

POSTILLION

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

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Winter 2024

Featuring: Forgotten Brands of Germany

• 40 years of SGC • News from the SGC Members

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IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,
mit festlich geschmückten Straßen und funkeln-
den Lichtern nähert sich wieder die zauberhafte
Zeit des Jahres – die Weihnachtszeit. Gleichzeitig
feiern wir dieses Jahr ein ganz besonderes Jubilä-
um: 40 Jahre Saskatchewan German Council. Seit
vier Jahrzehnten steht der SGC für das Zusam-
menbringen von Menschen und Kulturen, für das
Bewahren deutscher Traditionen und das Teilen
dieser einzigartigen Kultur mit Menschen in Sas-
katchewan.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen im Namen des
Saskatchewan German Council eine inspirierende
Lektüre, eine wundervolle Weihnachtszeit und ein
gesegnetes neues Jahr, in dem die Vielfalt und der
Reichtum unserer Welt weiterhin gefeiert werden.

Herzliche Weihnachtsgrüße und ein frohes SGC
Jubiläumsjahr!

Dear Readers,

With festively decorated streets and sparkling
lights, the magical season of the year is approa-
ching once again – Christmas. At the same time,
we are celebrating a very special anniversary
this year: 40 years of the Saskatchewan German
Council. For four decades, the SGC has stood for
bringing people and cultures together, preserv-
ing German traditions, and sharing this unique
culture with the people of Saskatchewan.

In this spirit, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Ger-
man Council, I wish you an inspiring read, a won-
derful Christmas season, and a blessed new year
in which we continue to celebrate the diversity
and richness of our world.

Warm Christmas greetings and happy anniversary
wishes!

Your Gerald Freyer

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our Winter edition of the Postillion. It
is time to get cozy and ready for our cold winters
with, hopefully, a good helping of snow. After all,
what is Christmas without it?!

But before we dive into Christmas feelings and
sledding, the Saskatchewan German Council has
an anniversary to celebrate. The organization and
I have this in common, we both turn 40 years in
2024. I am a month older than the SGC as I was
born in October, but let's not nitpick. SGC's official
"birthday" is on November 27, and back in 1984, a
group of people made it all happen.

We are grateful to those dedicated volunteers
who had a vision to bring this organization to life.
It has supported the German culture throughout
all those years, helped organizations thrive, en-
couraged new organizations to be formed, and
built relationships with other cultures throughout
our province.

I'm proud to say that I have been part of the
SGC for the past 13 years, first as Office and Pro-
gram Assistant, later as Director, and now as SGC



© Gerald Freyer (2)

President. I have a profound feeling of gratitude for the office staff and their daily dedication, as well as my fellow past and present Board of Directors.

I encourage everyone to look at all the different programs that the SGC has to offer or give their support to. I'm confident you will find something of interest to you.

May you enjoy a happy holiday, Merry Christmas, or whatever other tradition you celebrate at this time of year.

With gratitude,

Andrea MacLeod
President

Willkommen zu unserer Winteredition des Postillons. Es wird endlich kuschlig und man bereitet sich für unsere kalten Winter vor, hoffentlich mit ordentlich Schnee. Denn, was wäre Weihnachten ohne Schnee?

Aber bevor wir die Weihnachtsdekorationen und den Schlitten rausholen, hat der Saskatchewan German Council vorher noch ein Jubiläum zu feiern. Die Organization und ich haben diesen Meilenstein dieses Jahr erreicht, wir feiern beide 40 Jahre. Ich bin ungefähr einen Monat älter als der SGC, da ich im Oktober geboren bin. Der offizielle Geburtstag des SGC ist der 27. November. Im Jahre 1984 haben eine handvoll engagierter Menschen das möglich gemacht.

Wir bedanken uns bei den fleissigen Ehrenamtlichen, die eine Vision hatten, um unsere Organisation ins Leben zu rufen. Wir haben die deutsche Kultur durch all diese Jahre unterstützt, wir haben neuen Organisationen geholfen, und neue Beziehungen mit Organisationen in der

ganzen Provinz kultiviert. Ich kann mit Stolz sagen, daß ich in den letzten 13 Jahren Teil des SGC war, zunächst als Büro- und Programmasistentin, später als Direktorin und jetzt als Präsidentin. Ich empfinde tiefe Dankbarkeit für das Büropersonal und sein tägliches Engagement, sowie für meine ehemaligen und aktuellen Vorstandskollegen.

Ich ermutige alle, sich die verschiedenen Programme anzuschauen, die das SGC anbietet oder unterstützt. Ich bin überzeugt, dass Sie etwas Interessantes für sich finden werden.

Ich wünsche Ihnen schöne Feiertage, frohe Weihnachten oder welche andere Tradition Sie auch immer zu dieser Jahreszeit feiern.

In Dankbarkeit,

Andrea MacLeod
Präsidentin



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EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS



www.gingerbread-world.com

GERMANS ON THE RADIO

The history of German radio and hi-fi companies

by Gerald Freyer



Germany has a rich and important tradition in the field of radio and hi-fi technology. From the beginnings of radio broadcasting to the development of high-quality audio equipment and the innovation of modern hi-fi systems, German companies have played a prominent role. This text outlines the development of this industry, focusing on well-known companies and exemplary devices that reflect German engineering and design.

The history of German radio technology begins in the early 1920s. The first radio broadcast in



Telefunken "Concertino 55" (1955)

Germany took place on October 29, 1923 in Berlin, initiated by the "Funk-Stunde Berlin". Soon after companies such as Telefunken, AEG and Siemens began producing radio sets for the mass market. A well-known radio of the time is the "Concertino 55" from Telefunken. It was a tube radio that impressed with its excellent reception quality and warm sound. Such radios often had wooden housings and adorned living rooms as decorative pieces of furniture.

With the introduction of FM technology (FM) and the spread of multiwave receivers in the 1950s, sound quality improved significantly. Germany became the innovation center for radio reception technology, paving the way for the hi-fi revolution.

In the 1960s, manufacturers recognized that music lovers were increasingly demanding high-quality sound reproduction systems. This gave rise to the high fidelity (hi-fi) segment, which aimed for the most natural sound reproduction possible. German companies such as Grundig,



Braun "Audio 1 compact system" (1963)

Dual, Revox, Braun and Saba were early leaders in this development.

Braun, known for its minimalist design, revolutionized the market with the "Audio 1", one of the first compact systems. The design was created by Dieter Rams, one of the most influential product designers of the 20th century. Braun not only attached importance to sound quality, but also to simple, functional design, which shaped the spirit of the times. Dual, originally a manufacturer of clock movements, achieved world fame with its high-quality record players. The Dual 1219 was a masterpiece: robust, reliable and renowned for its precise tonearm and

© Gerald Freyer (2) Privat (5)

GERMAN INDUSTRY HISTORY



Dual 1219 record player (1968)

outstanding sound. It is still considered a cult device among vinyl lovers today.

The introduction of the compact disc (CD) format in 1982 marked the beginning of a new era for the music industry. German companies such as Grundig and Philips (in close cooperation with Sony) contributed significantly to the development of the CD. At the same time, stereo systems and cassette decks became very popular. Although Germany had played a leading role in the development of radio and hi-fi technology in the previous decades, the 1980s saw a dramatic decline in the industry. What was once considered a stronghold for high-quality audio equipment was now experiencing a slow decline. Several reasons - including globalization, technological upheaval, management mistakes and the rise of Asian competitors - contributed to this crisis.

In the 1980s, Asian companies such as Sony, Panasonic (Technics) and Pioneer emerged as dominant forces in the global electronics market. These companies offered devices that were not only competitive in terms of quality, but also put pressure on German manufacturers through aggressive pricing policies. German brands such as Grundig, Telefunken and Dual found it difficult to keep pace with low-cost production in Asia. While German companies relied on their



Sternberg Radio Weimar from GDR (1961)

established production facilities in Europe, Asian competitors were able to drastically reduce production costs through offshoring. The price-performance ratio of the new competition shifted demand in favor of imported appliances.

Another problem was the strategic mistakes made by many German companies. Brands such as Grundig and Saba relied for a long time on existing technologies, such as analog systems and tube amplifiers, while the world was developing rapidly. The introduction of digital technologies in particular, such as CD players and compact systems, was either overlooked or only hesitantly adapted.

Some German companies also underestimated the shift towards more compact and user-friendly systems. While Japanese manufacturers introduced the first portable cassette players (e.g. Sony Walkman) and inexpensive compact systems onto the market, many German brands stuck to elaborate hi-fi components. Although these remained superior in terms of sound quality, they were less attractive to a clientele that placed increasing value on mobility and convenience.

In the 1980s, many of the former top brands began to falter. One example among many German brands is the company SABA - The Schwarzwälder Apparate-Bau-Anstalt which was one of the most important German consumer electronics companies. Founded in the 20th century, SABA shaped the radio technology and later the television market with innovative products and high quality. However, like many German electronics companies, SABA also experienced a crisis in the 1980s, which ultimately led to its demise as an independent company. SABA was founded in 1923 in Villingen in the Black Forest. The company initially concentrated on the manufacture of radios and accessories and quickly gained a reputation for engineering excellence and sound quality. As early as the 1920s, SABA became synonymous with high-quality radio receivers that were both technologically and visually impressive.

Early radio technology was a growth market, and SABA benefited from the increasing spread of radio in Germany. The company initially produced simple tube receivers, which became increasingly powerful over time. In the 1930s, SABA began to develop radios with multiple frequency ranges to meet the growing demand for

international radio reception. After the Second World War, the company experienced a period of prosperity. SABA focused on reconstruction and benefited from the economic miracle era of the 1950s and 1960s, when consumer electronics became an important part of German and international households. SABA launched a series of successful tube radios and later also transistor radios, which were appreciated for their clear, warm sound and careful workmanship. SABA also became famous at this time for its radios



SABA "Meersburg Automatic" (1956)

with automatic station search, which were considered a technical masterpiece. The "Meersburg Automatic" was one of the best-known models of the 1950s. It had an automatic station search function, which was an absolute innovation at the time and significantly improved usability.

In addition to radios, SABA also turned its attention to the emerging television market from the 1960s onwards. The company developed some of the most modern televisions of their time, which set new standards both technologically and aesthetically. SABA benefited from its experience in the development of high-frequency technology and set itself apart from the competition with brilliant screens and sophisticated design. Among them was the Saba 9241, a legendary stereo receiver from the 1970s known for its outstanding build quality and warm, analog sound. The Saba 9241 impresses with its elegant design with an aluminum front panel and stylish rotary controls. Particularly striking is the large green illuminated frequency scale and, for the first time, a digital display. What really makes the Saba 9241 stand out is its rich and warm sound. The Saba 9241 is not only a technical masterpiece of its time, but also a collector's item for



Saba 9241 receiver (1974)

anyone who appreciates the charm and sound of classic hi-fi equipment. With its robust construction and incomparable sound, it remains a prized collector's item, continuing to evoke nostalgia and provide audiophile enjoyment in many homes. Although SABA enjoyed great success in the 1960s, the company began to come under increasing pressure in the 1970s.

Competition from Asia became stronger: Sony, Panasonic and other Japanese manufacturers offered cheaper products that were also technologically up to date. SABA tried to keep pace with the development of new televisions and hi-fi devices, but management errors and a lack

SABA's financial situation increasingly deteriorated in the 1980s. In 1981, the French electronics group Thomson acquired a majority stake in SABA. Thomson used the name SABA primarily as a brand label for some products. Today, SABA is a reminder of a time when German electronic products were regarded worldwide as a model of precision and engineering skill - and of the challenges that companies have to face in a globalized world.

Changes in consumer behavior also contributed to the crisis in the industry. The 1980s were characterized by a change in music enjoyment: portable music devices such as the Sony Walk-

man and later compact systems with CD players rose in popularity. Classic hi-fi components were suddenly considered outdated and bulky. Consumers now wanted affordable, easy-to-use devices - a niche that was successfully occupied by Asian manufacturers in particular. Demand shifted away from large stereo systems towards simpler devices that no longer required the expertise of German engineering.

The decline of the German radio and hi-fi industry in the 1980s was the result of several factors: increasing competition from Asia, technological upheaval, poor strategic decisions and a change in consumer behavior. Many renowned brands such as Grundig, Telefunken and Dual disappeared or were taken over by foreign companies. The decline of this sector marked the end of an era of German dominance in consumer electronics. But despite this crisis, the legacy of these companies remains alive - in the form of collector's items, retro devices and an enduring appreciation for German sound and design.

THE RECORDING STUDIO IN THE BLACK FOREST

In addition to its important role in the development of radio and television technology, SABA also has a close connection to professional music production. This connection manifested itself in the MPS recording studio, one of the most legendary jazz recording studios in Europe. The studio, which was built on the premises of the SABA Group in Villingen in the Black Forest, had a decisive influence on the European jazz scene and produced top-class productions.

The MPS recording studio (Musik Produktion Schwarzwald) was founded in 1968 by Hans Georg Brunner-Schwer, a grandson of the SABA

founder. Brunner-Schwer was not only a technophile, but also an enthusiastic music lover and pianist. His aim with MPS was to create a recording studio of the highest quality in which jazz recordings in particular could be made.

The MPS recording studio quickly gained a reputation as the "Blue Note of Europe" - in reference to the legendary New York jazz label. The studio in Villingen was not only known for its acoustic perfection, but also for its relaxed, creative atmosphere, which offered musicians a unique working environment. Brunner-Schwer promoted jazz artists in particular and enabled them to produce under optimal conditions. One of the studio's most famous productions was the collaboration with the Canadian jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. The so-called "Black Forest Ses-

sions", which took place in the late 1960s, are still considered milestones in jazz history today. Peterson and other artists praised the exceptional sound quality and intimacy of the recordings made possible by the MPS studio.

One of the main reasons for the outstanding sound of the MPS productions was the close cooperation with SABA. Brunner-Schwer used state-of-the-art SABA tape recorders and amplifiers to ensure recordings of the highest precision. With the economic decline of SABA in the 1980s, the MPS recording studio also had to change its operations. The studio severed its close ties with SABA and was eventually run by Brunner-Schwer as an independent label. The closure of the SABA group marked the end of an era, but the legacy of the MPS studio lives on. Many of the jazz recordings made in Villingen are still available today as classics on vinyl and CD and are highly prized by collectors. In 2014, the MPS label experienced a renaissance when it was reissued by Edel Music to preserve its unique sound and historical legacy.

More: www.mps-music.com





Rolling Calendar

WINTER 2024/2025

CRCR 90.5 FM

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

SKAT CLUB SASKATOON

Join the SKAT Club Saskatoon for SKAT DAY on Wednesdays at Sports on Tap, 2606 Lorne Avenue, Saskatoon.

NOVEMBER 23 REGINA GERMAN CLUB

Enjoy the many crafts and beautiful items available at the Christkindl Markt. Come for some Kaffee and Kuchen or other delicious food.

NOVEMBER 24 GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

Come and speak German at the Kaffeeklatsch in Saskatoon. Meet language learners and others interested in German culture. All language levels welcome!

DECEMBER 1 VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE REGINA

Get into the Christmas spirit by enjoying the Christmas Concert of the Volksliederchor Harmonie at the Regina German Club.

DECEMBER 4 KG HARMONIE REGINA

Join the KG Harmonie for an evening with St. Nicholas / Sankt Nikolaus.

DECEMBER 7 REGINA GERMAN CLUB

Celebrate the holiday season at the German Club's Christmas Dinner in Regina.

DECEMBER 9 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ SASKATOON

Join Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for their December Cooking Class and make chocolates and cookies for the holidays

DECEMBER 14 SKAT CLUB SASKATOON

Join the SKAT Club Saskatoon for three rounds of Christmas Skat at the VIP Room at Sports on Tap, 2606 Lorne Avenue.

DECEMBER 20 DAS SCHULHAUS – REGINA GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Do you like to practice your German skills? Come and join other language learners of all levels at DEUTSCHTREFF in Regina at Stone's Throw Coffee Collective.

JANUARY 17 DAS SCHULHAUS – REGINA GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Do you like to practice your German skills? Come and join other language learners of all levels at DEUTSCHTREFF in Regina at Stone's Throw Coffee Collective.

JANUARY 24 GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

Come and chat in German in a relaxed atmosphere at Calories restaurant in Saskatoon. Meet language learners and others interested in German culture.

FEBRUARY 15 KG HARMONIE REGINA

Karnevals-gesellschaft Harmonie will celebrate Kinderfasching / Kindermasken. Come join and have fun with your kids.





40 years of SGC

On November 27, 2024, the Saskatchewan German Council proudly marks a significant milestone in its history: 40 years of serving as a vibrant hub for preserving and promoting German language, culture, and heritage in Saskatchewan. Established in 1984 as a non-profit organization, the Council has dedicated itself to fostering connections within the community, supporting cultural initiatives, and celebrating the diverse contributions

of German heritage to the province. Over the past four decades, we have built bridges between generations, showcased the richness of German traditions, and supported countless projects that strengthen cultural ties. It's time to come together to honor our past, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to an exciting future. We invite you to celebrate with us!

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARY SIMON, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M, C.D.



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

Message from the Governor General on the 40th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan German Council Inc.

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Saskatchewan German Council Inc.

We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse countries in the world. In this multicultural context, one of the best ways to connect with and learn from one another is through the sharing of language, culinary arts and traditions specific to each culture.

Since it was incorporated in 1984, the Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has been dedicated to promoting and preserving the vibrant German culture in the province. By offering a variety of activities to explore, teach and enjoy this rich heritage, you are helping to build healthier, more dynamic communities.

Congratulations to the members, volunteers and partners of the Saskatchewan German Council Inc. on this significant milestone.

I wish you a most enjoyable celebration.

Mary Simon

40 YEARS OF SGC

THE HONOURABLE LAURA ROSS MINISTER OF PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT



On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Saskatchewan German Council on their 40th Anniversary.

Since 1984, the Saskatchewan German Council has had a strong presence across the province, promoting German culture, volunteerism, newcomer supports and fun-filled events for citizens from all backgrounds.

Our provincial motto, Through Many Peoples, Strength, is well reflected in the Saskatchewan German Council's work, as we recognize that sharing our cultural practices and traditions brings us closer together as a community, while encouraging acceptance, understanding and inclusivity.

I'd also like to express our sincere thanks to the Council for their dedication to preserving and

celebrating the rich history and contributions German Canadians have made across the country, especially here Saskatchewan.

The hard work, compassion and commitment to our province by the German community has contributed greatly to our province's prosperity and cultural landscape, making Saskatchewan one of the best places to live, work and raise a family.

The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to support the Saskatchewan German Council through SaskCulture with funding from Sask Lotteries.

Thank you for the work you do year-round promoting German Heritage in our province, and happy 40th Anniversary!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Ross'.

A statement was released on November 7, 2024 with newly appointed ministers in every cabinet position, including the Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport.

FORMER GERMAN AMBASSADOR SABINE SPARWASSER AND GERMAN CONSUL GENERAL MARC EICHHORN



Marc Eichhorn, the Consul General in Vancouver, and Sabine Sparwasser, former German Ambassador to Canada in Ottawa, extend a warm and heartfelt greeting in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Saskatchewan German Council. In a video message filled with gratitude and admiration, they highlight the invaluable role the

Council has played in fostering and preserving German heritage, culture, and language within Saskatchewan and across Canada.

Reflecting on the deep and enduring ties between Germany and Canada, Eichhorn and Sparwasser underscore how initiatives like those of the Saskatchewan German Council not only strengthen cultural connections but also nurture a sense of community and shared values. They commend the Council for its unwavering dedication over four decades, which has made German traditions accessible and vibrant for generations of Canadians with German roots, as well as for those who appreciate the richness of German culture.

Their message conveys sincere appreciation for the Council's commitment to cultural exchange, language education, and community-building efforts that have left an indelible impact on both the local and national cultural landscapes. They honor this significant milestone with genuine admiration, acknowledging the Council's contributions to Canada's multicultural tapestry and expressing hope for its continued success in the years to come.

Watch this special message here: <https://youtu.be/iLoX8reBhWw?si=0zWAYT8Q1iLZP4D>

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

By Barbara Hoggard-Lulay (Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany from 2007-2014)

What a great achievement for the founding members of 1984, amongst them the late German Honorary Consul, Dr. Günter Kocks as well as Rosa Gebhardt and Bruno Kossmann who are still serving as active members. The SGC, as the umbrella organization to currently 33 member groups, is unique to the province of Saskatchewan. Highly recognized by the German Embassy in Ottawa and the Consulate General in Vancouver over the years, the SGC is considered the most successful organization "to promote German culture, language, customs, traditions and interests for the benefit of all Saskatchewan people".

All the diverse member groups are important and crucial for the SGC's success and contributions of the people of German heritage to the coexistence of the different nationalities and cultures in Saskatchewan.

When I looked up the chronology of SGC's Presidents and Board members I felt very privileged to have met all Presidents - the late Karl Bastian and Andrew Grzesina as well as Ilona Beck, Josephin Dick, Merv Weiss and Andrea MacLeod - and the Board members during my time in Saskatoon from 2004 and 2014. I have also met the groups' members at the annual "Treffpunkt" or other events. Above all, I am happy that I can call some of you friends!

Soon after I had arrived to live in the province in 2004, I learnt about the SGC's activities when I met Sabine Doebel-Atchison who was the Office Coordinator at the time and the late Dr. Brian McKinstry who was the Executive Director. The SGC was then already celebrating its 20th anniversary.



At the Saskatchewan-Germany R & D Forum, Botschaft Kanada, Mai 2024

I was very impressed from the beginning and I still follow the member groups' activities, at least by reading their articles and stories in the Postillion, since 2014 from Berlin.

I am grateful of having received the Special Volunteer Award in 2014 for my contribution as a member of the "German Days Committee" (now "Kulturgarten"), a founding member of "Kochlöffel & Nudelholz", a teacher at the Saskatoon "German Language School" and as a consultant to the SGC during my term as Honorary Consul of Germany from 2007 to 2014. I am also very thankful that I was granted a life time SGC Honorary Membership although I moved back to Germany.

As mentioned all volunteers and member groups cannot be recognized enough for their ongoing work and achievements. Personally, the successful implementation of our "German Days Committee's" big project "Egg Money" still makes me proud. I take this opportunity to thank Rosa Gebhardt who initiated this project, and Brigitte Boldt-Leppin and Barbara Stehwin for their teamwork and expertise. Ellen Remai with the Frank & Ellen Remai Foundation's generous financial support will never be forgotten and the 24 families who took this opportunity to honour their special pioneer woman with her name engraved on a granite stone. The bronze statue designed and installed by Shirley and Don Begg from Alberta is still perfectly located at the Saskatoon's Farmers Market. It was inaugurated and handed over to the City of Saskatoon 15 years ago on September 20th, 2009. The accompanying book "Egg Money – A Tribute to Saskatchewan Pioneer Women" not only tells the stories of German immigrants but also about other European immigrant families who settled in the early years of the province.

Sabine was very successful during her time as Executive Director, taking the SGC to an even more professionally organized level, also being responsible for the "Postillion" from 2005 to 2021.

Gabi Waidelich-Harrison as Executive Director for nine years already, and her staff have been as successfully keeping up the SGC's important work.



Greetings from Berlin / Brandenburger Tor

Dear Andrea and Gabi, I wish you and your office staff and all the volunteer members with their groups the very best for your important work to stay in touch with all immigrants, old and new ones, supporting them and their families to keep their culture, language and traditions and at the same time making sure that they are feeling fully integrated as Canadian residents or citizens in their new home country.

Sincerest greetings to all of you from Berlin,

Barbara Hoggard-Lulay



News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

MEET THE WINNERS OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison

SGC's charity, the Saskatchewan German Culture Assistance Fund (SGCAF) preserves and promotes German culture, traditions, language and education. Every June the SGCAF provides two annual awards of \$500 each for high school students finishing German 20 or 30 in Saskatchewan. Eligible students have to acquire or maintain German language in Saskatchewan.

The award winners are chosen based on their volunteering & (German) cultural involvement in the community, plans for post-secondary education and German education at a post-secondary level, as well as academic achievements.

Please meet the two 2024 German language award winners Sara Pelletier and Sabine Wagner. Sara and Sabine studied German at the German Language School Saskatoon with instructor Josephin Dick. We congratulate Sara and Sabine and wish them all the best in continuing their studies of German.

If you are interested in learning more about the recognition of academic achievements with German language learners in Saskatchewan through scholarships and awards, please contact us or visit our website: <https://saskgermancouncil.org/>

In addition to the SGCAF German Language Award for High School Students, the SGC offers the Saskatchewan German Council Scholarship In Memory of Dr. Brian McKinstry for university students to recognize academic achievement and encourage students to pursue undergraduate studies in German

Students can apply for the \$500 annual scholarships directly at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and the University of Regina.



Sara Pelletier

I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen for this award by the Saskatchewan German Culture Assistance Fund. Learning German in a classroom setting has expanded my opportunities for furthering my education and attaining a career. I have found that learning German has helped me connect with people I meet everywhere, and it is so great to have something in common with people I wouldn't have gotten to know otherwise.

It has also helped me grow closer to my extended family in Germany and connect with my mother who was born and raised in Bayern.

With the money I've received from this award I intend to use it to pay for my German 30 class next year. Furthering my knowledge of this language is an amazing opportunity and I want to fulfill that goal to the best of my ability.

Thank you SGCAF for this award and thank you to my German teacher Frau Dick for teaching me. I hope to use this language throughout my years as a student and beyond, thank you for helping me along the way.



Sabine Wagner

A huge thank you to the Saskatchewan German Culture Fund for choosing me as a recipient of the German Language Award this year! I happen to be writing this while in Germany, having used the award money towards a trip here. It has been such fun to put all my knowledge of the language into practice and to keep learning so much more.

I have German roots, but the language was lost in my family after generations in Canada. I first started learning the language to reconnect with that part of my history. After a couple of years of classes at the German Language School Saskatoon, I went on a high school exchange to Germany in 2023. Now I'm back here to visit and keep exploring the country. During my time here, I've seen how many benefits come alongside learning another language. Learning German has opened the door for me to the richness of German culture through literature and music. But the biggest benefit I've found has been how much more exciting it is to explore countries where the language is spoken. It has also been a gateway to meeting new people and making new friends abroad!

NEWS FROM SGC

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF MULTICULTURAL MAGIC AT SASKATOON FOLKFEST 2024!

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison

Saskatoon Folkfest 2024 on August 15, 16 & 17, themed "Decades of Dedication" was a great experience! The 45th annual festival immersed festivalgoers in multiculturalism through exciting performances, displays, activities and incredible flavors.



Thomas engaging with a Folkfest visitor

Saskatoon Folkfest was a 3-day event that included 15 pavilions at various locations. The SGC had a table at the German Pavilion which was located at the Nutana Legion and run by the German Canadian Club Concordia. Visitors stop-



Verena, Gabi and Franziska at the SGC booth

ped by to engage in German language activities, learn more about SGC and the German Canadian community, talk about their German heritage and travels in Germany, and enter their name into a prize draw to win a German gift package.



SGC Gift Package Winner Matt Martin

Congratulations to our gift package winner Matt – enjoy the wonderful German treats.

At the German Pavilion visitors had an opportunity to indulge in German flavors with Bratwurst with Sauerkraut, freshly baked Brezeln, Landjaeger sausage, Berliner, and more.

The great performance lineup included the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers, Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein, Concordia Brass Band, Syl White and Neil Stubbs on the accordion.



Tami and Thomas at the booth

We thank the German Canadian Concordia Club for having us at the Pavilion – it was fun. A big thank you to Pavilion manager Shelley Hungness and all volunteers for a great job running the German Pavilion.



Theresa, Gabi and Uli working at the SGC booth

SGC SUMMER STUDENT - FAREWELL

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



A big thank you and a farewell gift for SGC summer student Nan Li

What a great experience to have a summer student working with us! The Government of Canada Summer Job Grant enabled the SGC to hire a summer student for the position of "Cultural Development Assistant". Starting in late May and working for 8 weeks, Nan Li joined the SGC team to offer support but also to learn new skills.

Nan finished high school at Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon in 2022, where she also took German language classes in the International Baccalaureate Program.

During the 8-week contract, Nan supported the SGC staff with administrative tasks and offered help during events.

For Treffpunkt, Nan played a big role in preparing the "Gifts from the Kitchen" workshop. She also did a wonderful job wrapping up volunteer gift bags & the Special Volunteer Award prizes and looking after the registration desk. For Family Fun Day to celebrate Canadian Multiculturalism Day, Nan prepared many of the lawn games and check all items needed to run the event.

To provide an opportunity to write for a magazine, Nan was actively involved in writing articles for the Summer Postillion, check it out!

One important part of the summer student's work is to create cultural YouTube content, something that is time consuming and fits well with the young generation. Check out our YouTube channel for the "Wurstsalat" cooking video, the "Little Bug", and the "Cup & Ball Game" crafts video created by Nan.

Work with the SGC

Being a summer student at the SGC is a great way to learn more about the German culture and language while developing many other skills. It was an absolute pleasure to have Nan in our office and as a volunteer at Folkfest. Thank you!

If you are interested in a summer job with the Saskatchewan German Council, keep an eye on SGC's social media channels for a job ad. Eligible candidates have to be:

- between 15 to 30 years of age at the start of employment;
- a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident, or a person on whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and;
- legally entitled to work according to the relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations.

-International students are not eligible.

Julia's Journey

A Family's Legacy from Volga to Saskatchewan River

by Merv Weiss



The Lohrey family arrived in Saskatchewan in July, 2007.

Historical Background: In 1763, after the end of the Seven Years War in central Europe, the famous Russian Czarina, Catharine the Great, invited foreigners to settle in Russia. Russian agents traveled throughout war-torn western Europe, spreading the word. Thousands of discontented people, mainly Germans, responded to generous incentives to immigrate, giving Russia a substantial German population, which for

two centuries would play an important role in developing the agricultural potential of the Russian economy.

The first mass movement of Germans to Russia occurred in the years 1764 to 1767. More than seven thousand families (about 25,000 individuals), mainly from Hesse, but also from other parts of south-western Germany made the arduous journey by sea, by river and by land. A settlement area around Saratov, on both sides of the Volga River, had been set aside for the arriving German settlers. By 1767, one hundred and three German villages had been founded in the lower Volga Region. These Germans became known as the Volga Germans. Conditions for the first generation were very turbulent and impoverishing, but perseverance and hard work eventually established a successful German agricultural society on the Volga River. Those who had not voluntarily left on their own before the Russian Revolutions of 1917, learned to survive and to live under communist rule until August, 1941. As a result of Germany's invasion of Russia in June, 1941, Stalin ordered the deportation of the "enemy aliens", ie. the ethnic Germans in

Russia. Four hundred thousand Volga Germans would be rounded up and crudely transported to Siberia and other areas of Asiatic Russia.

The early German families which settled along the Volga River included the ancestors of Julia Richter, whose immigration story follows.

There is a Facebook Group page called "Germans in Saskatchewan". A year ago, I posted a reference about Germans who once lived in the former Russian Empire and later in the Soviet Union, and now live in Saskatchewan. I received an excited response from Julia Richter, "Yes, that is exactly my family's story!" It took some time to arrange a meeting because Julia had recently given birth to a second son, but in May 2024, I finally sat down with Julia to hear her story. I quickly realized that Julia belongs to a large family here in Canada, and in order to tell her story, I would have to tell the family's story as well. Julia has four siblings, all here in Saskatchewan. As well, Julia has fifteen aunts and uncles, and dozens of cousins, although those from her Dad's side live in Germany. It is also quickly obvious, from the way Julia speaks about her family, that there is a special closeness which connects them all. Julia Lohrey was born in 1992 in the town of Sögel (or Soegel), Lower Saxony. She grew up in another



Julia's Great-Great-Grandfather Theodor Lohrey (l.) in the Russian army, born in 1880

IMMIGRATION STORY

town not far away – Lorup. The location is north of Münster and west of Bremen, and not far from the North Sea.

Julia immigrated to Canada in 2007 with her parents and 3 siblings. A younger sister was born here in Saskatchewan. Julia's Aunt (her mother's sister) and her family immigrated at the same time, and since then another sister of her mother's has also come to Canada. The aunts live in the Hanley area. All three sisters now work at the same business in Saskatoon. Julia also worked at this business before she became a stay-at-home mom. Julia and her family, along with her widowed mom live on an acreage in the Dundurn area. Tragically, Julia's father, Alexander Lohrey, died in an outdoor recreational accident in June of 2023.

Julia's dad, Alexander (also known as Sasha) Lohrey was born in 1968 in Omsk, Russia. Omsk is a large city (over one million population) in southwestern Siberia, close to northern Kazakhstan. Alexander's family had voluntarily left the southern Volga River region some decades earlier, likely in response to a government program which was encouraging development in the Omsk area. Alexander was the son of David Lohrey and Frida Lautenschläger. Having previously moved to Omsk prior to the start of World War II, the Lohrey and Lautenschläger families missed the brutal deportation of the 400,000 Volga Germans in August of 1941. Nevertheless, after World War II they were Germans living under Soviet rule behind the Iron Curtain.

Alexander left school as a teenager and began working on the collective farm as a field laborer, as did all the men in the village. It meant extra

income for the large Lohrey family which included eight siblings. Alexander's mother Frida worked on the collective farm as well, milking cows, which was normally "women's work". In his free time, Alexander loved working on old motorcycles, and he became an expert motorcycle mechanic. When he turned 18 years of age, he served the mandatory two years in the Russian military. He learned to drive large transport trucks, and later instructed others so they could obtain the necessary license. During those two years he was not allowed leave to visit his home.

Meanwhile, Julia's Mom, Lidia Walter, was born in 1973 in Kazakhstan. She was the daughter of David Walter and Matilda Stang. They too were Volga Germans, and their families were deported by the Soviet government from their home region in 1941 to Kazakhstan. Because they were Germans, they were deemed disloyal to Moscow, despite the fact that Germans had been living in the area for nearly two hundred years. Lidia went to school in Kazakhstan and learned to milk the cows on the collective farm where her parents worked.

The Soviet Union officially dissolved in December 1991, but in the years prior (especially after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989), it became possible for Germans to apply to immigrate to Germany, which accepted these ethnic German people as German citizens. This was a special provision of the post-war German constitution. Germans who had been stripped of their citizenship because of World War II on political, racial or religious grounds, as well as their descendants could now return to Germany and live as German citizens. This provision is still in effect.

Julia's Grandmother Matilda reminisces that life for her mother (Emma Stang) in Kazakhstan was hard, especially in the first years after the forced re-location of the Germans from the Volga River region around the city of Saratov. Struggling to raise a family, Emma and her children were often hungry, living mostly on potatoes and flour-based dishes. Living conditions slowly improved, but work on the collective farms did not pay well, and there were few opportunities available outside of the collectives. When the Soviet Union fell in 1989, Julia's grandparents jumped at the chance to immigrate to Germany, as did Matilda's mother and siblings. Thousands of German families left hundreds of Kazakhstan's towns and cities nearly deserted in the early

1990s.¹ Life in Germany was easier in many ways – more jobs, more income, more food, more consumer goods and better weather. They did not miss the large snowfalls which they had experienced in Kazakhstan.

Matilda observes that the countryside here in Saskatchewan is very similar to Kazakhstan. The weather is also similar, at least regarding the seasonal temperatures. However there is less snow here than in Kazakhstan. But life here is better in every way, she says! The young people have so many opportunities which they never would have had in Kazakhstan.

Alexander Lohrey, along with his parents and 7 siblings, immigrated to Germany in 1990. In 1991 the Walter family successfully applied to immigrate to Germany. Lidia along with her parents and eight siblings made a new home in Germany. Lidia continued her education and through mutual friends, she met Alexander Lohrey. They married in 1991. Julia was born in Germany, the first of their five children. In Germany, Alexander trained and qualified as an industrial welder. It is a trade much in demand around the world. Alexander's wife Lidia had relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins) living in the Steinbach, Manitoba area. Alexander had cousins living in British Columbia. With Alexander's trade skills, and with family already in Canada, immigration should have been easy.

Alexander did not like living in Germany. For him, the country was too busy and too crowded. Beginning in 2005, Alexander traveled twice to Canada to "see for himself" what the country had to offer. He decided to immigrate to Winnipeg. He sold their home in Germany in 2005 and moved the family in with his parents in Markhausen while they waited for the necessary documents to immigrate to Canada. When the process with the Manitoba Employment regulations bogged down, Alexander's immigration agent looked to Alberta where a potential job was identified. Here again, the provincial process of approval came to a standstill. The immigration agent advised Alexander to consider Saskatchewan because the government had a fast-track system for selected trades, welding being one of them. Overall, Alexander found the Canadian immigration process to be quite frustrating.

Their immigration adventure began with relatives driving them to Amsterdam. They next flew to London, and from there to Toronto and



Julia's Great Grandmother Paulina Walter and her mother Lisakaterina Lautenschläger (Julia's Great-Great Grandmother)

IMMIGRATION STORY



Alexander Lohrey, third from the left, on the day he left for military service in Russia.

Winnipeg, where Alexander purchased a car, and the family drove to Dundurn, Saskatchewan. The Lohrey family arrived in Saskatchewan in July, 2007. Alexander soon began working for CNH Industrial (New Holland Agriculture) in Saskatoon. Lidia's sister Olga along with her family came at the same time as the Lohreys, and settled in Hanley. Lidia's brother, wife and family have since immigrated to Steinbach, and four other Walter siblings have also come to live in Canada. Lidia, Olga, and another sister, Helen, all work at the same business in Saskatoon. In total, six of Lidia's siblings now live in Canada. Two have remained in Germany. Their parents, David and Matilda Walter immigrated in 2009

and joined Olga and her family in Hanley. David Walter died in Hanley in 2012. Matilda still lives in Hanley. Her siblings are now split between Canada (near Winnipeg) and Germany. Her mother Emma died in Germany.

Alexander's parents and all eight of his siblings have remained in Germany. Similarly, Sergej Richter, Julia's husband, has no family members living in Canada. They have all remained in Germany as well.

Julia began her education in Germany, attending to the end of Grade Nine before immigrating to Saskatchewan. She completed Grades

10, 11 and 12 in Hanley, SK. When asked to compare the education systems of Germany and Saskatchewan, she observed that the classroom setting was more formal in Germany. Students never joked with the teacher. The students stood up when the teacher entered the room. Julia liked the more relaxed atmosphere of her Saskatchewan school and she really liked the fact that the national anthem was sung every morning. In terms of academics, Julia feels the academic standards are more advanced in Germany. She said that the mathematics and sciences which she studied in Grade 10 in Hanley had already been covered in her Grade Nine year in Germany. When I commented on her perfect and un-accented English, she said she had the highest score in English Grammar in her Grade 10 class at Hanley High School!

After graduating, she worked in Saskatoon. In 2013, an acquaintance in Germany contacted Julia through Facebook, inquiring about life in Canada, because he was thinking about leaving Germany as well. The next year, Julia traveled to Germany to visit family, and also to meet Sergej Richter. They started dating, and in 2015, Sergej came to Saskatchewan for a visit. He decided that he would like to stay. Julia went back to Germany with Sergej to help with the immigration process. As a German citizen, Julia had no trouble finding a job in the interim. In 2017, with Sergej's working visa in hand, they returned to Canada and were married. They lived in Saskatoon until 2019 when they moved to Hanley, in order to be closer to Julia's aunts and cousins. Julia and Sergej moved to her mother's acreage near Dundurn after the untimely death of her father in 2023. Their two sons were born in 2019 and 2022.

Julia's Dad, Alexander never really felt at home in Germany. While living in Russia, he felt like an outsider because he was German. Living in Germany he was made to feel like an outsider also, because he was "Russian". On the other hand, he never felt any similar discrimination in Saskatchewan. Alexander never missed Germany at all, despite his parents and siblings who still live there. Julia also feels that racism or discrimination is not so blatant here as it is in Germany.

On a more positive note, Julia feels that family life is much closer in Germany. Life revolves

Julia's Great Grandparents, on her father's side. Johannes Lautenschläger and his wife Emilia NN.



IMMIGRATION STORY



Alexander building their family home in Lorup, Germany where they lived from 1998-2005.

Both Alexander's and Lidia's families preserved their German language while living in the Soviet Union. They were educated in the Russian language, of course, and the language on the street was Russian. Nevertheless the Lohrey and Walter families maintained their connection to Germany via the German language. German remains the language spoken within the Lohrey family here in Saskatchewan. Julia and Sergej speak German to their two little boys.

around the family more so than around a social circle of friends. Cousins tend to associate more with each other than with friends. (This would apply especially to larger families like the Lohrey and Walter families. – MW) In Canada, the social circle seems to be more important than family, according to Julia.

When asked to compare living in Germany versus living in Saskatchewan, Julia said that the relationship with a boss or supervisor is always formal. A strict social distance between managers and employees is normally observed. The adjustments to Canada and Saskatchewan of course required a working ability in English. This was not a problem for Julia, but it was for her parents and aunts. Sergej had studied English in the German education system as well, but was not as fluent as Julia when they immigrated. Equally important as the language, Julia feels, is understanding how the workplace functions – what is acceptable, and what isn't.

When asked about the benefits of life in Saskatchewan, Julia's first response was, "Freedom!" By way of explanation, she says that so much of life is more regulated and therefore more costly in Germany. Her husband Sergej says that here he can go to the gas station, purchase a fishing license, and head to the lake. Not so in Germany where you first have to attend a special course, and write an exam. Hunting is even more regulated. In Germany one can hunt only as a member of an organized hunting party, where "pushers" are used to flush the game out of hiding towards the hunters. And it is very expensive to hunt. Sergej loves to hunt and fish here in Saskatche-

wan, and the family buys very little meat at the grocery store. Julia and Sergej appreciate the slower pace of life in Saskatchewan. They enjoy the feeling of being more connected to nature than is possible in Germany. There are far fewer people, and hence far fewer crowded spaces. They like the wide open spaces of our province, and their acreage has a special appeal. A drawback however is the dust and the often rutted grid roads.

Julia admits that she does miss the food in Germany, especially the breads and buns, AND the chocolate, she quickly adds.

Julia's husband, Sergej Richter is the son of Waldemar Richter and Tatjana Baumtrock. He was born in Kazakhstan in 1993 and immigrated as a baby in 1995 to Germany with his parents and a brother. One more brother was born in Germany. Sergej has established himself as a builder of decks and fences, working not only in the local area, but has also taken on jobs farther afield like Candle Lake, several hours north. During the off-season when he is not building decks and fences, Sergej works with a friend framing houses. Sergej qualified as a journeyman carpenter in Germany where he had worked as a framer, but also as a cabinet maker, trade skills much in demand in Saskatchewan.



Julia Richter, nee Lohrey with husband Sergej and sons

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.

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HIGH SEASON FOR CARNEVAL

KG Harmonie Regina- Sheila Aldous

We would like to extend a special invite to all of you to attend the 2024 Karneval Crowning on November 9th at the German Club. Doors Open at 5:00. Supper will be served at 5:30. Program begins at 7:11 pm. There will also be dancing, music by Awesome Sound and raffles and maybe some games. Tickets: \$45/Adult and \$25/Child under 12. Please come and celebrate Princess Annette's favorite time of the year.

Our St. Nikolaus will join our Princesses Annette, Ashley, Cheryl and Sheila to host an evening with St. Nikolaus on Wednesday, December 4th. We are hoping to once again have our gingerbread house decorating contest.

The next event, we would like to invite you to is our Kindermaskenball, February 15, 2025.

For information or tickets for any of our events,

please email karnevaldancers@gmail.com or talk to one of our members.

The board would like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who came out to help clean up our cupboards. Thank you for spending your summer evening with us. Our dance groups, performed at an Optimist Conference and the Dragon Boat Event in Regina this past August. Plus, a small group took a road trip to Coronach to take part in their Old Coronach Street Festival.

If you are interested in joining the group or dancing with us, our contacts are President - Darlene Rubrecht or our Vice-President - Cheryl Aldous at our group email karnevaldancers@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our group and to all our volunteers.



Coronach



Dragon Boats



Optimist Conference

FROM FALL FELLOWSHIP TO FESTIVE HARMONIES

Volksliederchor Harmonie - *Alvin Knoll*

As I write this, it is summer like in the backyard and although this article will appear in the Winter Postillion it is difficult to think of winter while a warm fall breeze stirs the coloured leaves and the flowers bloom in the garden. Nevertheless, we know what's coming and I look forward to all the wonderful festivities that the season brings.

We began our fall/winter semester with a nice informal get together at the German Club. We gathered for a Flammkuchen meal in the restaurant, collected our music binders and enjoyed an evening of good fellowship. For those that are not familiar with Flammkuchen, it is a German version of a thin crust pizza; very tasty and goes especially well with a good beer!

We were invited to perform some of our Oktoberfest music and singalongs at a seniors' home at the end of September. Unfortunately, the home was just recovering from a Covid outbreak and we had to decline for the health of our singers. That was disappointing for all of us. We also have several other engagements lined up for the season, including an Oktoberfest at another retirement complex, and an hour-long Christmas performance at the Regina Public library in December.

A number of our singers will also be busy baking German cookies "Plätzchen" for the Choir bake table at Christkindmarkt on November 23. This is an annual fundraiser for the choir, and we are

proud to have been a part of the market since its inception.

Our fall repertoire includes some new Christmas music and recognizing that some guests in our audience are not familiar with German we have also included a few English pieces in our program. We look forward to mastering these new pieces and sharing them at our Christmas concert on Sunday December 1, 2:30 pm at the Regina German Club.

New members are always welcome to join our 4 part harmony choir and if interested can contact me for information. (306 352-5114) Alvin Knoll President.

BUSY SEASON OF EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS AHEAD

Saskatoon Skat Club - *Shelley Hungness*

The Saskatoon SKAT Club has been busy the last few months and will be even more so in the coming weeks. In August not only did our members volunteer for the German Folkfest Pavilion but we had a display/interactive table at Folkfest. Many people signed up for SKAT School at Folkfest and training began in September. Also, September started with a SKAT Tournament in Winnipeg followed up by one in Omaha, NE which many of our members were

able to attend. October will see a local Saskatoon Thanksgiving SKAT and then a Halloween "Boo Y'All" at the German Club in Red Deer.

Great interest was shown in the game at the SGC Treffpunkt Workshop in June. We are working with our Regina contacts to set a date in November for a SKAT School. Then in December we will hold a local Christmas SKAT - December 14th at Sports on Tap in Saskatoon.



Learning Skat at Folkfest

CELEBRATING GERMAN-RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Germans from Russia - *Alvin Knoll*

As some of you may know we had a very busy summer/fall. Our group hosted a garden tour in July as a fundraiser for a special October conference. We had a great turnout on a very hot summer day and guests enjoyed the homemade pies and fellowship. We resumed our fall sea-

son with our first monthly meeting on Wednesday the 4th of September. Back in April we had decided to host guest speakers from the University of North Dakota at a fall conference. This was to take place in October using the German Club as our home base.

We invited Michael Miller, Director Emeritus of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection NDSU Libraries, and Dr. Ann Braaten, retired professor and Curator of the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection, to be our guests and to speak on the topic of the Germans from Russia. Experts in their field, we were excited to have them accept the invitation. Considerable time was spent during the summer months to ensure that this would happen. Our group did an excellent job in planning the event. The conference was scheduled for October 11 and 12 and held

at the German club. Dr. Braaten spoke Friday evening on Traditional Textiles and Clothing of German from Russia Immigrants and was followed by refreshments. Michael Miller presented Saturday evening on The Genealogical, Historical and Cultural information available from the Germans from Russia Heritage collection followed by a banquet supper. I would like to thank the German Club for being very accommodating and allowing us to set up our various displays, books and maps etc. and catering the banquet. While in Regina we had an opportunity to visit some of the German from Russia history sites in our area with Dr. Braaten and Mr. Miller. Of interest were St. Peter's Colony, Rastadt, Speir, St. Joseph's and Bloomenfeld. These graveyards host a multitude of Iron Crosses, something unique to the Germans from Russia.



Dr. M. Miller speaks about Tradition from German Russian

NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Das Schulhaus - Regina German Language School - Ramona Furkert

Das Schulhaus kicked off another great year on September 14, with our youth classes. Everyone was eager to meet their teachers and reconnect with friends, and as always, all new students received Schultüten to make the first day of class a little sweeter.

Our adult classes are also underway, and we are pleased to welcome new and returning students to our Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced classes. We also have a growing group of students taking private lessons to suit individual learning objectives. Whether they are preparing for a trip overseas, would like to delve a little deeper into specific language concepts, or study a specific subject area, our qualified instructors provide individualized lessons to meet those needs.

One of our private studies students is Brayden Plummer. Brayden has been working with Regina Furkert since 2022 and continues to take lessons even after his hockey career took him all the way to Austria! Here is Brayden's story, in his own words:

Mein Name ist Brayden Plummer. Ich bin 17 Jahre alt. Ich komme aus Kanada, aber jetzt lebe ich in Österreich, in St. Pölten. Ich bin in der 10. Klasse. Ich wurde von der Europäischen Hockey Akademie eingeladen, um eine Eignungsprüfung an der Europäischen Hockey-Akademie zu

machen. Im August 2023 bin ich als Schüler an der Europäischen Akademie aufgenommen worden. Ich bin dort sehr beschäftigt. Ich gehe dort zur Schule und ich habe viele Eis-Hockey Spiele. Ich habe bereits in Belgien, Slowenian, Ungarn und Deutschland Eis-Hockey gespielt. Ich habe auch schon viele Länder wie Portugal, Italien, die Schweiz und Deutschland besucht.

Meine Privatklassen sind am Internet und ich lerne immer noch Deutsch. Der Unterricht am Internet ist gut, so kann ich auch von Österreich aus weiter lernen. Mein Deutsch ist gut, aber ich muss noch viel lernen.

Ich habe viele Freunde in Kanada und in Österreich. Meine Freizeit verbringe ich viel in der Sporthalle, aber ich gehe auch gern ins Kino. Ich gehe sehr gern schwimmen, aber ich spiele aber auch gern Basketball.

Ich werde noch 2 Jahre an der Europäischen Hockey Akademie lernen. Es macht mir viel Spass, im Sport gut zu sein und gleichzeitig meine Deutschkenntnisse in den deutschsprachigen Ländern auszuprobieren.

Brayden's mom notes that the main requirement for Brayden to attend the school in St. Pölten was to learn to speak and understand German at a level that would give him the ability to function properly living in a German speaking environment. She says:

Both the working relationship as well as friendship/mentorship that Brayden has developed with Regina is amazing. Regina has been an excellent support system for him, continuing his tutoring while he is overseas.

To say we are wildly proud of our amazing son would be a massive understatement. I don't know many adults that would pick up their lives and move to a completely different part of the world to live their dream. To see our 16-year-old son do it was both difficult on us but also one of the biggest, proudest moments in our lives as parents. He has worked so very hard, both in school and hockey, to make the most of this part of his journey through life. We are so happy to support him in this dream, but the work he has done to make this come true shows the incredible type of person he is.

Walking around Sankt Pölten, listening to him order, question and generally converse in German absolutely amazes me. When I listen to him speak, it is a testament to the work he and Regina have done together.

Great job, Brayden! We wish you all the best in your future hockey career! As always, we would like to thank SGC and the Friedrich Schiller Foundation for their support.

If you would like to learn more about what Das Schulhaus offers, please visit our website at www.dassschulhaus.org or stop by our booth at the Christkindmarkt on November 23 at the Regina German Club.



Brayden Plummer on ice.

FOLKFEST SUCCESS THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS AND PERFORMERS

German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon - Flo Broten

Folkfest is over for another year! Attendance was down this year, however, it was a successful event! A huge thank you to all of our volunteers. Without you, Folkfest would be impossible!

The Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein, the Concordia Alpenrose Junior Dancers, the Concordia Brass Band, Syl White, and Neil Stubbs did a bang-up job of entertaining our guests. We need to give a special thank you to Heidi Armstrong, who emceed the event and ensured the excitement never ended.

We were pleased that the German Pavilion was one of the Pavilions entertained by Folkfest's Youth Ambassadors. The German Pavilion was represented by Satine Lundgren and Alexander Dahlem. Satine is a member of the Concordia Schuhplattler Verein and Alexander danced the Miner's dance with the group. When they weren't dancing, they were helping wherever we needed them. Thank you so much, Satine and Alexander. You did a stellar job!

Ilse Schnackenberg and Inge Kraemer were our Senior Ambassadors. They both have a rich history with the German Club and enjoyed sharing

their experience with the guests. We thank the Nutana Legion for allowing us to occupy your space for Folkfest and for all of your help and support.

This year, we recognized members who have volunteered for the German Pavilion for 40 or more years. They are as follows: Reg & Loretta Reiter, Ilse Schnackenberg, George Turay, Margot Hasner, Tillie Haunsperger, Herb Linke, Emile Bussiere, Glenda Bussiere, Dolly Macintosh, Arnold Back, Inge Kraemer, and Renate Niedermair. Emile and Glenda are retiring from the Dance group after 43 years. We are going to miss you!

After many years of service to the German Concordia club, Donna Sniher has retired from the Board of Directors. Donna, we cannot thank you enough for all you have done for the Club. She will be missed! Mack Revet has agreed to join the Board of Directors. Welcome, Mack.

Christkindlmarkt will be held on Saturday, November 16/24 at the Nutana Legion, 3021 Louise Street, from 11 am to 4 pm. We are promised Gluehwein and we are hoping for a visit from St. Nikolaus. Please put this event on your calendar.



From left to right: Loretta Reiter, Herb Linke, Emile Bussiere, Glenda Bussiere, Georg Turay and Dolly Macintosh. Missing from the picture: Reg Reiter, Ilse Schnackenberg, Inge Kraemer, Arnold Back, Renate Niedermair, Margot Hasner, Tillie Haunsperger.

NEW PLAYERS AMID FEWER CONCERTS AND EXPANDING REACH

Concordia Brass Band - Yvonne Kristoff

Concordia Brass Band has been practicing and playing fewer concerts than previous years. We are usually playing one or two a week by this time of year and this year it has been closer to once every week or two. We are not sure why this is the case. We have been invited further afield lately but traveling long distances and then playing and driving home is a challenge for many of our players. We are the only German band that we know of left in the province. We enjoyed Folkfest this year as well as a parade in Rosthern in September. The pictures with this article are of the parade in Rosthern. They are courtesy of Chris Foley. Thank you for taking the pictures, sharing them with us and allowing us to publish them with this article. We have prepared our Oktoberfest program and are performing it in several locations.

and we could beef up some of our other sections as well. Tuba players are very scarce. We actually sat down and counted how many are in Saskatoon - not enough it seems! We have recruited a young tuba player from a Saskatoon high school recently. He is working hard and doing fine. We would welcome other high school players as well. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining our group please pass this information along to them. Recreational band is not like playing in the symphony or a school band. You come when you can and perform when you are able. It is, after all, recreation and cannot interfere with work or family time. If you are interested, contact Yvonne Kristoff at 306-229-2687 or just come to a rehearsal at the Anglican Church at the corner of Egbert Ave. and 109th Street in Sutherland. It might be best to call or text ahead because this time of year we could be playing a concert somewhere during our rehearsal time.

By the time you read this we will be finishing up our Oktoberfests and beginning our Christmas routine. We break before Christmas until late February or early March and then it's full speed ahead again through the summer and into fall.



Parade Day in Rosthern, Saskatchewan

If you are a wind instrument player or a bass guitar player we would love to have you join our group. We are in need of low brass at this time

WINDY DAYS IN REGINA

Regina German Club - Patrick A. Kossmann

Fall weather in the city has been warm, until we hosted our Oktoberfest Celebrations. At that point it got cold and the wind did blow. We didn't let that deter our good times though and welcomed a sold-out crowd to our Auftakt meal. Patrons sat cozy in the club's lounge and dined on Chicken schnitzel topped with Seared Cider braised Pork belly and Lemon cream sauce, Lemon Ricotta Spinach Spaetzle, and Bacon Green Bean Almondine. The fantastic meal was finished off with Apple Tiramisu.

The lounge stayed full into the evening where a large crowd gathered to watch 23 people take part in our Mr.&Ms. Oktoberfest contest. The competitors struggled their way through German trivia, delighted in Beer tasting, and then strained their way to hoist a stein to earn the title, sash and prize packages. Congratulations to Michel Menke and Brielle Beauchamp for persevering and winning the titles. The two walked in the next day to help open our day of Oktoberfest joy. The wind came to celebrate with all the patrons. Undaunted we moved many of our outside activities into the hall and welcomed the crowds who fled the wind and stayed to celebrate with us. Our afternoon kid's carnival had Costumed Characters in attendance and Games and Crafts for all. We moved the Bouncy Castle into our building and the lines

only dwindled when we had to let the air out at 5:00 pm. After some clean up and resetting of tables crowds re-surfed to join us for our evening celebrations. Regina Councillor Dan LeBlanc marched in with our Mr & Ms Oktoberfest and club dignitaries to tap the special keg that was prepared by Pile o' Bones Brewing for the event. Das Volle Lederpaket venerated the beer with a dance presentation and helped hand out beer once the keg had been tapped. Evening entertainment continued with more dancing, music from duelling accordions, the band Cornerstone, and a great variety of Beer and food. Patrons stayed late into the night, and it is hard to describe the weekend as anything but a successful harvest celebration.

With cold weather coming to the city, it is time to put our BBQ away and prepare for our Mahl-



Das Volle Lederpaket in action

zeit meals. Watch our Social Media accounts for upcoming dates and menu plans.

Dance is a big part of our get togethers at the club. The men's group, Das Volle Lederpaket, has been practicing for events and are welcoming new members right now. Our kid's group, Das Kleine Paket, is looking to start again in the new year. Again, watch our Social Media accounts for more information or contact the club for practice information.

As we start approaching the new year, we encourage everyone to make plans to renew their club memberships for 2025. Make sure you check out our website (www.reginagerman-club.ca) for details regarding future activities happening at the club.



Dancing in the club

EMBRACING NEW CHALLENGES IN CLASSES

German Language School Saskatoon — Kathleen Schroeder-Brass

Willkommen zurück / Welcome Back to a new school year and with this more or less some of same challenges we are trying to balance the best way possible these past years!

It is great to have most of our previous adult students back in the German classrooms they are familiar with from last school year and most of them for several years already, if not even forever as it seems to me. I certainly know that some of our adult students have started in our German language classes as beginners and are now intermediate students or challenge their knowledge of the language in our advanced course for many years already.

These past two years we couldn't get a new Adult Beginner class started as I always had about 50% of the people looking for in person instructions and 50% were looking for an online class. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to secure new teaching staff for in person classes to add on to our wonderful Saskatoon team with Josephin, teaching our Adult Advanced and High School Credit Classes and Theresa, teaching our Adult Intermediate courses. We have been lucky

enough that Isabel, who lives in Japan, joined us about 2 ½ years ago and has been teaching various online classes for us. After 2 ½ years of language instruction for Gr.6 - 8 students and last year an additional 10-week intro class to German language for high school students going on a German Exchange, Isabel is now working with a new group of Adult Beginners.

Overall, our numbers in our adult classes have been fluctuating quite a bit these past years. The aftermath of Covid has finally taken a complete toll on our class offerings for kids from kindergarten up the whole elementary section. Our youngest group with K - Gr.2 didn't recover well after a pause during online life, and understandably the families of the youngest ones weren't really interested in an online program. Bouncing back to in person showed us quickly that families expected lots of flexible offerings from our school, but their flexibility to come our way a bit is often missing. The K - Gr.2 as well as the Gr.3 - 6 group did run on lower numbers for a few years, but that put's a strain on the school's finances very quickly and is certainly not sustainable for long term planning. Some of these students are still

with us and are now part of our High School program as Gr.9 students. It is great that four of our own students moved into the High School program, and a few new ones joined there as well. At the same time several students who worked hard to learn and improve their German language these past 1 or 2 years unexpectedly left our program. All these problems make it tough to budget for the school year.

We certainly hope that we can keep steady numbers in our adult classes, preferably after adding a few more students and we wish to revive programming in our kids' groups.

If you would love to work for us to teach German to different age groups, share our culture and traditions, just contact me. If you know of someone who could be interested in working for us, please let them know to get in touch with me. Kathleen Schroeder-Brass (principal) / germanschoolsaskatoon@gmail.com, <https://germanschoolsaskatoon.blogspot.com/>

WELCOME TO THE WINTER

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers — Brenda Booker



Kinderpolka at the Langham

We rounded everyone up from their busy Summers for 2 quick practices, in preparation for performing, in the German Pavilion, at Folkfest 2024. We had a great 3 days of fun, feasting, fundraising & of course performing. Thanks to everyone who stopped by with kind words or supported us with a purchase from our Candy Table.

Our Fall Term started on Sept 3rd and after a few practices we were off to Langham's Communi-

ty Connections Event. It was a great event and we are hoping they do it again next year. Our Dancers were even able to spend some of their honorarium on Kjielkje. Yummy,,, We had a few Dancers leave our group after Folkfest, and then we had a few new Dancers join us in the Fall. Welcome to Mariya and Marlow!

A few more practices and we were off to our own German Club's Oktoberfest, at the Nutana Legion. Thanks to Joan, Mariya and Marlow had Dirndls in time to join us for that performance. Then just 2 more practices and we were off to perform at Crossmount Senior Community for their Oktoberfest. With the end of Oktoberfest Season our thoughts and plans move on to the Christmas Season.

We will be looking forward to performing at a few Senior Homes and then end our year with our annual Christmas Party. We will once again be partnering with Franziska's Kochlöffel &

Nudelholz, for our annual Holiday Baking Box Fundraiser. These Baking Boxes are great to use to speed up your own Christmas Baking or as a unique gift for that hard to buy for person on your list.

Thanks for all your support last year & we hope you will keep us on your shopping list for this year. Place your orders by emailing us at cjad2014@hotmail.com. Orders must be placed by Nov 5th. Boxes will be delivered after Nov 30th. This year's Baking Boxes will contain the pre-measured dry ingredients for: Orangeplätzchen; Lebkuchen; Drei Königskuchen. You can also find us selling Baking Boxes during our German Club's Christkindl Markt at the Nutana Legion on Nov 16th.

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.

NEW BEGINNINGS AND GERMAN TRADITIONS AWAIT!

Hansel & Gretel Preschool - Ulrike Hecker

We are very excited that after one year of pausing, our program is up and running again! Hansel & Gretel Preschool is now located in the small town of Hague, located 40km, north of Saskatoon. The preschool is currently offering a Tuesday-Thursday morning program.

We warmly welcome our new lead teacher, Ramona Wolff. She has spent many hours over the summer, setting up the classroom for our 3- and 4-year-old preschool students. We are fortunate to rent the lower level of the Hague Community church. It provides a spacious place for little ones to play and learn.

The school year started on September 10th. On the first day of school, parents were invited to join for the morning. This allowed the students to explore the classroom meet the teacher and

visit with their new friends. For the upcoming weeks, we will focus on getting to know our students while creating a warm and loving learning environment. Part of the lesson plan will also be slowly implementing a few German songs and rhymes and preparing for the first German cultural celebration, St. Martin. Our annual highlight of course, will be the visit of Nikolaus in December!

We still have openings for the 2024/25 preschool year. If you would like to find out more about the program, please contact Ramona: Teacher.hanselandgretel@gmail.com

or go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/HanselGretelPreschool>

<http://hanselandgretelpreschool.blogspot.com>



Enjoying some snacks and German language.

A SEASON OF COOKING, COMMUNITY, AND CLASSES

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz - Franziska Davies-Perret



Arugula and potato salad

In the past few months we've enjoyed the summer and watching the garden grow. Our raspberry patch has provided so much fruit that it seemed like every weekend I was making something with raspberries or freezing them to enjoy during the cold winter months. We also had ground cherries for the first time and once again, I planted too many tomato plants resulting in too many tomatoes so after making batches of tomato soup and sauce, off to my coworkers they went. Now we're in the midst of Autumn and enjoying hearty stews and other recipes to keep my family cozy!

Looking back to summer, Kochlöffel sadly wasn't able to have a table at the German Pavilion for Folkfest this year but we still participated in volunteering for the German Canadian Concordia

Club and the Saskatchewan German Council. It was great to see so many people walk through the German Pavilion doors once again to enjoy the food and entertainment. Looking forward to Folkfest 2025 and hopefully we'll have a table again!

Cooking Classes started up again in September with new and regular participants. We made stuffed chicken in a bell pepper sauce with a lukewarm arugula and potato salad and a vanilla cream with apricots. I think the potato salad was the hit of the night! Recipes have been picked out, tested and translated for the next couple of months - for October and for celebrating German Heritage month, we're making Flammkuchen rolls with a herb soup (herbs from my garden!) and blueberry Amerikaner. In November, we've got red cabbage tarts with a regional cheese soup and a sweet banana yogurt casserole on the menu and for December we're doing something a little different. We'll be making presents from the kitchen, so make sure to watch out for more information and how to register for these upcoming classes!

If you'd like to get cooking class information right to your mailbox, feel free to send me an email at kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com

Until next time, happy cooking!



Stuffed Chicken

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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

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German Language School Saskatoon Inc.

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