

# GROW Newsletter

*Germans From Russia of Oregon and SW Washington*  
Area chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 3 Issue 3

April - May - June 2004

## *Message from the President*

*By Roger Haas*

The last three months have been exciting with excellent Chapter Meeting attendance in spite of some not-so-nice weather. The Board and Committee Chairs continue to reach out to expand the awareness of the Chapter. "Idea Man" Member, **Paul Voeller**, has not only been making good suggestions but is a performer. Paul, along with **Maxine & Clyde Daily** and their daughter, **Jan Prunier**, designed publicity posters and then Paul set them up in different public establishments. **Sharon Voeller** has assisted in the publicity with announcements in the Community Weekly Shoppers and on TV. This enthusiasm and dedication shows a lot of unselfish commitment from Paul & Sharon Voeller. **Rudie Wagemann** and **Maxine Daily** are assisting in the referrals.

While I'm mentioning people who make a difference, **Ed Weber** has come to the rescue by touching base with our members who have not renewed their memberships. They don't know what they are missing so Ed is bringing them up to date. Perhaps the lack of communication is the largest reason for members not responding. We are all worthy and contributory in one way or another. Let us be mindful of that. Are we sharing our interests with others? Could you visit or telephone someone about GROW?

**Glenn Gumeringer** made synoptic copies of all the AHSGR Journals in January for the attending members. **Paul Voeller** did the same earlier for the GRHS Journals. No one asked them to do it; they saw a need and filled it. That is the kind of thought and action that makes a difference for those who are or will be researching their Family histories or doing other research. Vice President **Roy Schnaible** is assisting at the Genealogical Fair along with **Paul Voeller** and is making available more books, tapes, etc. to be purchased by the public.

The **Emter Accordion Family** brought a new dimension to our January Chapter Meeting Program by playing old time favorites and creating a light-hearted atmosphere. They are promising to return. **Rev. Dr. Don Miller** from Ukraine brought new archival

information and challenges. **Marie Krieger** and **Steve Schreiber** reviewed some history of the German-Russian culture in the early years in the Northwest, particularly the growth of Portland by adding the Albina territory to the two original square miles west of the Willamette River.

The March meeting will highlight a little-known area, the Georgian area, by National GRHS presenter **Milo Bauder**. And the next meetings are equally intriguing: the Latvian region by German American Society Past President **Kurt Radtke**, techniques of researching made fun by Genealogist **Susan Baird**, and lighthearted folk tales and heartbreaking stories by University of ND Professor and Author **Ron Vossler**.

Plan your travels to include one or both of the GRHS and AHSGR conventions. (Details on page 4.) Going to the libraries, seeing the Jubilee books and displays, attending the workshops, hearing the speakers, and enjoying the entertainment is most rewarding. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity. Packets will come from the national organizations soon.

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## 2004 Events

Add the dates of the Chapter and Board Meetings to be held during 2004 to your personal planners now.

Dates, times, locations - page 12

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## 2004 GROW Programs

### February 22

We had the good fortune to have **Steve Schreiber**, Port of Portland Aviation Director of the Portland International, Hillsboro, Troutdale, and the Mulino Airports. He has one of the best web sites on Germans from Russia highlighting those who came to Portland starting in the 1870s. Viewing his web site **www.volgagermans.net** should be a prerequisite before his presentation on the Germans from Russia in Portland. Steve is a gentleman who does not trumpet his talents so to maximize the gold mine of his knowledge and talent, visit the web site and be prepared to ask questions when he visits us.

### March 28

Convention Workshop Speaker, **Milo Bauder**, will make a PowerPoint presentation on the South Caucasus and Ukraine. The presentation is on "The German Colonies in Georgia." For a preview of his slide presentation, see his articles on page 3 and pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Milo is quite knowledgeable about our German-Russian heritage.

### April 25

Past President of German American Society, **Kurt Radke**, will be our presenter. As an emigrant from Latvia, he will present interesting history and experiences.

### May 23

Genealogist **Susan Baird**, will share **Research With Joy** and related information about genealogical research, specifically detailing the significance of newspaper research. She may also share how to find family data in the U.S. Census, how to create timelines, and the value of oral histories.

### June 20

**Professor Ron Vossler** from the University of North Dakota will share thoughts from many books he has authored and published about Germans from Russia. He is a freelance writer who has taken many of his short stories, anecdotes, and jokes over decades from the oral communications and traditions of the Germans from Russia. The setting invariably is the prairie and the small towns and farms of the central Dakotas where members of this ethnic group originally settled between 1884 and 1914.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual GROW 2004 Picnic

Plan Ahead!

July 10, 2004

Willamette Park in West Linn  
(Same location as last year)



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More information in next newsletter

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## New email? New address?

If your email, address, phone number, or other information changes, please be sure to notify Sharon Voeller who keeps track of us all.



(Contact information on page 10.)

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## The Winners!

At the January meeting, **Dale Voeller**, **Debra Voeller**, and **Rosalie Schacherle** received the raffle items. The door prize went to guest **Jim Empter**. Several of the prizes were donated by **Marcine Herinck**.

In February, the door prize went to **Lorraine Werner**. Raffle winners were **Jeannie Goldhammer**, **Sharon Voeller**, **Patricia Schauer**, and **Willy Horner**. Gifts were provided by **Marcine Herinck**, **Roberta Haas**, **Ilene Schnaible**, and **Jan Haberman**.

If you would like to donate items or funds for raffles and/or door prizes, contact **Ilene Schaible** or **Jan Haberman**. This is an enjoyable part of our programs and we owe a big thank you to **Ilene** and **Jan** for coordinating this effort!

(Contact information on page 10.)

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## Have You Paid Dues?

Our members are slowly paying their National GRHS dues of \$40 and the GROW donation of \$5. If you have not paid your membership dues, please make out **one check** to GROW for \$45. Our treasurer, Sharon Voeller, will forward your GRHS dues and record your membership for the Newsletter and other mailings. Please save GROW the cost of sending out reminders and making calls.

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## GROW Membership Report

Membership as of February 23:

Annual - 106

Life - 16

Associate - 16

Honorary - 9

Total Membership - 147

**Go GROW!**

## **Speaker Marie Krieger**

**January 25, 2004**

Adorable **Marie Krieger** at a vibrant age of 93 is full of history and wisdom. She is an author, historian, librarian, and teacher, among other titles. She grew up in Odessa, Washington, and has pictures of herself operating a horse-driven header, horse-drawn combine, and doing other farming tasks. She brought samples of her lye soap for which she often gets requests. Marie always has something fresh and contemporary. She has been featured in a recent Portland magazine, was a co-business partner with her late husband, has a house full of German-Russian books and artifacts, was an avid fisherman, continues to do her yard and garden work, and has more energy than those 25 years her junior!



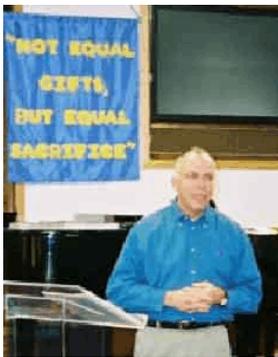
Following her presentation were the surprising four brothers of the **EMPTER Accordion Band**. And didn't they play up a storm in the Sanctuary and later in the Fellowship Hall! David Martin also surprised us with some old-time melodies with his orchestral mouth harp stimulating foot tapping and hand clapping. Marie helped lead in the song *Gott is die Liebe* and the *Vater Unser (Lord's Prayer)*. She was granted an honorary GROW Membership, and Roberta Haas presented her with 20 roses.

## **Speaker Steve Schreiber**

**February 22, 2004**

**Steve Schreiber** presented "From the Russian Steppe to the Pacific Northwest: The Germans From Russia in Portland, Oregon" in a most meaningful and inspirational manner. Just think about it! It all started

after Steve's mother passed away in 1994 and his father brought some pictures and records that he suggest Steve keep, dispose of, or use in any way he felt inclined to do. His mother's history notes and collections were the beginning of a tantalizing story that will ring throughout the ages for posterity. Steve received an honorary membership for



one year and a Rhinelander Gift Card; in return, he donated a DVD of his program to the GROW Library.

**Thank you, Steve!**

## **Bradlee Mertz: An Update**

Now I work at the Northwest Service Academy as the Fairview Creek Watershed Council's Action Plan Coordinator. My primary goal is getting the Fairview Creek Action Plan rolling, a project based on previous work such as the Fairview Creek Assessment. We are restoring reaches of Fairview Creek which have been altered by urban expansion. I manage brush clearing, plantings, and various restorations and foster a sense of civic pride and community in far East County, an area hit very hard by recent economic downturns.

Again, I reflect on the German-Russian roots of both sides of my family, German-Russian farmers who took great pride in the land. Something innate draws me to this field and profession. When Uncle Peter died in 1999, I went to North Dakota to help finish a wetland restoration project he was doing; this led me to UND where I received my undergraduate degree and had many geology/restoration internships fixing damage by the horrendous Red River Flood. While working on the same prairies that my ancestors farmed, I realized I wanted to always have the same deep connections to the earth that my family has always had. Growing up, my family had large gardens; and there were flowers, fruit trees, and long discussions about the best kind of red potato. My fondest memories are of being at my Grandmother Rose's feet listening to stories of the past in her part-German, part-English, but all German-Russian brogue. Now I try to recreate these experiences in the larger community. I believe that my job is to help empower people to make our region a more beautiful, healthy, and functional place to benefit us all. Some of my earliest memories were of going to "The Pit," an abandoned coal mine outside of Wilton, ND, where the fuel had been removed. The state designated it as a nature preserve, and a vast area of plant and wildlife took up residence. Rare wild flowers and animals of all kinds began to flourish there, and generations of my family used this property as a place to "get out of town." Now I restore similar areas so people can take their families there and enjoy hearing birds sing, watching ducks swim, or just enjoying a breeze under a grove of trees. This is an honor, and I take great pride in my work and community.

In closing, if anyone has spent time in the Troutdale/Wood Village/Gresham/Fairview area, I would like to hear stories of how this area was. This has a bearing on where we are and where we are going; every voice should be heard. If you would like to help with my oral history project, please send me an email. (Contact information is on page 10.)

## Southwest Report

By Velma Jesser

By request, here is an update on my *retirement* to the Land of Enchantment, New Mexico. When I learned there were no German-Russian groups in New Mexico, one of my major projects became that of establishing a joint chapter of GRHS and AHSGR for members living in New Mexico. The first meeting in February generated a lot of enthusiasm, and we'll have another organizational meeting March 14.



Another project operates through the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and the Small Business Administration in Washington, DC. For this year, SBA is funding a grant to train the 100 Native American tribes in the U.S. with the highest unemployment rates. Since December, I have been writing materials culturally specific to Native Americans about starting and operating a small businesses. Now through September I and another trainer go to tribal locations throughout the U.S. doing the training sessions. My first stops are Oregon, Washington, Northern California, and Montana. If you would like to know more about this program, go to our website:

[www.sipi.bia.edu/sba.htm](http://www.sipi.bia.edu/sba.htm)

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, an experience and people that I will never forget.

The last edition of this newsletter included an article on the recent publication *Black Sea German Russian Census, Volume I (Supplement to the "Stumpp Book,"* and I continue to work with that team of six as we put together Volume II.

I'm dedicated to the goals of both GRHS and AHSGR and currently serve on the Board of Directors of AHSGR as Russian Archives Chair; our next meeting is in Florida in March. And newsletters are so much fun that I'm still doing the one for GROW, one for the Arizona Sun Chapter (AHSGR in Phoenix), and serving as the Editor for *The Journal* published by AHSGR.

Jantz-Jesser genealogy still has missing links so I go to the LDS FHC Center here when possible to review microfilm from the 1500s. I can't remember what all else I'm doing but know I'm living life to the fullest and enjoying every minute of it, knowing that I have a new home to which I can *retire* and that I have many, many German-Russian friends along with my 4,000+ German and German-Russian relatives of my family tree. I am truly blessed!

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## Members' Favorite Web Sites

All sites below begin with <http://www>.

### GROW Chapter

[grhs.org](http://grhs.org)

Click on *Chapters*, Look under *West Coast*

For changes/additions to GROW web site,

Debra Voeller at [debbily@earthlink.net](mailto:debbily@earthlink.net)

Over **1,000 translated letters** are now on the GRHS site, most translated from *Dr Staats-Anzeiger*. To view the actual letters, you must be a GRHS member.

[12.4.218.176/docs/letterarch.html](http://12.4.218.176/docs/letterarch.html)

NDSU has a new **Recipe Index Search** for more than 20,000 recipes. Among others, find 34 recipe titles for Knöpfla Soup and 91 titles for Strudel at

[lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc](http://lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc)

A new website from the **Colony Santa Maria, Entre Rios, Argentina** is now available:

[santamariaentrerios.com.ar/](http://santamariaentrerios.com.ar/)

**Need Sugar Beet Syrup?** You can order that and other German-Russian items at

[shop.store.yahoo.com/gdcom/grafschafter.html](http://shop.store.yahoo.com/gdcom/grafschafter.html)

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**Send your favorite web site  
to your Editor today**

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**Make travel plans  
for one or more of these gatherings**

### GRHS Convention

July 22-25, 2004

Ramkota Hotel - Best Western

(formerly the Radisson Inn)

Bismarck, North Dakota

### AHSGR Convention

July 4-11, 2004

Doubletree Hotel

1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Tel: 1-209-526-6000, FAX: 1-209-526-6096

### Bundestreffen

sponsored by

Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland

Saturday, June 5, 2004

Stuttgart, Germany

Held every 3 years

35,000 attended in 2001

***Lydia Schauer's Memoirs***  
**dedicated to her children and grandchildren**  
**Dated May 1, 1978**

**Part I—Evacuation from Russia**

*Note from the Editor: Bob Schauer has given GROW permission to reprint an article about his family history as told by his Grandmother. The article (except footnotes) will be printed with no editing in parts of this and future newsletters. The entire article, complete with footnotes, can be located at the GRHS website under VC Newsletter, Supplemental 11-3-Sup AC, dated: Nov 2003. We give a special thank you to Bob and to his mother, Gerda Schauer, for sharing this information with us.*

**1. Our evacuation from Neu-Berlin,  
state of Odessa, Ukraine USSR**

Jakob and Lydia Schauer

with three sons: Erwin, Jakob, and Oscar

On March 15, 1944, our relocation (evacuation) began from our old village; Neu-Berlin, in the state of Odessa, USSR. By order of the German Nazi government we had to leave our house and home. All Germans were to be evacuated out of Russia. The Russian front was coming closer, the German leader, Hitler, was losing the battle. We could not imagine, leaving everything behind, all that we had built-up with so much effort over the last three years. House and cattle, all that we had, were left behind. We opened the doors and the animals that we could not take with us ran free.

The silo was full with the harvest of 1943; we had to leave this behind along with everything that was dear to us. We had hoped that in a couple of days we could return home, so we buried our papers and valuables in the yard. The horses were harnessed to the wagon, laden with fodder for the horses and as much food as was possible. Cows for milk were brought as well as chickens. So began our journey. We soon understood that it would be impossible to return; the German army was unable to drive the Russians back.

With horse and wagon, we went over the Dnester River, toward Romania, through Bessarabia and Bulgaria. After 900 kilometers, we reached the border of Serbia. The Serbs denied us passage through their country, so we had to turn back, and then go to Hungary until Weisskirchen, Bohemia. For three months we were traveling, always under the open sky, a warm bed or a warm meal we did not know during this time. When our supplies ran out, armed forces furnished us with canned food. In Weisskirchen, the German army seized our horses, the wagons and everything that the German army needed to carry out this terrible war. We were loaded onto the train, for days we sat in the cattle car without food.

In Poland, we came to a camp. There we became German citizens (under the communists we had been forced to become Russian citizens). We were given a garden house by the German army to live in. Immediately, father had to go to work, forty kilometers away from us. He had to dig foxholes for the German army. I was afraid; it was dangerous to live along in this strange land of Poland. After a long search (for someone to live with), I found two women with children who were from our home village of Berlin. There (at the place of these two women) I remained in a small corner with my three children. Soon these women found their relatives and left, I was again alone with my children. My husband was unable to find an apartment for us in Warta (Poland) where he was working.

In order to be close to my husband, I resolved to travel forty kilometers to Warta and search for a place to live. We traveled by foot through a dark forest, climbing over out-rooted trees. We ran into (saw) no other person. We arrived late in the evening into the city of Warta. In the middle of the street I saw a man standing by a well. I asked myself how can I ask this man about the work camp, where my husband was? I could not speak any Polish. So I spoke to him in Russian. As it turned out, he was an acquaintance from our village of Berlin.

In Warta, we lived between two families, they spoke in a foreign language, and we could not understand them. On November 5, 1944, my husband at the age of 41 years was drafted into the German army. It was his duty to guard Polish Officers that were being transported. Without a "Feldpostnumber" (army identification number), he was taken away. The women and children were to be transported to German. Unfortunately this did not happen, the Russian army was too close to Warta.

On January 18, 1945, at night someone knocked at my window. I heard a loud voice: "Poles get up". These were German soldiers, who had been surrounded for four days by the Red army and had just broken through. They were hungry and wanted to have something to eat. They advised me to immediately get away from the area, the Russians were just four kilometers away and it was dangerous for a German woman to fall into their hands.

At night around 2 o'clock AM, I left on foot with my three children, through a terrible blizzard, out of the city of Warta. On this day, Oskar celebrated his third

*Continued Lydia Schauer, page 6*

*Lydia Schauer, continued from page 5*

birthday. He was not able to walk; his left foot and arm were paralyzed. Erwin, at 13 years, was my big help by carrying Oskar. Jakob, at 9 years of age, walked next to me.

We met two men; they were driving a herd of cattle west toward Germany. These men demanded that Erwin and other boys his age help them to drive the cattle. On the way, collectively women and children fled the Russians. No one was able to give us any information. I worried about my son Erwin. It was dark and I could no longer see Erwin or the cattle. I beseeched to God; return my son Erwin!

At night at 9 o'clock we passed by a cemetery. Two persons emerged from behind a high gravestone. I said to my companion, (who was also from our village, her name was Katherine Bahnmüller): "they are robbers". When they came closer, I recognized my son Erwin, I was surprised and delighted; with all my heart I thanked God.

In the night, we reached a large Gutshof; all rooms were filled with refugees. We spent the night with many more people, in the cattle barn.

Next morning, we heard the whistle of a train. German soldiers accompanied us to a railway station. For our transportation, several cattle and open cars stood by for our use. Women with small children were loaded into the closed compartments; the other people were loaded onto the open cars during a ferocious snowstorm on January 19, 1945. Many people froze in the open cars, others were sick. Nothing was available to eat or drink. Shortly before Berlin we were put into a car meant for

people, that was transporting wounded soldiers. Our companions shared their rations with us, what little they had. After 27 days, we reached Jüderbog, 50 kilometers south of Berlin (Germany). In the night, the train stopped and it was called out: all refugees get out. The train was so full, we could only get out by climbing through the window. Erwin went first as I passed him Jakob. As I started to exit the train with Oskar in my arms, a soldier said, give me your boy; I will hand you the child after you are outside. As I crawled out the window, the train started to move. I ran next to the train and screamed, "my child, my child". I reached to the window and the soldier passed Oskar to me.

Here in Jüderbog we were given a room, without a bed, no source of heat, not even a cooking stove. There were no longer any ration cards available and without these we could purchase nothing. So we would not starve, I found work at various housekeeping jobs washing and cleaning. One paid in cooked potatoes, the other carrots; from this I cooked a water-soup in the laundry. Our bellies were already swollen (with hunger). Oh, how my 3 year-old child cried, "mama, I am hungry."

After 19 days, we had to vacate the room and make space for other refugees. My companion, Katherina Bahnmüller, her 13 year-old daughter, me and my three sons all went to a railway station, we had to leave this place before we all starved. Outside of Berlin (Germany), we ran into many more refugees while traveling through a tunnel. There stood small (toy) trains, the ones used in a circus zoo or a fair. With that we left Berlin, toward Gifhorn, which is near Hanover. We arrived in Gifhorn on March 7, 1945.

To be continued in the next edition of this newsletter



*Gerda Schauer and Son Bob Schauer checked out the Library, assisted others with computer questions, and spoke to members researching ancestors in Russia and Germany. Read the story of Lydia Schauer*

*starting on page 5.*

**OOPS! SORRY!**

*This beautiful couple at the GRHS Convention was mistakenly identified in the last newsletter. The couple is Dolores and Robert Schuh.*



*Some of the GROW  
Board of Directors and spouses  
Christmas party 2004  
at the home of the Schnaibles*



## Biographies of Board of Director Nominees

### Geraldine (Geri) Gander

Geri is a 70-year-old grandmother still working two days a week for Eye Health Northwest where she has been working since 1976. Her husband, Joseph, and Geri are parents of four grown daughters, three that are married giving them nine grandchildren. Their oldest daughter, Ann, is a Nurse Practitioner in Portland working in mental health.

All of Geri's grandparents came from Strassburg, Baden, and Selz Kutschurgan villages and came to America as teenagers in the late 1800s. Geri says, "I have been working on my family tree for the past five or more years. My grandparents all lived in South Dakota on a farm near Ipswich and Aberdeen, and that is where I lived until late in 1953 when I moved to Oregon with my parents."

Geri is very active with the Catholic Church in Wilsonville. Her hobbies are traveling, reading, and sewing.

### Oscar Geizler

Oscar's grandparents came to the Dakota Territory in 1884 from the Beresan District Odessa area. Oscar was born in 1930 and grew up with his parents near Ashley, ND. Oscar and his wife, Lorraine, married in 1950 and moved to Oregon City in 1963 where he worked the last 18 years for the Oregon City Public Works Department. He retired in 1991 and is a jack-of-all-trades. He has been a GRHS member for five years and was a co-founder and the first President of the GROW Chapter.

Oscar is seeking his second three-year term. He has also been an Associate Member of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR (OCAHSGR) for the past four years. Oscar and Lorraine have 1 son and 5 daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

### Roger Haas

Roger was an Elementary School Superintendent-Principal, has an S Corporation, and has been a General Partner. He has also been a General Contractor and a Property Developer and Manager. His occupational background has taught him skills of tenacity, leadership, public speaking, administration, organization, and as a Mr. Fix-It. His hobbies include tree farming, wood cutting, lumber milling, tractor projects, working with construction and logging equipment, writing, doing philanthropic work and community service, and genealogy.

Roger says, "I am proud of my German Heritage and am interested in promoting our culture, language, and the mission of our German American and German Russian societies. Memberships and professional activities include AHSGR Life Member, GAS Life member, GRHS Life Member, President of AHSGR 2000-2001, President of GROW 2002-2004, GRHS Director 2001-2004, Heritage Foundation of Germans from Russia Director and Chair of Membership and Fundraising 2002-2004, and leadership in local community groups.

## *Please Remember GROW & HFGR In Your Will*

Germans from Russia Oregon & Washington (GROW) & Heritage Foundation of Germans from Russia (HFGR) are Charitable organizations with a 501 [c] 3 status to provide you with a IRS Tax Credit for your gift, bequeaths and donations. The mission to preserve our heritage, share our history and retrieve the Russian archives is worthy of our investment for posterity of the generations to come. As you plan your will, arrange your planned giving, please remember GROW & HFGR. While you read this and think about favoring your charities, please complete and return the following:

Please send me the Estate Planning Guide

Please contact me about my will.

I am considering/am including a gift \$\_\_\_\_\_ to GROW, HFGR (circle one or both)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Place my gift in the **Operating Fund** or **Endowment Fund** (circle one fund)

(PLEASE PRINT) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:** **GROW** Planned Giving  
17064 SE Wiley Way  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

**HFGR**  
1125 W. Turnpike Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58501

## Zuhause

## At Home

### Watermelon Syrup

. . . boiling watermelon syrup. I do this out in the yard near my cooking kettle. First I must cut open the melons and scoop out the red meat and boil it in the large iron kettle. Later I strain out the pulp and seed and reboil the juice until it is a syrup we call *Melasse* or *Schlecksel* . . . .

The making of watermelon *Melasse* or *Schlecksel* is a custom handed down to us by our foreparents. *Schlecksel Kuchen*, a fancy sweet bread, has graced the tables of wedding feasts and church holiday gatherings down through the generations. It is a rich reddish-brown jam that can also be poured hot over plump dumplings!

The work is time-consuming. It will take me two days to complete the process, and it will take much grass fuel. The fire, fanned by the wind, sears my bare legs and feet. I must have my skirts tied up high, away from the open flame. All day I stir the thickening brew with a wooden ladle, careful not to let it burn to the bottom of the caldron.

Quoted from *The White Lamb*,  
A Novel by Mela Meisner Lindsay

## Leute

## People

### Mela Meisner Lindsay

Mela Meisner Lindsay was born of Volga-German parents, December 1903, in Kindsvater Chutor on the Don Artchada in South Russia, near the Don Cossack border. Her father, *David Phillip* Meisner, was born in Tscherbokowka; her mother, Eva Elisabeth Dietz, in Podtschinnaja (Kratzke). The family came to the United States in the spring of 1905, after the Russo-Japanese War, in which her father served as a soldier of the czar. They settled on a farm south of WaKeeney, Trego County, Kansas.

Mela is the author of *The White Lamb: The Story of Evaliz* about life in Russia and the New World, America. She also wrote *The Story of Johann: The Boy Who Longed To Come To Amerika*” about a young boy who dreams of a new and better life in Amerika. Both of these books are available from AHSGR Headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska.

## Kunst und Gewerbe

## Arts and Crafts

### Threading a Needle

Having trouble threading a needle these days? Dip the tip of the thread into a little fingernail polish and let it dry. The thread will then slip right through the eye of the needle.



## Sprache

## Language

### Pronouncing ü

Say *ee* with your lips out as though you are going to whistle. Try the word *müde* meaning *tired* in English.

BUT the *ü* when found before two or more consonants, such as in München (Munich), is shortened to an *i* with the lips rounded.

Try it!

Practice makes perfect!

## Geschichte und Kultur

## History and Culture

### Ukraine or “the Ukraine”?

The name Ukraine has been with us since 1187 and not until this century was it called The Ukraine. The Ukrainians use no articles such as “the” in their language. The use of The Ukraine actually started because scholars with imperfect knowledge of the English language used the form “the Ukraine” in their writing. Many of our ancestors came from Ukraine, not the Ukraine.

Und so weiter . . .

. . . And so forth

*Alles hat ein Ende,  
nur die Wurst hat zwei.*

*Everything has an end,  
only the sausage has two.*

### The Sunshine Gal

The Sunshine Gal helps us show GROW cares!

If you know of any illnesses, marriages, births, deaths, anniversaries, or other news about members, contact:



**Amelia Lybarger**

(Contact information on page 10.)

You can help *The Sunshine Gals* save costs for GROW by donating or making computer greeting cards and/or contributing funds for postage.

### Visit Black Sea German Villages

Are you interested in visiting your ancestral villages? If so, you can join the **tour** 14-30 September 2004 to visit villages in Ukraine, Crimea, and/or Moldova. SCHNEIDER LLC is planning two tours for 2005, one of which may be a special tour going to the South Caucasus, or possibly the Volga area in Russia. The South Caucasus and Volga tours will be planned if there is sufficient interest in such a tour. For more information:

<http://members.rushmore.com/~ukrainetours>

Robert R. Schneider, Manager  
1649 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Spearfish, SD 57783  
Phone: (605) 722-7712  
email: [rschneider@rushmore.com](mailto:rschneider@rushmore.com)

## Family News

Submit news about your German-Russian family and friends to share with other GROW members.

See page 11 for details to submit material.

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### With Sympathy To Loved Ones, We Remember

**Frances M. Sams** was born in Eastend, Saskatchewan, to Roy and Magdalena (Kulm) McClurg and was called home to the Lord on her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, January 9, 2004. She is from the family of Diane White, Office Manager at AHSGR Headquarters.

**Charles Leroy Jesser** died January 16, 2004, at his home in Carthage, Texas. He was born October 27, 1929, in Springfield, Colorado to Phillip and Christina (Jantz) Jesser. He was the uncle of Dr. Velma Jesser.

**Hazel (Nonast) Jantz** died January 12, 2004, in Oklahoma. She was born on March 24, 1915, in Bessie, Oklahoma, to Joseph and Augusta Nonast. She married Carl Jantz who is a cousin of Dr. Velma Jesser. They farmed near Clinton, Oklahoma, and were married for 63 years.

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### German Pride:

#### 101 Reasons To Be Proud You're German

by Gretchen Schmidt

One book that got much attention at our March Chapter Meeting was **German Pride: 101 Reasons To Be Proud You're German**. It is a smaller book of about 280 pages that is an excellent book to be in every home. It would make a lovely gift to a friend or family member, whether he/she has German blood or not. The book details German products, history, and traditions in American culture. In addition, the author points to the most popular dogs (German Shepherds and dachshunds), to foods and beverages, and to entertainers such as Fred Astaire and Marlene Dietrich. The book also highlights business accomplishments of Levi Strauss and Jacob Astor and scientists such as Albert Einstein, Gabriel Fahrenheit, and others. Gretchen traces how Germans have profoundly influenced and enlightened America.

The book was published in 2003 and retails for \$15.95. You can buy your copy from Roy Schnaible at the bargain price of \$11.50 and pick it up at the Chapter meeting; for mailing, add \$3. Contact information for Roy is on page 10.

We send GROW Wishes  
for Pain-Free Days  
and Better Health to . . .



**Lola Weber** (Portland, OR) who had a tumor removed in February. We were all happy to learn that it was not malignant and hope that Lola will soon be her happy, healthy self!

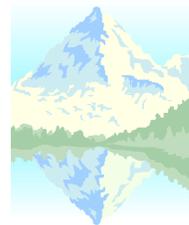
**Roberta Haas** (Portland, OR) who still experiences pain from her back surgery in July. Hang in there, Roberta! You're in our prayers!

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### Winter Memories

by Amelia Lybarger

Reflections during this Oregon winter brought memories of snow storms and winters of my childhood. We came to Oregon from Western Colorado where it used to snow much more than it does now, and my sister and I used to walk to school and have such fun slipping and sliding. It was cold much of the winter but drier so we did not notice the cold. We often wouldn't wear our coats, our Mother's nightmare!



Often my Mother, nee **Irene Moberly**, also told us of the snow when she was younger; she will be 90 this fall and I am blessed to have her still. She came from Kansas and told me about how it used to snow so deep that when they opened the front door, it was solid snow so they had to dig their way out of the house and into the yard and barns. Now THAT's snow!

About a year ago Mother was recovering in the hospital when one of the nurses came and talked to her a little while and asked where she was from. When Mother told her she was from Kansas, the nurse hurried back out and came in again with another nurse. She asked Mother to say something. When she did, the first nurse said, "I told you she was from Kansas!" Mother had not lived there for nearly 70 years.

What an awesome thought that even though we grow and move on, we are still recognized by the way we are built, the way we walk and talk, and how we view things. We still carry some of what those who came before were and how they worked, talked, and lived their daily lives.

*Some say I am just like my Mother,  
and I hope they are right!*

## ***GROW Board of Directors***

### **Roger Haas, President/Liaison**

8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland OR 97222

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### **Roy Schnaible, Vice President**

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(503) 639-4798 weberd@easystreet.com

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### **Clifford Haberman**

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(503) 252-5480 jan\_cliff@juno.com

### **Jan Haberman**

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### **Robert Majhor**

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(503) 648-5781 rgmajhor@pacifier.com

### **Oscar Geiszler**

803 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oregon City, OR 97045

(503) 656-1802 Oscarandlorraine@msn.com

### **Maxine Daily**

454 NE 69<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97213-5504

(503) 253-8388 (no email)

*For Board of Director meetings and activities, see page 12.*

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## ***Help GROW At No Cost To You!***

***Electronic Newsletters*** save GROW over \$40 per issue in postage. To receive your newsletter electronically, contact Jessica Mertz. (See Committee Chairs on this page.)

***Fundraisers*** At the last meeting **Roy Schnaible** had total sales of \$688: SCRIP purchases, 15 books of GERMAN PRICE, two videos, and two cloth bags.

**Oscar Geiszler** is collecting and recycling Inkjet and Laser printer cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges to chapter meetings or contact Oscar directly. For Albertsons Scan Cards, contact Roger Haas.

(Contact information above, this page)

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### ***Need a GROW Name Tag?***

Name tags help you get to know other members at GROW activities and help others put your face with your name. Name tags cost \$4.50. Order at the next meeting or contact:

Leona Koth at (503) 538-3447

email: [LVKoth@msn.com](mailto:LVKoth@msn.com)

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*Blessed are they  
who can laugh at themselves  
for they shall never cease to be amused*

## ***GROW Committee Chairs***

\*Member of Board of Directors

### **Calling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

### **Car Pooling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

Glenn Gumeringer (360) 573-6453

Bob Majhor (503) 648-5781

### **Hospitality/Greeting**

\*Jan Haberman

### **Collection/Research&Genealogical Assistance**

Doris Seibert (503) 651-2394 / (541) 563-3114

### **Library**

Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271

Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer, Carrie Lippincott,

Doris Seibert, Alice Summers

### **Membership**

\*Cliff Haberman

### **Newsletter**

Velma Jesser, Editor (see page 11)

\*Sharon Voeller, Labeler

Alice Summers, Printing/Mailing

### **Programs**

(Vacant)

### **Refreshments**

Roberta Haas (503) 659-8248

Ilene Schnaible (503) 623-5529

Lorraine Geiszler, Ann Gumeringer, Helen Mahjor,

and Rosalie Schachterle

### **Pictorial Scrapbook**

\*Maxine Daily (503) 253-8388 or mandc22@msn.com

### **Special Interests/Obituaries**

\*Sharon Voeller

### **Sunshine Gals**

Amelia Lybarger (503) 648-1058 or at

655 SE Washington St., Hillsboro, OR 97123

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Robert Mahjor (503) 648-5781 rgmajhor@pacifier.com

Dennis Levi (360) 699-4884

### **Web Site**

Bradlee/Jessica Mertz (503) 667-7953

solandmoon@hotmail.com or mertzb@onid.orst.edu

Debra Voeller (360) 897-9671 debbily@earthlink.net

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## ***Membership Drive***

Many GROW posters have been put on display in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Marion, and Clark counties. The objective is to increase membership. In ranking order, posters have been and will continue to be placed in Family History Centers, major libraries, active retirement homes, and active senior citizen centers as well as German pubs, restaurants, and bakeries. The "drive" will last through June of 2004.

Most recently, GROW was invited to set up a table and solicit membership at The Family History Fair in McMinnville on March 13. The Fair was sponsored by the Yamhill County Genealogical Society, Yamhill County Historical Society, and the LDS Church of McMinnville. Entertainment featured Square Dancers, Native American Dancers, and Roving Cowboy Singers.

**Do you know of an opportunity to help GROW grow?**



**GROW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
*GERMANS from RUSSIA of OREGON and Southwest WASHINGTON (GROW)*

Year(s) of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Circle appropriately: NEW RENEW

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of my ancestral village(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My family surnames \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership fees are due annually on January 1.

**GROW NEWSLETTER/OPERATION DONATION minimum \$5**  
GRHS Membership \$40 GRHS LIFE (\$130 per year)

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **GROW** - US Currency  
Mail to: **Roger Haas, 8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97222**

***GROW Publication Information***

The GROW newsletter is a quarterly publication. Receiving your GROW newsletter and other communications electronically as an Adobe pdf file saves GROW printing and mailing costs, and you receive the newsletters immediately. (Adobe Acrobat Reader is available as a free download on the Internet at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.) You can also forward the electronic newsletter to friends and family as a way of introducing them to GRHS and to our GROW Chapter. To receive future GROW newsletters electronically if you are not already on the list, contact Jessica Mertz (contact information on page 10) and help GROW's budget by doing so.

**Submission of Materials:** All materials should include a statement that gives permission for use in this newsletter. All contributions, including photos, are welcome; we can scan images and other graphics. Please provide a SASE for materials you would like returned. Send articles and other materials for publication, as well as ideas and suggestions for improvements, to the Editor, Velma Jesser, Ph.D., at:

**3133 Renaissance Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 or email [vjesser@yahoo.com](mailto:vjesser@yahoo.com) or FAX (505) 892-8592**

*Let me know what you do/don't like - Your comments are appreciated!*

***The Next Newsletter . . .***

Again, this is **your** newsletter; your contributions are what makes it yours; otherwise, it is just your Editor's newsletter. Keep your Editor happy; send short clips from something you've read, a German-Russian custom, an interesting website, a cartoon, a family photo/document, a question for other members, publicity for an upcoming event, genealogy tips and tricks, an article about your family, etc.

Even if you think the material might not be relevant or too long or too short or too *whatever*, your Editor **edits!**

Send anything you think might be appropriate.

The next quarterly newsletter will make **your** contributions the priority!  
**Annual GROW Newsletter Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1**

## 2004 Meeting Dates and Events

### Chapter Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 2 p.m. **Solid Rock Baptist Church**

March 28                      May 23

April 25                      June 20

No meetings in July and August

For program descriptions, see page 2

### Board Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1 p.m. **All members welcome!**

Libbie's Restaurant, 11056 SE Main St. in Milwaukie

March 17                      May 12

April 14                      June 9

No meetings in July & August

### GROW Newsletter Deadlines

September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1

(See page 11 for submission details)

### Directions to Solid Rock Baptist Church

**From I-205 heading South** take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16). Turn right onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd. And then left onto SE Battin Rd.

**From I-205 heading North** Take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16) and stay straight to go onto the ramp. Turn left onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd and then left onto SE Battin Rd.

**Solid Rock Baptist Church  
8510 SE Battin Rd.  
Portland, Oregon**

# Happy Spring!



**Germans from Russia Heritage Society**

**Dr. Velma Jesser, Editor**

**GROW Chapter**

**3133 Renaissance Loop SE**

**Rio Rancho, NM 87124**