

POSTILLION

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

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CHRISTMAS
OLD GERMAN
TRADITION

Winter 2023

Featuring: German Town in Indian Head

• Christmas Lights • News from the SGC Members





Christmas lights at a house in Saskatchewan

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IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

mit festlich geschmückten Straßen, funkelnden Lichtern und dem Duft von Zimt und Tannennadeln in der Luft nähert sich wieder die zauberhafte Zeit des Jahres – die Weihnachtszeit.

Einblicke in die Geschichten von Weihnachtslegenden gewinnen, lokale Köstlichkeiten entdecken und die kreativen Traditionen bewundern, die die Menschen auf der ganzen Welt miteinander verbinden. Während wir uns auf diese kulturelle Entdeckungsreise begeben, möge die gemeinsame Freude am Fest der Liebe unsere Herzen vereinen und uns daran erinnern, dass wir alle Teil dieser globalen Familie sind.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen eine inspirierende Lektüre und eine wundervolle Weihnachtszeit, die die Vielfalt und den Reichtum unserer Welt feiert.

Dear readers,

With festively decorated streets, twinkling lights and the scent of cinnamon and pine needles in the air, the magical time of year is approaching once again - the Christmas season.

Gain insight into the stories of Christmas legends, discover local delicacies and marvel at the creative traditions that connect people around the world. As we embark on this journey of cultural discovery, may the shared joy of the festival of love unite our hearts and remind us that we are all part of this global family.

With this in mind, I wish you an inspiring read and a wonderful Christmas season that celebrates the diversity and richness of our world.

Your Gerald Freyer

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Reader,

My favourite time of the year has begun. Christmas is around the corner. It can be a stressful time, of course, but I hope you are able to take a moment or two to enjoy this festive season.

The SGC has created another, wonderful, online calendar. This year's theme is "Exceptional Christmas Markets". There will be much to be discovered and you can win some prizes as well. Regina and Saskatoon both had German-themed Christmas events. I hope you were able to attend either one of them. A lot of work goes into organizing those events and your support for our groups is greatly appreciated.

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 renowned throughout the world.

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



© Gerald Freyer (2), privat (1)

Lieber Leser,

Weihnachten steht vor der Tuer und einer meiner Lieblingsjahreszeiten hat begonnen. Zwar kann es etwas stressig werden, aber ich hoffe doch, dass jeder einen Moment hat diese festlich Zeit zu geniessen.

Der Saskatchewan German Council wird dieses Jahr wieder einen digitalen Adventskalender für Sie haben. Das Thema ist „Aussergewöhnliche Weihnachtsmaerkte“, also schauen Sie doch mal auf unserer Webseite vorbei und entdecken Sie was hinter jedem Türchen steckt. Es gibt auch wieder tolle Preise zu gewinnen. Apropos Weihnachtsmarkt, unsere Mitglieds-

gruppen in Regina und Saskatoon haben jeweils einen Weihnachtsmarkt oder Adventsveranstaltung organisiert. Ich hoffe Sie waren in der Lage einen oder beide zu besuchen. Es ist viel Arbeit so etwas auf die Beine zu stellen und jede Unterstuetzung wird geschaezt.

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, Räucher-männchen, Adventskranz und vieles mehr ist heute Weltweit bekannt. Wir wünschen ihnen eine wunderschöne Weihnachtszeit und ein gesundes Neues Jahr.



NEWS FROM THE GERMAN HONORARY CONSUL NEUES VOM DEUTSCHEN HONORARKONSUL



Benedict E. Nussbaum
Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Saskatchewan. I am a lawyer in Saskatoon, after attending the University of Saskatchewan, and have been practising in Saskatchewan for

over thirty years; I have been involved in the community in numerous volunteer capacities for decades. However, the Honorary Consul position is unique and one in which I take great pride. I feel truly honoured to stay connected with my German heritage in this way. My parents immigrated to Saskatchewan from Germany in the 1950s. My father was born in Dormagen, just outside of Cologne, and my mother was born in Bonn; they eventually settled in Regina, where I was born and raised.

Since my appointment in Spring 2023, I have made myself available for consular services on a regular basis. Often these services include applications for German passport renewals. I have been very impressed with how polite applicants are when I meet them and they give me an opportunity to practise my German which, I must say, is sorely needed. People share many interesting stories about their heritage, and it is a pleasure to be of assistance to people so well-connected with Germany. I have found the number of people who require German passport

renewals and other consular services remarkable. In a few short months I have completed many dozens of passport applications and my office has fielded hundreds of calls and inquiries.

I am grateful to the wonderful support provided by the Consul General's office in Vancouver. Information about German consular services in Canada can be found at <https://canada.diplo.de/>. I am also impressed by many services available from the Saskatchewan German Council, many of which work neatly with consular services, including translations of documents into and from German.

I am still learning all the duties of an honorary consul and the intricacies of the consular services; I greatly appreciate the patience that has been extended to me by the General Consul in Vancouver and by the applicants themselves.

I look forward to continuing to provide consular services and connecting with the wider German community in Saskatchewan.



Don Morgan, MLA

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ILLUMINATING THE SEASON

The Significance of Light and Candles at Christmas

by Gerald Freyer



As the winter nights grow longer and colder, there emerges a tradition that warms both hearth and heart—the soft glow of candles during the Christmas season. In the tapestry of holiday festivities, light and candles weave a narrative of hope, tradition, and celebration, casting a warm radiance on the significance of this magical time of year.

At the heart of this luminous tradition is the symbol of light itself—a beacon of hope piercing through the darkness. The act of kindling candles

takes on a profound meaning during the Advent season. The Advent wreath, adorned with its four candles, becomes a visual representation of the anticipation and preparation for the arrival of Christmas. Each candle, lit sequentially on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, becomes a poignant reminder of the virtues associated with the season: hope, love, joy, and peace.

Within the Christian narrative, candles take on a deeper significance as symbols of Christ, often referred to as the "Light of the World." The flicker-

ing flames on the Advent wreath symbolize the spiritual illumination brought about by the birth of Jesus Christ, signaling the advent of salvation and a renewal of faith. The act of lighting candles becomes a sacred ritual, connecting individuals to the divine and invoking a sense of reverence for the miraculous events celebrated during Christmas. Beyond their religious connotations, candles contribute to the cozy and festive ambiance of the season. Whether adorning windowsills, glowing within ornate candle holders, or forming a radiant centerpiece on Christmas tables, candles create an intimate and inviting atmosphere. Their gentle luminosity transforms spaces into havens of warmth and togetherness, inviting loved ones to gather around, share stories, and revel in the joy of the season.

In the heart of winter, when the Nordic nights are at their longest and darkest, Sweden comes alive with a radiant celebration known as Lucia. This enchanting festival, deeply rooted in Swedish tradition, is a mesmerizing blend of light, song, and timeless customs. Central to the Lucia celebration is the Lucia herself, often a young woman chosen to represent the embodiment of

Santa Lucia Procession as decoration in a Swedish house.



CHRISTMAS TRADITION

light and hope. As she appears, adorned in a flowing white gown with a crown of candles adorning her head, the air becomes charged with anticipation. The candles flicker softly, casting a warm glow on her serene countenance, and the strains of the traditional Lucia song fill the air: "Sankta Lucia, ljusklara hägring, stråla över sjo och strand. Himlen öppen, det susar i furuskog, susar i furuskog kring vårt land."

Translated as "Saint Lucia, light-clear mirage, shine over lake and strand. The sky is open, it whispers in the pine forest, whispers in the pine forest around our land," the Lucia song captures the essence of the festival. Sung in unison by a choir of white-clad maidens, the music resonates with a haunting beauty that transcends time.

The tradition of Lucia singing dates back to the 18th century and has evolved over the years, intertwining with Swedish history and folklore. The Lucia and her attendants move gracefully, their voices weaving a tapestry of melody that evokes a sense of reverence and tranquility. The symbolism of light overcoming darkness is palpable, and as the choir processes through homes, schools, and public spaces, the radiance of their candles dispels the winter gloom.

The Lucia celebration, often observed on December 13th, marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden. Families gather, and communities unite to partake in this magical event. Lucia processions can be witnessed in schools, workplaces, and even on the streets, creating a shared experience that binds generations together. Beyond its religious and historical significance, the Lucia celebration embodies the spirit of generosity and goodwill. Lucia, with her crown of candles, becomes a symbol of hope, warmth, and the promise of brighter days ahead. The Lucia song, with its haunting melody and evocative lyrics, serves as a timeless hymn that transcends the ages, echoing the enduring power of light and the beauty of cultural traditions in Sweden.

In Bavaria and other areas in southern Germany the custom of Luzienhäuschen-Schwimmen on the day of St. Lucia, December 13 is popular. Small paper houses lit with candles are lowered into the water and then float along the Amper river. The custom is practiced in Grafrath and Fürstentfeldbruck, among other places. Until December 13, children and young people in particular build paper houses, the Luzienhäuschen. These



are usually glued to polystyrene sheets so that they do not sink in the floods later. The windows of the houses are covered with transparent paper or left open. Candles are placed inside the house so that the houses can be seen in the dark. In the evening, divers from the local water rescue service await the builders with their houses, pick them up and lower them into the water. Children in particular sometimes compete to see who can build the most impressive floatable paper house and which will survive the water journey the longest. As a result, the children often follow their houses many hundreds of meters down the Amper, hoping that their house will not capsize or get stuck in the bushes on the bank. However, the Luzienhäusschen's journey comes to an end at the next weir at the latest. In Fürstentfeldbruck, the Luzienhäusschenschwimmen is preceded by a church service with the consecration of the Luzienhäuser. Since 1993, the consecration of the Luzienhäusl has taken place in front of the north portal of the Leonhardikirche. Afterwards, the children carry their houses to the landing stage on Ledererstrasse, where they are handed over to the Amper by the water rescue service. Since then, over 200 houses are usually handed over to the Amper floods every year.

Midwinter and St. Lucia's Day used to coincide. Until the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1582, St. Lucia's Day fell on the day of the winter solstice, making it the shortest day of the year. However, according to the calendar that is still used today, December 21 is the date of the winter solstice. Despite this, the term Midwinter Day, which coincided with St. Lucia's Day, was used for centuries. Both Johann Andreas Schmeller and Karl von Leoprechting - both in

Lucia Candles Swimming in Switzerland - long tradition of celebrating the light.

the mid-19th century - still refer to St. Lucia as Midwinter Day.

The tradition of lighting candles was not limited to Bavaria. On the contrary, there is plenty of evidence of lights floating on the water on certain winter days from all over the Alps and neighboring regions, even from the Balkans. The fact that we also know of the custom of floating lights - albeit not on St. Lucia's Day - in Bohemia is thanks to none other than Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The children's custom of floating little lights became a profound experience for the great poet prince. On the eve of St. Nepomuk's feast day, on May 15, 1820, Goethe witnessed this children's custom on the Teplbrücke bridge in Carlsbad in Bohemia. He then wrote the poem An St. Nepomuk's Eve, which has remained virtually unknown.

The tradition of using candles during Christmas extends across diverse cultures and religious practices. Regardless of specific beliefs, candles universally symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, representing a source of optimism, peace, and unity. In the midst of the winter chill, candles serve as beacons of comfort, reminding us that even in the coldest and darkest of times, the flame of hope can endure. As we celebrate Christmas, the act of lighting candles becomes a ritual that transcends its practical purpose. It becomes a metaphorical gesture—an acknowledgment of the collective desire to dispel gloom and replace it with the warmth of love and shared moments. The soft, flickering glow of candles imparts a sense of magic, transforming

CHRISTMAS TRADITION



The Herrnhut - the German Christmas star has a long tradition in the Lutheran church.

ordinary spaces into sanctuaries of joy and reflection. Candlemaking, a craft that has spanned civilizations and epochs, is an illuminating tale of human ingenuity, cultural adaptation, and technological progress. From humble beginnings to the sophisticated artisanal creations of today, the history of candlemaking weaves through the fabric of diverse cultures, shedding light on the evolution of this indispensable source of illumination. The ancient roots of candlemaking can be traced back to 3000 BCE in ancient Egypt. In these early civilizations, inventive minds fashioned primitive candles using reeds dipped in animal fat. These rudimentary illuminators not only provided practical light but also carried symbolic significance in religious ceremonies and daily life.

The torch was passed to ancient Greece and Rome, where tallow, a substance derived from animal fat, was molded into candles with papyrus wicks. The glow of these early candles flickered through the corridors of history, lighting the way for future advancements. As the Middle Ages unfolded, candlemaking witnessed notable advancements. Beeswax, introduced around the 5th century, emerged as a cleaner and more aromatic alternative to tallow. However, due to its cost, beeswax candles were reserved for reli-

gious ceremonies and the aristocracy. In the old days the Indigenous peoples of the Canadian Prairies, including the Plains Indians, historically relied on various sources of light for illumination in their daily lives. Before the introduction of European trade goods, the primary sources of light were natural and derived from readily available materials within their environment. Here are some ways in which the Prairie Indians illuminated their surroundings. Prairie Indians often used animal fat, such as buffalo or deer tallow, as a source of fuel for lamps. They would create simple lamps by hollowing out stones or carving wooden bowls, which they filled with animal fat. A wick made from plant fibers or twisted cloth was then placed into the fat, allowing it to burn and emit light.

The Renaissance era brought further refinement to the craft. The introduction of the wick-dipping method allowed for more uniform and cylindrical candles. Candle molds, a revolutionary innovation, enabled greater precision in shaping candles, marking a shift toward standardization. The 18th century ushered in a new era of enlightenment in candlemaking. Spermaceti, a wax derived from the head of sperm whales, became a sought-after material. Known for its bright and clean-burning properties, spermaceti candles became a popular choice. However, concerns over environmental impact and ethical considerations led to a quest for alternatives.

Birch bark, which was abundant in the region, served various purposes for the Plains Indians, including as a material for making containers and as a source of light. Birch bark could be rolled into torches or fashioned into containers that held rendered animal fat with a wick. Some Indigenous groups used specific parts of animals to create light. For instance, the hollowed-out hooves of buffalo or other large animals could be filled with rendered fat and used as makeshift lamps. The wick would extend from the fat, and the hooves would protect the flame from wind. In many cases, especially in communal spaces like teepees or lodges, open fires provided both light and warmth. The Prairie Indians were skilled at building controlled fires within their dwellings, often using dry buffalo dung or wood as fuel. It's important to note that the methods of lighting varied among different Indigenous groups across the Canadian Prairies, and the materials used were influenced by the natural resources available in their specific regions. The transition to European trade goods and the availability of

metal containers and candles later impacted the lighting practices of these communities.

The industrial revolution in the 19th century transformed candle production. Stearin, a derivative of animal fats, and paraffin wax, a byproduct of petroleum refining, emerged as dominant materials. Mechanized processes and the advent of mass production techniques made candles more accessible to the burgeoning middle class. The 20th century witnessed further innovation in the candlemaking landscape. Synthetic materials and advancements in wick technology led to increased efficiency and diversity in candle design. Candles evolved beyond mere practical light sources to become expressions of personal style and ambiance. In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in natural and sustainable candlemaking. Soy wax, derived from soybeans, and beeswax regained popularity as eco-friendly alternatives. Artisanal candlemakers embraced traditional methods, combining craftsmanship with environmental consciousness.

As we traverse the luminous corridors of history, the story of candlemaking emerges as a testament to human adaptability and creativity. From the flickering flames of ancient reed lights to the scented soy candles of today, each era has left an indelible mark on this age-old craft. Candlemaking is not just an art form but a cultural and technological journey that continues to illuminate our lives, providing both practical light and a metaphorical glow that transcends time. As we bask in the warm radiance of candles today, we are not merely witnessing a craft; we are connecting with a timeless tradition that has illuminated the human experience for millennia.

In essence, the light and candles of Christmas symbolize more than mere illumination; they embody the spirit of the season itself. They guide us through the winter nights, offering solace, fostering connections, and inspiring a renewed appreciation for the beauty of tradition. May the radiant glow of candles at Christmas illuminate not only our homes but also our hearts, filling them with the enduring light of love and goodwill.



Rolling Calendar

WINTER 2023



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH REGINA

German-English Service on Sundays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

CRCR 90.5 FM

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

KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ IN SASKATOON

Learn authentic German recipes at the monthly cooking event. More under: Kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com



Sep 27 2023 - Jan 27 2024 DIEFENBAKER CENTRE

Resurfacing: Mennonite Floor Patterns at Diefenbaker Canada Centre in Saskatoon. Margruite Krahn has worked to restore and present 19th and 20th-century housebarns, as well as the material culture in Neuberghthal, Manitoba, Canada, a Mennonite Street Village and National Historic Site.

Dec 4 – Dec 18 2023 NUTRIEN WONDERHUB CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Exhibition of an authentic, hand-made Advent wreath by KulturGarten Saskatoon. A cultural booklet about the tradition and history of the Advent wreath is available. To complement the exhibition, the museum offers a children's craft activity in their Create Space.

Dec 9 6:00 PM REGINA GERMAN CLUB

"Weihnachtsfeier" - celebrate Christmas at the Regina German Club

Dec 13 6:30 PM SKAT CLUB SASKATOON

Join the Skat Club for a round of Skat at Sports on Tab .

Dec 15 5:00 PM DAS SCHULHAUS

"Deutschtreff" is an all-levels German speaking club, open to first language speakers and adults of any level. The group meets at Stone's Throw Coffee Collective in Regina.

Dec 15 5:30 PM GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

"Stammtisch" - come and chat in German in a relaxed atmosphere in Saskatoon. Meet language learners and others interested in German culture.

Dec 16 10:00 AM SKAT CLUB SASKATOON

Join the Skat Club for three rounds in December.





News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

CULTURE IN THE KITCHEN, ECUADOR MEETS GERMANY

By Josephin Dick



On Friday, November 17th, the Saskatchewan German Council hosted another Culture in the Kitchen cooking class. Maria, who is from Ecuador showed the participants how to make Pescado encocado or fish in coconut sauce. And we taught the participants how to make Kaiserschmarrn or Emperors Mess.

We were meeting at Massey Place Community Church in Saskatoon. The kitchen is a little small, but since after Covid, schools don't lend out their kitchens anymore, it is the best option we have. On the bright side, cooking with a smaller group leads to more interaction between the participants and they exchange stories from their home country more openly. And exactly that personal exchange is a big part of the program. And while the kitchen is small, the front room has ample space for setting the table and eating in a relaxed atmosphere.

As usual, we prepared our recipe package not only with the recipes, but with some cultural information as well. Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America (35 times smaller than Canada and 2.54 times smaller than Saskatchewan). Despite the small territory, Ecuador has an impressive biodiversity, in fact it is one of the 17 megadiverse countries of the world due to its location in the neotropics and the presence of the Andes. The combination of African tra-

Culture in the Kitchen participants

ditions with Indigenous local cultures also influenced food and culture. Out of this combination, the cuisine in this area is based on sea food, fish, and coconut flavors like "encocado" or dishes with coconut sauce. In this case we prepared fish and white plain rice, which is very much enjoyed by the locals and tourists.

For the Kaiserschmarrn we shared some of the stories of how it came to be. One of my favorite ones is the surprised farmer. He created the dish in a frenzy when Austria's Emperor Franz Joseph and his wife dropped in at his farm while they were hiking. He did not have many supplies in his kitchen and messed up the pancakes he wanted to serve the couple. So, he shredded the pancakes and invented the Kaiserschmarrn, hiding his mess under a layer of sugar and some compote.

In case you would like to host a Culture in the Kitchen cooking event with your group at some point, please contact the SGC office and we will see how we can help. It would be great to have these fun events in many places in Saskatchewan.



Kaiserschmarrn for dessert



Preparing the Ecuadorian dish



Ecuadorian coconut fish

NEWS FROM SGC

MEMORIAL OF TRAGIC EVENTS



Bitter Memories of Childhood monument

On November 21, 2023, a service for the Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of Holodomor - the Great Ukrainian Famine, took place at the Legislative Building in Regina. Following the service, wreaths and flowers were laid at the "Bitter Memories of Childhood" monument.

Members of the Ukrainian community, the community at large, and Saskatchewan government officials attended the service to commemorate an event that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-33, claiming the lives of millions of people.

SGC President Andrea MacLeod participated in the event on behalf of the Saskatchewan German Council.



Flowers for the event

ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR – "EXCEPTIONAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS"

By Thomas Kolbach



As we impatiently approached the holiday season, we warmly invite you to join the enchanting journey of our Online Advent Calendar, celebrating the theme of "Exceptional Christmas Markets." Starting on December 1st and running through December 24th, this festive adventure promises fun interaction for the whole family, surprises and information behind each door.

As you are discovering rich cultural traditions in the advent calendar, appealing prizes await you! Gingerbread prizes will allow the winners to enjoy authentic, delicious "Lebkuchen". Adding to the excitement, prizes include beautiful calendars filled with captivating photos of Germany.

Anticipation grows daily, leading up to the grand finale, the final draw. One lucky winner will receive a magnificent chest filled with Gingerbread Delights. Envision the sweet aroma filling your home, and the warmth of the season filling your heart.

We hope you can share the online Advent Calendar experience with family and friends, bringing you closer to Christmas every day.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our prize sponsor, Gingerbread World, and extend heartfelt thanks to the German Consulate General Vancouver for their generous support.

Gingerbread World
EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS



www.gingerbread-world.com

NEWS FROM SGC

SASKATCHEWAN GERMAN COUNCIL ANNUAL ROUND TABLE: A GATHERING OF IDEAS AND COLLABORATION

By Thomas Kolbach

On October 14th, 2023, the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC) hosted its anticipated Annual Round Table at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in the town of Davidson, right in the middle between Regina and Saskatoon. This event which started at 10:45 am, served as a platform for member groups, SGC staff, and the SGC Board to come together and engage in fruitful discussions, fostering an exchange of ideas and knowledge.



SGC President Andrea MacLeod welcomed all participants

The Round Table provided an interesting opportunity for member groups to connect with one another and learn from their peers. The spirit of collaboration was present as participants pre-

sented their member groups and experiences, sparking inspiration and hoping to ignite new initiatives. This gathering truly exemplified the power of community and the strength that lies in coming together for a common purpose.

One of the highlights of the event was the workshop titled "Increase Your Group's Community Reach with Simple Communication & Advertising Skills", presented by Josephin Dick, Office & Program Assistant. Attendees actively participated in this session, gaining knowledge on using social media platforms to strengthen their communication and advertising strategies. The workshop proved to be enlightening, equipping participants with practical skills to effectively promote their groups and engage with their communities.

After lunch, the new Strategic Plan of the SGC was presented by the President Andrea MacLeod. Later all the participants had the opportunity to present their groups and speak about past and future events, but also about their issues and the trouble finding and keeping volunteers. Later the current SGC Projects were presented by the Executive Director Gabi Waidelich-Harrison and a break-out session about "Partnership & Collaborations" took place. The Annual Round



SGC President Andrea MacLeod presented the SGC Strategic Plan.

Table not only provided a platform for learning and skill development but also served as a get together to celebrate the vibrant German community in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan German Council would like to express its gratitude to all the participants, and member groups who contributed to the success of this event. Their dedication and enthusiasm fuel the continued growth and prosperity of the German community in Saskatchewan.

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NEW GERMAN EMPLOYEE AT SALON FRESH



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TO STUDENTS OF GERMAN IN SASKATCHEWAN

By Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German (SATG) James Ens Funk

The Videowettbewerb (Video Contest) is an opportunity for you as students of German in Saskatchewan to flex your creative muscles and demonstrate your use of German. The choice of video is up to you; it can be a skit, a puppet-show, a comedy show, or any other way for you to demonstrate your learning of the German language.

Submit a video (maximum file size of 100MB) and you will be entered into a chance to win a monetary prize for your German classroom!

Winning videos will be selected four times per school year, once at the end of each of the following months: November, January, March, May.

Your video may not include your faces, and it must be appropriate in content.

Talk to your teacher and/or upload your videos at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0c_yygUtu8Ac5EKS610oZr-1vHI7Eo2p4-clyxHopgkVAMSww/viewform, or head to our blog: saskgerman.wordpress.com for access!

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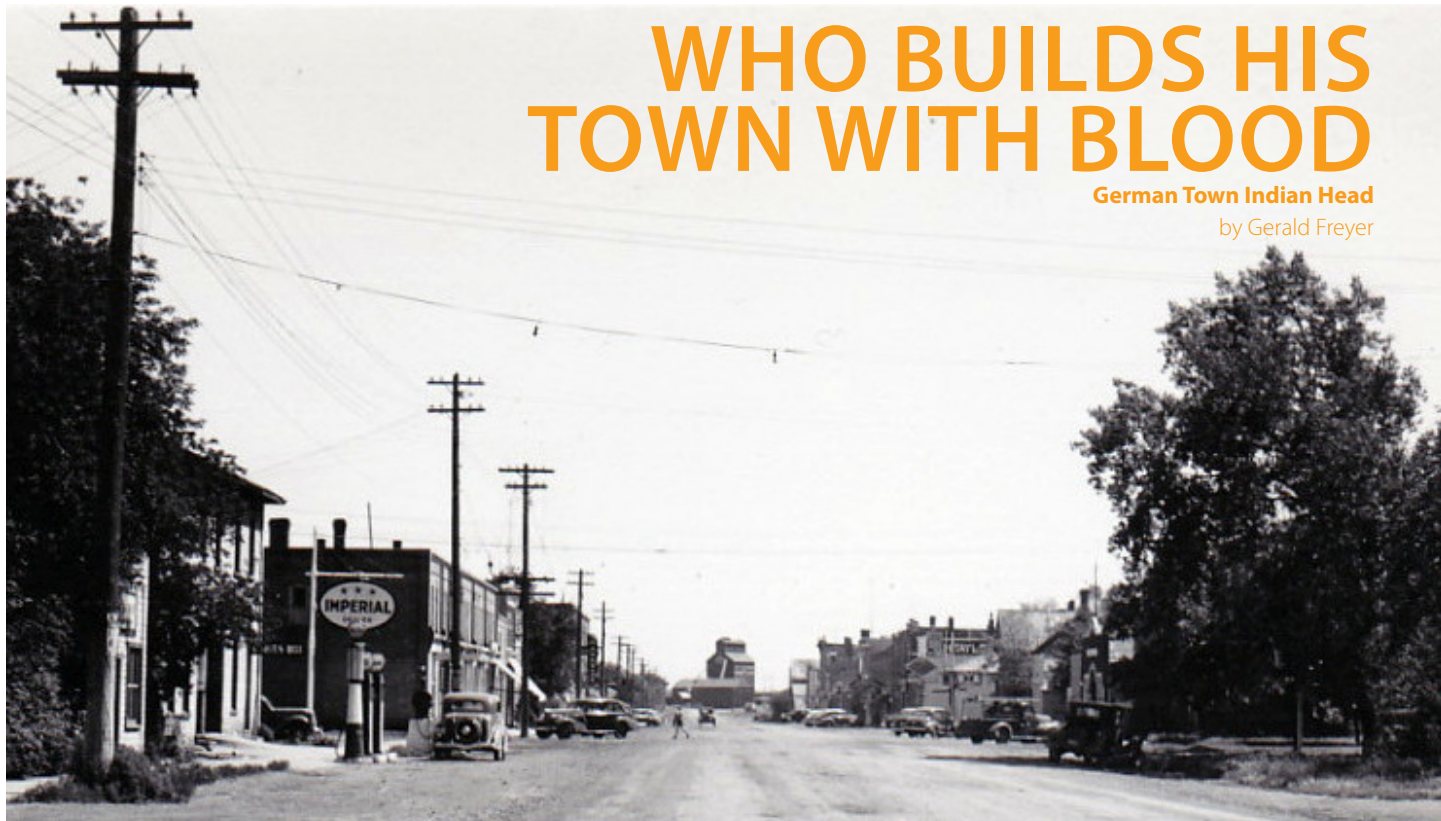
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WHO BUILDS HIS TOWN WITH BLOOD

German Town Indian Head

by Gerald Freyer



Grand Avenue in Indian Head in the 1930

A sad sentence from the Bible but also from a Bob Dylan text about the poor immigrant who has little luck in a foreign land. The history of the village of Indian Head, about 60 kilometers east of Regina, tells the story of immigration in the province of Saskatchewan. Above all, however, it is also the coming together of different ethnic groups, which was not always easy at the beginning of the 20th century. In addition to the language barrier that was often encountered, it was also the different occupations that made the difference.

Indian Head was already experiencing an upswing as an important commercial center in the region east of Regina at the time of its founding around 1902. In addition to many banks, a hospital and, above all, one of four Dominion Experimental Farms in Canada and the PFRA tree nursery, which supplied several million trees as seedlings to the three western prairie provinces soon after its founding in 1902. Behind the state tree nursery was a shelterbelt program with the aim of counteracting wind erosion by planting trees across the prairies.

A large number of unskilled laborers were needed for this work in the tree nursery. The steady flow of immigrants to Saskatchewan from the

Russian territories in what is now Ukraine meant that Indian Head also experienced an increase in population. To understand which people came to Indian Head, one should take a closer look at the history of the Germans in Russia. The centuries-old history of settlement in the Russian region on the Black Sea probably began around 800 years ago. Around the year 1200, merchants from the Hanseatic League began to establish a trading post in Novgorod, Russia, and continued this settlement policy with the recruitment of miners, craftsmen and military specialists from the 15th century onwards. This can still be seen in the name given to the "German suburb" (nemeckaja sloboda) of Moscow. After the founding of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg in 1725, they were followed by numerous German-speaking scholars who developed multi-layered, transnational identities and facilitated the transfer of culture and science between East and West. 'Germans' were therefore present as specialists in Russia, and at the same time they had little in common apart from the German language. The social spectrum ranged from craftsmen to university professors, some of them remained in the metropolises of the Tsarist empire as Russian subjects of the German language, while others left the country again after completing their work.

The Russian Germans are a part of this history, but the description of their history follows a specific narrative. They are usually described as a comparatively clearly defined group of peasant 'pioneers' who, from the end of the 18th century, followed the call of Catherine II and Alexander I to develop 'empty' areas of land and transform them into 'flourishing landscapes' before Russian nationalists discovered the 'German question' in the run-up to the First World War and a period of systematic oppression and persecution began with the October Revolution in 1917. The collective deportations in particular, which began with the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on August 28, 1941 and in the course of which around 900,000 people were forcibly resettled by the end of 1941 and around 150,000 people died through resettlement, starvation or forced labour, were an important trigger for the emigration of Russian Germans to Canada.

Just a few years after Indian Heads foundation, the population had already reached 1,200 people. Interestingly, the settlement was divided into two parts, Upper and Lower Town. The Uppertown was home to the English kraiss, the hospital and the schools. Almost all private houses were connected to the water and electricity network.

IMMIGRATION STORY

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HOUSES IN INDIAN HEAD AND UKRAINE



Houses are an important cultural asset and their shape reveals many traditions. In the remaining houses of German Town there are many similarities with houses in Eastern Hungary. Typical for the construction of simple farmhouses was the gable-sided arrangement facing the street. In addition, extensions are often to be found, which then enlarged a house according to the needs. Often the space between the building parts was then connected, so that a more closed courtyard was created.

House in German Town / Howard Street, Indian Head.

A simple decoration can still be found on many houses in Ukraine today. The accentuation of the corners by use of ashlar work or blind trusses at wall corners are typical for houses in former Austria Hungary. It is remarkable that the German settlers were able to retain their traditional building style in their new homeland.

Farm workers' houses in western Ukraine south of Lviv in 1991 and 2016



In the lower part of Indian Head on Howard and Market Streets, near the railroad, were the workers' houses. This part of the town was called "German Town" These families living there had come mainly from what was then known as Austria-Hungary, part of an influx of immigrants to Saskatchewan from that country in the early 1900s. Although Indian Head was not a major destination for eastern European immigrants, but the railway and building boom made it a desirable community for Austro-Hungarian families.

Most arrived with few belongings and little money, and many stayed that way. As in other British-dominated communities in Saskatchewan, the non-Anglo-Canadians of German Town were not readily welcomed, with their unpronounceable last names, pauper-like appearance, strange customs, and predominantly Catholic beliefs. While the rest of the town had running water, German Town was outside the utility grid for many years. Housing was basic, often a wooden shack added on to as the family grew, with two to three bedrooms depending on the size of the family.

Furniture was simple: beds, chairs, a table, a chest of drawers, and maybe a cradle if there were infants. The family garden was essential, providing much the family's food. The town provided permits that allowed German Town residents to herd several cows on their property. Families often raised pigs to be butchered and smoked in the fall, and kept chickens for eggs. They were seldom prosperous, but they never went hungry. German or the typical dialect spoken in Austria-Hungary and Ukraine at that time was the primary language spoken in the home, and many couldn't write English with any proficiency, mainly because they were never pressed to learn. Speaking English among friends and family became more common, especially when children began attending school.

Although most tried to retain their culture and traditions as best they could, they considered themselves Canadians. Many of the German Town immigrants came to Canada with ambitions of being farmers on their own land. The reality was that many could not raise the capital to purchase a homestead, especially in the Indian Head area, where land values were high and little homestead land remained. Most worked several jobs, and unlike families of British origin, often both the husband and wife took jobs to



Woman from German Town working at the Forest Nursery Station

make ends meet. Lacking formal education and not speaking good English, many worked as labourers for farmers, the railway, the Experimental Farm, or the Forest Nursery Station. Work was always available during harvest, and families depended heavily on the farming industry's success. For most German Town men, a secure job with the CPR was a desired goal, but one not easily attained. Many were never able to find steady work and relied on temporary jobs with low wages. Local employers valued them as work-hardened labourers, but in a separate class from the British workers.

During these days a lot of women were working at the Forest Nursery Station. Planting trees or preparing tree seedlings for shipping. An Indian Head newspaper article lists the names of 21 Germantown casual workers in the fall of 1914. The list includes Katie Beierle, R. Brenner, A. Dormut, A. Dormut Jr., J. Frederick [Frederichs], Caspe Heddie [Kaspar Hettel], Anden Herman, Lizzie Herman, Marie Herman, A. Kindle, L. Kirschner, Annie Kraemer, L. Lix, M. [Mary] Marks, A. [Anna] Melosh, L. Neidermeyer, William Opitz, A. Schmidt, L. Schriner, Rosie Siri, and M. Valerie. Also the the census of 1911 showed these names for the streets of German town.

[illegible]

A today nearly forgotten tragedy happend at November 1, 1911. Norman Ross, the manager of the Forest Nursery Station in Indina Head had hired women from Germantown to make willow cuttings, and he dispatched his teamster, Albert Page, to convey the women from their homes in Germantown to the nursery in the morning and back again in the evening.

The Royal North-West Mounted Police report described the tragedy that happend at this day in fall:

On the morning of November 1st, Mr. N.M. Ross, Supt. of the Dominion Forestry Farm, south of here, sent his hired man, Albert Page, to "Germantown", Indian Head for a number of women he had hired to work at the Farm. Mrs. Katie Kraemer, Mrs. Susie Beierle, Mrs. Annie Kirschner, and Mary Marks, went to work. They were driven to the Farm with the understanding that they should be brought back after the day's work; accordingly at about five o'clock in the afternoon, Albert Page drove the women towards home. Near the Francis corner, about 200 yards from the CPR crossing, the team ran away, the result being that Mrs. Beierle was found dead on the road. Dr. C.W. Hunt, Dr. J.V. Connell, and Dr. F.W. Hart were sent for and gave what attendance was necessary. I conversed with Dr. Hunt, who informed me that the deceased was badly bruised, collar bone fractured, one rib having penetrated through the heart, death was instantaneous.

The German town of Indian Head is nearly gone. After the Germans left the houses in the 1930 and after the WWII families of the Metis moved in. Even the name "German town" is forgotten. Due to the lack of photos and other records, the history of German Town has been forgotten. Only in the local museum and a few publications has the story been preserved for posterity.

Indian Head Census of 1911 with a lot of residents born in Austria-Hungary

News from Member Groups

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has 32 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.

CROWNING OF THE PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE

KG Harmonie Regina- Sheila Aldous

Our group is excited to report, that after a few years wait we have our Karneval Crowning event back. On November 4th, our Princess Kris I and her Prince Joel I were crowned. Their Medieval Event was a lot of fun with some surprises. For the first time, their Orden was created out of wood. There was a medieval knight fight and lots of great raffles. The meal provided by the German Club was as awesome as always. A Huge Thank You to all the staff and thank you to everyone who came out to support our Princess.

Our next event will be our St. Nickolas evening on December 6th at the German Club. For this evening event, we will be bringing back the Gingerbread House contest.



Princess Kris 1 and Prince Joel 1

Some of our members attended a High Noon Optimist Club appreciation night for their member associations. Our members volunteered and danced at the Regina German Club's Oktoberfest. We were happy to hear it was a successful event for them. We have members taking part in the Regina Multicultural Association's Embracing Differences initiative that invites cultural ambassadors into school classes to give a cultural presentation. Our Dancers have a few Christmas performances lined up and are excited to be working on Christmas music dances.

With the year end approaching fast, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our fundraising effort: plants, pizza, the Crowning raffle and our events. A special thank you to SGC for their assistance throughout the year.

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.



Long time Senator Larry with Member Jean

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.

We hope you all have a great Holiday Season.



Regina German Club's Oktoberfest Corn Eating Contest

SING-ALONG WITH THE CHOIR

Volksliederchor Harmonie - Anita Jadischke



Our sincere sympathies to our choir member Ida Grzesina and her family as we share with heavy hearts, the passing of her husband, Andrew (Andy) Grzesina on Friday, November 10 at the Pasqua Hospital. Andy was a faithful member of our choir singing in the bass section since 1996. He was always smiling and with a positive attitude. Andy served in several capacities of the Saskatchewan German Council as President, Past President and Treasurer from 2000 – 2014. We are honoured to sing two songs at his funeral on November 22 at Christ the King Parish.

Our condolences to the family of Alvina Morgan, who passed away on October 30, 2023. Alvina was a long-time member of our choir singing in the soprano section. Her funeral was held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on November 10, 2023.

Several choir members dressed in our German outfits and helped to serve pretzels and beer at the Renaissance Retirement Residence as they celebrated Oktoberfest with their residents on September 27. A beautiful fall day welcomed guests to an outside concert as we sang at the Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre in Regina Beach on October 7. Following the entertainment, a traditional Froebel star folding workshop was taught by two of our choir members, Monica Reinkens and Ilona Beck.

To celebrate the Christmas Season during the month of December, we will entertain at the Regina Lutheran Home, Renaissance Retirement Residence and the Southland Mall.

We are looking forward to singing to a large audience at our Christmas Concert on Sunday,

Oktoberfest at Renaissance Retirement Residence

December 3. We have been practising our parts diligently and thank Blair Mills, our Conductor and Carol Mills, our pianist for their patience and understanding during our rehearsals.

The Volksliederchor Harmonie invites you to come sing with us. We are an all-ages mixed choir that sing in German and English. We perform two concerts a year – in December and in May. We also perform at several events and care homes throughout the year. Costumes are provided for performances. We rehearse at the German Club on Tuesdays, from 7 – 9 p.m. For further information, call (306) 352-5114.



Performing at the Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre

LANTERN WALK: EINE STOLZE TRADITION

das Schulhaus - Dave Wentworth

For so many of us, it seems like time is flying by lately. Blink your eyes and before you know it, the back-to-school sensation shifts towards end-of-year traditions and festivities. As nights grow longer, and a blanket of snow covers the prairie landscape, das Schulhaus recently held a Lantern Walk on November 4, 2023 in Regina.

"We had great weather this year, and a wonderful attendance. It made for an excellent atmosphere" reports school coordinator Dave Wentworth. "It's always nice when Mother Nature is on our side, we want people to enjoy themselves." Last year, a wave of storms and deep freeze temperatures saw the Lantern Walk get rescheduled three times. "Fortunately, that didn't happen this time. Ideally, we make it happen on the first Saturday of November," he concludes.

This year there were lots of children, who all worked on creating their lanterns the week before at German school. We also had adult students, board members, our coordinator, family members, and some cute four-legged friends, so it was a diverse and inclusive environment that made for a positive experience for all.

"Thank you to London Drugs for their donations. Thank you to the Saskatchewan German Council for their support!" remarked Stephanie Schaefer, Treasurer for das Schulhaus, at the event. For many years, London Drugs has donated a store gift card that enables the purchase of supplies used for making the warm punch served

at Lantern Walk, and the seasonal sweets that are served. The Lantern Walk is one of the most looked forward to events for das Schulhaus, and it's been a part of the school's calendar for many years. To help preserve the legacy of this experience, das Schulhaus has created a Lantern Walk gallery on their website.

"I'm really excited about this new feature of our website, because not only is it a place where people can look back over the years and admire pictures, but also because people can upload any pictures they have from past Lantern Walks and we can add that content to the gallery. So it has the potential to become very enriched based on what comes in. Of course if people prefer to submit content by email, we can accept that too. In those cases, please identify the year of the pictures so they can be placed in the right gallery," explains Wentworth.

If you have any pictures from past Lantern Walks, please visit Das Schulhaus' website or email the coordinator to add your contributions. The website is www.dassschulhaus.org and the coordinator's email is info@dassschulhaus.org.

Until next year, the entire community at Das Schulhaus wishes readers joy, prosperity and light into 2024.



Happiness at Laternfest 2023



© privat (4)

CHRISTKINDLMARKT TO HELP

German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon - Flo Broten

Our annual Christkindlmarkt held on November 18, 2023, at St. Paul United Church was a success! Thirty-five vendors sold a variety of handmade items and baking. We collected more cash donations for the Food Bank this year. However, we had fewer donations of non-perishable food items. It's a sign of the times, no doubt!

We thank the vendors and the volunteers who helped with the event. A special thank you to Tashia Reiter who organized the market and to the Skat Club who provided lunch for the attendees and vendors.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Volunteers from the Skat Club



ChristkindlMarkt 2023

SNOWY DAYS IN THE QUEEN CITY

Regina German Club — Patrick A. Kossmann

Fall has been good for the Regina German Club. Our Oktoberfest celebration was very successful. The event kicked off our Auftakt meal and our Mr.&Ms. Oktoberfest contest. We had one of our largest groups of people competing this year in feats of strength, trivia, and public speaking all vying for the title and the prizes that come with it. Congratulations to Michelle Dressler and Andreas Land for winning the sashes this year. We look forward to seeing you at many a future German Club event.

The building was packed the next day with eager patrons who gobbled tasty food, quaffed tasty drinks, and danced to catchy music. Children swarmed the building to visit crafting tables, costumed people, a petting zoo, and bouncy house. Once evening came the keg was tapped

and the party started. People stayed long into the night to make merry during this harvest celebration. In a special event, Das Volles Lederpaket invited patrons up to the stage to take part in some Schuhplattler. Over 30 people learned how to slap themselves to the beat. Thank you all who came out to celebrate with us.

Mahlzeit meals have restarted at the club and will be available near the end of every month. Bryce and the people in the kitchen come up with special meals and invite patrons into the hall or lounge to dine. This November we had a turkey supper that fed 90 people on comfort food that allowed us all to forget the chill in the air outside.



Mr.&Ms. Oktoberfest contest

WINTER IS COMING

KulturGarten Saskatoon - Andreas Denz

Schon wieder ist November und wir gehen mit großen Schritten Weihnachten entgegen. Das KulturGarten-Samenbild konnte auch dieses Jahr wieder beim Thanksgiving-Gottesdienst der École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville den Altarbereich schmücken und es blieb eine ganze Woche zur Ausstellung vor Ort. Die nun rund 400 Schülerinnen, Schüler und Lehrkräfte erfreuten sich täglich daran.

Der SGC Round-Table im Oktober gab Gelegenheit das Samenbild zum ersten Mal auch den anderen deutschen Vereinen in Natura vorzustellen.

Ende Oktober starteten wir dann bereits mit den Vorbereitungen für die diesjährige Adventsfeier. Die grünen Zweige mussten geschnitten werden, aber zum Glück war das Wetter dieses Jahr noch sehr angenehm. Gestern haben wir in stundenlanger Handarbeit wieder den großen Adventskranz mit Zweigen gebunden.

Am Sonntag, den 3. Dezember – der 1. Advent – wird dann während unserer Adventsfeier die erste Kerze angezündet und mit viel deutschen Torten, Kuchen und Kaffee werden wir hoffentlich wieder mit vielen Gästen schöne gemeinsame Stunden mit adventlicher Musik genießen können und uns auf die kommende Weihnachtszeit einstimmen.

Der Adventskranz wird danach während der Adventszeit wieder im Nutrien Wonderhub Children's Museum in Saskatoon ausgestellt sein, und hoffentlich auch dieses Jahr wieder als Beispiel zur Nachahmung für viele Familien dienen.

Und zum ersten Mal dieses Jahr geht ein weiterer Adventskranz vom KulturGarten an die École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville, als sichtbares und erlebbares Beispiel für die deutsche Kultur in der Adventszeit.



Seed picture for Thanksgiving



Binding an advent wreath



Hanging up the Advent wreath

It's November already and Christmas is just around the corner. The KulturGarten-seed picture has been part again of this years Thanksgiving church service at the École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville, beautifying and embellishing the altar and being there for a whole week on display. About 400 students and staff have been delighted every day.

The SGC Round-Table in October gave us the opportunity to showcase the seed picture to the other member groups first time in real.

Preparations for this years Traditional German Advent Celebration started at the end of October. The greenery needed to be cut and we were fortunate having a very mild weather. The big Advent wreath was bound by hand in several hours yesterday. We will light the first candle on Sunday, December 3rd – which is the first Advent – during our Advent Celebration. With German Torten, cakes and coffee and hopefully again with many guests we will celebrate some beautiful hours with music bringing us in Advent mood preparing us for the coming Christmas season.

The Advent wreath will be on display again during the Advent season for the annual Advent wreath display at the Nutrien Wonderhub Children's Museum in Saskatoon, and hopefully it will be an example again for many families to reproduce.

For the first time this year there will be a second Advent wreath from the KulturGarten on display at the École Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville. It will be a visual and distinguishable example of the German culture during the Advent season.

LEARNING GERMAN TO TALK WITH MY OMA

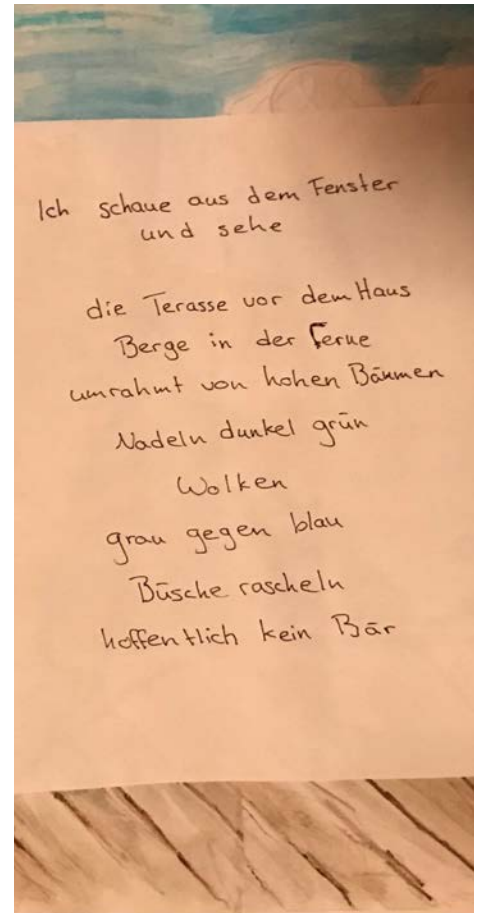
German Language School Saskatoon — Kathleen Schroeder-Brass

Our school was off to a good start with the first classes starting in September. Since then, it has been difficult to finalize other classes due to less teachers available and fluctuating interest mainly in some of the classes. Still, we are happy about the classes we have up and running this year and we like to share with you why students want to learn German.

Why are our students learning German? (these are original writings by our students)

- Deutsch lernen ist wie ein Schlüssel, der die Tür einer neuen Welt öffnet.
- Ich lerne Deutsch, weil ich teilweise Deutscher bin.
- Ich lerne Deutsch für meinen Freund. Er kommt aus Österreich und wir haben unsere Hochzeit in einem Jahr in Magdalenberg.
- I learned German in elementary and high school. I've forgotten some, I'm trying to bring it "back to life".
- Ich liebe Deutsch lernen! My husband and inlaws are Germans. So it helps me connect with them and fuel a dream to live in Germany someday.
- Es macht mir Spaß, eine fremde Sprache zu lernen.
- Ich lerne Deutsch, dann vergesse ich nicht, was ich gelernt habe, als ich in München gearbeitet habe.
- Ich will auch mit meinen deutschen Freunden auf Deutsch sprechen.
- Ich möchte Deutsch sprechen, wenn ich nach Deutschland oder in die Schweiz reise.
- Ich lerne Deutsch um meine Rechtschreibung und Grammatik zu verbessern, um vielleicht irgendwann auf eine Universität in Deutschland gehen zu können.
- I am learning German to better speak to my German family, when I go to visit.
- I am learning German because of my family's German roots.
- I am learning German because I found out that you could splice words together.
- The Germans have the absolute best horses in the world, and the best trainers in the world, and the best riders in the world. They are the best at everything related to horses.
- Ich lerne Deutsch, so dass ich mit meiner Oma auf Deutsch sprechen kann.

Contact Kathleen Schroeder-Brass (principal)
germanschoolsaskatoon@gmail.com for more information.



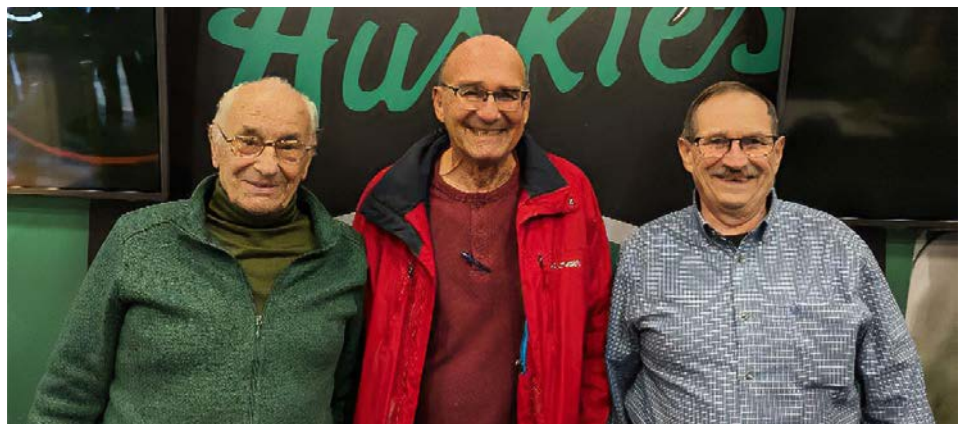
German poem from German Language

PLAYING SKAT

Saskatoon SKAT Club — Shelley Hungness

Hello Everyone, from the Saskatoon SKAT Club. It has been a busy fall for our members as they travelled from the west coast – Seattle to Kelowna in September; followed by tournaments in October in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. Thank-you Alberta for all the camaraderie and hospitality! We finished off October with a Club Thanksgiving Tournament. Sigi Fahr was the winner, with Ed Eckl and Rudi Laprell not far behind.

Our club remains visible in the community through participating in functions like Folkfest in August (3-day cultural festival within the city of Saskatoon) and Chriskindmarkt in November. In August at Folkfest we were successful in signing up SKAT Wannabees and following up with SKAT Schools. We hope to have around 10 new members ready for the new year! The SKAT Club member volunteers worked the kitchen at the



Three happy winners

local Chriskindmarkt November 18th. Throughout the holiday season we will be playing regularly at Sports on Tap on Wednesdays 6:30.

We would like to wish everyone a safe holiday season filled with Cheer and good SKAT scores!

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

BUSY SEASON FOR THE DANCERS

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein - Anna Schmidt

Our 2023 dance season was busy and exciting! We performed at thirteen different events and practiced weekly throughout the year. Some of our highlights include Folkfest, performing at Mosaic in Regina and all the exciting Oktoberfest performances!

The dancers of Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein are going to enjoy a short break over Christmas before we get back to dancing in January. We are excited to be hosting an event in May with many more details to follow! Keep an eye out at our Facebook and Instagram to stay in the loop.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the SGC for their continued support – we have been able to maintain our costume collection and participate in so many events because of their support so thank you!



Group of Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler having fun.

OKTOBERFEST IS OUR FUNTIME

Concordia Brass Band - Yvonne Kristoff

Concordia Brass Band has had a very busy summer and fall with concerts in many venues. We have played in Landis. The band is always well received there at an afternoon tea for Landis and surrounding community. We played many Oktoberfest concerts. One of them was at Dundurn Army Base as well as several assisted living homes in Saskatoon.

We continue to look for low brass players and now we need Clarinets as well. If you or a friend would be interested, we rehearse on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 at St. Matthew Anglican Church at the corner of Egbert Avenue and 109th St. Just bring your instrument and join us. We will find music for you. Or you can text Yvonne at 306-229-9419. We'd love to have you join us. If you haven't played for several years we have lots of simpler music to get started on.



Playing in Landis



**Playing in
St. Volodymyr**



**Shriner's
performance**

HECTIC HARVEST

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers — Brenda Booker



Get Ready to Duck

Harvest/Oktobertfest Season was certainly a busy time for us this year. We started off in September with welcoming our Dancers back for another year & moved quickly into practicing our Fall themed Dances. We polished up our Birn und Apfel, Spannenlanger Hansel & the Banktanz, in just a few practices. Then we were off to our first Oktoberfest performance for the Tykes & Tots fundraiser, at the WDM. The very next day

we headed to Prince Albert to join a variety of cultural performers at Tapestrama. Great venue and delicious treats. After one more practice we joined many of our German Club members at the Nutana Legion's Oktoberfest. Two more practices, followed by two more performances. First, we were welcomed by the residents of St. Volodymyr and a few days later by the residents of Sierras of Erindale. Both groups were very generous with refreshments & treats for both the Dancers and their parents. Our dancers' motto is "You can't beat, being paid in Cookies".

After this hectic Oktoberfest Season we took a few weeks off. Of course, we didn't sit around idle during this time. We partnered with Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for our second annual Baking Box Fundraiser. Thanks to everyone for supporting us with their purchases this year. Watch for us next year, as we show off what we will have spent this money on. Thanks to Franziska! We sure appreciate the great variety she put together for us in the Baking Boxes this year. What a great year we had. Many fun moments



Making Faces may get you into Trouble

at practice, lovely performance opportunities, energizing partnerships & new Dance Families to welcome. Now we will finish off the year with a Christmas Performance at Oliver Place & our Christmas Party.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024! We appreciate the ongoing support of our funders, GCCC, SGC, Sask Culture and Sask Lotteries, that make it possible for us to do what we do.

VISITORS FROM GERMANY

American Historical Society Germans from Russia — Alvin Knoll

In the Autumn issue of the Postillion I had written how we were awaiting a visit from my Knoll cousins from the Rheinland/Pfalz in Germany. Well, they did arrive and we had a very good visit as well as some very busy days. This was Michael and Elisabeth's first visit to Canada, and they started their 3 week holiday by flying to Vancouver. They rented a car and explored Vancouver and Vancouver Island in detail. A week later they headed inland to do the usual tourist places like Jasper and Banff. On their third week they proceeded east to Saskatchewan. They arrived Saturday evening in Regina and over a Chinese supper we celebrated a reunion, our last visit together was back in 2018 in Germany. I had organized a Sunday family visit the next day and had invited cousins from the four branches of the Knoll family.

Over 20 cousins came out to visit. We did a potluck with bratwurst on the grille. Many of my cousins were very happy that Michael and Elisabeth spoke very good English as they were worried about a language barrier. As we sat in a circle in our backyard on a beautiful late Sep-

tember afternoon, we shared personal family history. It was very interesting and I must admit that I myself met some cousins for the very first time, as strange as that may sound. One of my newly found cousins, Julie Knoll, grew up about 15 miles from our farm and I had never met her. She and I are only months apart in age. Amazing. With Michael and Elisabeth in tow we did the usual tourist things in Regina, the museum and Legislative building to name a few.

We also drove out to our home village of Kendal, Saskatchewan. This is where the Knoll family homesteaded when they arrived in Canada. Kind of funny note here is that Elisabeth works in Kandel, in the Pfalz, a short distance from her village. We visited the Kendal cemetery and visited the many family grave sites, the oldest was that of Lorenz Knoll who was born in Marienfeld, Russia in 1844. It was he who brought the family to Canada in 1907. We then left Kendal and proceeded north passing by many large combines in the fields to the Qu'Appelle lakes. They were very impressed at how beautiful the valley was. This was the third week of September and co-

lours were so very vibrant. I must tell a little joke I had at their expense. As we were driving down the 48 highway, we saw only two vehicles in 30 minutes of driving. I commented on how heavy the traffic was that day and I think it took about 30 seconds for that to sink in and we all had a good laugh over that. We visited with some friends in the valley and then stopped at Lebret, Saskatchewan and saw the old stone Church built in 1865. A lot of history there. Michael could not stop taking pictures of the landscape, he was entirely captivated by how flat the land was and I course told him the story of the farm dog that ran away and could be seen for 3 days. Another good laugh. Well the holiday came to an end and Michael and Elisabeth caught their flight from the Regina Airport and arrived safely back in Germany. Of course new plans were laid out for the next visit. Stay tuned! Now back to our chapter. Keeping with tradition, our December meeting is always at a restaurant. This year we will again go to the German Club and have an afternoon of fellowship and good eating. So from me to all of you, Frohe Weihnachten und ein gesegnetes neues Jahr.

KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

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Krippe

Weihnachts-
baum

Christbaum-
kugel

Christstollen

Kerze

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Find German words

Mark these German words:

Tannenbaum, Schnee, Lebkuchen, Weihnachten, Geschenke, Schlittenfahrt,

Advent, Engel, Kirche, Dezember, Rentier, Weihnachtsmann

T	D	T	T	I	A	D	V	E	N	T	D	I	D	A	R	E	A
H	T	G	C	R	F	E	D	W	I	E	H	K	Z	D	F	X	W
Z	A	H	Q	D	C	R	A	S	K	R	Z	L	T	Q	T	S	E
L	N	B	A	E	D	F	K	E	O	F	U	S	G	A	I	E	I
E	N	W	Y	Z	V	V	I	D	L	V	J	W	E	U	K	R	H
B	E	A	S	E	B	N	R	P	P	G	H	S	S	Z	M	F	N
K	N	S	W	M	N	B	C	O	Ö	B	N	R	C	H	L	V	A
U	B	Y	Z	B	H	H	H	I	O	N	E	F	H	U	Ö	B	C
C	A	X	U	E	U	Z	E	U	L	H	W	G	E	Z	P	G	H
H	U	D	I	R	J	S	C	H	N	E	E	V	N	T	O	H	T
E	M	R	K	H	J	K	I	U	E	W	W	B	K	R	L	Z	E
N	E	T	R	E	N	T	I	E	R	D	A	E	E	E	Q	D	N
F	D	O	T	Z	H	B	N	M	V	C	E	N	G	E	L	S	D
R	R	L	R	F	G	B	H	U	J	K	I	D	E	W	A	D	E
T	W	E	I	H	N	A	C	H	T	S	M	A	N	N	D	A	F
R	T	Z	S	C	H	L	I	T	T	E	N	F	A	H	R	T	D

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