

POSTILLION

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

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German Cuisine Traditional style



Spring 2025
Featuring: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Regina
• German Recipes • News from the SGC Members



Abandoned Christ Lutheran Church Nort East of Francis SK.

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Gerald Freyer

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IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

mit dem Frühling erwacht nicht nur die Natur zu neuem Leben, sondern auch unsere Freude an gutem Essen, geselligen Zusammenkünften und spannenden Neuigkeiten aus unserer deutsch-kanadischen Gemeinschaft. In dieser Ausgabe erwarten Sie köstliche Rezepte aus Deutschland, sowie interessante Berichte über kulinarische Traditionen. Gleichzeitig blicken wir auf aktuelle Ereignisse in Saskatchewan und informieren Sie über Neuigkeiten aus den deutschen Clubs in unserer Region. Der Saskatchewan German Council bleibt ein lebendiger Treffpunkt für Kultur, Austausch und Gemeinschaft – und wir freuen uns, Ihnen mit diesem Magazin einen Einblick in das bunte Miteinander zu geben.

Genießen Sie die Lektüre, lassen Sie sich von den Rezepten inspirieren und bleiben Sie mit uns verbunden! Gerald Freyer

Dear Readers,

With spring awakening, not only does nature come to life again, but so does our joy for good food, social gatherings, and exciting news from our German-Canadian community. In this issue, you can look forward to delicious recipes from Germany as well as fascinating articles about culinary traditions. At the same time, we take a look at current events in Saskatchewan and bring you the latest news from the German clubs in our region. The Saskatchewan German Council remains a vibrant meeting place for culture, exchange, and community – and we are delighted to offer you a glimpse into this colorful togetherness through our magazine.

Enjoy reading, let yourself be inspired by the recipes, and stay connected with us!

Gerald Freyer

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Reader,

If you recall last year, it felt like we barely had a winter. This time around, the snow is almost hip-high and we are glad to come out of this several-week-long cold snap. I must say, I do enjoy a cold snowy winter. As always around this time, I do wonder about the choice to live in a place that can be colder than Mars, and where Spring waits until April.

I do look forward to spring flavours and May celebrations. You will find spring events in this issue, but also make sure to have a look at the SGC website for the most up-to-date information. If you are curious about some traditions, recipes, or crafts, please check out our YouTube channel. You will be sure to find something there.

As always, I encourage you to join a cultural group's event to participate in something new, or maybe you are already looking forward to a well-established event, e.g. Spargelfest in Regina. Whatever the case may be, I wish you a wonderful spring.

Andrea MacLeod
President



© Gerald Freyer (2)

Lieber Leser,

Letztes Jahr schien es, als ob wir so gut wie keinen Winter hatten. Dieses Jahr ist dem definitiven nicht der Fall. Der Schnee ist fast Hüft hoch, und es wird nun endlich etwas wärmer nach wochenlanger Kälte. Wobei ich schon gestehen muß, dass ich einen kalten, schneeigen Winter mag.

Im Moment werden sich auch viele fragen, wie so sie sich entschieden haben an einem Ort zu leben der kälter als der Mars sein kann und wo der Frühling auf sich warten lässt.

Ich freu mich auf den Geschmack von Frühlingsgerichten und den Klang von Maifesten. In dieser Ausgabe finden Sie verschiedene Frühlingsveranstaltungen. Wenn sie die allerneusten Veranstaltungen finden wollen, dann schauen sie doch auf der SGC Webseite vorbei.

Auf unserem YouTube Kanal finde sie auch Rezepte, Traditionen, und Bastelanleitung. Und wenn Sie etwas Zeit haben, können sie an einer neuen Veranstaltung teilnehmen. Oder vielleicht freuen Sie sich auf eine etablierte Veranstaltung wie z.B. das Spargelfest in Regina.

In jedem Fall wünsche ich Ihnen ein schönen Frühling.

Andrea MacLeod



Join Métis-Cree guide Michela Carriere and family for a wilderness adventure, where nature, culture, and history give you opportunities to explore new ways of living.

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TRADITION ON THE PLATE

The history of German cuisine

by Gerald Freyer



Harzer cheese is a German sour milk cheese made from low fat curd cheese



Sauerfleisch gets its name from the sour taste. The meat gets this from vinegar.



Labskaus, a Sailor's Feast - with meat and vegetables stewed in broth, with corned beef, beetroot, potatoes and matjes.

The German food culture has evolved over centuries and is closely linked to the country's history, regional conditions, and social changes. In earlier times, nutrition was strongly influenced by the agrarian lifestyle, where simple, nutritious meals made from grains, vegetables, and meat dominated. Meals were often adapted to the daily work routine, and traditional dishes emerged out of necessity, using filling and long-lasting ingredients. While festive occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter introduced special dishes, everyday meals played a crucial role in shaping typical home-style cooking.

With industrialization and urbanization in the 19th and 20th centuries, eating habits changed significantly. The availability of new ingredients, the introduction of preservation methods, and increasing globalization expanded the culinary landscape. Today, German cuisine combines a long-standing tradition with modern influences from around the world. On one hand, there is a strong revival of regional specialties, sustainable agriculture, and artisanal food production; on

the other, globalization has introduced new culinary trends, particularly in major cities. Despite these changes, German cuisine remains unique in its diversity and regional character.

German cuisine is shaped by a long history, regional peculiarities, and a wide range of traditional dishes that have developed over centuries. Over the centuries, German cuisine has been influenced by various factors. While the peasant diet of the past was characterized by simple, filling foods, the nobility introduced refined cooking techniques and luxurious ingredients

GERMAN FOOD



Typical cold cuts for "Abendbrot"



Gruenkohl oder Braunkohl is the best dish in Wintertime



Friesentorte is a typical cake specialty from North Friesland.

into the culinary landscape. In the Middle Ages, grains, vegetables, and meat formed the main components of the diet. Bread already played an important role, as did meat dishes, which were often combined with sauerkraut or stews. Over time, French, Italian, and Eastern European cuisines influenced German eating habits, especially in aristocratic circles. The industrialization of the 19th century led to the standardization



No summer without "Spargel"



Käsespätzle is a traditional dish of the southern German regions of Swabia, Baden and Allgäu. No, it's not Mac'Cheese.

of many dishes as large populations moved to cities and eating habits adapted accordingly. Today, Germany boasts a strong tradition of home-style cooking while also embracing modern influences from international cuisine.

While Germany has not always been regarded as a gourmet nation in international gastronomy, it offers an impressive variety of hearty, savory, and sweet specialties that are deeply rooted in the country's culture and regional traditions.

The cuisine of northern Germany is strongly influenced by its proximity to the North and Baltic Seas. Fish plays a significant role, along with hearty stews and robust meat dishes. A traditional sailor's dish, Labskaus, consists of corned beef, potatoes, beetroot, and herring. Another popular dish is Grünkohl mit Pinkel, a hearty winter meal made of cooked kale served with a special type of smoked sausage. Matjesfilet, a mildly salted herring, usually served with onions, apple slices, and cream sauce, is another regional specialty. A well-known northern dessert is Friesentorte, a delightful combination of puff pastry, whipped cream, and plum jam. In western Germany, particularly in the Rhineland and Westphalia, the cuisine is hearty and down-

to-earth. Sweet and sour flavor combinations are especially popular. One of the most famous dishes is Rheinischer Sauerbraten, a pot roast marinated in vinegar and spices, often enriched with raisins. Another traditional dish is Himmel und Äd, a rustic meal of mashed potatoes ("earth") and applesauce ("heaven") served with blood sausage. The Rhineland is also known for Döbbeckooche, a hearty potato casserole with bacon and onions. In Cologne, people enjoy Halve Hahn, a simple yet iconic dish featuring a rye bread roll topped with aged Gouda, mustard, and onions.

Southern German cuisine, particularly in Bavaria and Swabia, is renowned for its rich meat dishes, dumplings, and beer specialties. The famous Münchner Weißwurst, a delicate veal sausage, is traditionally eaten in the morning alongside pretzels and sweet mustard. Another Bavarian classic is Schweinsbraten, a succulent roast pork with crispy skin, typically served with dumplings and a dark beer gravy. Swabian Käsespätzle, a dish of egg noodles layered with melted cheese and caramelized onions, is beloved throughout the region. Swabia is also home to the famous Maultaschen, large stuffed pasta pockets often described as "Swabian ravioli."

A cherished culinary tradition in northern Germany is the "Kaffeetafel", a social gathering centered around an assortment of cakes, tortes, and pastries, accompanied by freshly brewed coffee. Particularly in Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, this custom is deeply ingrained in social life and is often observed on Sundays or during festive occasions.

An essential part of Germany's baking heritage is "Brauchtumsgebäck"—traditional baked goods associated with specific festivals and celebrations. During carnival season, Krapfen, also known as Berliner Pfannkuchen, take center stage. These deep-fried doughnuts, filled with jam or custard, are a staple of the pre-Lenten festivities. In southern Germany, "Fasnachtsküchle"—light, sugar-dusted carnival pastries—are widely enjoyed. Christmas brings with it an array of festive treats, from the iconic "Dresdner Stollen", a dense fruitcake enriched with almonds and marzipan, to "Lebkuchen" (gingerbread) and "Spekulatius" (spiced cookies). In spring and summer, many regions celebrate the arrival of fresh fruits with seasonal cakes featuring rhubarb, strawberries, or plums.

GERMAN FOOD



was particularly favored by the military and explorers, making it a groundbreaking innovation in food preservation.

In recent years, traditional German cuisine has experienced a renaissance, with old recipes being rediscovered and creatively reimaged. The country's rich brewing tradition, anchored by the "Reinheitsgebot" (Beer Purity Law) of 1516, continues to be celebrated worldwide. With its deep regional roots, diverse bread culture, and indulgent desserts, German cuisine offers something for every palate and is steadily gaining recognition both at home and abroad.

Expansion of German Food Culture

German food culture is not only shaped by its traditional dishes but also by various social and cultural developments. Mealtimes and eating rituals play a significant role in everyday life. While breakfast typically consists of bread, rolls, cheese, cold cuts, jam, and coffee or tea, lunch has traditionally been the main meal of the day. It often includes a warm dish with meat, vegetables, and sides such as potatoes or pasta. However, in recent decades, dinner—often referred to as "Abendbrot"—has become just as important. This meal usually consists of bread served with various toppings, cold cuts, cheese, and fresh vegetables.

Another vital aspect of German food culture is the presence of local and regional markets, where fresh, locally sourced products are sold. Weekly markets and farmers' markets are not just places for shopping but also social hubs where people interact and discover culinary specialties. In recent years, the rise of organic and slow-food movements has increased awareness of sustainable and high-quality food products.

Germany has also seen a surge in "street food culture". While traditional fast food items like "Currywurst" and "Bratwurst" remain popular, an influx of international influences has diversified the street food scene. Today, one can find everything from Turkish Döner Kebab and Vietnamese Banh Mi to Mexican tacos in major cities. These developments show that German food culture is not static but constantly evolving, embracing new trends while preserving its deep-rooted traditions.

Germany is bread country - more than 4,000 different styles

Prilliken are a traditional sweet pastry from Braunschweig that has been known in the region for centuries. This delicate baked good, often prepared in small, round, or oval shapes, has a crispy, slightly crumbly texture and is typically dusted with sugar or cinnamon. Especially during the Christmas season, Prilliken are a staple in many Braunschweig bakeries, though they are enjoyed all year round by locals and visitors alike.

In Braunschweig, Prilliken are not only a popular treat for personal enjoyment but also a cherished gift and souvenir. They can still be found today in traditional bakeries, especially at Christmas markets or regional festivals. In the past, they were often baked for special occasions such as weddings or birthdays and served as a sign of hospitality.

Even today, many families in Braunschweig continue the tradition of making Prilliken using old recipes. Particularly during the Advent season, baking these little delicacies is a festive ritual that brings back memories of past generations and keeps the region's baking traditions alive.

One of the milestones in German food history was the invention of "Erbwurst", one of the world's first commercially produced convenience foods. Developed in 1867 by Johann Heinrich Grünberg and later manufactured by Knorr, this compacted mixture of pea flour, bacon, and spices could be easily reconstituted with water to create a nourishing pea soup. It



No Doughnut, it's a Prilliken



Homemade Liverwurst, Leberwurst, or liver sausage



Rolling Calendar

SPRING 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.

APRIL 11 & 12 REGINA GERMAN CLUB

Join the Regina German Club for their annual Spargelfest in celebration of spring.

APRIL 12 SKAT CLUB SASKATOON

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

APRIL 18 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.

APRIL 23 SASKATCHEWAN GERMAN COUNCIL

Join the SGC for a book reading and lecture talk with historian and author Dr. Bill Waiser.

APRIL 27 GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON

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

APRIL 28 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ SASKATOON

Join Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for their April Cooking Class in Saskatoon and learn how to make a Bavarian loaf noodle dish and a delicious dessert.

MAY 4 CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS

Come and join the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers for a traditional German Maifest in Saskatoon!

MAY 4 VOLKSLIEDERCHOR HARMONIE REGINA

Join the Volksliederchor Harmonie for their 70th Anniversary Spring Concert at the Regina German Club.

MAY 12 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ SASKATOON

Join Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for their May Cooking Class in Saskatoon and make regional asparagus schnitzel pan with a classic potato and ham casserole & sweet streusel buns.

MAY 16 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.

MAY 23 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

JUNE 14 SASKATCHEWAN GERMAN COUNCIL

Join the SGC in Regina for the annual Treffpunkt with AGM and member gathering.



Eine feste Burg is gone

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Closes After 118 Years of Service

by Gerald Freyer



After more than a century of serving as a beacon of faith and culture, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Regina closed its doors following its final worship service on December 24, 2024. The closure marks the end of a deeply significant chapter in the city's history, especially for the German-speaking community that established the church and sustained its traditions for generations.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1906 by a group of German-speaking immigrants, many of whom had settled in Regina's "Germantown" neighborhood. At the time, Saskatchewan was a burgeoning province, attracting settlers from across Europe seeking opportunity and a sense of belonging. The congregation began with a modest service in the home of John Brodt, officiated by Pastor George Gehrke of Winnipeg.

As the community grew, so did the church. Initially gathering in the Odd Fellows Hall, the congregation constructed its first building in 1907 on Ottawa Street. By 1913, they had built a larger structure to accommodate the expand-

ing membership. The church not only served as a place of worship but also as a hub for preserving German language, culture, and traditions in a new and unfamiliar land.

The current A-frame church, completed in 1961, is a testament to the congregation's resilience and growth. Its striking design, with a capacity of over 700, became a landmark in the area. Adding to its historical significance is the church bell donated by Julius von Ferber, which was reinstalled in a purpose-built bell tower in 1984, symbolizing the enduring legacy of the congregation.

A Celebration of German Heritage

For much of its history, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was not only a religious institution but also a cultural cornerstone for Regina's German-speaking population. Services were conducted in German for decades, and the church played a pivotal role in helping immigrants maintain their language and cultural identity while integrating into Canadian society. German traditions were woven into the fabric of the church's activities. Hymns and liturgies in

Trinity Lutheran Church in Regina, after the last worship service.

the German language echoed through its halls, while congregants celebrated holidays such as Christmas and Easter with customs that reflected their heritage. Events like Advent candle lighting and traditional German Christmas carols created a sense of continuity with the homeland many had left behind.

Situated in the heart of Germantown, the church fostered a sense of community among immigrants. It became a gathering place for those seeking not only spiritual sustenance but also cultural connection in a diverse neighborhood that included Romanian, Ukrainian, and Serbian Orthodox communities. The decision to close the church was made in June 2024, as attendance dwindled and the realities of maintaining the large facility became unsustainable. While difficult, the decision was a collective acknowledgment of changing times. In an CBC interview Pastor Sarah Dymund emphasized that the closure represents the completion of the church's mission rather than a failure, high-

GERMAN TRADITION



Everywhere in the church the German tradition is obvious.

lighting its remarkable journey of service and fellowship. The final worship service on Christmas Eve brought together generations of congregants, past and present, for a deeply emotional farewell. The service was steeped in tradition, featuring organ music, candlelight, and German carols that paid homage to the church's roots. Personal reflections and shared memories created an atmosphere of gratitude and reverence, allowing the congregation to honor their shared history. Throughout its existence, Trinity Lutheran was deeply committed to serving its community. Programs like the TLC Pantry Project, which provided groceries to those in need, exemplified the church's mission of compassion and outreach. As the congregation disbands, plans are underway to transition these initiatives into independent non-profit organizations to ensure their continuation. The church building at 1909 Ottawa Street is currently on the market, with hopes that its next chapter will honor its rich legacy. Pastor Dymund expressed optimism that the space might find new life as a center for community outreach or another faith-

based organization. While the physical space may change, the spirit of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church lives on. Its impact is reflected in the lives it touched, the traditions it preserved, and the values it instilled in its members. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church's closure is not just the end of a building but the conclusion of a remarkable story that began over a century ago with German-speaking immigrants seeking faith and fellowship. The church's legacy of preserving

German traditions, fostering community, and serving those in need leaves an indelible mark on Regina's cultural and spiritual landscape. As the congregation bids farewell, it celebrates a history of resilience, dedication, and unwavering faith that will continue to inspire future generations. The story of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a reminder of the enduring power of faith and culture to bring people together, even as times change.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

The hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Martin Luther is one of the most well-known Protestant hymns and is often regarded as the anthem of the Reformation. Particularly for emigrants who left their homeland and established new congregations abroad, this hymn served as an expression of their faith, steadfastness, and trust in God. Martin Luther likely composed "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" between 1527 and 1529, a period of significant religious tensions. The Reformation had already spread across vast areas of the Holy Roman Empire, yet resistance from the Catholic Church and the Habsburg rulers against the Protestant movement was immense. The hymn is based on Psalm 46 ("God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble") and reflects the threats and struggles faced by early Protestants.

The melody and lyrics are characterized by a militant, almost anthem-like tone. The hymn quickly gained popularity and was included in numerous hymnals. It was referred to as the "anthem of the Reformation" and was regarded as an expression of resistance and confidence in faith during uncertain times. The metaphor of the "mighty fortress" presents God as an unshakable protector who preserves believers in times of distress. In Luther's theology, the spiritual battle against the devil plays a central role. The second verse states: "The old evil foe now means deadly woe! Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal." This reflects Luther's belief in humanity's weakness and sinfulness, which can only be overcome with God's assistance.

The hymn held particular significance for German Lutheran emigrants who, in the 18th and 19th centuries, moved to North America, Brazil, Russia, or Australia. Many of these individuals left their homeland for economic or religious



The lyrics found in a German hymn book.

reasons. In foreign lands, often surrounded by different cultures and religions, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" provided an emotional and spiritual link to their familiar Lutheran tradition. German immigrants introduced the hymn into their church services in the United States. The Missouri Synod, one of the largest Lutheran church bodies in the country, regularly incorporated it into worship. During the American Civil War (1861–1865), German-American soldiers sang the hymn to bolster their courage. Among Volga Germans, who settled in Russia under the reign of Catherine the Great and later faced Soviet persecution, the hymn remained a symbol of religious and cultural identity.

The specific impact of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" in Saskatchewan is not well-documented in available sources. However, based on the general history of German immigration and the spread of Lutheranism in Canada, it can be inferred that the hymn also played an important role in Saskatchewan. The singing of Lutheran chorales, particularly "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", was a fundamental part of their worship and helped maintain their cultural identity in their new homeland.

RECIPE CORNER

GERMAN CULINARY EXPERIENCES



The following recipes are reprinted with permission of Kochlöffel & Nudelholz: German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio – a valued member group of the Saskatchewan German Council. Videos of the following recipes can be found on the group’s YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@kochloeffelandnudelholz3729>

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz: German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio promotes and shares food culture from German-speaking countries, teaches kitchen know-how, and offers monthly cooking and baking workshops, taking participants on a culinary trip to Europe.

Contact: Franziska, kochloeffelandnudelholz@gmail.com

DREIKÖNIGSKUCHEN



Ingredients:

- 75g butter
- 500g flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 60g sugar
- 1 packet yeast
- 250ml milk, lukewarm
- 2 eggs
- 150g semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preparation:

Melt butter and let cool. Mix flour, salt and sugar. Add butter. Dissolve the yeast in the lukewarm milk and then add to the dough. Add 1 egg and knead into a smooth dough. Cover the dough ball with a damp cloth and let rise for 2 hours in a warm area of your kitchen. Preheat oven to 350°F. Once the dough has risen, knead chocolate chips into the dough. Cut the dough into eight equal sized pieces and form into balls, placing them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Let the cake rise for another 30 minutes. Brush with the remaining egg that has been beaten and bake for about 25 minutes. Remove and let cool on a rack.

Traditionally, you bake this cake for January 6th – the day of the Three Wise Kings, an important day in the Catholic Church. This cake is found in southern German and in Switzerland and has a little surprise baked into it, usually in the form of a whole almond or a king figurine. Whoever finds the almond or figurine is the king/queen for the day and sometimes gets a little gift.

GERMAN FOOD

EINSIEDLER EINTOPF



Ingredients:

200g ground pork
200g ground beef
4 big leeks
2 small onions
400ml vegetable broth
150g cream cheese with herbs
pepper to taste, butter for frying

Preparation:

Fry both ground meats in a pan. Once done remove from pan. Clean pan, add a bit of butter and fry leeks and onions. Season with pepper and add vegetable broth into the pan. Next, add fried meat to the pan and bring everything to a simmer. Reduce heat and let gently cook for 15 minutes while covered. Lastly, add the cream cheese in pieces, mix and serve with mashed potatoes, salted potatoes, or slices of bread.

This stew recipe comes from Einsiedeln Monastery in Schwyz, Switzerland, a major pilgrimage site on the Camino de Santiago. It's traditionally served with mashed potatoes, and I used Bour-sin cream cheese.

STERZSCHNITTEN



Ingredients:

1 big garlic clove or more to taste
1 small onion
250ml vegetable broth
275ml milk
salt to taste
250g polenta (cornmeal)
60g grated Parmesan
2 big handfuls of spinach or arugula
1 big handful smoked grated cheddar cheese

Preparation:

Dice onion and use a garlic press for the garlic. Set aside. In a big pot, add milk and vegetable broth. Bring to a simmer. Once liquid is simmering, add garlic and onion. Season with salt to taste. Turn down heat. Next, add cornmeal and whisk until thickened. Add Parmesan, mix again. Spread mixture on a buttered baking sheet. Top with 1 handful of greens and shredded cheese. Bake at 400F for about 8 minutes. Top with the remainder of the fresh greens and serve!

This recipe comes from the Rein Abbey in Styria, Austria. The Rein Abbey is the oldest existing Cistercian monastery in the world, it was founded in 1129 by Margrave Leopold the Strong from the Traungau family.

FOOD & CULTURE

Sharing German food & culture – one bite at a time. Are you looking for different ways to celebrate food culture with the SGC? Check out the following option!



Culture in the Kitchen – A Multicultural Cooking Series:

as host, the SGC invites other cultural group to cook with us. Cooking instructors from both cultures introduce regional dishes of their country and speak about the food history and cultural traditions. Please keep an eye on SGC's events page for upcoming classes.

<https://saskgermancouncil.org/events/>

Online Recipe Collection: if you are a serious cook or just a beginner wanting to learn more, check out SGC's recipe collection for German, Austrian, Swiss, Mennonite, and Hutterite recipes.

<https://saskgermancouncil.org/recipes/>

Cultural Cooking Videos on SGC's YouTube channel, featuring everything from traditional German Käsespätzle - German Cheese Spaetzle to the street food Currywurst – Curry Sausage.

<https://www.youtube.com/@saskgermancouncil/videos>

Cookbooks: "Culture in the Kitchen: Recipes from a Multicultural Cooking Series" and "A Collection of Austrian, German and Swiss Recipes" (published in co-operation with Kochlöffel & Nudelholz).

<https://saskgermancouncil.org/language-services/publications/>



News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

YOUTH SUBMISSIONS

The Saskatchewan German Council encourages youth to be engaged and involved in the programs and services of the organization. We work to adapt existing programs to increase its relevance among youth and provide opportunities for young people to contribute to SGC's programming in a meaningful way with the goal to create an appealing energetic community for all ages and generations to come. The following articles of SGC activities were submitted by a youth participant.

Culture in the Kitchen – Germany meets Youth

On February 27, 2025, SGC's Office & Program Assistant Josephin Dick took "Culture in the Kitchen – A Multicultural Cooking Series" to Aden Bowman Collegiate's IB class and teacher Mr. James Funk, to provide a German cultural experience to the German-learning students. IB stands for International Baccalaureate World School, offering the IB Diploma Programme to students who are academically motivated. IB World Schools share a common philosophy: a commitment to high quality, challenging education that "empowers young people for a lifetime of learning, independently and in collaboration with others. It prepares a community of learners to engage with global challenges through inquiry, action and reflection."

The following is the summary of how cooking



Students making German Spätzle.

went with the IB class (International Baccalaureate class) with Herr Funk and Frau Dick.

"The Saskatchewan German Council (SGC) does a phenomenal job at introducing German cuisine, as the best part of experiencing any new culture is learning about their food. Food is such an essential part of a culture's history and preferences; it serves as an amazing tool to bring people together. While eating the food was an exciting part of the class, working with friends to figure out how our dish was supposed to come out was the most rewarding. One thing we would be interested in further learning is the specific history behind these food's popularity in their regions. The simplicity of the recipes (and their deliciousness), as well as being walked through the process by a SGC representative provides accessibility to repeat the process at home. This allowed us to integrate German culture into our everyday lives."

Thank you so much. Best regards,
Viktorya M, Sri Thanvi P, Maiia S., Student of
Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon

My Volunteer Time at the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon

Volunteering at the West Development Museum to celebrate the annual Heritage Festival along with the Saskatchewan German Council was an enriching experience. Saskatchewan has a long and deep-rooted history of German immigration, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when German settlers established strong bonds by sharing their culture and language along with traditions to the local community. Today, their cultural influence remains visible in local festivals, food, music, and at Heritage Festival, dedicated to preserving heritage.

During the festival, I assisted in organizing and setting up the table of cultural displays, which included a detailed map of German immigrant settlement over time, well decorated masks from Karneval representing the unique and

exotic atmosphere, fun mini games German children used to play, along with banners featuring delicious German foods. Set up also was free merchandise and curated selections of magazines that offer insight into Germany's history, modern-day traditions and events, for the display to offer an engaging and educational experience for all ages.

Learning and communication was the key part of the experience and of this festival. I gained insights into German Canadian cultural history, such as the establishment of German-speaking communities in Saskatchewan. I was fortunate to speak with several individuals with German background, and they shared fascinating stories you will never learn from the book, such as the struggles and challenges their ancestors faced, which offered me a richer perspective and history of their lives.

Overall, volunteering at the local Heritage Festival provided me with a greater appreciation for Saskatchewan's German roots and the value of cultural preservation. It reinforced the power of communication in connecting to people across different backgrounds, the importance of continuous learning, and the beauty of cultural diversity in shaping a community.

For me, volunteering with the SGC at the Heritage Festival was an unforgettable experience. The stories of different cultures should be spread and heard by the people, rather than leaving them buried. In the end, the Heritage Festival not only celebrates the past but also strengthens the bonds of the present, ensuring that these traditions will continue for future generations.

Submitted by Sky Wang,

Student of Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon

“GERMANS IN SASKATCHEWAN” LECTURE TALK

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



A large audience was interested in the event about Germans in SK.

On Thursday, February 13, 2025, the SGC organized a presentation called “Germans in SK, 1900-1980; A Short Immigration History including a Mennonite Perspective” as part of the long-standing Public Lecture Series “Culture & History of German-Canadians in the Prairies”.

Presenter Ken Dahl, who has been the assistant City Archivist at the City of Saskatoon Archives since 2010, introduced notable Germans who immigrated to Saskatchewan, while proving insight in his own Mennonite background, namely the Epp family that farmed in Fiske, SK in the early 1900s after family members fled Russia for Canada. The Epp family became well-known in the 1960s with their EPP Bros. business, and later with their car business.

Amongst notable Germans mentioned at the presentation was the Kusch family. Carl Kusch, along with his wife Julia and their children, arrived in Saskatoon in 1883, after immigrating from Neustadt, Germany, settling in Ontario and then moving west to Moose Jaw.

The Kuschs are considered the first family of Saskatoon, coming from Moose Jaw in the hope of finding the promised small thriving community. But instead, they discovered a community of tents without a store. That forced Carl to make the long trek back to Moose Jaw for supplies. The Kusch family had 8 children, and their family continued homesteading for over 100 years.

Other German mentioned were:

E.J. Meilicke, originally from the Woldenberg area in Germany, and his successful business “E.J. Meilicke & Sons, Dundurn”.

Fred Mendel, born in Recklinghausen, Germany, who was successful with his Inter-Continental Pork Packers Ltd., and who is the bearer of the Mendel Art Gallery's name.

Austrian-born painter Ernest Lindner who created the painting “Intercontinental Pork Plant” in 1944 and became involved with the U of S Kenderdine Campus (Emma Lake Art School).

Dahl also talked about the German Loon River settlers who returned to Germany at the beginning of WWII due to anti-German sentiment.

A big thank you to Ken Dahl for providing insight into well-known German immigrants, their involvement in Saskatoon’s economy as well as very interesting Mennonite background information, opening up new perspectives of Germans on the prairies.



Ken Dahl talked about the long tradition of Germans in the province.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF SASKATOON

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



SGC Table at the Heritage Festival with Executive Director, Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison.



Beautifully handpainted Easter eggs

On February 2, 2025, the SGC was once again part of the Heritage Festival at the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Saskatoon. Heritage Festival celebrates Saskatoon and area's civic, natural, cultural, and artistic heritage. The 2025 festival theme was "Discovering Our Heritage", highlighting the many heritage and cultural organizations showcasing numerous and diverse aspects of Saskatoon's heritage.

As the umbrella organization to nearly 30 member groups, we are especially proud to have had strong German representation at the festival, such as CFR 90.5 FM – Community Radio Society of Saskatoon, Saskatoon German Heritage Society, KulturGarten Saskatoon, Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers as well as Stehwien Art.

Community outreach is an important aspect of SGC's work as it allows us to showcase our organization along with a variety of cultural displays to a big audience as thousands of people attend the event every year. Community events also provide a wonderful opportunity to connect and re-connect to other organizations which is often the start of a new partnership for joint projects. Keep an eye on our social media for more SGC outreach activities.



Festival visitors at the SGC table

“GERMAN CULTURE ALIVE” PODCAST SERIES

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison

We are excited to have two new SaskScape “German Culture Alive” podcasts ready for you.

Cooking Class Podcast with Franziska



In this episode, we are off to the kitchen where the menu is delicious, the smells divine, and the enthusiasm of the participants is on full display for a cooking class in German cuisine. Host Kevin Power is joined by cooking instructor Franziska Davies-Perret, to learn about the evolution of SGC’s member group Kochlöffel & Nudelholz.

Meet the Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan



This time, we’re joined by Grit McCreath, Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan. She shares the story of her family’s journey from Germany to Canada in 1949, how her German heritage has shaped her and her life at the university. She reflects on her community involvement, leadership journey, and the impact of her work on the province.

To listen to the podcast, go to SGC’s website, click “celebrating culture”, then “Podcast”.

Link: <https://saskgermancouncil.org/celebrating-culture/podcast-saskscape-german-culture-alive/>

2024 ADVENT CALENDAR “GERMAN CANADIAN MUSICAL CONNECTIONS”

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison

Starting on December 1, 2024, participants could embark on a delightful journey, unveiling 24 captivating stories that celebrate Christmas carols, composers, and musicians, all woven into



Festive Chest with delicious goodies

our rich German Canadian heritage. It might have been a surprise to learn that Canadian jazz legend Oscar Peterson had a strong connection to the Black Forest, or that SGC groups have been part of the vibrant cultural music community that celebrates German heritage since 1955.

Each day, people had fun engaging with interactive games, puzzles and quizzes designed for all ages, along with finding wonderful Christmas recipes and crafts, or even sing-along opportunities to well-known carols.



Winner of Festive Chest Judy

A big thank you to all users and participants who celebrated German traditions with us through the online Advent calendar. The calendar enjoyed 1,400 views, 400 quiz entries and 5,000 pages visits & click.



Book Winner Ingrid

Thank you to our prize sponsors Gingerbread World and the German Consulate General Vancouver for their wonderful contributions.

To the winners of our prizes, huge congratulations! Judy, David, Ingrid, Jake, Rose, Shirley and Tina from Goodeve, Regina, Saskatoon and Lloydminster are the lucky winners of books, calendars and a festive chest with delicious goodies.



Book Winner Rose

CANADA AND GERMANY EXPAND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

By Kathryn Warden,
Special Advisor, VP Research and VP University Relations

In these challenging times, research-intensive universities around the world can play a key role in developing solutions to pressing global problems such as climate change, AI, food and water security, infectious diseases, shifting geopolitics, and economic uncertainty. "International university partnerships are more important



USask VP Research Baljit Singh, USask President Peter Stoicheff, Innovation Saskatchewan CEO Kari Harvey, DAAD Secretary General Kai Sicks, and USask Deputy Provost Patti McDougall (LTR).

than ever to help businesses, policy makers, and societies navigate these complex issues," said University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff, chair of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities.

That was the catalyst for the International Science and Policy Symposium held in January in Hannover, Germany and sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

U15 Canada presidents met with their counterparts of the German U15—along with university leaders from the U.K., Australia, France, and the U.S.—to identify shared principles and build upon collaborative relationships. The symposium advanced partnership agreements such as the Joint Declaration on Strategic Collaboration signed by the German U15 and U15 Canada in 2023. Under a recent agreement, Canada will participate, with associate country status, in the Horizon Europe program, the European Union's key research funding program with a budget of €95 billion (CAN \$141 billion).

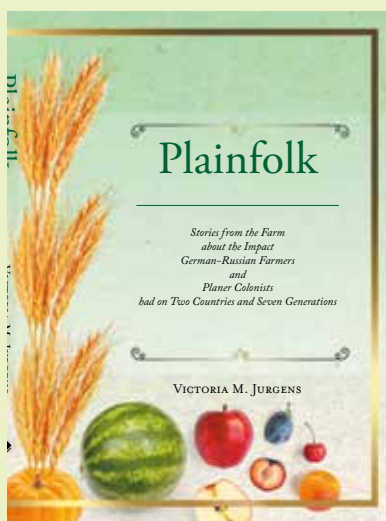
"This program presents a unique opportunity to further deepen the strong research partnerships between Canadian and German universities and researchers to support Canadian research and ensure Canada remains internationally competitive," Stoicheff said, noting that Germany is a key partner for both the USask research community and the province of Saskatchewan—a partnership that began in 1935 with USask's hiring of German-born Gerhard Herzberg who went on to win a Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Following the symposium, USask, Innovation Saskatchewan, and the German Academic Exchange Service/Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdiens (DAAD) signed two MOUs to strengthen research relationships and academic collaboration between Saskatchewan and Germany. The DAAD offers a variety of funding



VW Foundation Secretary General Georg Schütte, U15 Canada Chair Peter Stoicheff, and German U15 Chair Michael Hoch at the Int. Science and Policy Symposium in Hannover, Germany.(LTR)

programs for students and academics from both countries. "Especially in times of increasing geopolitical tensions, academic exchange and cooperation between Germany and Canada play a vital role in addressing global challenges and shaping a sustainable future," said DAAD Secretary General Dr. Kai Sicks. "Through this MOU, the DAAD hopes to build on its partnership with Canada and create a solid and lasting foundation for collaborations between German universities and Saskatchewan." As well while in Hanover, Stoicheff and Innovation Saskatchewan CEO Kari Harvey signed an agreement for a three-year, \$60,000 pilot project to support future collaborations between Germany and the university, including for USask's VIDO and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron.



Plainfolk - Stories from the Farm

Read a rich, intimate journey through the history of the German-Russian diaspora, tracing the Planer Colonists—families like the Fraesses and Kowalskys—from Prussia to South Russia and finally to the Canadian Prairies. Through generations of migration, resilience, and transformation, their legacy shaped two continents. Blending meticulous research with personal touches family trees, photos, and recipes.

The author brings to life a vanished world. Though they called themselves "plain folk," their impact was anything but ordinary.

Check out the author Victoria M. Jurgens and order her book:

www.victoriajurgens.com

ORDER NOW

The Becks came to stay

From the mountains of Bavaria to the plains of Saskatchewan

by Merv Weiss



Gregor and Ilona Beck, 1985, just arriving from Germany

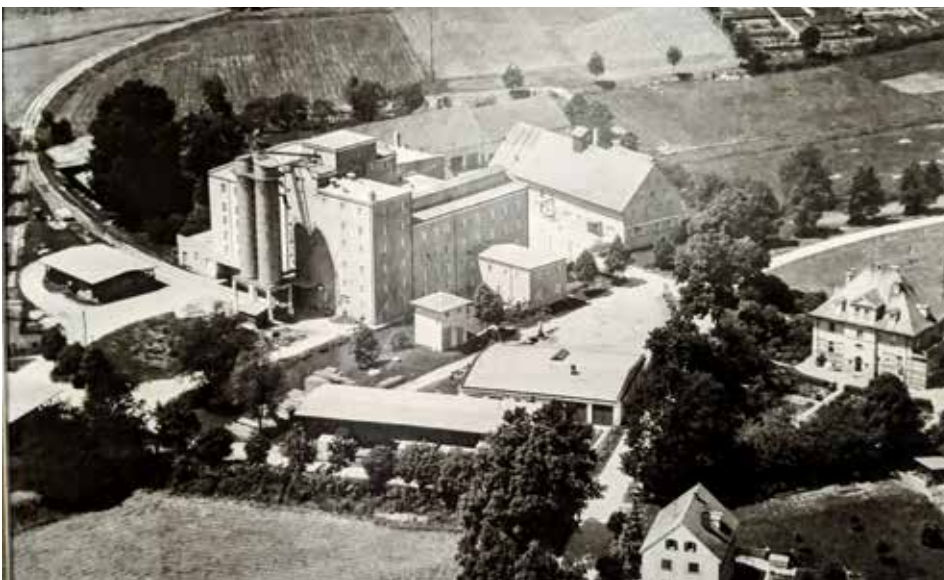
Gregor and Ilona Beck are great examples of the benefits to Saskatchewan which result from immigration. Both come from German families rooted in agricultural-related businesses in Germany, a perfect fit for Saskatchewan.

Gregor Beck was born in München, but grew up in Aichach, a short distance northwest of München. He grew up with two brothers and

one sister. His family operated one of the largest flour mills in Bavaria at the time, employing 60 employees to grind 100 tons of flour daily. Trucks delivering flour were on the road every day. It was a family-owned and managed business for over 200 years. The flour mill had its own rail spur, complete with a train engine to shuttle grain cars from the main line. During World War 2, the train engine was appropriated by the government, so grown steers were harnessed to

do the job. The Beck family also owned its own small mixed-farm operation. Six to eight cows were milked every day. But Gregor's memories of his youth revolve around the mill. He clearly remembers carrying and stacking 50-kilo sacks of flour as they came off the conveyer belt. His home town did not have a Gymnasium, and so Gregor attended a boarding school near Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps.

Upon completing his Abitur, Gregor served his obligatory fifteen months (Wehrpflicht) in the German Military (Bundeswehr), after which he began to study law for three years. However his heart and interest in agriculture and grain remained. The Beck Mill knew about the great quality of wheat coming from the Canadian prairies. On a regular base they used Canadian wheat known as Manitoba wheat for quality control to blend with regionally sourced grain to increase the protein content of the flour. Therefore, the family purchased some land in the RM of Bratt's Lake close to Rouleau, Saskatchewan that was advertised in German agricultural circles. After three years of law, Gregor changed gears and followed his true interest pursuing



The Beck Flour Mill in Aichach, 1960

IMMIGRATION STORY

agriculture. In 1977 he came to Saskatchewan on a student visa to study Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. After earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1981, he started working for a neighboring farmer to learn the practical side of the trade from the bottom up. A year later he slowly purchased some used machinery and started farming on his own. On one of Gregor's return trips to Germany, a mutual friend introduced him to Ilona Stempfle at an event in München. Ilona was a student at the University of München. She was born in Augsburg but grew up with two younger sisters in the nearby town of Wertingen, about 50 kilometers from Gregor's hometown. Ilona's father owned a dealership which sold agricultural machinery. Ilona looks back fondly on the time when she was growing up. She remembers the freedom she and her friends enjoyed while exploring the meadows and forests on the edge of her town. They swam in the river and biked everywhere. The older simply looked after the younger ones. Ilona remembers her family's yard as being the center of activity for all the children in their town. Ilona completed her Master's Degree in Nutritional Science and Dietetics in 1984. She made her first trip to Saskatchewan in July 1984. The wide open space was so impressive and so different! It felt like an adventure. She was excited to be very warmly welcomed by the neighbors and friends which Gregor had come to know. But the farmhouse on the Beck property was old and rundown. And in general, Ilona realized the standard of living on the Saskatchewan plains was completely different from life in Germany.

Nevertheless, after working for a year at the University hospital in Ulm, Ilona and Greg were married in Ilona's hometown in March 1985, and soon after moved to Saskatchewan to begin their new life in Canada. Ilona's first priority was



Gregor and Ilona Beck with their three children Christina, Clemens, Caroline

to make a home in the farmhouse which had come with the land. The farm became her life's work. The yard too had been neglected for many years. They planted over 5000 trees, developed a garden, and eventually built a new home. She worked side-by-side with Gregor to build up their farm operation, and considered it a priority to raise their three children at home on the farm. It was important to Ilona and Gregor that their children grow up fluent in both German and English. German has always been, and continues to be, the family language spoken at home. The children spoke only German until they entered kindergarten.

Ilona and Gregor had attended private boarding schools, but their children went to public school in nearby Rouleau right through Grade Twelve. It was another priority of Ilona and Gregor's that the children grow up and spend their formative years at home. "How would you compare your growing-up years in Germany with those of your children in Saskatchewan?" Ilona feels their children enjoyed a similar sense of freedom on the farm, as she did during her younger years of unstructured, unsupervised play in her village and surroundings. Their children had a similar access to nature, exploring and "getting their hands

dirty". A lot of Ilona's youth was spent outside, and they always encouraged their children to be active outdoors. Coming to Saskatchewan, Ilona remembers that she quickly had to learn directions and distances in miles, concepts foreign to her back in Germany. Sure enough, she laughs, "if I followed the road allowances five miles to the east, and then one mile to the north, I would find myself exactly where I was supposed to be!" The year 2018 was their last full year of active farming; they have since rented out the land. However Gregor is still very involved with agricultural organizations on a provincial level. They continue to live on the yard they worked years to develop.

Gregor and Ilona cannot imagine living anywhere else. Theirs has been a life of adventure, change and adaptation, a life to which only an immigrant can relate. Gregor and Ilona have returned to Germany almost every year; Ilona teases that it was one of the conditions in the marriage contract! While they were focused on their new life, these return trips reminded them of the contrasts between their native homeland and their new home in Canada. Gregor really misses the walk to the bakery in the morning to purchase fresh pretzels for breakfast. He also misses the unique Gasthaus atmosphere of Bavaria. Living a more isolated life on their Saskatchewan farm, Gregor is keenly aware of the contrasts in population density and the availability of services which become obvious every trip back to Germany. Ilona misses the cultural aspect of life in Germany. The German culture is everywhere, so easy to identify in the food, the style of the buildings, the blueprint of the towns and cities and the types of shops. The calendar year revolves around the many cultural festivals enjoyed by German citizens. There are so many events happening all the time in Germany; it is not unusual to attend several concerts in one



Gregor inspecting the canola crop with the help of his kids.

IMMIGRATION STORY



Ilona as SGC president awarding money prizes to some students of the German Language School.

weekend. The German people can live their culture every day. Even the occasion of visiting a friend for coffee is different in Germany than it is in Saskatchewan. It is a much more informal event in Saskatchewan where you might be handed a mug and told to help yourself to the cookie jar on the table. In Germany, if invited for "Kaffee und Kuchen", the host would bring out the best china, and offer a variety of sweets and baked goods, delicately displayed on a tray.

Ilona's observation is not judgmental; the way of life in Germany is just different. And doing things differently can have its advantages. When asked if there is such a thing as "Prairie culture", Ilona has a ready answer. Here in Saskatchewan we live every day with "nature and the wide

open spaces". Both Ilona and Gregor admire the ever-changing spectacles in the sky, the animals passing through the yard, and the birds singing in the morning. They appreciate the freedom which comes with having their "own personal space". Their home is situated so that they can watch the sun rise in the east, and the sun set in the west, something they marvel at every day.

Gregor says they are still amazed as they track the changes in the timing and positioning of the sun from dawn to dusk as the earth moves through the four seasons. Their commitment to their home in Saskatchewan is obvious. Ilona became involved with the German community soon after she arrived in Canada. She started out as a teacher at the Regina German Language

School and stayed with the school as coordinator for 19 years. For Ilona, learning the German language is fundamental in order to appreciate German culture. She worked within various cultural organizations on a local, provincial and Canadian level, always stressing the importance of incorporating more contemporary elements into German cultural communities. Ilona ardently believes that "culture is alive and is changing continuously". German groups need to be aware of this in order to attract more members and keep German culture alive in Saskatchewan. Over many years she served as President of the Saskatchewan Teachers of German (SATG), Secretary of the Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG) and President of the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC). Twelve years ago, Ilona and four other women started the Christmas market (Weihnachtsmarkt) in Regina at the German Club. This successful event draws people from near and far to the Club every year at Christmas time. The Film Club is another of Ilona's initiatives to incorporate contemporary language and culture into Saskatchewan's German community. Afternoon and evening sessions of the Film Club have also proven to be popular.

As well, Gregor and Ilona sing in the German Choir in Regina, and have for many years. When asked if they distinguish between Bavarian or German culture, both admit "our hearts lay with the Bavarian culture." Gregor comments: "Bavaria is the largest Bundesland in Germany. It has very distinct traditions, food, clothing, music and the landscape is spectacular. However many foreigners, and even international German groups as well, associate Bavarian culture with German culture per se (for example, Oktoberfest). The fact is there are many cultural differences across the various Bundesländer of Germany and each region has its attractions." Even though Bavaria is their first love, they appreciate Germany's many other regions. Germany is a diverse country with much to offer. Both Gregor and Ilona are Canadian citizens, holding dual citizenship with Germany.



Still happy - Georg und Ilona Beck

News from Member Groups

The Saskatchewan German Council Inc. has 30 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 THE PRINCESSES

KG Harmonie Regina- Sheila Aldous



Princess Annette, Princes Ashley, Princess Sheila, Princess Cheryl

This past fall we started our activities by attending the German Club's Oktoberfest and another Oktoberfest at Marian Chateau. The Oktoberfest at Marian Chateau was around Halloween so we just had to add a few Halloween tricks. Then we moved into preparation for our big event of the season. We are so happy to report that we had a fun filled Karneval Crowning.



Oktoberfest – Marian Chateau

Thank you to all who attended and gave such great comments to our Princesses. Princess Annette and her group provided us with an evening full of Christmas surprises, her favorite time of year. Our Night Before Christmas skit Santa Clause was a big hit as was the German Club President, Kerri's speech. From the decorations

to the dancing and singing, fun was had by everyone. Our members then turned to attending and sometimes helping with other club events. The Germans from Russians held a very nice evening. Christkindl was awesome as usual, and the Choir's concert was lovely.



We held our St. Nikolaus party on December 6th. We didn't have a lot of attendees, but it was still a nice evening. Congratulations to the Gingerbread House Decorating winners.

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.

Crowning Invited Guests, Elferrat, Night Before Christmas Actors

FROM FALL FELLOWSHIP TO FESTIVE HARMONIES

Volksliederchor Harmonie - Anita Jadischke



Christmas Concert

We want to acknowledge and thank many of our choir and associate members that were very involved in the success of the Christkindl Markt which was held on November 23. As an annual fundraiser, nine members each baked 10 dozen cookies and Maria Hartman and Julia Lacey coordinated and assembled baking trays that were sold at the market. We appreciate the help of those who cooked and served food, sold Schnapps and Glühwein, stoked the fire, assisted in setting up and take down of the market and new this year, an associate member built wooden Christmas trees that were sold as a fundraiser for the club.

Our last practice prior to our Christmas concert was held on November 30. Following the practice, we shared in fellowship with goodies, coffee, and Glühwein.

Our Christmas concert was held on December 1. The concert was well attended and comments made by those in attendance, we performed extremely well. We thank Blair Mills, our director and Bernadette Kutarna, our accompanist, for their patience at each practice and thank our choir members for their commitment in attending practices and performances.

The residents of the Lutheran Care Home enjoyed our Christmas concert performance on December 10. We were pleased to be asked to sing at the Regina Public Library for their Music on the Mezzanine concert series on December 12. It was an evening performance, and it was extremely cold. We thank all those who braved the weather and attended.

2025 brings the start of a new semester and a very special year. Volksliederschor Harmonie is CELEBRATING 70 YEARS! Our first night of rehearsal was held on January 21. We welcomed one new member to our alto section. We are excited to be practicing new songs with some examples being: Abba's - Danke für die Lieder (Thank-You for the Music); Einmal leben and Leben ist mehr by Rolf Zuckowski, English songs – Song for the Mira and What a Wonderful World. Our 70th Anniversary Spring Concert will be held on Sunday, May 4. We encourage you to attend this anniversary concert. Tickets are \$12.00 (cash only) and are available at the door.

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

DON'T FORGET

Saskatoon Skat Club - Shelley Hungness



Here are the key dates for this year's SKAT events in Saskatoon:

Easter SKAT

Saturday, April 12th

10:00 AM | 3 Rounds

Saskatoon ISPA Tournament

Friday to Sunday, May 30 – June 1st

Stay tuned for more details!

Thanksgiving SKAT

Saturday, October 4th

10:00 AM | 3 Rounds

Christmas SKAT

Saturday, December 20th

10:00 AM | 3 Rounds

Location for All Events:

VIP Room – Sports on Tap

2610 Lorne Avenue, Saskatoon

Take a copy. Snap a photo. Just don't forget!

More information will be shared as each event approaches. Should any dates change due to life events, members will be informed and included in the decision-making process.

We look forward to seeing you at the table!

PRESCHOOLERS CELEBRATING CULTURE

Hansel & Gretel Preschool Hague - Ulrike Hecker



Combining vocabulary learning with colouring.

As we are moving closer towards the end of winter, it is time to reflect on the fun things our preschoolers did throughout the last months. Fall was filled with autumn fun! Our preschoolers spent a lot of time outside, exploring the change of seasons and getting to meet their new friends. It is hard to believe how much the children have grown already and heartwarming to see how they have developed close friendships. In October, the teacher Ramona Wolff introduced the class to the cultural tradition of St. Martin and how Germans celebrate this special cultural event. Using different props helped the students to dive deeper into the legend of St Martin and to learn about the importance of kindness. We



How do you say mitten in German?



St. Martin on his horse

wrapped up the day with a lantern parade. All parents were invited to join our group as they brought light into the dark by marching through the building with their handcrafted lanterns. On Nov 14th the AGM was held. It was nice to see all families attending the meeting and showing interest in the operation of the school. The biggest Highlight of every school year took place on Dec 5th when Nikolaus came for a personal visit to our preschool! The students were very excited to share some of their English and German rhymes. Seeing the look on their little faces when Nikolaus read from his "golden book" was priceless! At the end of the day, following the German tradition, each preschooler found their boot filled with a piece fruit and chocolate.



Nikolaus is here



Learning how to form letters.

Parents and grandparents were invited to join us for this special day. German Christmas punch and the smell of homemade cookies added to the Christmas spirit. Each family was sent home with a treat bag of traditional "German Lebkuchen" to enjoy. The relatively mild temperatures in December allowed us to still take the children outside to explore in the snow. Can you think of a better way to getting your wiggles out while strengthening your immune system? It was also a perfect opportunity to teach students new vocabulary in German. Instead of "toque", "mitts", "jacket" and "scarf", they now know how to say "Muetze", "Handschuhe", "Jacke" and "Schal". Currently, we are going through a cold stretch and therefore most learning takes place inside. This includes lots of sensory play, crafts, and story time. We are also preparing the older students for Kindergarten by offering a variety of fun letter and number recognition activities. The biggest item on our "to do list" is to keep our eyes wide open for the first signs of spring as our preschoolers can't wait to welcome "Osterhase" (easter bunny) in April.

It is with a sad heart that we are announcing the closure of Hansel & Gretel Preschool at the end of the current school year. Despite all efforts to promote the program in Hague, registration numbers are not high enough to sustain the program. We are very sorry to see the program close its doors and are thankful for all the memories it made.

OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

Saskatoon German Heritage Society - Mervin Weiss

German Heritage Month

Program featuring author Amy Jo Ehman, Alice Turner Library, 27 October 2024

"From Kuchen to Kartoffeln"

For 45 minutes, Amy Jo talked about the foods she remembers from her childhood on the family farm near Craik, Saskatchewan. She talked about her "flavor memories" of the foods and techniques she learned from her paternal grandmother. There were about 30 people in attendance, both ladies and men, who then engaged with Amy Jo for another 30 minutes. The discussions and interaction continued over Apfelstrudel and coffee. Everyone present enjoyed the "trip down memory lane" as each of us remembered foods from our childhood homes. Amy Jo has published two books about food: "Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens" and "Prairie Feast, a writer's journey home for dinner". Amy Jo also wrote a regular Food column for the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix for several years before she turned her writing talents to other ventures. Check out her website:

<https://www.ajehman.com/prairie-feast.html>

Heritage Festival of Saskatoon 2025

The Saskatoon German Heritage Society was pleased to participate in another Heritage Festival, hosted at the Western Development Museum on February 2, 2025. We again had a super location, right by the front door of Boomtown. Our mandate is to keep alive the story of those Germans in Saskatchewan who once lived in the old Russian Empire and/or later in the Soviet Union. Even though it was a bitterly cold day, we were very satisfied with the number of visitors who stopped to ask questions and to share stories. It is amazing to learn how diverse those stories are. No two are alike. I was pleased to note the number of Ukrainians who also stopped by to talk about our shared geography, as well as our shared history in a troubled land. A slideshow of photos from the Black Sea region of Ukraine ran in a loop throughout the afternoon. Many photos from Crimea were included and drew considerable discussion. (Full disclosure: my mother was born in Crimea.)



Mervin Weiss at the Heritage Festival

Thank you to the event sponsors for a well-organized day and for the food and coffee in the Volunteers Lounge. Despite the very cold day, the event was well attended.

CHRISTMAS TIME AND BRASS BAND CONCERTS

Concordia Brass Band - Yvonne Kristoff



Bringing joy with music.

Concordia Brass Band played two concerts in December with a Christmas theme. We put on our Santa hats and played for the residents of Sherbrook Community and Elmwood Residence. It was a first for the residents of Sherbrook. We have played several times for Elmwood Residence and they bring residents of several group homes in Saskatoon so it is a big event for them. This concert was on December 19th and we don't usually play that close to Christmas. It was a late booking and the only day that worked so we did it. We are still in need of players. Our group plays music at about a grade 2 to 2.5 level so this is a lower level than other groups in

the city. If you are looking for a group to play with, and the Brass Band is not at your level consider the Concordia Brass Band. We will help you along and find music you can play. We especially need low brass players and will accept bass guitar players. We have no trombone players at this time. High school students are welcome. We are a wholesome group drawn together by our common love of music. We have several young players who cannot always attend on a regular basis but we welcome them when they can be there. Studies and early careers often call people away from our Thursday night rehearsals. If you are interested in joining us please text or



A Christmas-themed concert

call Yvonne at 306-229-9419. We rehearse at St. Matthew Anglican Church at the corner of Egbert Avenue and 109th St. in Sutherland. We will be starting up again in Early March.



Music for the Christmas season

SNOW, SNOW, AND MORE SNOW!

Regina German Club - Patrick A. Kossmann



Christkindlmarkt at the Regina German Club

Winter this year started with our Christkindl Markt. Many people came out braving the cold to purchase goodies for the holiday season. Snacking on Goulash Soup (Gulaschsuppe) and sipping Glühwein, patrons were able to peruse many trinkets that had been crafted by local vendors. With options to move around in the club packed with shoppers, or huddle outside around the fire with those snacking outside the club offered a true German Christmas experience. Our December continued with club members enjoying an evening with Santa at our Weihnachtsfeier. The evening started with entertainment from Taylor Fisher Blackstock and then

MOVING TIME

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia - Alvin Knoll

The upcoming year 2025 looks to be a busy year for us again, although not as busy as 2024! If you remember last May we hosted Mr. Merv Weiss who gave an excellent talk on Who were the Germans from Russia, very much enjoyed by our group and the general public. In July we organized a garden tour as a fund raiser. The day was sunny and bright, and between the flowers, pies, and the bees it was a success. Our biggest event of the year was yet to come when we hosted Mr. Michael Miller and Dr. Ann Braaten from North Dakota. They spoke on the topics of Germans from Russia and Traditional Textiles for two consecutive evenings at the Regina German Club. These two evenings were very informative and well attended.*

a meal followed by a visit from St. Nikolaus. Gifts were handed out and patrons were seen toasting the season in a festive mood. With the new year starting the club is setting up for all of our 2025 events. Our club's Annual General Meeting is set for March 15th at 2pm in our lounge. We invite all Shareholders and Members to attend and hear how the club has been doing over the last year. There is room on the Board of Directors, so if you want to join in on steering the club over the year let your name stand for election. It would be nice to have a many people in attendance to discuss the business of the club.

The club is planning our yearly Spargelfest to be held on April 11th & 12th. We are continuing with our Friday and Saturday night format. People can buy tickets to the night of their choice, though only 50 tickets are available each night. Tickets should be available in April; contact the club for some before they all get snapped up. The menu for the event will be posted on our Instagram and Facebook page as well as our Website once it has been set. This event is always popular so get your tickets early.

Our 5th Annual Sommerwende, June 20th and 21st, has had a committee formed and planning has started. We will welcome the Summer with a full day of activities culminating in music, dan-

At our February meeting we committed to invite another guest speaker for an evening event in early September. The speaker who is from Alton, Saskatchewan is affiliated with the Lincoln, Nebraska chapter of the Volga Germans. This is still in the planning stage but we look forward to finalizing the details. This past January with the closing of Trinity Lutheran Church our group needed to relocate to a new home. We were sad to leave Trinity but we were fortunate to find room at the Regina German Club for our library. We made the move with members helping to pack and then set up in the new location. We will now also hold our monthly meetings at the German Club. This is very handy in that we can patronize the lower hall for a good meal when our meetings are finished. A little irony is that the German Club initially was our headquarters



Nikolaus is visiting

cing, food, and drink. With two days of activities there should be ample opportunities to celebrate the sun and summer months in style. Stay tuned to our social media to see what we are planning for this weekend of celebration

The club is open for lunches and suppers Tuesday to Friday. Menus are posted Tuesday weekly. Lunch has a sit down and take out option. Supper is available for sit down Thursdays and takeout the other three days. Make sure you check out our website (www.reginagermanclub.ca) for details regarding future activities happening at the club.

back in the 1980's but we had to move once our library became too large. With a little work we were able to refit one of the cloakrooms for our library materials and have moved in! On a note of interest, the German Club is celebrating its 70 Anniversary in September 2025 and we look forward to being part of that celebration. Stay tuned.

*Our group is currently working with the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC) to have both presentations of Mr. Miller and Dr. Bratton placed on their website for viewing. To follow us on Facebook go to Regina & District Chapter of AHSGR

AFTER THE WINTER

German Language School Saskatoon — Kathleen Schroeder-Brass

The winter break is just around the corner and after that, not much left of February. As funny as it sounds, but our adult classes are way into the second portion of the school year already. Their classes will wind down after the Easter Break toward mid May. All three adult classes have been running smooth thanks to our teachers Josephin, Theresa and Isabel.

Our High School students started the second semester at the end of January after writing midterms and receiving a half year report card. They all do well or even above that, and the only struggle most of them have is to get the homework done! The homework though, as much as it doesn't seem to be important nowadays anymore, is a supportive way for the students to review, repeat and practise what they have been learning and working on.

We hope to have enough interest from the German Exchange Program students this year again to get started with us in a 10-week Intro Course in spring. This course would take place online and people who want to freshen up their German for basic conversations throughout typical life situations, or want to travel too, are welcome to join the class.

We would love to open up classrooms again to strengthen our program, but we continue to have trouble finding German speaking teaching staff or loose the ones interested to unforeseen circumstances.

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.



NEW YEAR, NEW CLASSES FOR KOCHLÖFFEL

Kochlöffel & Nudelholz - Franziska Davies-Perret

We're already a month into 2025 and I'm wondering where the time went!

A new season of cooking classes started and with that we've also seen an increase in new participants so we're thinking of holding two cooking classes a month to accommodate everyone! It's always gratifying to see that the classes continue to be relevant and enjoyed by so many. I hope my excitement and love of sharing recipes, sitting down together, creating a safe space and chatting about various food-related

items comes across in my classes. I always seem to learn something new from the participants that come, and I hope they can learn something from me. Over the years participants have become good friends, and I hope that continues!

But for now, back to food... for January's cooking class the participants made a delicious tasting chicken in a creamy sauce with a break dumpling bundt pan and a dessert. February is all about schnitzel, and recipes for March, April and May have already been picked out. Now it's just time to recipe test them and make edits. Then we'll take a break for the summer and see what can be planted in the garden to store or pickle again for the winter, I'm hoping the opportunity arises for some vegetables and fruits from the garden to be used in the cooking classes. There's something quite exciting about growing your own produce and using it in your kitchen... It also helps with the grocery bill.

For our November cooking class, we were joined by Kevin Power from the SaskScapes Podcast series for its 116th episode. Kevin was able to see what a cooking class is like, join in a little bit and chat with the participants about why they come. If you're interested in listening, our podcast and

many others can be found on the SGC website!

If you feel like becoming part of our little cooking class community, send me an email at kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com or if you have questions about a German recipe or where you can find German ingredients, I'll do my best to answer your questions.

Until next time, happy cooking!



© privat (3) **January Cooking Class - Knödel in a Bundt Pan**



November Cooking Class - Rotkohl Tarte

NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

IS IT SPRING YET!

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers - Brenda Booker

Since we last touched base, we have finished our Oktoberfest season, followed by the immediate addition of 2 new Dancers. Welcome to Orion & Emberly!



Sharing Pizza & Fun at our annual Christmas Party.

We quickly moved into practicing a few Dances that we had saved for our Christmas performances. This year we were fortunate to have two back-to-back Christmas Performances scheduled at Senior Homes. However, this quickly turned to disappointment when one of those 'good old Saskatchewan blizzards' hit and we ended up having to cancel them both. We look forward to rescheduling them in the near future.

FRIENDS FROM AUSTRIA

Austrian Club of Regina - Nichole Hallemann

First off, we the Austrian Club of Regina would like to take a moment to congratulate the Sask. German council on 40 years of supporting German, Austrian and Swiss Culture in our Province. We sincerely appreciate all the support you have given us over the past 40 years. Our club held their AGM in January and we would like to introduce our new board of directors.

Rhonda Mailander – President
Gary Zankl – Vice President
Karla Zankl – Treasurer
Deb Hubenig – Secretary
Randy Hallemann – Mosaic Chair
Cory Schaffer – Events
Lois Shoulak – Sponsorship
Travis Boehme – Membership
Nichole Hallemann – Social Media



Here are some of our "6 under 6"

Thank goodness the weather held up for the Christkindl Markt. We had a great time visiting with everyone that stopped by & thank all who supported us, by purchasing one of our Baking Boxes. We ended 2024 with another great turn out for our annual Christmas Party. It was nice seeing families enjoying each other's company, sharing some pizza, making a few crafts or participating in a rousing game of charades. When we returned to practice in January, we again had 2 new Dancers join us. Welcome to Evelyn & Elaina! The demographics of our Dance group has changed quite a bit over this last year. We now have 6 Dancers that are under 6 years of age. Wow, that has been interesting and a whole

lot of fun. We have introduced a staggered start and end time format, to our practices, so that we can better focus on each age group. Having 16 Dancers ranging in age from 3-15 is a bit challenging, however, such a nice spot to be in. It gives us the opportunity to do a wider variety of Dances, which we are very grateful for.

Last weekend we spent a lovely Sunday afternoon at the Western Development Museum for their annual Heritage Festival. With having our last two performances, in 2024, cancelled due to weather, it was nice to have a performance set on both stages. Our Dancers did a great job both performing and hanging out at the CJAD activity table. Although it doesn't feel like Spring yet, we have already started our planning for 'CJAD's 4th Annual Maifest'. Join us in 'Welcoming Spring' at the Western Development Museum on Sunday, May 4th. Free admission to an afternoon of musical and dance entertainment. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Of course none of what we do, all year long, would be possible without the ongoing support of our funders, GCCC, SGC, Sask Culture and Sask Lotteries.



Friends hanging out

As we welcome a new board, we say thank you to outgoing President D'arcy Schenk for all your time and commitment over the past years. December brought members together to celebrate Christmas at our annual member Christmas party held at Lab 1421 in Regina, a fun time was had by all. In February we hosted our first

card night of the year. 11 people braved the elements and joined us for a fun evening learning Schnapsen and Cribbage the Board Game. Our next card night will take place March 7th. The coming months we will be busy preparing for Mosaic (Regina's Cultural celebration) which will take place June 5,6 and 7th. If you are a planner and looking for a great fall meal, mark your calendars, we will be hosting our Annual Schnitzel Supper at the German Club Regina (Members supporting Members) on October 25th. For more info and ticket pricing please contact the austrianclubregina@gmail.com.

With the new year comes membership renewal. If you are interested in a membership to The Austrian Club Regina, please contact the austrianclubregina@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome.

NOT A QUIET WINTER

Das Schulhaus - Ramona Furkert



After a short but wonderful holiday break, all of our students were eager to get back to class and continue their learning. Over the holidays, Das Schulhaus was busy at the annual Christkindlmarkt, selling handcrafted Christmas ornaments, candles and wreaths, and authentic Lebkuchen and Glühwein spice kits. This event, put on by the Regina German Club, is always well attended and we were delighted to be part of the festivities once again. Many new and familiar faces stopped by to say hello, purchase gifts and learn more about our school.

Our youth students also had a special visitor stop by over the holidays. Nikolaus came by the school to drop off some goodies for every student. As we start our new semester, we also welcome back our adult students and are pleased to be offering a full complement of adult classes,



Handcrafted wreath

The friendly crew at Christkindlmarkt

including Beginner 1 & 2, Intermediate 1 & 2, and Advanced.

We also continue to provide individualized personal instruction and supports to students with specific interests. This semester we were pleased to work with Trixie Akpedonu, who is working on a project that requires exploration of old German texts. Having no prior German language experience, Trixie reached out to Das Schulhaus and was matched with one of our instructors who worked with her to review the materials, explain words and language choices, provide context, and offer additional advice on what to consider when working with these texts. This type of individual instruction was imperative to the project, as only an actual conversation with



Nikolaus was here



Selling cookies

someone knowledgeable about the language could provide a level of detail and background that online translation services simply could not.

Within a few meetings Trixie was able to produce a final version of that portion of the project. Our instructor was delighted to be able to help, and indicated that she, too, found the experience to be mutually beneficial and enlightening. Our instructor was also inspired to consider new projects for her other classes, which promoted an inter-cultural sharing of experiences.

Thank you, Trixie, for trusting us to help. We wish you all the best as you complete your project!

As we move into spring, we look forward to many upcoming cultural events and activities. If you are in the Regina area, please join us for our monthly all-levels German speaking club, Deutschtreff, which meets on the third Friday of each month. For more information on upcoming events, and to learn more about Das Schulhaus, please visit us at www.dasschulhaus.org

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Austrian Hunting and Fishing Club, Regina

Austrian Canadian Edelweiss Club, Regina

Austrian Edelweiss Dance Association, Regina

Community Radio Society of Saskatoon Inc.

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers

Concordia Brass Band

Das Schulhaus - Regina German Language School Inc.

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