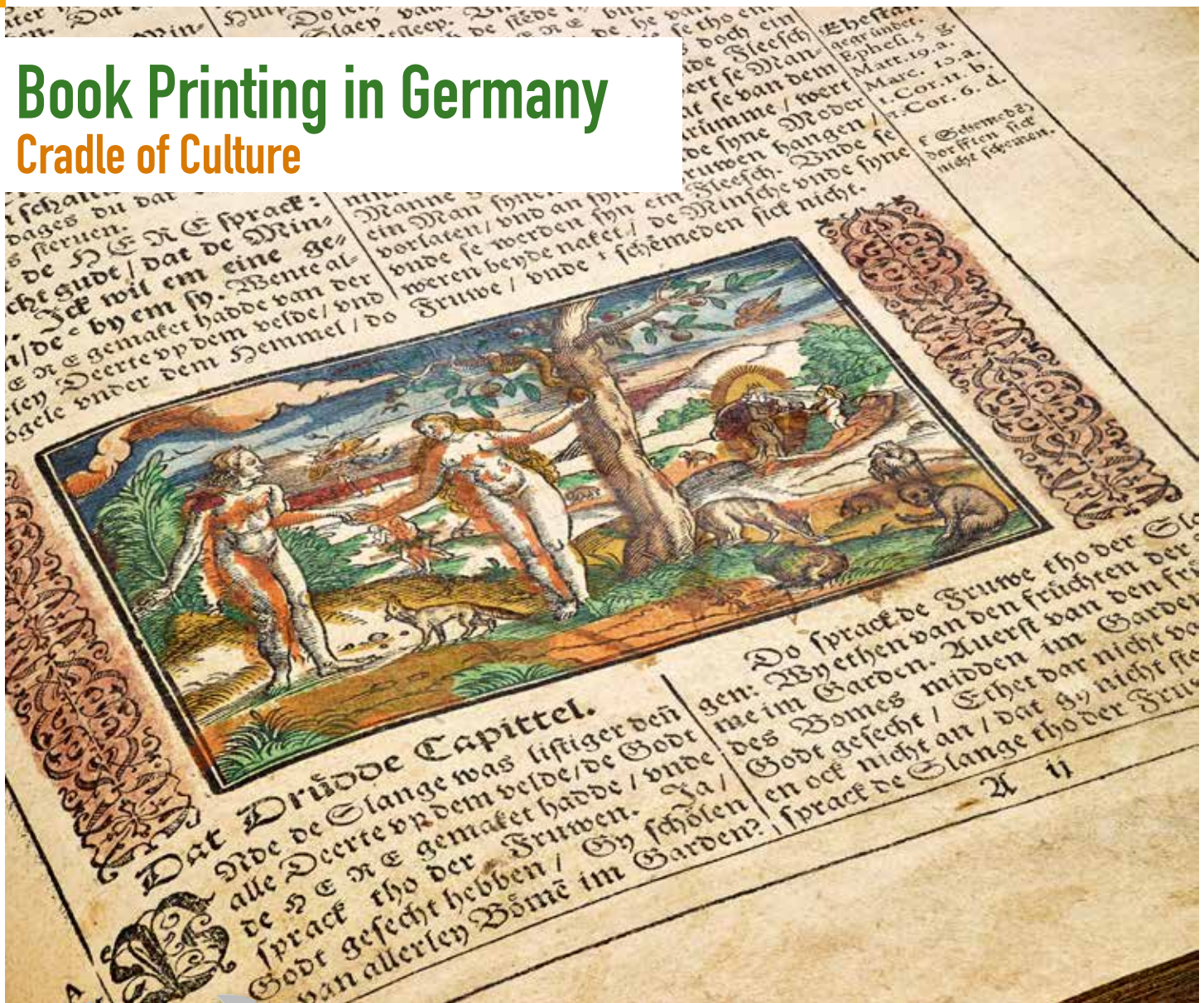


# POSTILLION

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

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## Book Printing in Germany Cradle of Culture



*Spring 2026*  
Featuring: Immigration Story

• Die Häschenschule • SGC Activities • News from the SGC Members



German-Ukrainian Easter egg art: finely decorated pysanky as a sign of living tradition. The red color represents the blood of Christ.

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## IN THIS ISSUE IN DIESER AUSGABE

GERALD FREYER, EDITOR

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

mit dem Frühling beginnt eine Zeit des Aufbruchs – auch in unserer Gemeinschaft. Diese Ausgabe des Postillion nimmt Sie mit auf eine Reise durch Geschichte, Kultur und gelebte Tradition. Von den Ursprüngen des Buchdrucks in Deutschland bis hin zu bewegenden Einwanderungsgeschichten spannt sich ein Bogen.

Gleichzeitig blicken wir auf ein aktives Vereinsleben mit zahlreichen Veranstaltungen, Begegnungen und Initiativen, die unsere deutsch-kanadische Gemeinschaft in Saskatchewan lebendig halten.

Genießen Sie die Lektüre, lassen Sie sich inspirieren und entdecken Sie die Vielfalt unserer gemeinsamen Kultur!

Gerald Freyer

Dear Readers,

With the arrival of spring comes a sense of renewal—also within our community. This issue of the Postillion takes you on a journey through history, culture, and living traditions. From the origins of book printing in Germany to moving immigration stories, it draws a line that shows how closely the past and present are connected.

At the same time, we look at a vibrant community life filled with events, encounters, and initiatives that keep our German-Canadian community in Saskatchewan alive. Whether through culture, language, music, or cuisine, there are many ways to stay connected and carry our traditions forward.

Enjoy the read, feel inspired, and discover the richness of our shared culture!

Gerald Freyer

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT GRÜSSE VON DER PRÄSIDENTIN

ANDREA MACLEOD

Dear Reader,

Even though we are already several months into 2026, I'd like to welcome you to this new year and hope it will bring you many blessings.

Winter in Saskatchewan is always an adventure, you never know how cold it will be or how much snow you will get. And then the weather throws you a fake spring curveball in February.

But February is also the start of Carnival, maybe you had the chance to attend an event. It's also the month for the Heritage Festival in Saskatoon. The SGC, amongst others, had a booth and visitors could learn about Germany, and Germans in Saskatchewan.

In March, the SGC is hosting a Culture in the Kitchen event for children, where they will learn all about steamed dumplings (Dampfnudeln).

Spring means practices are happening on a weekly basis, be it choir, dance, or Skat, there is something for everyone. It also means events are happening, such a Spargelfest, or Spring concerts.



© Gerald Freyer (2)

Check out our event calendar and you are sure to not miss anything. Our monthly newsletter and our social media will keep you informed as well.

I wish you a wonderful spring.

Andrea MacLeod  
President

Lieber Leser,

Auch wenn wir schon einige Monate im Jahr 2026 sind, möchte ich Sie herzlich im neuen Jahr willkommen heißen und hoffe, dass es ein gutes Jahr für sie wird.

Der Winter in Saskatchewan ist immer ein Abenteuer; man weiß nie, wie kalt es wird oder wie viel Schnee fällt. Und dann überrascht uns das Wetter im Februar mit einem vermeintlichen Frühlingsgefühl.

Aber im Februar beginnt auch der Karneval; vielleicht hatten Sie ja die Gelegenheit, an einer Veranstaltung teilzunehmen. Außerdem fand in diesem Monat das Heritage Festival in Saskatoon statt. Unter anderem war der SGC mit einem Stand vertreten, an dem Besucher mehr über Deutschland und die deutsche Bevölkerung in Saskatchewan erfahren konnten.

Im März veranstaltet der SGC ein „Kultur in der Küche“-Event für Kinder, bei dem sie alles über Dampfnudeln lernen.

Der Frühling bedeutet, dass wöchentlich Proben stattfinden – ob Chor, Tanz oder Skat, es ist für jeden etwas dabei. Außerdem finden Veranstaltungen wie das Spargelfest oder Frühlingskonzerte statt.

Schauen Sie in unseren Veranstaltungskalender, damit Sie nichts verpassen. Unser monatlicher Newsletter und unsere Social-Media-Kanäle halten Sie ebenfalls auf dem Laufenden.

Ich wünsche Ihnen einen wunderschönen Frühling.

Andrea MacLeod  
Präsidentin



# Ink and Innovation

The Cultural History of German Printing  
Gerald Freyer



Few cultural artifacts have shaped humanity as profoundly as the book. For centuries it has served as a repository of knowledge, an instrument of power, a status symbol, and a catalyst for social change. From the quiet scriptoria of medieval monasteries to the mass-market paperbacks of the twentieth century, the history of the book is a story of technology, education, and cultural transformation. Nowhere was this development more consequential than in the German-speaking world, where the printing revolution in Mainz gave the book global historical significance.

Long before books were produced in large numbers, the written word was rare and precious. In the early Middle Ages, the preservation of knowledge lay almost entirely in the hands of monasteries. Between the 8th and 12th centuries, Benedictine, Cistercian, and Augustinian scriptoria produced thousands of manuscripts. Monks copied Bibles, classical texts, and administrative documents with remarkable patience and precision.

Among the most important centers was the Abbey Library of St. Gall. The famous ninth-century monastic plan already included a dedicated writing house—early evidence of the institutional importance of book production. The monastery of Reichenau on Lake Constance likewise developed into a European center of manuscript illumination. The Gospel books produced there, with their gold grounds and purple pages, rank among the most precious survivals of medieval book art.

Books were so valuable that libraries often chained them to reading desks. These so-called chained libraries made visible the immense material and intellectual value of the book. Whoever possessed books possessed education—and therefore power.

A decisive step in the history of the book was the spread of paper in the High Middle Ages. The technology arrived in Europe via the Arab world and gained increasing traction from the 13th century onward. Paper was far cheaper

**An extraordinary German book collection is preserved at Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Saskatchewan.**

than parchment and for the first time enabled broader manuscript production.

Cities such as Nuremberg, Augsburg, and Basel became major centers of papermaking. The material preconditions were now in place for what would become the most consequential media revolution in European history. Around 1450, the decisive breakthrough occurred in Mainz. Johannes Gutenberg developed printing with movable metal type—an invention that would fundamentally transform the dissemination of knowledge.

The 42-line Gutenberg Bible, produced around 1454–55, remains a masterpiece of early typography. It combines the aesthetic of manuscript culture with the reproducibility of print and marks the transition from the handwritten book to industrial multiplication. Gutenberg's achieve-

# GERMAN BOOKPRINTING



**A page from the original Gutenberg Bible – book art at its finest.**

ment did not rest on a single invention but on the interaction of several innovations: movable metal type, oil-based ink, a precise hand-mould, and a powerful screw press. Only this integrated system made knowledge scalable—and therefore democratizable. Within just a few decades, printing spread across Europe. Between 1450 and 1500 more than 250 printing centers emerged. Historians refer to this era as the age of incunabula—the “cradle prints” of typography.

With the new technology, individual books gained enormous social impact. In the German-speaking world in particular, works appeared that shaped law, worldview, and intellectual life for centuries. A prominent example is the *\*Sachsenspiegel\**, written around 1220–1235 by Eike von Repgow and widely printed after Gutenberg. The work was revolutionary because it presented legal norms systematically in the German vernacular, making law accessible to a broader public. In parts of Central Europe it remained a practical legal authority well into the 16th century.

A darker counterpart is the *\*Malleus Maleficarum\** (*\*Hammer of Witches\**), published in 1486 by Heinrich Kramer. Thanks to print, the work spread rapidly across Europe and provided a seemingly scholarly foundation for the witch persecutions of the early modern period. It demonstrates vividly that the media revolution

accelerated not only enlightenment but also ideology. Among the most magnificent incunabula is the *\*Nuremberg Chronicle\** of 1493, edited by Hartmann Schedel. Combining world history, geography, and hundreds of woodcuts in a monumental volume, it became a bestseller of its time. The richly detailed city views in particular embodied a new ambition of print: not merely to preserve knowledge but to visualize it.

The explosive social power of printing became especially evident during the Reformation. Martin Luther used the new technology like no one before him. His writings spread at unprecedented speed; between 1517 and 1525, hundreds of thousands of copies circulated. Few works shaped German book culture more profoundly than the Bible. Its translation into the vernacular and mass dissemination transformed not only religious practice but also language, education, and reading habits throughout the German-speaking world.

The decisive turning point came with the Luther Bible. During his stay at Wartburg Castle in 1521–22, Luther began translating the New Testament into German; the complete Bible appeared in 1534. His goal was both religious and linguistic: Scripture should be translated “for the people,” in language that was clear, resonant, and close to everyday speech.

The success was overwhelming. Thanks to print, the Luther Bible appeared in numerous editions and became the most widely read book of the early modern German world. Its influence on the development of New High German can hardly be overstated. Many phrases, rhythms, and word formations still in use today trace directly back to Luther’s linguistic creativity.

At the same time, the vernacular Bible transformed reading practice itself. For the first time, private domestic reading of religious texts became widespread. In Protestant regions, the family Bible soon became a household staple. The book had finally moved from the exclusive domain of monasteries into the personal possession of broad segments of society.

Regional Bible editions also emerged alongside the major centers. A notable example is the Barther Bible, printed in Barth, Mecklenburg, in the early 17th century. It exemplifies the spread of Lutheran book culture in northern Germany

and the close ties between printing, confessional identity, and territorial politics.

For centuries the Bible remained the most printed book in the German-speaking world. It drove innovation in printing, stabilized publishing programs, and shaped the reading biographies of generations. Even in the age of mass journalism, the novel boom, and the paperback, it retained its special status.

In the 19th and especially the early 20th century, the book underwent a second profound transformation: its full social democratization. While Gutenberg had created the technical foundation for reproduction, only industrialization, cheaper wood-pulp paper, steam-powered presses, improved transport networks, and rapidly rising literacy turned the book into a true mass medium.

With the expansion of compulsory education in the German Empire after 1871, a new reading public emerged—workers, clerks, housewives, and young people. The book market responded quickly and diversely. Alongside scholarly works and classical literature, a wide range of popular formats appeared.

Particularly influential was so-called popular and entertainment literature, produced in enormous print runs. Writers such as Hedwig Courths-Mahler became mass phenomena. Their romance and society novels—often serialized and later reissued in inexpensive editions—reached millions of readers across the German-speaking world. These stories offered emotional identification, escapism, and social mobility fantasies—needs that grew rapidly in an industrializing society.

Series such as the *\*Gartenlaube\** Library and Reclam’s Universal Library likewise played a major role. Reclam’s inexpensive yellow booklets achieved one of the most lasting democratizing effects in book history: classics of world literature became available for just a few pfennigs and entered schools, workers’ households, and educational societies.

At the same time, more demanding popular educational literature flourished. A prime example is *\*Westermanns Monatshefte\**, founded in 1856 in Braunschweig. Richly illustrated, the magazine combined literature, science, travel writing, and current affairs in a format highly attractive to the educated middle class. A special place in early

# GERMAN BOOKPRINTING



**Nuremberg Chronicle from 1493, view of Bamberg, colored, German Version.**

20th-century German book culture belongs to the Insel series of Leipzig's Insel Verlag. Founded in 1912, the Insel Library pursued an ambitious and highly successful concept: offering high-quality literature in carefully designed typographic form at an affordable price.

For the first time on a large scale, mass distribution and book art were successfully combined. While many inexpensive series focused primarily on low production costs, Insel emphasized paper quality, typography, binding design, and series aesthetics. The distinctive patterned boards quickly became a hallmark.



**Lead type for printing on an 1880 platen press**

Leipzig—then one of Europe's most important book-trade centers—provided ideal conditions. The Insel volumes made classical and modern literature accessible to a broad middle-class audience without sacrificing design quality. The next major revolution came in the 20th century with the paperback. In 1935, Penguin Books in Britain introduced high-quality literature at prices affordable to the general public. In Germany, postwar series such as Rowohlt's Rotationsromane and especially the dtv line (founded in 1961) followed. The paperback made books mobile, affordable, and ubiquitous. Millions of people could now build personal libraries. A development that had begun in the monastic scriptorium had reached its culmination: the democratization of knowledge. The spread of printing in the German-speaking world was initially accompanied by blackletter typefaces. Schwabacher dominated early on, followed in the 16th century by Fraktur, which remained the defining German book type for centuries. Industrialization in the 19th century brought new typographic demands. A turning point came in 1898 with the release of Akzidenz-Grotesk by the Berlin type foundry Berthold. Its functional clarity laid the foundation for modern sans-serif design and influenced later typefaces such as Helvetica and Univers. The modernist movement reached a peak in the 1920s with Paul Renner's Futura (1927), embodying the ideals of the New Typography: reduction, precision, and functional beauty. Parallel to avant-garde design, Germany also developed highly influential standardized lettering systems, most notably DIN 1451. The later transition from hot metal to phototypesetting, desktop publishing, and digital fonts again transformed production. Designers such as Adrian Frutiger, Hermann Zapf, and Erik Spiekermann

played major roles in adapting classical typography to the digital age. For archives, museums, and cultural institutions—including increasingly digital environments such as those in Saskatchewan—typography remains both a practical tool and a component of cultural heritage. The choice of typeface can reveal—or intentionally disrupt—historical context. Today, anyone who opens a book—whether a precious incunabulum or a worn paperback—holds a piece of human history. Printed in ink on paper, yet sustained by an idea that has remained constant for centuries: to preserve knowledge, to spread it, and to pass it on.



**A page from the Sachsenspiegel (1230) that regulates the election of the German emperor.**



# Rolling Calendar

## SPRING 2026

### **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 13 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ SASKATOON**

Join Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for their April Cooking Class in Saskatoon and learn how to make noodles with chicken and cranberry cream, lentil salad, and a cherry pudding cake with 2 types of streusel for dessert.

### **April 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.



### **April 17/18 REGINA GERMAN CLUB**

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

### **April 19 GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON**

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

### **May 3 CONCORDIA JUNIOR ALPENROSE DANCERS**

Join the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers and the German Canadian Club Concordia for their Maifest at the WDM in Saskatoon.



### **May 4 KOCHLÖFFEL & NUDELHOLZ SASKATOON**

Join Kochlöffel & Nudelholz for their May Cooking Class in Saskatoon and learn how to make prosciutto egg sandwiches, green salad with honeyed mushrooms and a German butter cake for dessert.

### **May 15 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 24 GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL SASKATOON**

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

### **May 30 AHSGR**

Join the Regina & District Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia at the Regina German Club for their presentation by Wayne Garman "Germans from Russia Immigration from the United States Midwest to the Canadian Prairies."



Please keep an eye on SGC's website for regular event updates during the summer mon



## Across Continents and Conflict: The Remarkable Story of Andy and Ida Grzesina

Andy Grzesina and Ida Lipp met in Regina. Each saw a future in the other, and they married in Regina in August 1965. Their paths may have crossed in Regina, but their paths from Europe to Saskatchewan were parallel. Both families had endured and survived the displacements caused by the turmoil of World War II. Both families ultimately left Germany for Saskatchewan. Andy was born in 1937 in Czernowitz, Romania, the youngest of four children. (Today Chernivtsi is in Ukraine.) His father, Franz Grzesina, was born in 1902 in Bielits (now in Poland). Andy's mother, Theresa nee Jungfer, was born in Romania. Both parents grew up speaking German, although Franz was fluent in several languages. In Czernowitz they manufactured a variety of brushes which they sold through a small storefront. Franz also traveled the countryside selling their brushes. He was most proud of his shaving brushes which were made from selected hairs of a horse's tail. They lived a comfortable life until the terms of the now-infamous 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Germany and Russia forced them to leave. One of the terms of this treaty allowed Russia to annex parts of Romania (Bessarabia and northern Bukovina). Rather than become Russian citizens, the Grzesinas agreed,

along with many of the other Germans in the area, to be re-located to Poland, initially to a refugee camp at Bad Reinerz (Lower Silesia).

Andy started school in Teschen (Cieszyn), Poland right on the border with Czechia (Czechoslovakia at the time). This area was known as Upper Silesia. Always entrepreneurs, his parents next managed a fine china and crystal shop.

In 1943, Andy's father was recruited into the Germany army. Captured by the American Army, Franz Grzesina was handed over to the Russians, as per terms of the Yalta Agreement. Initially sent to a Russian labour camp, he was later released to Romania. Franz had no idea where his family was. In 1952, with the help of the German Red Cross, he found his wife and children alive and well, living in Waldsassen, Germany, a small town on the Czech border. They had been separated for almost ten years.

In 1945, German Wehrmacht recruiters took Andy's older brother, age 17, right out of his high school classroom. He was subsequently captured by British forces and later worked as a translator in British POW camps because he had

**left to right: Therese Grzesina (nee: Jungfer), Franz Grzesina, Maria Grzesina, Helene Grzesina, Franz Grzesina, Andreas Grzesina**

learned English in school. As the Russian army pressed from the east in early 1945, Mrs. Grzesina was not able to flee with the rest of the refugees. After bringing the three younger children to Waldsassen, she had to return to Teschen by military order and so she left the children with an acquaintance in Waldsassen, which thankfully was located in the American Zone of Occupation. After escaping Russian confinement, she was able to join her children several months later.

In 1952, Andy was able to start an apprenticeship in business management and accounting with Glassfabrik Lamberts. The firm manufactured stained-glass for windows, in high demand after the war because of all the bombing damage. Andy completed this apprenticeship three years later, shortly before emigrating from Germany with his mother and two siblings. After re-connecting with his family in 1952, Franz Grzesina also re-connected with a boyhood friend from Romania, who had immigrated to

## IMMIGRATION STORY

Canada after the war. Now living in Regina, this friend recommended that Franz do the same, and in 1954, he found a sponsorship for Franz to come to Saskatchewan. The next year, Franz arranged for his wife and the three younger children to join him in Regina. (The eldest son had already married and remained in Germany.) As with all immigrants, the early years were difficult, but there were always jobs. Franz worked for Imperial Oil, cleaning out oil tanks, then at a now-defunct auto-assembly plant in Regina, and later as a janitor in schools and churches. The lack of good jobs in Germany was a prime motivator for many Germans to move to Canada after the war. Andy remembers well the steamship journey from Bremerhaven to Halifax as an enjoyable experience. Andy recalls that he missed the many friends he had made in Germany, especially several whom he met through the Boy Scouts program.

Besides the challenges of learning a new language, the Grzesinas in Saskatchewan missed their family and relatives living in Germany and they complained only about the climate. But Andy says his father never once talked about missing "home". He was content to live in a country which valued peace. Franz and Theresa did manage to return twice to Germany, this time by air, to visit relatives, before he died in 1981. His older brother who had remained in Germany died there in 2020.

Andrew Grzesina arrived in Regina in 1955 ready to start a new life. With only a limited knowledge of English, he was lucky enough to start work within a day as a bus-boy and waiter in the Hotel Saskatchewan. Between lunch and dinner shifts, he often went to the old Roxy Theatre where he watched the same movies over and over as a way to improve his English. He broadened his "Canadian experience" by working in a lumber camp on Vancouver Island before getting a job on a freighter hauling goods from Vancouver to many ports up the western coast. Returning to Regina, his accounting training in Germany led to jobs with Silverwood Dairies and Sears. He began taking night classes in order to gain entrance to the University in Regina, eventually earning Bachelor of Arts and Education degrees. Andy taught for 30 years, seventeen of which he served as a Principal, in several Regina Catholic Schools.

Although Andy had no way of knowing, his future wife was already living in Regina when he

arrived in 1955. Ida Lipp was born in the small German Catholic village of Alexanderdorf, called Alexandrowka by the Russians, very close (about 30 km) to the city of Kherson, Ukraine. It was 1941, a full twenty years after the Bolshevik Revolution had confiscated all private property and forced people to work for the State. Before 1917, the Lipps and Thaubergers had been successful farmers. Ida's parents never forgot the hunger years of 1932-1933, narrowly avoiding

starvation. Betrayed by an informant in 1934, Ida's father was sentenced to a Gulag or slave-labor logging camp on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the far, far East of Russia, approx. 10,000 kilometres from Kherson. His crime was that he belonged to the former land-owning class of farmers opposed to collectivization. Both of Ida's Grandfathers were sentenced to the Gulag later in 1937 during the so-called Great Purge, and both died somewhere in Siberia. By 1941,

### THE SYSTEM GULAG



The system of Soviet forced labor camps, commonly known as the Gulag, was one of the most extensive and brutal instruments of repression in the 20th century. Emerging in the years following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and expanding significantly under Joseph Stalin in the 1930s, the Gulag became a vast network of camps spread across the Soviet Union, from the forests of Siberia to the Arctic tundra. Administered by the state security apparatus, the camps held millions of prisoners, including political dissidents, intellectuals, peasants accused of resisting collectivization, and ordinary citizens caught in the machinery of suspicion and denunciation.

The term "Gulag" is an acronym for the Russian Glavnoye Upravleniye Lagerey (Main Camp Administration), reflecting the bureaucratic nature of the system. Yet behind this administrative label lay a reality of harsh living conditions, forced labor, and widespread suffering. Prisoners were assigned to grueling tasks such as mining, logging, and large-scale infrastructure projects, including canals and railways. Food was scarce, shelter inadequate, and medical care minimal. Survival often depended on

meeting work quotas, creating a cycle in which exhaustion and malnutrition led to further punishment. The Gulag system played a central role in Stalin's policies of rapid industrialization and political control. It provided a vast pool of cheap labor while simultaneously instilling fear throughout Soviet society. Arrests were frequently arbitrary, especially during the Great Purge of the late 1930s, when hundreds of thousands were imprisoned or executed. Families were often left without information about the fate of their relatives, contributing to an atmosphere of uncertainty and silence.

The Gulag began to decline after Stalin's death in 1953, with many prisoners released during the subsequent period of de-Stalinization. However, its legacy endured, leaving deep scars on Soviet society and shaping historical memory. Today, the Gulag stands as a powerful reminder of the consequences of totalitarian rule and the resilience of those who endured it.

## IMMIGRATION STORY

Ida's parents were working on the local collective, her mother milking cows and working in the fields and gardens. Ida's father, a handyman all his life, repaired and maintained the collective's machinery. For a while he also worked as a translator at the Post Office in Kherson. While Russian was the official language outside of the home, the Lipps always spoke German at home. Johann Lipp and Agnes Thauberger had married in a civil service in Klosterdorf in 1937. Ida was born just a few months after the German army invaded Russia, and occupied the region of Ukraine where Ida's family lived. German occupation in 1941 removed many of the restrictions of the Soviet regime, allowing a return to a more normal life. Once again, they could speak German in public; the schools could teach in the German language again. The people could re-open and attend their churches again. Hundreds of marriages and baptisms were formally consecrated. They could sell their own farm and garden produce again. But the revived freedoms were short-lived. By the fall of 1943, Russia's Red Army was re-taking territory occupied by the Wehrmacht. The German Army began to retreat, ordering all ethnic Germans to evacuate. Long caravans of horses, wagons, and people on foot made their way over several months to German-held territory in Poland, Austria and Czechoslo-

vakia. The Lipp family was directed to a refugee camp in Ausspitz, Czechoslovakia near the Austrian border. Ida's younger sister was born here in December 1944, in the middle of an air-raid! Ida's father Johann worked for farmers in the area, but by January of 1945, with the Red Army pressing from the east, millions of refugees began to flee towards the west. The Lipp family lived on the run, continually moving to avoid the Russian military police who sought out former citizens of the Soviet Union. When asked, the parents insisted they were Czech citizens. Eventually they arrived in the British Zone of Allied-occupied Germany and lived in a series of small towns near Hannover (Bennigsen, Lüdersen, Hüpede). Not everyone was so fortunate. Ida's Aunt Maria, her mother's sister, was caught in the Russian Zone and shipped east into Siberian Russia. Ida's parents worked for farmers, trading their labors for food and shelter. Johann's mechanical skills were a major asset, but many farmers did not want to accommodate a family of six which included very small children.

Slowly the realization set in for Johann and Agnes Lipp that they were never going to get ahead in post-war Germany. Jobs, at least good jobs with a future, were very scarce. They were barely surviving, and they could only see a life

of poverty ahead. What kind of future would their children have? Agnes' Uncle Gustav Thauberger had immigrated as a young single man to Saskatchewan in 1911. By 1948, he was established enough to sponsor two Thauberger brothers to emigrate from post-war Germany to Saskatchewan. Favorable reports convinced the Lipp family to make the same move in 1952, again sponsored by family members in Regina who had preceded them. The Lipp family left the port of Bremerhaven and arrived in Quebec City in May. By 1956, all but one of Agnes' eight siblings, as well as her mother, had immigrated to Regina, Saskatchewan, an amazing story in its own right. (Agnes' sister Maria eventually was allowed to immigrate to Canada in the late 1970s.) Everyone worked hard, and they helped each other. Gradually, each family had its own home. Starting over again was not something new for these displaced Germans from Russia. An important priority for the Lipp parents was a good education for their children, something that would have been impossible in Germany at the time. John Lipp worked at various jobs around Regina. The unhealthy fumes while cleaning out oil tanks for Imperial Oil convinced him to look for another job. This eventually led to work as a steel erector for a firm which built steel-frame buildings and steel communication towers. He was a



1950. left to right: John Lipp, Ida Lipp, Agnes Lipp (nee: Thauberger), John Lipp, Hilde Lipp, Rudy Lipp

## IMMIGRATION STORY

hard worker, but he was away from home a lot. John and Agnes missed the fields of fruits and vegetables of their homeland, especially the fields of watermelons. John told his children about fishing in the Dnjepr (Dnieper) River. He wished he could have been a farmer in Saskatchewan, but the cost of starting a farm in the 1950s was already too much for him.

Ida says she quickly learned the English language by playing with her cousins, and she had no problems in school. She went on to become a nurse and a 40-year long career followed, including time in Public Health.

Andy Grzesina and Ida Lipp met at a Catholic Youth Group. Andy was already friends with one of Ida's cousins. They married in Regina in 1965. Three children followed. Both Andy and Ida have been active members of the German Club in Regina (German-Canadian Society Harmonie) for many years, and remain so today. They still sing in the Volksliederchor Harmonie in Regina. Andy also served as President of the Board of Directors for Saskatchewan German Council in the years 2004-2008. Andrew Grzesina passed away on November 10, 2023 in Regina.

Submitted by Mervin Weiss. Approved by Andy and Ida Grzesina. January 2022



**Ida's maternal grandparents: Johannes Thauberger married Maria Behr in 1910. Johannes was "verschleppt" in 1937, meaning he was arrested for (fictitious) counter-revolutionary activity and exiled to the Gulag system of labor camps in Siberia. He never returned. Maria emigrated to Saskatchewan in 1950.**

## NEW HOPE IN CANADA



Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, holds a unique place in Canadian history as the country's principal gateway for immigrants during the 20th century. Operating from 1928 to 1971, it welcomed nearly one million newcomers to Canada, along with thousands of war brides, refugees, and displaced persons following the Second World War. For many, Pier 21 was the first point of contact with a new life, a place filled with uncertainty, hope, and the promise of opportunity.

The experience at Pier 21 varied greatly. For some, it was a moment of relief after long and difficult journeys, particularly for refugees escaping war or persecution. For others, it marked the beginning of an uncertain future in an unfamiliar land. Language barriers, separation from family, and the challenge of adapting to a new culture were common experiences.

Today, Pier 21 is home to the Canadian Museum of Immigration, where personal stories, photographs, and artifacts preserve the memories of those who passed through its doors. It stands as a powerful reminder of Canada's immigrant heritage and the diverse origins of its people. Often compared to Ellis Island in the United States, Pier 21 remains a symbol of arrival, transition, and the enduring human search for a better future. More information: [www.pier21.ca](http://www.pier21.ca)



# News from SGC

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

## 2025 ADVENT CALENDAR

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



### Calendar Highlights

- Historic engines / modern alpine express trains
- Castles, monasteries, and storybook towns
- Lakes, rivers, and breathtaking landscapes
- Local gems from the heart of Saskatchewan

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who joined us in celebrating German traditions through this year's online Advent calendar. The project received an enthusiastic response, with 1,500 views, 755 quiz entries, and nearly 4,000 page visits and clicks. We extend our sincere gratitude to our prize sponsors—Gingerbread World, the German Consulate General Vancouver, Wheatland Express Excursion Train, and the Regina German Club—for their generous support and contributions.

### Congratulations to all our Advent Calendar 2025 prize winners!

- Michelle from Saskatoon, SK
- Connie from Chaplin, SK
- Rose from Regina, SK
- Amy from Churchbridge, SK
- Heike from Saskatoon, SK
- Shelley from Saskatoon, SK
- Sylvia from Lethbridge, AB
- The Fisher Family from Saskatoon, SK
- Christy from Neuanlage, SK

We hope you enjoy your prizes. Our next Advent Calendar launches on December 1.

Beginning on December 1, the public was invited to embark on a festive journey through landscapes shaped by rail and tradition. The 2025 SGC interactive Advent calendar showcased 24 scenic train rides stretching from the Alps to the Prairies—each one offering a glimpse into the beauty of German-speaking regions and the charm of Saskatchewan's own prairie vistas.

Each day revealed a new route complete with photos, fun facts, cultural highlights, interactive games, puzzles, and a short quiz for a daily chance to win prizes. Participants also discovered festive recipes, craft ideas, immigration stories, and podcast features that brought German traditions to life throughout the season.

### The 2025 SGC interactive Advent Calendar



TALK & ARTMAKING WITH AMY JO EHMAN AT REMAI MODERN

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



**Amy Jo talking about the exhibit "Der Kleiekotzer"**

On Sunday, February 1, the SGC in collaboration with Remai Modern, hosted a free talk with Amy Jo Ehman exploring themes of settlement, displacement, and lived histories, as well as a behind-the-scenes introduction of Althea Thauberger's exhibition at the Remai Modern, "Der Kleiekotzer" (The Bran Puker).

What is a Kleiekotzer? The Kleiekotzer or Bran Puker originates from the Upper Rhine region of Germany and is a mask with a big open mouth, which was a decorative feature of many grain mills. As the flour was ground from the grain, the coarser bran was ejected through the mouth of the bran puker, along with mischievous spirits as per common belief.

Althea Thauberger's exhibition „Der Kleiekotzer“ is a multimedia installation that focuses on the Treaty lands, provinces and communities of her upbringing. Drawing on the exhibition, Amy Jo Ehman, a cousin of the artist, talked about their ancestors who left Germany to settle in the Black Sea region of Ukraine, within the former Russian Empire, following an invitation of Tsar Alexander I, the Grandson of Catherine the Great around 1804.

When the Russian administration began to discriminate against the Germans, they left for North America and settled in the United States and the Canadian West by the 1890s, contributing significantly to the population and economy of the Canadian Prairies. Ehman pointed out that in those earlier years, about 25% of Saskatchewan's population identified as „German“.

Using her own family story, Amy Jo Ehman talked about the significance of wheat farming in Saskatchewan and looked at the broader question about the cultural inheritance of land in the prairies.

After the bison were brought near to extinction, First Nations were originally encouraged to take up farming. The government promised agricultural provisions as part of the treaties. For First Nations, those promises were not fulfilled; they also faced restrictions such as the requirement

of a permit to leave the reserve to sell agricultural products.

In sharp contrast, European settlers were promised large parcels of prairie land and support to build agricultural communities. The homestead process was simple and easy, and settlers quickly populated the prairie landscape as farming expanded rapidly.

In her talk, Ehman reflected on the inequalities of government practices and the advantages created for settlers by policies that restricted First Nations' agricultural success.

Following Amy Jo Ehman's talk, German-born artist Heike Fink led an artmaking session in Remai Modern's studio. Participants created their own Kleiekotzer figures using polymer clay, working with a range of coloured doughs and sculpting tools to shape their masks. Gathering around the table to craft together offered a warm opportunity to connect with fellow participants, speak some German, reflect on the exhibition, and build new friendships.



**Participants make a Kleiekotzer in the studio**

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF SASKATOON: A DAY OF LEARNING, CONNECTION, AND CULTURAL DISCOVERY.

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison



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

With the motto “Streets of Saskatoon”, the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon celebrated its 38th edition on February 8 at the Western Development Museum. More than 40 heritage exhibitors filled the space with vibrant displays, live music, dance, and hands-on activities that invited visitors to explore the many different heritages that shape our city.

As in previous years, the Saskatchewan German Council (SGC) hosted an engaging display table that encouraged visitors to stop, chat, and learn about our work. We sold books and settlement maps, offered a prize draw for either books or German chocolate, and shared organizational materials. Many visitors were especially curious about our Culture in the Kitchen cooking classes and our lecture series, which sparked lively conversations about food traditions, intergenerational learning, and cultural exchange.

Children enjoyed admiring the colorful Fasching masks on display and discovering the traditions of Fasching/Fastnacht. Young learners could also take home a coloring sheet designed to introduce German numbers from 0 to 10 in a playful, accessible way.

A major highlight was our large map of German-speaking countries, where visitors placed stickers marking places they had visited or where

their families originated. This interactive activity opened the door to meaningful conversations about heritage, identity, and the many pathways that connect people to German culture. A strong number of visitors signed up for our monthly e-update, and several expressed interest in German language classes for children as well as Culture in the Kitchen sessions tailored for youth.

Our member group, the Saskatoon German Heritage Society, contributed to the day by educating visitors about the history and heritage of Germanic peoples. The Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers added energy and joy to the festival, offering fun activities for children and delighting audiences with their charming performances of German folk dances.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon and to the many visitors who stopped by, asked questions, shared stories, and connected with us. Your curiosity and enthusiasm make this event a meaningful space for cultural learning and community building.

We look forward to seeing you again next year.

## CULTURE IN THE KITCHEN – GERMANY MEETS YOUTH

By Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison & Youth Submissions



On January 27, 2026, Josephin Dick arrived at Aden Bowman Collegiate with several bags of groceries and a mission: to bring German culture directly to the students who are learning the language. Together with teacher James Funk, they guided 25 enthusiastic high school learners through an afternoon of cooking, tasting, and discovering German cuisine.

For young people studying German, opportunities like this are essential. Language learning becomes far more meaningful when students can experience culture with all their senses: cooking traditional dishes, working together, and seeing how German traditions come alive. These hands-on activities help students build confidence, curiosity, and a deeper connection to the global German-speaking community.

During the session, students prepared Griesnockerlsuppe, Käsespätzle, Schupfnudeln, Kaiserschmarrn, and Orangenkuchen, filling the classroom with the aromas of a German kitchen and the energy of shared discovery. Read what the students had to say:



### Taliba

*Heute haben wir Spätzle gemacht! Die Rezept war sehr interessant. Habe ich die Zwiebelringe geschneiden. Wir haben gemeinsam den Teig geknetet. Wir haben den roten Topf für das Gericht benutzt. Wir hatten alle viel Spaß beim Kochen.*

*That day we had lots of fun. The five of us worked well together as we got the ingredients together. Spätzle is interesting to see how it's made. It's similar to mac and cheese and we also baked it. The recipe was a nice way to spend time together and understand German culture better.*

### Jigisha

*In meiner Deutsch Klasse habe ich mit meinen Freunden Käsespätzle gemacht. Es macht sehr viel Spaß. Die Rezepte waren sehr interessant und leicht zu befolgen. Meine Gruppe hat Käsespätzle zubereitet, das ist so etwas wie eine käsige deutsche Version von Makkaroni mit Käse.*

*In my German class, my friends and I made Käsespätzle (cheese spaetzle). It was very fun. The recipes were very interesting and easy to follow. My group prepared Käsespätzle, which is kind of like a cheesy German version of macaroni and cheese.*

### Raul

*Heute kochen wir viele verschiedene deutsche und österreichische Gerichte. Das Gericht, das meine Gruppe zubereitet hat, ist der deutsche Orangenkuchen. Sein Rezept sieht mit einer Reihe von Schritten und Zutaten etwas bedrohlich aus, aber ist eigentlich ganz einfach. Es ist langsam und langweilig, aber es lohnt sich. Der Kuchen, den wir gebacken haben, gefällt mir sehr gut*

*Today we have been making a lot of different German and Austrian dishes. The dish that my group made is the German orange cake. This recipe looks a bit intimidating with a number of steps of ingredients, but it's actually quite simple. It is slow and boring, but it is worth it. I really liked the cake we made.*

### Khadija

*"Kultur in der Küche" war eine sehr interessante und leckere Erfahrung! Meine Gruppe hat Kaiserschmarrn gemacht, die traditionell Deutschland essen ist. Wir haben den Teig zubereitet und ihn dann in der Pfanne gebraten. Während wir kochten, sprach unsere Lehrerin über die deutsche Kultur. Manchmal waren die Kaiserschmarrn abgebrannt, aber das war OK. Wir sind nicht so gut im Kochen, aber die Lehrerin hat geholfen. Wir haben viel gelernt und hatten viel Spaß!*

*"Culture in the Kitchen" was a very interesting and yummy experience! My group made Kaiserschmarrn, which is a traditional*

*German food. We made the batter and then we pan fried it. While we cooked, our teacher spoke about German culture. Sometimes the Kaiserschmarrn burnt that was ok. We are not so good at cooking but our teacher helped us. We learned a lot and had fun! dishes. The dish that my group made is the German orange cake. This recipe looks a bit intimidating with a number of steps of ingredients, but it's actually quite simple. It is slow and boring, but it is worth it. I really liked the cake we made.*

### Kenzi

*Heute habe ich mit anderen Schülern gebacken. Meine Gruppe hat einen deutschen Orangenkuchen gebacken. Zuerst haben wir Orangeschalen gerieben. Dann haben wir die Orangen entsaftet, damit wir den Saft für den Kuchen verwenden konnten. Wir haben alle Zutaten vermischt und den Kuchen gebacken. Nachdem der Kuchen gebacken war, ließen wir ihn abkühlen. Wir haben einen Glasur für den Kuchen gemacht, die ist lecker. Es war sehr Spaß. Wir haben Deutsch gesprochen, damit wir lernen und kochen können.*

*This was an amazing activity that combined learning with fun. We were introduced to German culture through creating some common German dishes. We also were immersed in the German language. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn and practice German, especially with the theme of items in a kitchen. My group made a German orange cake, which was delicious. After everyone finished their dishes we were able to share with the other students. It was so engaging to taste everyone's yummy German dishes. This was my first time trying Griesnockerlsuppe and I must say it was delicious. This was an enlightening experience that allowed me to learn and be immersed in German all while having.*

### Chelsea

*Heute haben wir Spätzle gemacht. Es hat mir sehr viel Spaß gemacht! Ich habe Zwiebelringe geschnitten und den Teig vermischt. Ich denke, die Kartoffelpresse ist sehr interessant. Zuerst haben wir den Teig gemischt und fünf Minuten später konnten wir mit der Kartoffelpresse Spätzle machen. Danach haben wir Zwiebelringe geschnitten und sie mit Speck gebraten. Letzte haben wir die Spätzle mit Käse überbacken und die Zwiebelringe mit Speck darübergeben. Es war sehr lecker!*

*Today we made Spaetzle. I have never heard of it before and was very interested in making it for the first time. I mainly contributed through cutting the onions and mixing the dough. We used a potato ricer to create the Spaetzle which was very cool. Seeing the dough be pressed through the ricer straight into boiling water was a new experience for me. After, we added some cheese on top of the Spaetzle and baked it, which reminded me of mac and cheese. We then fried the onions with pieces of bacon and topped it on the Spaetzle. I think the bacon and onion tasted really good with the spätzle, I can see why it was recommended. Overall it was a nice experience to learn foods of a different culture and I had a lot of fun!*

# 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.

## A JOYFUL START TO 2026 WITH DANCE & COMMUNITY

KG Harmonie Regina- Sheila Aldous



Opening of Karneval and Snowflake Tea



Enjoying companionship at the Opening of Karneval and Snowflake Tea

We hope everyone has had a great start to 2026. Since we last wrote.... A small group of us was fortunate to be able to perform at the Saskatchewan Association of International Language's 40th Anniversary at Government House in

Regina on September 21st. What a lovely event. October 1st saw our group at Trinity Manor dancing and playing games with the residents. Thank you to the Regina German Club for involving us in their Oktoberfest. We got to volunteer

and perform. The event was so busy. We downsized our Opening of Karneval event to a Snowflake Tea on November 8th. We had a nice turnout, and we got to have tea in china cups. Thank you to all who brought their china cups and to everyone who took part and attended.



November 21st saw us at Regina Village with our multi-cultural friends. The residents were so nice to us. We also decided to downsize our St. Nikolaus evening to a member / family / friend event. Thank you, Annette, for the game. The poem was lovely.

Thank you to our members who have helped with our events. Also, thank you to our sponsors and supporters.

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.

St. Nikolaus Evening 2025

## NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Kochlöffel and Nudelholz - Franziska Davies-Perret



**Successful cooking class in 2025 with a great bunch of people.**



**Glühwein jars as a little Christmas present thank you to participants.**

After the summer break (seems like so long ago now!), we started back up again in October with participating at the Oktoberfest hosted by the German Canadian Concordia Club. It was great to get back into the swing of things, chat with the public about food (had a great conversation about Quark – who would have thought!) and reconnect with the German community.

Our first class in October saw us making a sauerkraut casserole with Bavarian loaf, potato mash and Nutella stuffed hazelnut cupcakes. The cupcakes turned out delicious as you can see from the picture. November was all about Oma's creamy onion schnitzel with herb stuffed tomatoes and Austrian meringue cupcakes. For December's Christmas class we made a lovely champagne sauce and chicken with spinach, stuffed baked apples with cranberries and poppy seed.

The new year started with pork Schnitzel and a herb sauce, potatoes and King's Cake for dessert. Then in February we made a cheese leek soup with mini-meatballs, quick Sunday rolls and mocha Quark cream for dessert. We'll have classes until May, the recipes have been picked out and now they just need to



**Nutella stuffed cupcakes from our November cooking class.**

be tested and fine-tuned! As I'm writing this article on the last day of January 2026, I have to reflect on all of the classes that have been coordinated since I was first tasked to take over Kochlöffel and Nudelholz. Our cooking classes have always been a joyful way to bring people together around food, culture, and learning. In our kitchen, there's been an enthusiasm to explore recipes from German speaking countries, learning not just new flavors but the stories and traditions behind them. These classes, I think, have made it easy to meet new people, laugh over shared mistakes, and connect through a common love of cooking. The excitement that participants bring to our classes is contagious - everyone leaves inspired, full, and a little more connected than when they arrived, that is my hope anyway!

Looking forward to more cooking classes in the future! If you're interested in classes, please feel free to email me at [kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com](mailto:kochloeffelundnudelholz@gmail.com)

Happy cooking, Franziska

### A SEASON FULL OF ENERGY AND TRADITION

Das Schulhaus - Ramona Fukert



**At the annual Lantern Walk**

Once again, Das Schulhaus had a busy holiday season, hosting and participating in a number of events. The season kicked off with our annual Lantern Walk. Despite the frigid temperatures, we had well over 30 participants this year. We walked and sang and gathered around the fire for treats and a hot beverage. Our youth students also brought their own lanterns that they had crafted in class. Wunderbar!

The annual Christkindlmarkt at the Regina German Club is always a highlight to end the year. Once again, we sold homemade Glühwein kits and Lebkuchen (which always sell out!), greeting cards and a variety of decorations. This year was another success with a record-breaking crowd participating in the festivities.

Deutschtreff, our monthly all-levels German language speaking group, continues strong with new and familiar faces at every gathering. Check

out our website to see when the next meeting is scheduled and join us!

Our school year continues with 15 youth students in our Vorschule, Grundschule and Teenagers classes, as well as 6 in our Credit Class who are working towards high school credits. This pilot project in collaboration with SAIL and the Ministry of Education is looking very positive and we look forward to expanding this program next school year.

Our adult program continues to grow! We are pleased to be able to offer a full range of classes, from absolute beginner to advanced, in both semesters. The Fall semester saw 30 students in five learning cohorts (Beginner, Beginner 2, Intermediate, Advanced and Advanced 2), and the Winter semester grew a little, with 33 students. Our group class sizes are perfect to provide a



**Beautiful Lanterns**

level of individual instruction and attention that all of our students deserve. Looking ahead, we look forward to once again offering Spring Special Interest classes for our adult learners. These condensed, 5-week courses are a great way to improve vocabulary, comprehension and practice language skills on topics of interest to our students.

We will also be hosting our annual Brunch Fundraiser in June at Rosemary & Rye in downtown Regina. This prairie-inspired bistro features local ingredients and roof-top dining (weather permitting). A place to gather with good people and good food. Reach out at [info@dassschulhaus.org](mailto:info@dassschulhaus.org) to get your tickets and join us for this amazing event!

As always, we would like to recognize our sponsors, whose contributions allow us to continue offering German language and culture activities in our communities. A heartfelt thanks goes out to SGC, SAIL, SaskCulture, and the Friedrich Schiller Foundation. Thank you for your support!

To keep up with the latest news from Das Schulhaus, check out our website at [www.dassschulhaus.org](http://www.dassschulhaus.org) or find us on Facebook and Instagram! And if you would like to be more involved, we always welcome new Board Members and teachers. Drop us a line!



**Bring joy at the Christkindl Markt**

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### GERMAN ROOTS, PRAIRIE STORIES

Saskatoon German Heritage Society - Mervin Weiss

#### Saskatoon Winterruption

Winterruption Outdoor is a two-day, free outdoor festival, featuring Indigenous music, dance & workshops, newcomer storytelling, winter activities, sleigh rides, hot chocolate, children's activities, and more! This year I participated in the "fireside chat" storytelling event. The dates were set for January 24 and 25. The extremely cold weather however forced the organizers to move the venue inside. In contrast to my regular presentations where I always follow a prepared script with accompanying visual slides, this would be an informal non-scripted "talk" with a small group. I chose to talk about "The Germans in Saskatchewan and how we got here". It was very informal and I spoke both days to two different ethnically-mixed groups. My "talk" followed the theme of two previous presentations I had given: first to the members who attended the SGC Round Table event in Davidson in October, and later when Germany's Ambassador to Canada, the Honourable Mathias Lüttenberg, visited the SGC office in November. The event turned out to be a lot of fun, and I enjoyed the "new" experience.

#### WDM Heritage Festival

The Saskatoon German Heritage Society participated once again in the Western Development Museum's annual Heritage Festival. Once again, our table had a prime location right at the front of Boomtown Main Street. A full slate of exhibitors was on hand to greet a steady stream of visitors. Once again we were satisfied with the number of people who stopped by our display table and asked questions or made comments. Reg and Loretta Reiter displayed a good range of historical books as well as family history books featuring the so-called "Germans from Russia". It's always fun to talk to people from different cultures who have never heard this term. Part of the display is a stand-up floor banner which answers the question, "Who are the Germans from Russia?" Merv Weiss also had a series of slides running in a continuous loop on a large monitor, telling the story of "the Germans in Saskatchewan and how we got here".

The Heritage Festival definitely has a multicultural atmosphere, as is its mandate. It is very well organized, and held in an excellent facility which really suits the theme of the event. Thank you to the Western Development Museum.



Reg Reiter and Mervin Weiss at the WDM

### READY TO PLAY

Saskatoon SKAT Club - Shelley Hungness



The Saskatoon SKAT Club is pleased to announce its upcoming 2026 tournament dates. Whether you are a seasoned player or simply enjoy the camaraderie and tradition of the game, these gatherings promise friendly competition, good company, and a continuation of one of the most cherished German card traditions. This year's events will once again take place in the welcoming setting of the VIP Room at Sports on Tap, offering the perfect atmosphere for a full day of SKAT.

#### Dates to Remember:

Easter SKAT – Saturday, April 11, 2026  
Thanksgiving SKAT – Saturday, October 3, 2026  
Christmas SKAT – Saturday, December 19, 2026

Each event will begin at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. (final start time to be confirmed) and will consist of three rounds of play. The entry fee is \$5 per round, with losses structured at \$1 for the first three losses and \$2 thereafter.

These tournaments are more than just competitions—they are social highlights of the year, bringing together players from across the region to share stories, strategy, and a passion for SKAT.

Take note, mark your calendar, and don't forget! Further details will be shared closer to each event date. Should any changes arise due to unforeseen circumstances, members will be informed and included in the decision-making process. We look forward to seeing you at the table in 2026!

### MUSIC, MARKETS & MEMORIES

Volkliederschor Harmonie in Regina - Anita Jadischke



**Christmas Concert at the German Club Regina**

We were pleased to be invited to a German Cultural Event held at Mount Olive Lutheran Church on November 15. The choir performed several songs from previous concerts and our upcoming Christmas concert. At the end of the concert, we enjoyed coffee, kuchen and fellowship with those in attendance.

November 29 marked the date of the Christkindl Markt held at the Regina German Club. Choir members and associate members cooked brats, served food, sold schnapps and glühwein and assisted in set up and take down of the market. The choir held several fundraisers during the

market which included the sale of authentic German pyramids and nutcrackers, tree ornaments, ice lanterns, wooden stars and a raffle for a Christmas themed wooden truck. Our Christmas concert on December 7 was a huge success. All the hard work and dedication by our director Blair Mills, accompanist Carol Mills and each choir member did not go unnoticed. Comments were made that this was our best performance!

Our first night of rehearsal for our spring concert was held on January 20. At the conclusion of rehearsal, there was a time of fellowship



**At the Mount Olive Lutheran Church**

with snacks and refreshments provided by the alto section. We invite you to attend our Spring Concert which will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 2:30 at the Regina German Club. Tickets are \$14.00 (cash only) and are available at the door. The choir is anticipating that there will be the opportunity to perform at other events this spring.

Volkliederschor 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.

### ACTIVE SEASON OF RESEARCH, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION

Regina & District Chapter of AHSGR - Shelley Brenner

Our group was keeping very busy during the fall/winter quarter:

Our librarian, Pauline Boesser, has been busy making sure the Library indexes are current and duplicate books removed in order to keep the library orderly as well as make space. Linda Kilmister, our club genealogist, gave a presentation in October about clusters and collateral research. Bob Reid, our finance person and keen historian, sends out interesting bulletins between meetings to be discussed at our meetings.

We have implemented a new club registration form with different prices to make joining the club more attractive to perspective members. Our club was invited to give a Zoom presentation to the San Francisco Golden Gate chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans

from Russia on November 15th. The presentation was about where Saskatchewan's German immigrants came from and where they settled in the province. Bob, our keen historian, put together the presentation and Shelley, club secretary, presented at the Zoom meeting. We have invited the San Francisco Golden Gate chapter of AHSGR to give a presentation to our group this spring but a firm date has not yet been set. Our annual elections were held at our regular meeting in November. All existing incumbents were re-elected. The club's Christmas party was held on Wednesday, December 10th, at the Regina German Club. Judging by the chatter during the meal, everyone had a great time and we had a great turnout as well.

We had our first executive meeting of the year on January 15th with lots of ideas for the upcoming year. Our club has invited Wayne Garmen back to give another presentation in May. Wayne is the Canadian Representative on the Board of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the current president of the Arizona Sun Chapter of the AHSGR. Final arrangements are yet to be made but posters are in the works, advertising is being reviewed, and the club is gearing up for another successful presentation by Wayne. We hope many of you can attend as Wayne gives an impressive presentation.

Facebook page: Regina & District Chapter of AHSGR  
Email: rahsgr@sasktel.net

## NEWS FROM SGC MEMBER GROUPS

### FROM WHEAT FIELDS TO WIENER SCHNITZEL

Regina Austrian Club - Erika Hallemann

Austrian culture was always a big part of my life growing up, thanks to the Regina Austrian Club. From a young age, I dreamed of one day living in this beautiful country. After completing an exchange program in Germany, I began researching how I could turn that dream into reality. That journey led me to apply for Electrical Engineering, and after being accepted, I packed my bags in 2020 and set off on one of the most exciting adventures any 20-year-old could imagine. Of course, 2020 came with its own unique challenges. Classes moved online, meeting new people was difficult, and travel outside Austria was limited. Still, I made the most of the situation. That summer, I bought a student train ticket that allowed me to travel throughout Austria, giving me the chance to explore the country more deeply and fall even more in love with the place I now call home. Living here taught me the difference between what we imagine Austrian culture to be and what it truly is. I learned that Austria is an

industrial powerhouse, home to many internationally operating companies. During my internship at BRP-Rotax, I worked at the Austrian site of a Canadian company that produces engines for Ski-Doo, Sea-Doo, and Can-Am. It was a surprising and meaningful connection—combining my Canadian roots with my life in Austria, and showing me just how interconnected these two countries really are.

After finishing my master's degree, I knew my time in Austria was not over. I am now working at Rosenbauer, one of the world's largest international fire truck manufacturers, where I work as a product manager. Even while living abroad, I continue to stay involved with the Regina Austrian Club as much as I can. Over the years, I've loved welcoming friends and visitors from home and showing them around Austria—especially its hidden gems that you don't always find in guidebooks. It's my way of sharing the country

that has given me so much. If anyone is interested in learning more about studying or living in Austria, I would be happy to share my experience. You can reach out through the Austrian



Enjoying life in Austria

Club's page, and they will be happy to put us in contact. Taking the risk to move across the world gave me a life I never expected—one I could have only dreamed of. And that dream began years ago, inspired by my grandpa and the Regina Austrian Club.

### FROM BOWLING LANES TO DANCE FLOORS

Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein - Amanda Marien

The Concordia Alpenrose Schuhplattler Verein capped off 2025 with a festive Christmas social at Stoked Centre in Saskatoon. Members and families enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of bowling and socializing, followed by a relaxed supper together in the Stoked kitchen and bar. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season, reflect on the past year, and enjoy time together outside of regular practices. In January, we were pleased to resume practices in a new location at Augustana Lutheran Church. We now share the space with the Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dan-

cers, who practice before us each week. This new arrangement offers exciting opportunities for greater collaboration, mentorship, and connection between generations, and we look forward to working more closely with the junior group and supporting the youngest members of the Alpenrose dancing community. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Boyan Ukrainian Dance for the generous use of their studio space since 2021. Their support over the past several years has been greatly appreciated and has allowed our group to continue practicing and

performing together. Following the retirement of several long-time members, our group is currently smaller than it has been in the past. However, we are optimistic about the future and hope to welcome new dancers in 2026. We welcome dancers from high school age and beyond who are interested in adult social dance and cultural tradition. Practices are held on Tuesday evenings, all costumes are provided, and there is no cost to join. Please reach out to us on Instagram or Facebook for more information—we would be happy to have you join us.



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## STORMS, SAX & FRESH STARTS

Concordia Brass Band - Yvonne Kristoff



Musicians in Christmas spirit

Concordia Brass Band has been on their winter break since mid December so there isn't much to report. We had 2 interesting events in December. We had one concert cancelled because of the weather. That was a first for us. It was storming on December 17 when we were supposed to play at Elmwood Lodge. Another first for our group was when one of the players brought her grandson along to play a few songs with us at one of our concerts. Having a 12 year old join in enthusiastically was a hit with the members as well as the audience. He played three or four numbers with us and did a fine job on his Alto Sax.

### Christmas concert 2025

We will begin playing again around the end of February or beginning of March after we have our winter meeting. As always we are looking for players to join our ranks. We are a diverse group drawn together by a love of sharing our music. We rehearse at St. Matthew Anglican Church at the corner of Egbert and 109th St. on Thursdays from 7:30 until 9:00. Please contact Yvonne Kristoff at 306-229-9419 before coming to a rehearsal to make sure we are rehearsing that day as most of our concerts are on Thursdays.



Playing at the 2025 Christmas concert

## RECORD CROWDS, BIG PLANS & 70 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon - Flo Broten

Diane Neufeld and Shelley Hungess organized our Christkindlmarkt in November of 2025. Attendance far exceeded our expectations! Feedback from our vendors and the public was wonderful.

Our Christmas event was a bus ride to the Barn Playhouse for lunch and a play. It was a lovely afternoon. We were lucky to have a bright, sunny day, and the weather was not too cold.

Diane Neufeld is busy planning activities for our members for 2026. In March, we are holding a Schnitzel luncheon. Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 3, 2026, at the Nutana Legion, and the Christkindlmarkt is set for November 14, 2026.

We continue to meet on the afternoon of the last Friday of each month for "Kaffee und Kuchen." It is a wonderful opportunity to meet with old and new friends. Attendance is steadily increasing.

We are working on having a summer BBQ or pig roast. Plans are not yet finalized.

2027 is the German Canadian Club Concordia of Saskatoon Inc.'s 70th Anniversary. This event will be held on June 13, 2027 at the Western Development Museum. Save this date!

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2026!

Visitors shopping at the Christkindlmarkt



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### FUN CLASSES, STEADY PASSION AND HOPE FOR GROWTH

German Language School Saskatoon - Kathleen Schroeder-Brass

Our current school year is running similar to the previous year with three adult classrooms and our high school credit class program. Some of these classrooms see steady student numbers, but some are very fluctuating which has become a normal these past years. These fluctuations make planning ahead of the school year very hard as our school is financially easily hurt if student numbers per classroom do not at least cover the cost of running this classroom and technically, we can not run classrooms, if we have to pay money on top!

It happens too often these past years that students/families start in a classroom, or we do start a new class as we have enough students, and the following year students just do not continue on. Mostly they just do not respond back to us during the planning process. Interesting is that in the 9 years being part of the German Language School in Saskatoon, I have never received any negative feedback on any of our classrooms.

The feedback either received in personal conversations or by email has always highlighted how much students/families do appreciate the work and extra effort of previous or current teaching staff to teach our German language and share culture/traditions and demographic details.

Due to the lack of teaching staff, which is even harder to get on board these past years, as the combination of a commitment of day/time from September through June and just a few paid hours per week, and less families being committed to enrich their kids learning with another language, we have been unable to offer kids classes for K – Gr.8 students in several years.

Good news is that we have two eager ladies who love to support our school with helping to teach younger kids. We were hoping to get enough interest from families to start a 10-week Intro class for Gr.3-5 students and for K-Gr.2 students after the February break. Again, so far interest is at the lower end as of the Postillion deadline, so it looks

like we will have to postpone the start of these classrooms until the beginning of September for 2026/27. We stay hopeful though that we will be able to once again offer our German Intro Course starting later in March which has been a mixture of German Exchange Program students, people who plan to travel or work in German speaking countries.

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.

germanschoolsaskatoon@gmail.com

<https://germanschoolsaskatoon.blogspot.com/>

### OUR JOURNEY INTO 2026

Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers - Brenda Booker

We ended 2025 in a whirlwind of celebrations. Let's face it, undoubtedly with food and fun as the focal point. We had another great Baking Box fundraiser. Thanks to all the people who supported us with their purchases either through our

Dance Families, the members of the German Canadian Club Concordia or the visitors that stopped by our table at the Christkindl Markt. Once again, only possible, due to our partnership with Franziska from Kochlöffel & Nudelholz.

you to Joan for getting them all done in time for our performance. We all had a great time at Heritage Festival, both during our performance and at our craft table. Colouring & sharing stories. Even fashioning a few Lucky Ladybug Bookmarks.



Velcro Darts definitely a Hit at the Party.

We finished off 2025 with our annual Christmas Party. Plenty of Pizza, Crafts & Games. Followed by a month off so that we could all partake in family holiday activities. When we all returned to regular practices in 2026, we discovered many of our 3-year-olds were now 4. Time to book a quick costume fitting in before Heritage Festival. Thank

Now moving on to begin our planning & preparations for our 5th Annual Maifest. We are hoping to have great attendance again this year so save the afternoon of Sunday, May 3rd to spend it with us, at the Western Development Museum.

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.



Waschfrauen at Heritage Festival.



Crafts migrated off the pages.

### GERMAN CHOIR CONCERT AT MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mount Olive Lutheran Church - Rod Gellner

On the afternoon of November 15, 2025, 62 people (including choir members) gathered at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Regina for a concert of German songs by the Volksliederchor Harmonie.

This event was an expression of German language and culture, which in addition to the concert, included a Martin Luther display on loan from the Saskatchewan German Council, as well as other German artifacts from Mount Olive's library. Everyone had the opportunity to stay following the concert for "Kaffee und Kuchen" and an opportunity to socialize in either German or English.

Mount Olive wishes to thank the Volksliederchor Harmonie for taking time out of their busy fall/winter season to sing for us at our German cultural event. We also wish to thank Maria Hartman



Performance of the choir

from Das Backhaus for the delicious baking, the Saskatchewan German Council for their financial support and lending us the Luther display, and all attendees and volunteers for making the event a resounding success.

### SO WARM IN THE QUEEN CITY

Regina German Club - Patrick A. Kossmann

Winter this year started with our Christkindl Markt; our traditional market for people to buy Christmas themed snacks and crafts. Vendors and customers packed the club and many booths sold out of all their wares very early. The Goulash Soup/Suppe and Glühwein flowed in almost equal portions filling the bellies and warming the hearts of all who tried them. We thank everyone who came out and all the crafty individuals who made the afternoon so successful.

Our December continued with club members enjoying two events to celebrate the Christmas season. Our Weihnachtsfeier had 65 people come together for some entertainment and a wonderful meal. Singers from Luther College and some of our choir members sang some German songs, Regina Furkert said some German poems, and children enjoyed the craft table. St. Nikolaus made an appearance and handed out treats to the kids in attendance. As a more relaxed option for a celebration the club hosted a Sweater party /Trivia night. Many came out and tested their mental prowess while showing off their finest Christmas fashion. Many laughs were had and some new members joined the club.

The new year has seen activity start up again at the club. The Schuhplatter group has started practicing again and performed at Luther College for their LIT basketball tournament. The crowds were very appreciative. New members have been coming to practices on Wednesdays, and the boys have been busy both training the new dancers and practicing for a show in March.

Our kitchen is busy getting ready for a Valentine's Day banquet in the lounge, where guests will be invited to dine with their special someone on a unique meal. By the time of this publishing, it will be too late to get your tickets, so hopefully you've been watching our social media and have already gone.

March has two big events planned. We will be hosting a crafting weekend. Patrons are invited to bring their sewing machines and supplies to the club and work in an open environment finishing up crafting projects. Meals will be served over the weekend and hopefully the presence of our hosts and experts projects that have been wanting completion will be finished up. Our AGM will be on March 14 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the club's lounge. We invite all who have

Harmony shares or those who want to start volunteering on the board to attend and help us make decisions to keep the club open. The club is open for lunches and suppers Tuesday to Friday. Menus are posted Tuesday weekly. Lunch has a sit down and takeout option. Supper is available for sit down Thursdays and takeout the other three days. We are continuing to plan spring events like Spargelfest and Sommerwende. Make sure you check out our website ([www.reginagermanclub.ca](http://www.reginagermanclub.ca)) for details regarding future activities happening at the club.



Visitors shopping at the Christkindlmarkt

# KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

## Learn German with POSTILLION

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Kücken

Eier suchen

Osterei



# Die Häschenschule

German Easter Tradition

Gerald Freyer

The most famous and beloved Easter children's book in the German-speaking world is without a doubt *Die Häschenschule* (The Bunny School), first published in 1924—written by Albert Sixtus and illustrated with the unmistakable charm of Fritz Koch-Gotha. For more than a century, this little book has accompanied generations of children through the Easter season and has become a lasting part of German cultural tradition.

## A Children's Book That Made History

*Die Häschenschule* tells, in playful rhymes, the story of everyday life in a school for young rabbits—from sitting neatly at their desks to the small moments of distraction that are quickly noticed by their strict teacher. The story is intentionally simple, and that simplicity is precisely its strength. It reflects universal childhood experi-

ences: learning, curiosity, minor mischief, and growing up within a community.

The rhyming structure is central to the book's appeal. It makes the story memorable and invites children to join in—an educational approach that was already consciously used in the 1920s. Many of the verses have remained nearly unchanged over generations and are as deeply rooted in childhood memories as traditional nursery rhymes.

## Albert Sixtus – The Author Behind the Verses

Today, less is widely known about Albert Sixtus than about his most famous work, yet his background is worth noting. Born in 1892, he was not only a children's author but also a teacher and writer. His close connection to the everyday lives of children is clearly reflected in *The Bunny*

*School*: the scenes feel authentic, almost like small observations from a real classroom.

Sixtus had a talent for weaving moral messages—such as attentiveness, diligence, and good behavior—into entertaining storytelling without sounding overly didactic. This balance is a key reason for the book's enduring success. At a time when children's literature was often strongly moralizing, he created something that was both instructive and delightfully playful.

## Fritz Koch-Gotha – Master of Illustration

The illustrations by Fritz Koch-Gotha are far more than simple accompaniments—they are a central reason for the book's lasting popularity. Born in 1877, Koch-Gotha began his career as a caricaturist and press illustrator, and this background is clearly visible in his style. His characters



carry subtle humor, lightness, and a keen sense for expressive detail. The rabbits are anthropomorphic—dressed in clothes, sitting neatly at school desks—yet they remain convincingly animal-like in gesture and expression. This balance creates a unique charm. Each image tells its own small story, often with a wink that appeals just as much to adults as to children. His illustrations also reflect the spirit of their time: an idealized, orderly world of the 1920s—calm, structured, almost idyllic. In a rapidly changing world, such imagery offered a sense of familiarity and reassurance. Beyond his beloved work on *The Bunny School*, Fritz Koch-Gotha had a long and complex career that reflects the turbulent history of Germany in the first half of the 20th century. Before and alongside his children's book illustrations, he was widely known as a caricaturist and satirical artist.

Koch-Gotha was closely associated with *Eulenspiegel*, one of Germany's best-known satirical magazines. Founded in the early 20th century (and later re-established after World War II in East Germany), *Eulenspiegel* became a platform for humor, political commentary, and social critique. Koch-Gotha contributed illustrations and caricatures that displayed his sharp observational skills and his ability to capture human behavior with wit and subtle irony. His style—playful yet precise—fit perfectly within the tradition of German satire, where humor often carried an undercurrent of social commentary. This background strongly influenced his later work, including *The Bunny School*, where even the seemingly innocent rabbit scenes contain gentle humor and keen character observation. The success of *\*The Bunny School\** is remarkable: millions of

copies sold, numerous reprints, and translations into more than 20 languages demonstrate its extraordinary popularity. Particularly notable is the Latin edition titled *\*"Lepusculorum Schola"\**, highlighting the almost cult-like status the book has achieved.

Over the decades, several sequels and reinterpretations have expanded the world of the *Bunny School*, often revisiting familiar characters and placing them in new situations—proof that the original concept continues to resonate. The book has also helped shape the cultural image of the Easter Bunny itself. The idea of a diligent, orderly rabbit fulfilling duties and following rules is presented here in a particularly charming and enduring form.

### The German Tradition of the Book

In Germany, *\*Die Häsenschule\** is more than just a children's book—it is a seasonal tradition. Much like decorating Easter eggs or preparing festive pastries, reading this book is part of the cultural rhythm of spring. It is often brought out year after year, read aloud in families, kindergartens, and schools, and passed down from parents to children.

The book also reflects a broader German tradition of illustrated children's literature, where text and image work closely together to create a complete narrative experience. Classics from the early 20th century, like *\*Die Häsenschule\**, are not simply consumed once—they are revisited, treasured, and preserved. Many families still own vintage editions, carefully kept and shared across generations.

In this sense, the book serves as a bridge between past and present. It connects modern childhoods with those of grandparents and great-grandparents, carrying forward not only a story, but a cultural memory. And this is precisely where opinions begin to diverge. Critics have pointed out that *The Bunny School* reflects traditional role models and a sense of strict, almost Prussian authority—disciplined students, a stern teacher, and clearly defined rules. From a modern perspective, these elements can indeed feel outdated or overly rigid. At the same time, others argue that the book simply mirrors the educational ideals of its time rather than actively promoting them in a prescriptive way.

Interestingly, the book itself has already undergone a form of careful "cosmetic" revision—similar to how other classic children's books have been adapted in recent years to reflect changing sensitivities. The original cover illustration showed the rabbit teacher carrying a cane tucked under his arm—a clear symbol of authority and discipline in early 20th-century classrooms. Since 1949, this detail has been quietly removed in later editions. This small but telling change highlights how cultural artifacts evolve: not by abandoning their identity entirely, but by adjusting certain elements to remain acceptable and relatable across generations.

What makes *\*The Bunny School\** so special is its timelessness. Despite being created in 1924, it does not feel outdated—rather, it feels familiar. Many adults associate the book with personal memories: it was read to them, given as a gift, and later shared with their own children. This emotional connection is key to its longevity. *\*The Bunny School\** is not just a book—it is a piece of childhood that lives on from generation to generation. And perhaps that is its greatest secret: it does not tell a grand or dramatic story, but a simple and loving one—one that everyone understands, and one that people return to again and again.

Today is still available and everybody can still find this treasure of German Easter tradition online or in a good bookshop.

# KINDER- & JUGENDSEITEN

## Osterhasen ABC

Gerald Freyer

Im Wiesental, ganz früh im Jahr,  
wenn's Gras noch kühl und Himmel klar,  
da steht – geschniegelt, geschniegelt fein –  
die kleine Häschenschule im Sonnenschein.

Dort lernen Hasen, klein und flink,  
mit Kreide, Tafel und einem Wink  
vom strengen Lehrer Langohr Grau,  
wie man ein echter Osterhase wird genau.

Zwei Schüler aber, die waren besonders:  
Fips und Lilli – neugierig, anders.  
Sie träumten nachts bei Mondenschein:  
„Wir wollen einst die Osterhasen sein!“

Doch Rechnen fiel dem Fipslein schwer,  
und Lilli mochte Ordnung nicht so sehr.  
„Gerade sitzen! Pfoten still!“  
rief Lehrer Grau mit strengem Will!

„Ein Osterhase braucht Disziplin!  
Sonst fällt das Ei noch irgendwo hin!“  
Die Klasse kicherte leis im Chor,  
doch Fips und Lilli nahmen's sich vor.

Am nächsten Tag – es war soweit –  
begann die große Prüfungszeit:  
Eier bemalen, verstecken im Gras,  
ohne zu stolpern – das war der Spaß!

Fips ließ ein Ei ins Moos verschwinden,  
so gut, man konnte es kaum mehr finden.  
Und Lilli malte, ganz wunderbar,  
ein Ei, das bunt wie der Frühling war.

Da nickte Lehrer Grau ganz sacht:  
„Ihr habt es besser gemacht als gedacht.  
Nicht nur Ordnung, nicht nur Zahl –  
auch Herz und Mut sind erste Wahl.“

Seit jenem Tag im Sonnenschein  
dürfen Fips und Lilli Osterhasen sein.  
Und wenn ihr sucht im Morgentau –  
verstecken sie Eier, ganz schlau.

## Easterbunny ABC

Gerald Freyer

In a meadow valley, early in spring,  
when the grass is cool and birds still sing,  
there stands, so tidy and proud to see,  
a little bunny school beneath a tree.

There young hares learn, both quick and bright,  
with chalk and board from morn till night,  
from strict old Master Long-Ear Gray  
how to become an Easter Bunny one day.

But two young students stood apart:  
Fips and Lily, full of heart.  
They whispered softly under moonlight beams:  
“We want to follow our Easter dreams!”

Now numbers troubled poor little Fips,  
and Lily forgot rules in playful skips.  
“Sit up straight! Paws still, please!”  
called Master Gray with stern decrees.

“An Easter Bunny must be precise –  
or eggs may roll in snow or ice!”  
The class all giggled, soft and low,  
but Fips and Lily were set to grow.

Then came the test – the big, grand day:  
painting eggs and hiding them away.  
No dropping, no stumbling, all just right –  
a true Easter Bunny's proudest delight!

Fips hid an egg so well in the green,  
no eye could spot where it had been.  
And Lily painted with colors so bright,  
her egg shone warm in morning light.

Master Gray gave a gentle nod:  
“You've done far better than I had thought.  
Not just order, nor numbers alone –  
but heart and courage help you grow.”

And from that day, in sunshine clear,  
Fips and Lily return each year.  
So when you search in morning dew –  
an Easter egg might come from them to you.

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