyone is very respectful of each other's ability, and it's a very encouraging atmosphere.

Regina Furkert has been teaching a number of classes at das Schulhaus over the last few years, and she enjoys attending Deutschtreff. "Once a



Deutschtreff at Stone's Throw Café

month the students are meeting to try out their German knowledge," she explains. "Friends and relatives who speak German are always welcome. What could be more fun than doing it in a friendly atmosphere with coffee, cake, or a little snack. This makes it more fun," she adds. "Everytime more students are showing up."

"I enjoy seeing students and members of the German first-language community show up," says coordinator Dave Wentworth. "This is an important Knotenpunkt for us in the community." Deutschtreff is organized by das Schulhaus and would not be possible without having a host

venue. "We are very thankful for Stone Throw's Coffee Collective to host us at their café. It's a comfortable venue and they have a wide range of beverages and light fare. They have decaffeinated options, and they serve beer. How wonderful!" says Wentworth. Deutschtreff is open to all, and free to attend, however patrons need to purchase something from the café.

Looking for an opportunity to interact with other adults in German? Join us for an upcoming Deutschtreff. Don't be shy, come and express yourself to the best of your ability and have fun!



Speak German with friends.

### A LOT GOING ON IN PRESCHOOL

Hansel & Gretel Preschool Saskatoon - Ulrike Hecker



#### Fasching in Preschool

We are on the home stretch of winter and looking forward to seeing the snow melt away. The past months have been filled with lots of learning, fun and laughter!

The biggest cultural event took place on Dec 5/6 when Nikolaus came for a visit. Our preschoolers were very excited to "show off" and perform various songs and rhymes that the children had been working on throughout the school year. Luckily, we were able to invite parents, grandparents, and some special guests to our annual Nikolaus celebration. Everyone enjoyed visiting, eating Christmas cookies, and drinking traditional mulled "Kinder Christmas Punsh".

On January 30th we took our 4-year-old class on a field trip to the Museum for Natural Sciences at U of S. After having learned all about dinosaurs in class it was now time to look at giant dinosaur skeletons. We went on I spy tours and sang Dinosaur songs in German while using our stomping legs. I am sure the entire campus could hear our little ones roaring!

February 8th was another special day! Our classes visited the Nutrien Wonderhub Children's Museum. What an amazing place for students to explore and learn about nature, sound, and science!

In February we tried to scare winter away by celebrating German "Fasching". Our students had so much fun, dressing up, playing carnival games and being part of the traditional candy toss parade.

Now we are waiting for warmer temperatures, so our little ones can learn and explore outside again.

We wish everyone a Happy Spring!  
Schoenen Fruehling!



© Privat (6)  
Childrens Museum NutrienWonderhub



Wonderhub (building houses)



Nikolaus filled my boots!!!



### KULTURGARTEN SPRING 2023

**KulturGarten Saskatoon - Rosa Gebhardt**

Am Sonntag den 12. Februar 2023 nahmen wir nach der 2-jährigen Pause wegen der Pandemie wieder am Heritage Festival in Saskatoon teil. Als KulturGarten sind wir dort seit 13 Jahren ununterbrochen präsent. Dieses Festival ist in seiner Form einzigartig, bringt es doch eine so große Vielzahl an verschiedenen kulturellen Gruppen unter einem Dach, frei zugänglich für die Öffentlichkeit im Western Development Museum, zusammen. Über das gesamte Museum verteilt finden den ganzen Tag über verschiedene Angebote und Aktivitäten statt.

In der Saskatchewan Halle zeigen verschiedene Folkloregruppen ihre traditionellen Tänze, Waneskewin Heritage Park Authority führt in die Tipi-Historie ein, es gibt Spiele für Kinder, einen Ballon-figures Künstler, Kinderschminken und vieles mehr. Die Auto-Ausstellung wird in ein Archiv der Gesellschaft für Ahnenforschung umgewandelt, und es werden Kurzfilme im Unterrichtsraum gezeigt. Die Hauptattraktion jedoch findet in der Hauptstrasse 'Boomtown' statt wo 37 Organisationen, Gruppen und Vereine ihre verschiedenen Kulturen, Künste und Gesellschaften präsentieren.

Unsere KulturGarten-Ausstellung zeigte die Bandbreite unserer Veranstaltungen, die wir in Saskatoon der Öffentlichkeit präsentierten, z.B. das Erntedankfest, die traditionelle deutsche Adventsfeier, und das Maifest.

Zwei Roll-ups mit Bildern der Veranstaltungen sowie der Eiergeld-Statue bildeten unseren Rahmen. Das mittig aufgestellte Samenbild allerdings war der Hingucker für die Besucher. Es bot großartige Gelegenheiten um mit den Besuchern in Kontakt zu kommen und ihnen die deutschen Bräuche, Sprache und Kultur näher zu bringen.

Falls Sie noch nie das Heritage Festival besucht haben sollten Sie sich dieses für das nächste Jahr auf jeden Fall vormerken.



**Boomtown mainstreet – Western Development Museum Saskatoon**



**KulturGarten display at the Heritage Festival 2023**

Sunday, February 12, 2023 KulturGarten attended the Saskatoon Heritage Festival in person after a 2 year pause due to the pandemic. KulturGarten has had a steady presence at this festival for 13 years. The festival is the only one of its kind to bring together so many heritage and cultural organizations under one roof, free for the public. It takes place in the Western Development Museum .

There is no shortage of activities around the entire museum; the Saskatchewan Hall features dancing by various ethnic groups, tipi teachings by Waneskewin, games, balloon fun and face painting. The Auto Gallery is turned into an Archives Pavillion by the Geneological Society and there are short films shown in the Education Room.

However the highlight is taking place on Boomtown Mainstreet where 37 organizations gathered to display the civic, natural, cultural and artistic heritage.

Our KulturGarten exhibit featured a colourful display of events we have showcased in Saskatoon such as Harvest Festival, traditional German Advent celebration and Maifest.

Two pop-up banners with images of our events plus the EggMoney sculpture formed our backdrop. However the showstopper for the visitors was the seed picture front and center. It presented a great opportunity to inform and engage with the public and enjoyable conversations ensued.

If you have never attended Heritage Festival before keep this in mind for next year.

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### HELAU AND ALAF

**KG Harmonie Regina- Sheila Aldous**

We hope Everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our group closed out 2022 with our member St. Nicholas evening. Thank you to Eckhard for telling us the story of St. Nicholas.



**Happy in Las Vegas**



The New Year started with our Prinzen Couple – Theresa and Claude and a small entourage going to Las Vegas for the German American Mardi Gras Association's event. Congratulations to our Prinzen couple for representing our group. It was an enjoyable time, and it was great to be reunited with old friends. We would also like to congratulate our President Darlene for receiving the GAMGA Verdienstorden medal.

We held our Kindermasken on February 26. The group invited the Kolos Ukrainian Dance group and the Romanian group who performed along with our own dancers. There were crafts, games, dancing, costume prizes and a whole lot of fun. Congratulations to our prize winners.

KG Harmonie German Dancers performed at Bring a Little Mosaic to You and Saskatchewan Winter Games. Kloeey one of our dancers was involved in the games. She took part in the wrestling portion of the event. Our group was able to meet new people and learn from the other participating groups.

We are still hosting our SARCAN Drop & Go bottle drive fundraiser. If you have any bottles/cans laying around that you would like to donate, the dancers would really appreciate it. Group Name at SARCAN is KGH.

**Dancers at the Saskatchewan Winter Games**



**Darlene in Las Vegas with the GAMGA medal**

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.

### BACK TO ROUTINE

**American Historical Society Germans from Russia — Alvin Knoll**

These past several months have been quite interesting. I am happy to say that our meetings have been well represented and attended.

We've had several inquiries for family history some of which we have been able to help with. One that stands out for me is the request from a fellow in Texas, USA. This fellow had few details of his family history; he knew that his family had homesteaded in Edenwold, Sask. in 1895 and that in 1905 they left Canada and moved to the USA. This was all he knew of his Sask. connections. He had given me the family name and original village here in Sask. I did my best on research and even contacted a fellow who had grown up in Edenwold, but with no luck.

Now again the story gets more interesting. Several days after this request, Merv Weiss from Saskatoon emailed looking for some info on one of his research projects. Merv was looking for some history on a family from Kendal, Sask. Well as my family history is also in Kendal, Sask. and as I do have a Kendal history book this would be easy for me to help. I got my research book, Kendal, and opened it up. The book opened to the exact page of the family name the guy from Texas was looking for. There were two families listed with pictures and the family history stated that the families had relocated to Kendal, Sask. from Edenwold in 1905. Coincidence, I do believe so! There would not be any reason for me to look in the Kendal book for someone from Edenwold.

I guess that's how this genealogy works; sometimes you might get a break. So I forwarded said pictures and writeups to the fellow in Texas and he was so very happy to be able to fill in this missing link in his family tree. It's actually a very good feeling when you can help someone and that they appreciate the help.

We also took some time in March to reorganize our library and thanks to our librarian Pauline for taking on this monumental task. Our next big project will be our annual Schmeckfest and I am really looking forward to this as this will be our first in 3 years. Now the big question, what will I cook? Stay tuned.



### CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers - Brenda Booker



#### Woodcutters searching for the perfect Weihnachtsbaum

It was so nice to be back to a familiar Christmas routine this year. We started this Holiday Season off with the Christkindl Markt put on by the German Club Concordia. The space in the venue didn't allow for any performances so we participated by running the concession. Thanks to everyone for joining us for some German Street Food, Currywurst. We underestimated this dishes popularity and ran out of the Currywurst early!

One of the new families, that joined us this fall, was nice enough to put us in touch with Oliver Place. At the end of November we did a Christmas Performance for their Grandparents and about 80 of their neighbours. Many of us were able to stay after the performance to share some Punch, Strudel and a good visit. What a lovely opportunity to give back to the community during the Holiday Season.

Another tradition we were able to get back to was our annual Christmas Party. Everyone had a great time sharing pizza and playing games or spending time at the activity table.

We all had a much needed break and did not start practicing again until mid January. The new year brought us 2 more Dancers, again boys, 'Welcome to Joel and Will!' For the first time in our history we have more boys than girls. We may run out of lederhosen soon. It's a great position for our group to be in and so nice to see so many boys willing to try something a bit different from their regular interests.

You know the saying a rolling stone gathers no mass! Well for our group that can be said of our new Dancers. With just a few practices we were off to do a few performances. We spent an afternoon on the U of S campus dancing at the



#### Christmas Party with Pizza, Crafts and Games

International Language Day. Our younger dancers followed the lyrics of Schustertanz. Our older Dancers told a story of an argument escalating to fighting and making up in the end. All through dance, without any lyrics. Then we had everyone on stage to finish off the afternoon with the Fliegerlied.

The following day was spent at Heritage Festival. We were grateful to have a table set up as well as the opportunity to perform on the Saskatchewan Stage. Now, we are gearing up our practices to include some Maibaum Tanzen to get ready for Maifest. Save the date! CJAD and KulturGarten are hosting our 2nd Annual Maifest on Sunday, May 7th. Other details to follow.

### GREETINGS FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church — Berbel Knoll



The picture is the view of the Trinity sanctuary during Lent. Our worship space also speaks about what we believe and how we do things and so the St. Paul's altar was brought out in front for the season to make it visually clear that God comes to us just as we are and right down to our level. It reminds us that Lent is an invitation to put aside our worldly distractions and reflect on what it means to live out the ways of God in the world.

Our German services have been on hold during the cold, icy winter months but we continue to combine some elements of German liturgy and hymns in the English service. Live stream is available on our Facebook page for those that are not able to attend in person.

A blessed Easter season from the Trinity Community,

### HAPPY 2023!

**Regina Austrian Edelweiss Dance Group** - Allison Ekdahl-Johnston

We started off this new year with some plans for performances which brought some excitement to the group.

Mosaic in Regina has been set for the beginning of June and "Bring a Little Mosaic to You" was starting up early. We almost had some opportunities to perform at some seniors' homes through this program but with scheduling it just didn't work out. But the Austrian Club of Regina will have a pavilion at this year's Mosaic and our group will be arranging some times to put on our le-

derhosen and dirndls and show the city what we have been working on over the past 3 years! Around Christmas time, the Regina Lutheran Home contacted us and arranged for a private performance for their residents. We were happy to accommodate since we performed instead of having our practice. When looking through our group calendar we noticed the last senior's home we performed at was the Regina Lutheran Home in 2019, pre Covid-19 pandemic. We were happy to start bringing smiles to senior's faces at the same location.

Spring Free from Racism is an annual event in Regina, again it hasn't been on since 2019. We have been contacted by the organizers to see if we can perform, and depending on when we are scheduled we may be able to participate.

Lots of exciting events to look forward to and we will update you in next edition!



### LEARNING GERMAN IN SAKATOON

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

It's been a long time since I put together some words to share an update on our school. Sometimes I simply don't find the time, or I just don't really know how to start. Honestly it happens that I don't want to because I spent already plenty of hours with administrative duties for the school in my office at home. As much as I love to do what I do for the school, I have to remind myself regularly that this is far from a paid full-time position. Thanks to my great team of teachers, I'm certainly not alone with a good number of unpaid hours to keep our school running.

By the time this Spring Postillion is published and shared, most of our classes are getting closer to finishing the school year week by week. Similar to last school year, we continue to have our Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Adult classes in person at Aden Bowman Collegiate. Our Gr.3-6 students in Level 2 and Gr.7-8 students in Level 3 continue their learning in online classes. These 5 classes will finish up for this school year with the end of April till mid of May. Our in person High School Credit Class consists of Gr.9-12 students and their studies will go

strong till mid June to put in all the hours needed for the Ministry of Education to grant them the high school credit. We do have a group of 4 High School Students in online preparation for the German Language Diploma I (DSD I). This is a 10-week prep class that started in January and finishes with the in person written and oral exam in March.

Overall, our total student numbers are slightly lower compared to the previous school year. We sit at 64 students with all classes considered and several new students we just added to some classes recently. If I compare the total student count looking back several years, and this is my sixth year as principal, we have been pretty steady around the 60 – 65 students +/- . We didn't feel a harsh drop in numbers during Covid compared to lots of other German schools all over Canada. The commitment from families with younger kids, especially K-Gr.2, is like a rollercoaster these last years. Keeping the families heritage language alive or reconnect or simply opening another door through an additional language is definitely not as important com-

pared to plenty of other activities the kids are signed up for. This shift is very clear these past years and therefore we can't afford to run a program for this age group.

We will have to face a few changes in our teaching team soon. Franziska Davies-Perret has been with the school for 12+ years and is stepping down from teaching after this year. THANK YOU Franziska for all that you have contributed!!! Josephin Dick is a strong pillar of this school for lots more years than Franziska and she would like to lighten her load of teaching classes in the next years. Brandon Smith, who is with us since November 2019, is moving away due to his job and hopefully he can continue to work for us with online classes.

We are looking for YOU! Yes you! Just contact me if you would like to join our teaching team! You don't need to be a native German speaker, but of course we teach German.

Have a wonderful start into spring!



## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### WINTER IN REGINA

**Volksliederschor Harmonie** - Anita Jadischke



**When coffee meets harmony at the German Club in Regina.**

The first night of rehearsal for the winter semester of Volksliederschor Harmonie was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Our choir is delighted by the fact that our choir continues to grow. We welcomed back several former choir members as well as several new members. We are so pleased and thankful to those that have rejoined the choir and the new members who have shown interest in our group.

Our first coffee party was held on February 14 after rehearsal. It gave members an opportunity to visit and catch up with each other. Everyone enjoyed the company, coffee and goodies and we thank the sopranos and tenors for providing the food. Thanks also to those that assisted with set up for the occasion and especially the lovely Valentine's Day table.

We have been invited to perform at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Victoria Square Shopping Centre on Saturday, March 11. We are excited for the opportunity to entertain in front of a different crowd of people in hopes of creating interest in joining our choir and an opportunity to advertise for our spring concert.



In anticipation of our spring concert, we are practicing several fun familiar songs like: Auf einem Baum ein Kuckuck, Rund die Flaschen, rund die Welt, Wanderlied as well as more serious beautiful songs like: Still ruht der See, Du Baust Mich auf and Fluss in Judea. We invite you to our spring concert which will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 2:30 p.m. at the Regina German Club. Tickets available at the door. \$12.00 (cash only).

Volksliederschor Harmonie is always looking for new members. We practice every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Regina German Club. For more information, contact Alvin Knoll at (306) 352-5114.

### MOVIE TALK

**Regina German Film Club** - Ilona Beck

It has been a while since the last time the Regina German Film Club send out news. The past years had been difficult for the group to continue with the movie showings at the library as the facility has been closed for a certain time due to Covid restrictions. Also, our usual audience was hesitant to meet in person. Alternatively, access to Internet TV such as ZDF, ARD, BR allowed many to view German content movies on demand from the convenience of their home.

The decision to move forwards and fold was imminent. A survey I had sent out to the usual members of the film club however revealed that all are eager to continue with movie nights at least several times a year. This positive feed back was very encouraging. Thanks to those who responded.

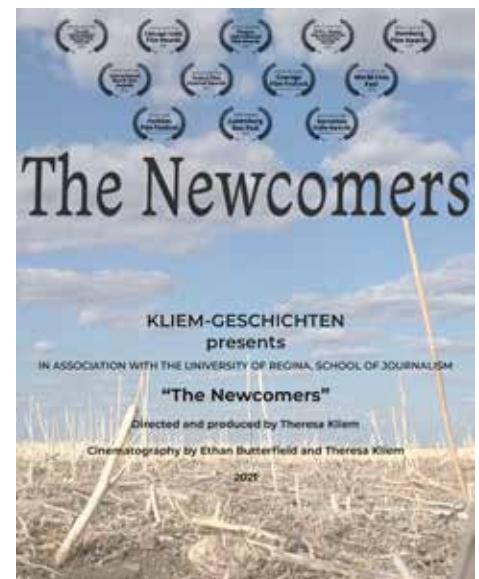
Further the Regina German Film Club started to collaborate with Das Schulhaus on the occasion

of Heritage Day 2023. The Film Club showed the documentary "Newcomers" at the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw on February 11th, 2023.

The film by Teresa Kliem, herself a new Canadian from Germany, was intended to create interest and discussion among the audience as many of us have lived through the experience of arriving as newcomers in Canada.

For those who missed the opportunity there will be another date set in early spring at the Regina Public Library Theatre.

Please stay tuned!



### WARM WINTER IN THE QUEEN CITY

Regina German Club - Patrick Kossmann



Enjoy a tasty Flammkuchen



Can not wait to sit outside on our patio.

We are happy to start a new year with new opportunities. 2022 was a record year for attendance on all of our cultural events. We thank all of our patrons who came to our events and thank you to the SGC for their support!

Mahlzeit Meals have returned, but are now in our Lounge. We will be holding monthly evening meals in our lounge. Bryce and our kitchen staff will put together a special meal that will be our take on a German traditional offering. These Meals will also be available for takeout, but everything tastes better at the club. Go to our social media sites and watch for monthly dates and meal selections.

Our club's Annual General Meeting is on March 25th 2pm in our lounge. We invite all Shareholders and Members to attend and hear how the club has been doing over the last year. There is

room on the Board of Directors, so if you want to join in on steering the club over the year let your name stand for election.

The club is planning our yearly Spargelfest to be held on April 21st & 22nd. That's right, we are returning to a two day event. This year we are holding our even on a Friday and Saturday. Once tickets become available in April, contact the club to some before they all get snapped up. The menu for the event will be posted on our Facebook page and Website once it has been set.

As we look forward to spring we look forward to having all of you over to enjoy our patio space. Our Patio Taufe is scheduled for June 10th and will hopefully be a regular thing (weather permitting). We will grill up some Brats and make some appropriate sides to sample while you are enjoying our selection of drinks in the sun.

The Regina German Club is not participating in Mosaic this year but planning is underway for our 3rd Annual Sommerwende. On June 24th we will welcome the Summer with a full day of activities culminating in music, dancing, food, and drink.

Volles Lederpaket has been practising again getting ready for shows throughout the year. They are looking for more dancers. If you would like to try out slap dancing contact the club for practice times.

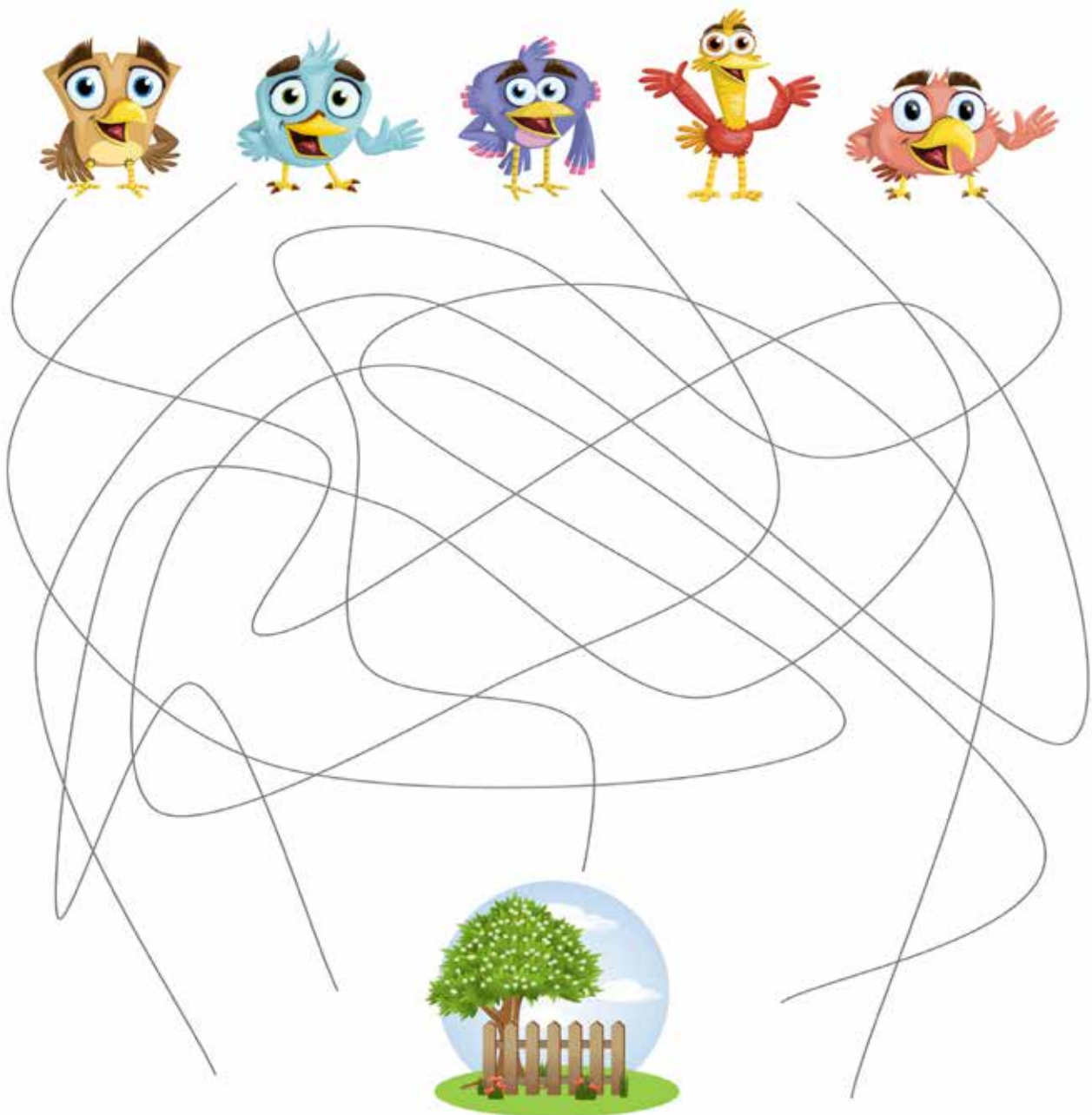
Make sure you check out our website ([www.reginagermanclub.ca](http://www.reginagermanclub.ca)) for details regarding future activities happening at the club.



# KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

## Der Weg zum Baum

Welcher Vogel fliegt auf den Baum?  
Spure die Linien mit unterschiedlichen Farben nach. Viel Erfolg!



# Buchstabengitter

In dem Buchstabengitter haben sich 10 Wörter zum Frühling versteckt. Finde die Wörter und kreuze sie rot ein. Viel Erfolg!

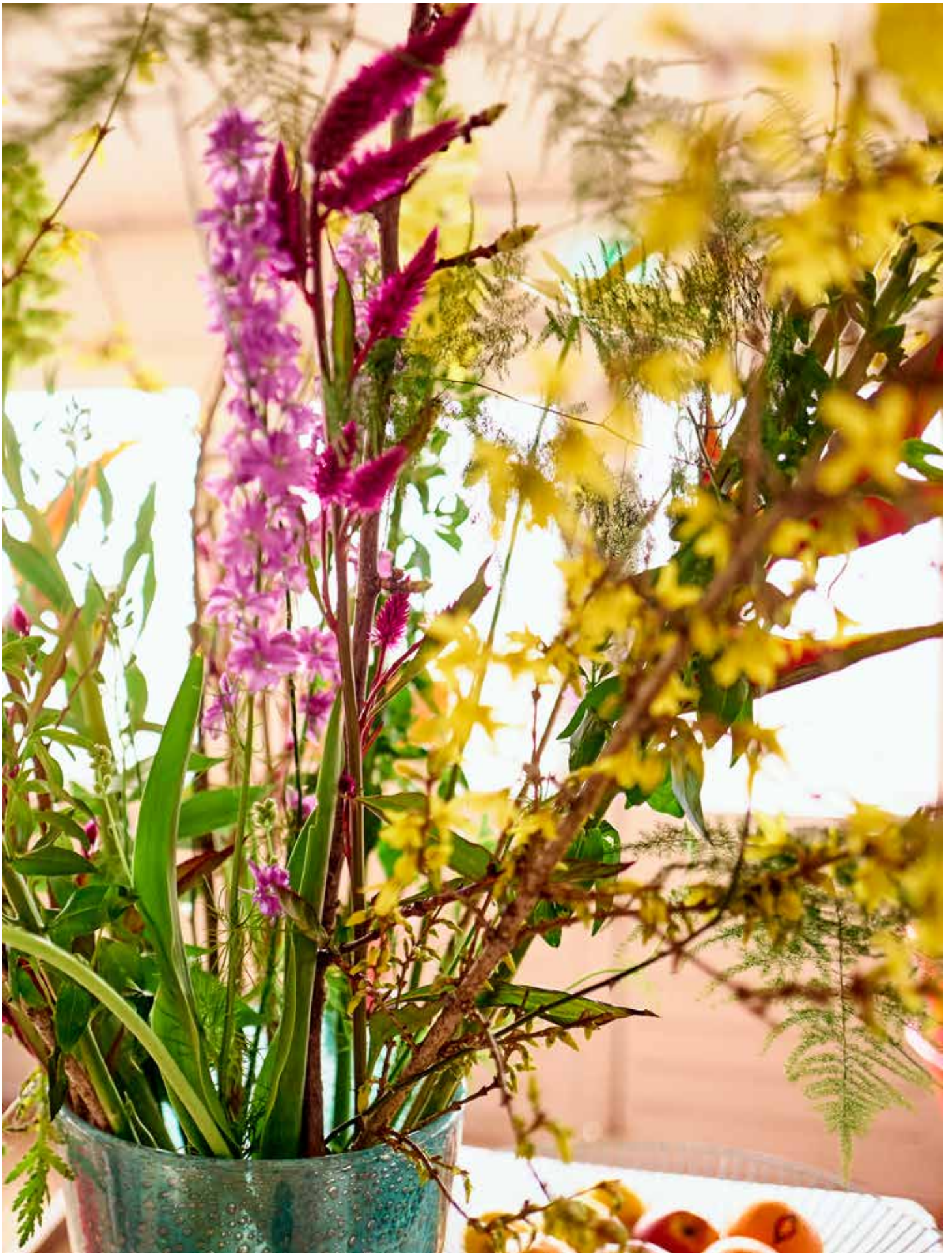


Sonne, Regen, April, Biene, Blumen, Duft,  
Fahrrad, Schmetterling, Marienkäfer, Ausflug



D	E	R	T	Z	M	H	N	J	I	K	L	O	P	Ä
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W	R	O	M	H	R	A	A	H	I	G	T	Z	D	E
Q	T	N	N	G	I	Y	U	N	R	E	G	E	N	F
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## 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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