



GROW Quarterly Newsletter

Area Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 4 Issue 2

January-February-March 2005

Message from the President



Roger Haas, President

Thanksgiving has a special meaning to the GROW Chapter! Who in their wildest dreams would have thought that three years after having been organized, the GROW Board and Members have felt comfortable and confident enough to host the National GRHS Convention?

Some of the outstanding attributes that have been observed by attendees and guests are the warm, friendly affection to members and strangers and the genuine love to provide for the total benefit of the Chapter. Also, the GROW Chapter desires to provide for quality in programming, in raffle gifts, in refreshments, etc. We, as members, value the honor of serving, rather than receiving. We make a goal for ourselves to produce quality in all that we do. We step forth to make suggestions, extending a hand without asking anything in return, which is worth more than dollars & cents. We take risks as we step out in faith and try to achieve our goals. These attributes may not necessarily be German traits, but are characteristic of our Club.

Now, what makes us proud to be Germans from Russia or Germany or married to a German? We show German industrious characteristics; we are benevolent, not just accruing unto ourselves, but serving others. We are frugal and conserving so as to take proper care of our finances. We show craftsmanship, specifically in our Chapter Banners, Chapter Vests, Advertising Posters, etc.

Further, because of some of the above characteristics and attributes, our membership has supported the Chapter by their attendance, monetary giving, and developing an excellent relationship with the Meeting Facility Providers, etc.

While all of those above characteristics are positive, we need to focus on an outreach to others in our circle of family and friends to encourage them to be part of our

GROW family. If we don't involve our children and young people, there is not much future for our club. We want to live up to our acronym, and GROW! We share a special bond, because of our heritage and our characteristics that have caused us to be successful and outstanding in our field of endeavor. However, the sad truth is that we are reluctant to publicize or even acknowledge some of our achievements. Can we our influence our children? Can we involve them to partner with our current and former generations?

We come together at our Chapter meeting to reflect on our customs of the past, to share phrases of our mother tongue, or even to sing and pray a little in German. The habits and the activities of our youth bring humor and awareness that all the toys and conveniences of today don't provide for the close family ties and the clean meaningful entertainment of yesteryear.

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President's Message, continued

To continue from the last Newsletter, the various Convention Chairs have functioned on their own as well as having had a group meeting at the Haberman home on Oct 28. The Publicity Team met 12 Nov. with Mandy Callery of POVA (Portland Oregon Visitors Association) who offered to assist with brochures, promotional lapel roses, digital imagines, tour agencies and other items. Look for the first public announcement in the December Edition of the GRHS News included in your *Heritage Review Journal*. Our second Chairs group meeting was held on Dec 8 and our next meeting is schedule for Feb 2005. These are not closed meetings and if you are interested in attending and be a part of our Convention planning, please contact any of the Board of Directors for time, date and place.

On another note, the attending Chapters members & friends have been exhibiting their generosity by giving toward the Convention monetary needs. \$478.12 has been contributed and we want to say **Thank You!** Of course this is a small amount of what will be needed. When you receive this GROW Newsletter, please consider a Year End Tax deductible gift payable to **GROW**, with your designation to the **GROW Chapter**, to the **2006 GRHS**

Convention, or to the **HFGR Heritage Foundation of Germans from Russia**. Indicate your desire to have the **GROW Treasurer** provide you with a receipt for your records in filing your IRS 1040.

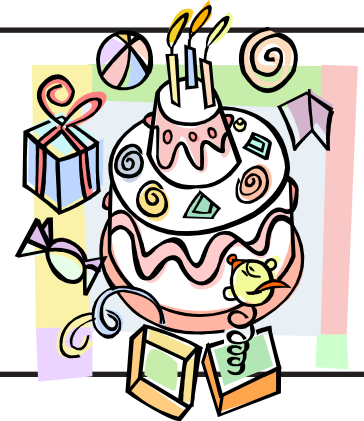
The 2004 Convention had registered a total of 660 from 32 states and four countries. If we are to maximize our attendance, it is important that when you send out your 2004 Christmas



Roger Haas modeling a sample of the Chapter vest. If you haven't ordered yours yet, call Maxine Daily, 503-253-8388 or see her at the next Chapter Meeting where samples will be available to try on for size.



Cliff Haberman
celebrated his 88th Birthday
on December 21!
Happy Birthday Cliff!!



November Program Report

Our delightful and informative Presenter, Brent Alan Mai, Concordia University, Head Librarian, Associate Professor, and AHSGR/GRHS member was our November 21 GROW Chapter Meeting Presenter.

He set up in the Activities/Theatre room to share his program on German maps of different eras, illustrations of the conditions/incentives for the Germans to leave their homeland, pictures of Churches established in the Volga and far more than space here allows. Further, he shared history of Germans who went to Russia who were not all saints. Brent wrapped up after a 45 minute picture presentaiton/monologue with humorous, felicitous comments with flavor, for GROW members.

Following a recess break with refreshments in hand in the lovely dining area, Brent took questions and answered in a most pleasant and in-depth manner from his wealth of research/study. His easy communication skills and thoughtful, deliberate answers were deeply appreciated and enjoyed.

cards and letters, that you invite your family and friends to plan to attend the 2006 Convention with you. Most people plan their vacations more than a year ahead. Share this rare upcoming event in the work place, at your church, or in your clubs/organizations. This opportunity for Germans, in particular, should arouse excitement among ethnic businesses and neighbors of our heritage. Also, the 2004 Convention had 45 Presentations by 26 Presenters and two Special Speakers. The chances are that we will have the same number of Presentations or perhaps more. If you have a specific preference or choice of subject area, it would be well to contact Program Chair, Lola Weber, at hunter1@kalama.com

While we have given considerable space for the 2006 Convention, we will want to be sure to calendar our outstanding Chapter Programs for 2005. See page 11 for more details about the programs for January, February and March.

Haben ein Fröhliche Weihnacht und Ein Glückliches Neues Jahr, Roger

Ed's Corner

My first Corner was a description of some observations I made in May 1945 while serving in the U S Army near Hildesheim, Germany. The United States was still engaged in a deadly conflict with Japan and there was a great demand for U S Army Engineers so the Engineer Battalion I served with was ordered from Germany to Cherbourg, France where we would be shipped to the South Pacific. Fortunately for me a shipment to the Pacific didn't take place. Our Battalion was demobilized and I was assigned to the U S Army of occupation in Germany. In August 1945 while on patrol, I observed how a small German town celebrated a wedding.

Our patrol Jeep was stopped and waited for the wedding party to parade past our location, which was about two city blocks from a large church. I think every person living in the town participated in the parade and was dressed in their finest clothes. A three-piece German band that was followed by church officials in vestments led the parade. At the end of the parade the Bride and Groom rode in a flower-bedecked wagon pulled by a horse. The marchers in the parade sang, street danced and shouted as the wedding party marched through town. I'm sure they were celebrating the end of the war and the beginning of a life of peace. I found out that the wedding was an all day affair.

This wedding celebration made me remember another wedding I witnessed in 1933 when I was living in Isabel, SD. Germans from Russia families celebrated this wedding and both the bride and groom were members of the German Lutheran church in Isabel. The timing was wrong because the country was in the midst of the "Great Depression" and South Dakota also suffered drought. But life does need to go on and the German's from Russia had great traditions to guide them. This wedding was also an all day affair.

In the GROW library you can find a copy of *Homesteaders on the Steppe* by Joseph S Height. Chapter XX has the title, Folk Festivals and Customs and one of the festivals is "The Wedding." The German tradition that was practiced in Russia was a mixture of physical and spiritual growth and is commemorated each year with a series of Festivals. Chapter XX lists the Festivals and Customs in the following order: *New Year's Day*; *Fastnacht* (Shrovetide Tuesday before Ash Wednesday); *Confirmation Day*; *Easter*; *May Day Festival*; *Clandestine Dances*; *The Wedding*; and ending with *Christmas*. I urge you to read this chapter of *Homesteaders on the Steppe* to appreciate our heritage in daily living for family, church, community and nation. The actual weddings in Russia took about three days and involved nearly everyone in the communities where the



Ed Weber

participants lived.

Back to a nine-year olds impression of the Lutz Wedding. Rural South Dakota in 1933 did not have rural electricity because REA was still about ten years in the future. Farms in the area were fortunate if they had a next door neighbor a mile away. The entire Weber family, Dad, Mom and four children with the youngest child a babe in arms, went to the wedding. The Lutz family had a telephone and a battery operated radio. The battery was a six-volt car battery and was recharged by a generator powered by using the windmill. The radio provided entertainment for all the children present at the wedding while the adults were preparing meals and taking care of other wedding details.

The wedding ceremony was held in the yard of the Lutz home. The bride arrived at the wedding escorted by her family via a convoy of three buggies and three or four automobiles. After the ceremony there was a reception held in the house with lots of singing, dancing, pastries and talking. An accordion player assisted by a violinist provided the music. This was in the prohibition era so there was no wine but the celebration did include home brewed beer while the children enjoyed ice cream made by teen-agers. During the afternoon the wedding gifts were opened and the bride had one of her shoes stolen. The shoe was raffled off by putting money into the shoe and when it was filled was presented to the bride.

After the sunset there was a large meal served and the day was topped by having a number of young people coming to give the newly wed couple a shivaree which consisted in making a great deal of noise by beating on pots and pans. The shivaree participants kidnapped the bride and held her for ransom. The ransom was collected from the people attending the wedding and this was turned over to the shivaree group who in turn gave it as a gift to the bride and groom.

That's it from Ed's Corner.

GROW/GRHS 2006 Convention Donations

as of 2 December 2004

Cook, Linda Radtke-	McIntire, Violet & Eugene
Ehli, Pius (Pete)	Randolph, Tamara Dietrich
Floodeen, Tom & Cindy	Sutton, Donna M.
Gatlin, Evelyn	Watne, Patricia E.
Kaster, Karolyn	

GROW Membership Totals

as of 13 December 2004

104	Total
77	Annual
17	Life
7	Associate
3	Honorary

Germany's Role in NATO and Europe

Speech given by Guenther Hoffmann Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany to members of the Germans from Russia of Oregon and SW Washington (GROW) in Portland, Oregon October 17, 2004

Thank you, Roger, for your kind introduction. It is a pleasure to talk to you my friends of GROW, the Germans from Russia of Oregon and SW Washington, about a subject which is quite dear to me: namely that of German-American relations.

History is writing yet another chapter about Germany: one that too will not be forgotten. It is a chapter about freedom and peaceful will of the people of all of Germany to be as one and to live as one. However, the challenges created after German unification in 1990 turned out to be much greater than anticipated.

In 1948 the German Basic Law was implemented. This law is still in effect today and very little has been changed since its implementation. Changing the German constitution is not that easy, just like here in the United States. And rightfully so. It is much better to work within the constitution rather than changing the constitution to adopt your new thinking.

But there are some times when it may be right and necessary to change it as Germany is experiencing now.

In 1954 the German military was formed again. This was a major step, especially in view of the extreme military presence Germany had in the past.

The purpose for the new German military was obvious: to share in the joint and common defense of Europe, especially West Germany at that time.

To protect borders, in this case the Iron Border - and to work with the allied troops to counter a Soviet invasion at such areas as the Fulda Gap and Czechoslovakia.

East Germany was the biggest staging point for the Soviet military might with the East German communist regime a willing accomplice of the Soviets.

West Germany, the size of roughly Oregon, with 61 Million people was also the storage ground of many nuclear weapons. Not only American, but also French and British. Not to mention the nuclear weapons in East Germany under Soviet control.

In addition, West Germany was also the site of many, many military maneuvers. On a routine day, there were over 2,000 low level military flights. Can you imagine what would happen if our own military would have 2,000 low level flights right here in Oregon?

There were also numerous tank maneuvers, which tore up agricultural fields, streets and cobblestones. And one military convoy after another on, God forbid of all places, the German Autobahn. What a shock for the German drivers when they could not open up to 175 km/hr.

It is therefore little wonder that all of these gave rise to Pacifism in Germany, especially among the young.

With Germany deeply committed and anchored into NATO, we may still remember the famous double track decision of then Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. His political carrier was put on the test when he simultaneously went for

The stationing of Pershing missiles on German soil and At the same time negotiated for arms limitations with the Soviets

As some of you may recall, there were numerous demonstrations in Germany. Towns did not want the Pershing, but at the same time they were also scared about the threat of the Soviet SS 18 and 20 missiles stationed in East Germany.

When we look back now, we all have to agree that NATO did what it was intended for: it kept the peace in Western Europe, it allied itself with the Western Europeans and it strengthened the western position in negotiating with the Soviets.

Germany's military force has a limited role. Under NATO command, Germany cannot send troops outside of NATO countries. This was the main reason that Germany did not participate in the 1991 Gulf War. Germany did, however, send troop ships, hospital ships, and material to the Gulf and did contribute a large amount of Dollars to the U.S.

And this is also the reason that Germany did not participate in the current Iraq conflict. Germany, however, has sent almost 3,000 German peacekeeping troops to Afghanistan and continues, with the help of the Dutch, to stabilize Afghanistan.

The Basic German Law simply prohibits sending troops to other countries. And you probably know why: the reason is certainly historic. Germany does not want to ever give any reason or fear of a military domination. What does the future hold in store? Germany will pick up more and more of the defense burden and share. And Germany may participate in military actions under U.N. command and guidance.

And to calm its European neighbors, Germany will not go alone but always will consult with its neighbors and allies.

German-French relations have been excellent. They were started under De Gaulle and Adenauer over 40 years ago and have remained friendly, cooperative and constructive ever since.

However, due to the enormous cost of the German unification, the military budget in Germany has also been cut: just like here. Which means they all have to do more with less.

The unification costs are a staggering \$100 Billion a year. There is no doubt that the Federal Republic of Germany is in somewhat of a recession. The economy is stagnant, unemployment is high especially in the new German states, and companies are cutting back and are even closing. All of this, obviously, has an effect on Germany and her neighbors as well.

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Guenther Hoffmann's Speech, continued

It turns out that it is almost as difficult to align the eastern parts of Germany with the standards of living and the practice of democracy the West Germans had enjoyed for so long, as it was to rebuild Germany after the Second World War.

Even though the new eastern states in Germany are not rising out of ashes of war, these states are rising out of ashes of a cruel, politically and economically misguided, impersonal system that proves to be more difficult to overcome than it was hoped for. There is a different mentality, a different spirit, a different educational and cultural background which was formed by almost 50 years of communism doctrine and a different value system. And this still creates, to this very day, a new and different kind of wall between the East Germans and the West Germans.

The new and unified Germany is about the size of Montana with about 81 Million people. The fact that Germany's liberal asylum law: gain a reflection of historic guilt, which allowed over 50,000 asylum seekers per month into Germany: did not help matters either.

Compare these German asylum numbers with the 2,000 refugees that Portland took in, in one year in the 1990's and you can see that there are some definite problems. How would Oregonians feel if every month we would have to absorb over 50,000 Californians? With the Soviet invasion threat over, NATO's role has changed and has been redefined. Germany's and other NATO member armed forces have been reduced.

NATO must and well should continue its mission of keeping the peace in Europe and deter aggression.

Germany will continue to supply and support NATO with manpower and funding.

NATO may be used as a Rapid Deployment Force or as a Peace Keeping Force as evidenced by the German and Dutch soldiers in Afghanistan.

Borders must be controlled to check the large influx of opportunity seekers from Eastern European countries.

While the Soviet threat is gone, there continue to be hot spots around the globe. It will be the western democratic countries responsibility and duty to keep these insurgencies under check.

No matter what we think, we have to think more globally. The U.S. alone can't be the protector alone any more. We will need to work all together, preferably under the U.N. auspices to jointly resolve global conflicts and problems.

Germany has always wanted to be a unified Germany within a unified Europe. The last think Germany wants is to give any type of fear to any of its neighbors. Recent polls indicate that Germans think of themselves more as Europeans than as Germans.

The Germans and Europeans know that their future is tied to a strong and stable Europe and to a strong partnership with the United States.

Germany and its people have never forgotten that, if it had not been for the American people and their generous sense of forgiveness and support for those who were once

their enemies, Germany would not be what it is today. That healing gesture restored the self-confidence of a people once led and gone astray.

Germany also continues to be a partner in leadership with the United States. This is vitally important for both Americans and Germans as we recognize more and more the global challenges, responsibilities and opportunities. It is in Germany's interest as well as Europe's interest to stabilize the Eastern European countries as quickly as possible. This is especially true for Russia. Germany has been out front to help Russia with loans, technology help and transfer and construction to get Russia back on its feet. The 80 years of communism has done very little for Russia. They are now paying the price. But we must not punish the Russian people. We must help them become self sufficient. Trade with Russia could be extremely important to the west. Russia has the natural resources. Things the west needs.

What does Germany expect?

For one thing, to keep the Russians where they are. An increase in asylum seekers to the west will hurt everyone.

Germany also expects to be a major trading partner with Russia and to get from Russia primarily oil and natural gas. Energy is the most important product for a country. Without energy, nothing happens.

The changes in Russia and to the Russian people are extremely difficult. Especially the changes from the communistic to the free trade system.

The Russians have been brought up in an entirely different way. It will take much patience on everyone's part to change their thinking.

With the European Union now a reality, Europe will be a continent that will no doubt have a major role in shaping and determining the world economics. Also, Europe presents itself as an excellent market: over 360 Million people who are well educated and have a decent and good income.

The trade barriers within the European Union have fallen. Who would have thought of this 50 years ago?

There is a common currency: the Euro in most of the European Union countries. Who would have thought of this 50 years ago?

All of the western European countries and for that matter all of the western democratic countries, will have to rely on one another. By doing so, the age old fears of wars, of prejudices and hate between these countries will give way to peace, to prosperity and to an understanding of human rights and dignity.

The German-American connection started in 1683 when 13 German families arrived here on the Eastern shore of the United States in a small ship called the Concord. These German settlers founded Germantown in Pennsylvania and in 1688 issued the first manifesto against slavery. Today every fourth American claims some

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Guenther Hoffmann's Speech, continued

German ancestry. Countless personal and business relationships have developed to strengthen and deepen this transatlantic partnership. The United States can also benefit considerably from this partnership, especially as it relates to the development of a globally competitive workforce and Germany's proven experience in vocational training and education

In closing, the global challenges we are facing today, can be resolved by working closely together. Our interdependent world does not allow any country or any group of countries to succeed in going alone. In this spirit, it is not only sensible, but essential, that the German-American connection and relationship is strengthened and that both countries people continue on the path of cooperation, friendship and understanding.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about German American relations.

God bless all of you and above all, may God bless this great country of ours, America.

2004 South Dakota Experiences

By Geri Gander

We had a busy summer and fall; first we drove to SD to attend our first GRHS convention in July and then came home to unpack our bags, only to repack. This time we headed back to Aberdeen, SD for our 9th annual pheasant hunting trip and spending time with the many cousins I have in the area.

As a child living on the farm out of Ipswich, SD, memories are very vivid when it comes to the fall and hunting pheasants. Back in the late 40's, there were so many birds that it was a staple of food in the winter. One year comes to my mind when my mother, her sister, cousin Bertha, and I spent the whole day dressing and cleaning the birds as soon as the hunters brought them home. We had a big galvanized wash tub in the middle of the yard full of over 100 dressed birds; this wasn't all we gals needed to do. After everything was finished, we got the canning jars out and canned the pheasants as we didn't have electricity and the only way to keep the birds from spoilage was to can them to use in the winter.

I have told this story many times to my husband which got him interested in going back to SD to try his luck because he thought I was stretching the truth. We have just finished the 9th trip back to good old SD for hunting and visiting with all of my cousins, many of whom still live on farms. Joe was able to bring back the allotted 15 pheasants per gun home.

His hunting partners, brother Jack, and his son Joe anxiously took to the fields and sloughs with Jack's faithful dog, Buzz, each day. Out-of-staters are allowed to hunt 10 days which is sufficient when you consider the rough terrain pheasants enjoy. Getting together with friends for a fun day of hunting is what they enjoy. Bringing home a few birds is a bonus.

Guenther H. Hoffmann BIOGRAPHY

Guenther Hoffmann grew up in Germany and immigrated to Canada in 1957 and then to the United States in 1964. He is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Teachers College and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada with a degree in Education. He has lived in Portland, Oregon USA since 1964. Hr Hoffmann is fluent in both German and English.



Active in civic and community affairs, Mr. Hoffmann has been President of a number of organizations, such as the Folkfest of Portland, the German American Society, the Friends of the German Summer School on the Pacific, the Portland Insurance Personnel Administrators and the German American Foundation. In 1964 he established the German Language School in Portland and was the schools Director until 1996 – for a total of 32 years. He has been a Board Member of the German American Society from 1964 to 1996 and again in 2001. Mr. Hoffmann is a charter member of the German American Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon, Chapter.

In 1980, Mr. Hoffmann was appointed by the Federal Republic of Germany to be that country's Honorary Consul for the State of Oregon. Mr. Hoffmann is a member of the Oregon Consular Corps and has served twice as Dean in 1986 and 1993. He is also Retired US Military, having served in the US Army for over 24 years serving as Chief Warrant Officer 3 in the Adjutant General's Office. Mr. Hoffmann has twice been decorated by the Federal Republic of Germany with the Officers Cross "First Class and the Order of Merit for his "untiring efforts in promoting international understanding". He is also the recipient of the German American Friendship award as well as a number of U.S. Army commendation medals.

In 1993 Mr. Hoffmann was honored by the Royal Rosarians of Portland for his many community activities and accomplishments. In July 1997, he was named "German American Citizen of the Year" by the German American Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hoffmann became a "Royal Rosarian" of the City of Portland, in 1999.

Mr. Hoffmann is associated with Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. He and his wife Waltraud, a native of Austria, and their daughters Christine and son in law Chris and Karin reside in Portland.

Dr. Arnold and Donna Wallender

GROW members Dr. Arnold and Donna Wallender have resided in Medford, Oregon since retiring from their career work in 1991. Their memberships in GROW and GRHS go back to the early days of both organizations. As is true with a number of GROW members, Donna and Arnold are native to North Dakota. Donna lived in Dickey County in her childhood and adolescent years. Arnold's were in Oliver County and Mercer County.



Dr. Arnold & Donna Wallender

John and Elizabeth Bollinger Wiederrich, the paternal grandparents of Donna emigrated from the Neudorf area of Russia. Gottlieb Wiederrich, their son and Donna's father, was born and raised on a farm near Monango. Early in his adult life he assumed the Standard Oil Company bulk distributorship in Merricourt. Donna was born while her parents lived in Merricourt. Merricourt not having a high school resulted in her attending Edgeley High School. Following that she attended Jamestown College and graduated with a B.S. in nursing. During her college years her parents moved to Ellendale. Her maternal grandparents Herman and Marie Gurney Salszieder emigrated from the Pomeranian area, at that time part of Germany. Her mother Olive was born and raised on a farm near LaMoure. She attended college at Valley City and then taught school at Merricourt where she met and married Gottlieb Wiederrich.

Friederich and Paulina Buchmann Wallender, the paternal grandparents of Arnold and his maternal grandparents Andreas and Friedericka Schrempf Schwegler emigrated from the Crimea to the Freeman, SD area. They later moved to Oliver County in ND near Otter Creek NW of New Salem. Arnold's father Friederich and mother Ida Schwegler, both also born in the Crimea, married and farmed in Oliver County, later moving to Beulah in Mercer County. His father operated a shoe and harness repair business there. Arnold was born on the farm near Otter Creek. He attended high school in Beulah. After high school he attended Jamestown College, graduating with a degree in mathematics. His years at Jamestown College were interrupted by service in the USAF.

Donna and Arnold met and married while living in Jamestown. Following Jamestown, they resided in Fargo. In Fargo Donna taught obstetrics at the St. Luke Hospital School of Nursing. Arnold earned an M.S. in mathematics from NDSU. Next stop was at Manhattan, KS. Arnold taught mathematics for a number of years at KSU. Donna was employed as a nurse at the University Health Center.

After a one-year interlude at Ohio State University, they lived for the remainder of their career years in California. Arnold taught mathematics and chaired the Division of Science, Engineering and Mathematics at West Hills College at Coalinga and Lemoore, CA. Donna was employed as a nurse and nurse supervisor at the Coalinga District Hospital. Her career continued as she served as a

Home Health Nurse in the community and later as the Infection Control Nurse at a Hanford, CA hospital. Arnold undertook a number of side endeavors during his tenure at West Hills College. One was to earn his Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University. A second was to teach as a Fulbright Grantee at the Deutschhaus Shule in Wurzburg, Germany.

In their retirement years both have participated in Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent work projects. Donna is a volunteer at the public library, selecting books then delivering them to homebound clients. She is involved in the activities of AAUW and the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Arnold has his woodshop. He hikes regularly with the Sierra Club, both day hikes and extended backpacking trips. They have a travel trailer and use it extensively.

The Wallenders have a family. Daughter Lisa is a graduate of California Lutheran University and California Polytechnic University. She is employed as a chemist in San Luis Obispo, CA. Son Lee is a graduate of California Lutheran University and the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a researcher for a law firm in DC. Daughter-in-law Kathleen is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and Loyal University of New Orleans. She is an attorney for a DC law firm. Grandson Lucas is in his first year of life.

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New Meeting Site... Deutsches Haus

The Deutsches Haus sits on three of the original 20 acres that was given to the German America Society in 1911 by Louise Weinhard. She was the widow of Henry Weinhard, founder of the Weinhard Brewing Co. It was formerly called the Altenheim, a place where German widows and children could find a place to live and be cared for. This four-story home was built and opened its doors in 1912.



Two wings were added in 1954 and in 1961. In 1972, the Dining Hall was constructed and six years later, additions were made to the east and west wings. Continuing in 1982, the Business Office was remodeled. to accommodate approximately 70 residents, but the Retirement Center was closed in 2003. In 2004, hardwood floors were installed in the dining room and the commercial kitchen was retrofitted with new lighting to accommodate the German American Society as its new headquarters, now renamed as the Deutsches Haus.

The German American Society, formerly known as the General German Aid Society, was founded on March 18, 1872, and has functioned continually as a charitable organization with the IRS exempt code 501c3. Under this provision, the German American Society has operated a Saturday German School (SGS) for approximately 40 years. This SGS has recently doubled in size and the West Wing is being remodeled to accommodate up to 150 students for the fall of 2005. In its promotion of the German culture, language, and tradition, the Society has made its facilities available to Affiliated Groups such as GROW for a nominal user fee. GROW is grateful for these lovely accommodations for its Chapter Meetings and the storage of its Library.

Origin of Family Names

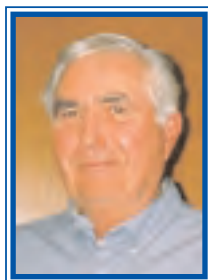
by Paul Voeller

The dictionary says surnames originated from an ancestor by adding a suffix or a prefix, indicating descent; such as, Williamson or son of William, or MacDonald, son of Donald.

"The origin of family names, at least for the southwest part of Germany, from where the colonists largely originated, goes back to the 13th and 14th centuries." *Paradise of the Steppe* by Joseph S. Height, page 401.

There are four basic types of German family surnames.

1. Surnames derived from the first name of the father; such as Andres, Adams and Mickel.



Paul Voeller

GROW Committee Chairs

**Board of Directors Member contact info on page 7.*

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
 Bob Schauer (360) 687-1905 - bschaue@pacifier.com

Library Carrie Lippincott; Alice Summers
 Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271 - cvmesseng@hotmail.com
 Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer - amggum@aol.com

Membership *Geri Gander
Newsletter Jan Prunier - janice.prunier@verizon.net
 *Sharon Voeller, labeler; Alice Summers, printing, mailing

Programs Paul Voeller
Refreshments Roberta Haas (503) 659-8248
 Ilene Schnaible (503) 623-5529; Lorraine Geiszler;
 Ann Gumeringer; Helen Mahjor; Rosalie Schachterle; Paula Pfau

Pictorial Scrapbook *Maxine Daily
Special Interests/Obituaries *Sharon Voeller
Sunshine Gals Amelia Lybarger (503) 648-1058
 655 SE Washington St., Hillsboro, OR 97123; *Jan Haberman

Volunteer Coordinators *Robert Mahjor
 Dennis Levi (360) 699-4884

Website Dean & Jan Prunier
 Debra Voeller - debra@voeller.us

GROW 2006 Convention Chairs

Entertainment: Vivian Messenger
Equipment: Bob Majhor
Food & Facilities: Ilene/Roy Schnaible
Programs: Lola Weber
Memorial Service: Dr Don Miller & Dr Harley Miller
Publicity: Maxine Daily & Jan Prunier
Registration: Jan Haberman
Tracker/Recorder: Ed Weber
Treasurer: Sharon Voeller

2. Surnames derived from a nickname of a distinctive physical or mental trait; such as, Gross, Klug and Schöner or derived from plants or animals; such as, Wolf, Fuchs, or Baum.
3. Surnames derived from a town, village or an obvious landscape feature; such as, Weissenburger, Berg and Hof.
4. Surnames derived from a trade, profession or occupation; such as, Bauer, Pflug and Schuh.

In my case, Völler means "fuller of cloth" where as the maiden surname of my grandmother was Welk meaning "foreigner." My great-grandmother's maiden surname was Zahn, meaning "tooth brecher" or dentist. My wife's maiden name is Reiss meaning "cobbler or shoemaker."

Do you know what the origin of your family name is? To learn more see *Paradise of the Steppe* by Joseph S. Height, pages 401-409.

Holiday Traditions

by Jan Prunier

Jur family has many wonderful holiday traditions. One of my favorites was making Peifferneusse (see recipes below) with my Mom, Maxine Daily and Grandma, Ella Lutz Wetzel. They both taught me the German traditions and foods that had been passed down verbally from generation to generation. These cookies are somewhat different from those found in stores, in that they are covered by an anise-flavored glaze instead of powdered sugar.

I was a teenager when I made them alone for the first time. There is no exact measurement for the flour, so you have to go by "feel" and I put too much flour into them and they turned out hard as rocks and were inedible! The next batch turned out much better.

Last Christmas Mom and I worked together to get the verbal recipes down in written form and I made up recipe cards to give as Christmas gifts. It was such an enjoyable project to work on with Mom. We had so much fun reminiscing, each recipe brought about stories from times past, and we included brief anecdotes about each recipe on the cards.

Halva, Halvah

A Christmas tradition in many German-Russian homes was halvah. This pressed confection of sesame seed and honey was eaten as a dessert or snack, somewhat crumbly and crunchy and quite sweet. With vanilla and chocolate flavors but sometimes marbled, halvah is a Turkish confection. Curt Renz, Ames, IA, recalls his father selling halvah by the pound in their Herreid, SD, store. Curt remembers selling black olives, by reaching with a cup into a huge wooden barrel filled with brine and olives. They were daily purchases by the "old folks". Other common purchases were head cheese and blood sausage.



From foodreference.com...

Halva is a confection or sweetmeat originating in the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean regions. It is made from ground sesame seeds, honey or sugar syrup, with other ingredients such as dried fruit, pistachio nuts, farina (semolina), and almonds sometimes added. Cinnamon and are also frequently added. The ingredients are blended together, and then heated and poured into bars or long loaves. The name means literally 'sweetmeat' and various forms of the word may be found in Turkish, Greek, Yiddish, Arabic, etc. (Helva, halva, halvah, halwa, halawi, etc.)



Peifferneusse

This is Mom's recipe dated February 13, 1946. These are a yearly Christmas tradition.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 cups brown syrup | 1 tsp. anise extract |
| 1 cup brown sugar | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 eggs, beaten | 3 tsp. baking powder |
| ½ cup margarine | Enough flour to make a soft dough |
| 1 cup sweet cream (half & half) | |

Heat brown syrup and brown sugar until sugar is dissolved (don't boil), cool. Add next 6 ingredients and mix well with whisk. Add flour to make a soft dough, be careful don't add too much flour or the cookies will be tough. Refrigerate dough 2 hours. Roll into walnut size balls. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool cookies on rack. Frost, see separate recipe.



Peifferneusse Frosting

This is Mom's recipe dated February 13, 1946. These are a yearly Christmas tradition.

We would make these several weeks (or a month or two) before Christmas, so that the flavors have time to combine.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 cups powder sugar | few drops anise extract |
| 1 tbsp. cornstarch | milk |

Mix all ingredients, make frosting a little thinner than usual. Put half the cookies into large bowl, pour half the frosting over cookies and mix well. Place cookies on wax paper to dry. Frost the other half. When dry store in airtight containers.

Mom's Note:

In the late 1930s I would help my Grandma Stockburger (in Wishek, ND) make these starting in October. She would store them in large lard tins...I always knew where to go for a handful...how big are a 6-7-8 year old's hands??

New GROW Newsletter Editor

Guten Tag...I'd like to introduce myself to you since most of you have not met me yet. My name is Janice Daily Prunier. GROW members Clyde and Maxine Daily are my parents. And it was through my Mom that I became involved with GROW.

I have always been fascinated by family relationships. Even as a child, I would always remember who was related to whom and how in our extended family. In 1997, Mom, my daughter Sayra, her friend Jaime, and I traveled to The Dakotas. We traveled 4000 miles in 10 days. Mom wanted to go back to see the town where she was raised (Wishek, ND). It was an extraordinary trip. We met cousins we never knew about. I just wish that my Grandma Ella Wetzel would have been around to come along with us. She would have enjoyed it very much. There were several times while she was still with us that I would try to get her to talk about what life was like when she was growing up, but I think that there was so much turmoil and strife in her childhood, that she didn't want to recall it.

I feel that what GROW, and the other heritage societies are doing, is extremely important...saving family histories for future generations. We need to know where we have been to know where we are going. I'm very happy to be able to make a contribution to help this happen.

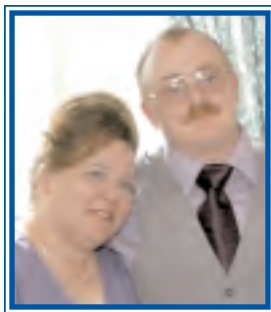
I was raised in West Linn, OR where I graduated from high school in 1976. In high school I was involved in many girls' sports and enjoyed taking art and business classes. After high school graduation, I attended Portland State University for a couple of years and I'm an alumni of the Oregon Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi. I majored in Business Administration. During that time I worked at many different jobs, from banks to a photo studio.

In 1979, I married Wallace Ostrander and had three children, Sayra (Sara) who is 24 and married to Justin Iseli; Christiana Stuchlik, 22, and Patrick Ostrander 22. Yes, they are twins. Christiana has a 15 month old son, Erik, so now I'm a grandma too. (He's so cute!)

I became a single parent when the twins were about 9 months old and so returned to school to learn a skill to support them. I attended Mt. Hood Community College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with my AA degree in Word Processing with concentrations in Graphics and Supervision. While I was there I was provided an opportunity to learn phototypesetting. I worked in the printshop on campus for a little over a year setting type, working in bindery, and the printshop office.

After graduation, I was Assistant Editor for about three years at a small oval track car racing tabloid *Racing Wheels* in Vancouver, WA. That was a great learning experience.

In 1987, I began working at *The Reflector* newspaper in Battle Ground, WA. I worked on many, many different



Jan & Dean Prunier

printing projects over the 15 years I worked there. Some of my favorite projects included cookbooks, history books, poetry books, logo designs, newsletters, etc.

I raised my children in Grace Lutheran Church in NE Portland, where they also attended school. I was involved in many volunteer projects including being Secretary for the school's Parent-Teacher group for two years and was editor of the church newsletter for about five years. I also produced many monthly mailers and other printed materials for the church and school.

In 2000 we moved from Portland to Battle Ground. A few months later, I was getting divorced and it was time to start over.

I met my current husband, Dean Prunier, on the internet and after many months of corresponding we met for lunch. And as they say, the rest is history. Dean and I were married in 2002. After so many years at *The Reflector*, I decided that a completely fresh start was in order, so we decided to reside at my husband's home in Everett. I've been working at Merrill Corporation for nearly two, where I typeset mostly forms, business stationery and various items for restaurant accounts.

Dean was born in Berlin and immigrated to the US with his parents when he was a year old. He's an instructor at BCTI, teaching three computer classes... Networking, Web Design and Web Graphics. He also substitute teaches all the other courses they offer. He has his A+ Certification and builds and repairs computers for several clients in the area. Dean will be rebuilding the GROW website soon.

Dean is fluent in German and a few years ago he traveled to Berlin to meet his aunts, uncles and cousins. When they first came to the US, his Mom, Edith Hacker Troup learned to speak English by watching soap operas. She was in Berlin during WWII and has a lot of exciting and scary stories. I will share some of those in the future.

I'm very open to suggestions for the newsletter. Please feel free to email me at janice.prunier@verizon.net with any comments, suggestions and submissions. *Jan*

Fundraising Opportunities— At No Cost To You!!

- **Electronic Newsletters.** Receive your newsletters via email, and save GROW in postage costs.
- **Albertson's Scan Cards** - Contact **Roger Haas** for your card if you don't already have one.

Other Opportunities to Help...

- **Oscar Geiszler** is recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges at Chapter Meetings or contact Oscar directly. He can also help you receive approximately 50% discount on refilled cartridges.
- Visit **Roy Schnaible** before/after the Chapter Meetings to view the fascinating collection of books, audio CDs, videos, etc. that are available for sale. Also take a look at the tote bags, key chains and magnets, all with GROW logo.

GROW 2005 Quarterly Calendar

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 5						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 <small>New Year's Day</small>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 <small>Board Meeting</small>	13	14	15
16	17 <small>Martin Luther King Birthday</small>	18	19	20	21 <small>Presidents Day</small>	22
23 <small>Chapter Meeting</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 5						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <small>Board Meeting Ash Wednesday</small>	10	11	12
13	14 <small>Valentine's Day</small>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <small>Chapter Meeting</small>	28					
M A R C H 2 0 0 5						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 <small>Newsletter Deadline</small>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <small>Board Meeting</small>	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <small>Chapter Meeting</small>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	28	29	30	31	<small>Good Friday</small>	

23 Jan 2005 Our own **Bob Schauer**, whose ancestry came from the Glueckstal area, will show the DVD *Heaven is our Homeland: The Glueckstalers of the New Russia and North America*. The companion in print form is an 800 page book with 2000 pages of information in two additional CD's tucked in the cover of the book entitled *The Glueckstalers of the New Russia and North America: a Collection of History, Genealogy and Folklore*. Following the showing, Bob will take questions & hopefully give you an answer.

27 Feb 2005 Our own **Susan Baird** will make a presentation on *Researching in Germany*. She is an expert in Research in many fields and will be willing to discuss not only research in Germany, but in North America. She provides help in other facets of research. She & her husband, Jim, give regular workshops on Family History research and organizing toward the publishing of your Family Book. If you are working on your family book, you can not afford to miss this meeting.

20 March 2005 Again our own **Val Renner Ingram**, also President of the Inland NW Chapter (INWC) of Spokane, will be visiting us along with Wanda Hopkins, also a GROW Member and David Kilwien from Aberdeen, Washington, to give their presentation *Lost in Russia*. This was one of the most outstanding workshops at the 2004 GRHS Convention. Hear also the excellent cooperative activities that INWC enjoys with the Spokane AHSGR Chapter.

Barbara Heauser

Dear Jan Haberman,

Thank you so much for your inquiry about my mother. Barbara passed away November 28 in Houston, Texas.

The memorial service will be held Saturday, January 8 at 11:00 AM at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 14500 SE Powell Blvd., Portland. There will be a gathering and potluck in the church basement following the memorial. Your members are invited to attend.

My mother really enjoyed the Germans from Russia meetings, and wished that she had gotten involved sooner. God Bless You, Chuck & Jan Heauser

Ruth Ann (Williams) Bechtold

We are saddened by the death of Ruth Ann (Williams) Bechtold, 23 Nov 2004, age 71, wife of Roland Bechtold. Ruth was born in 1932, Council Bluff, IA and came with her parents to Portland in 1941. Ruth Ann graduated from Milwaukie Union High School and became a homemaker. Roland and Ruth Ann were married in Sellwood on 18 Feb 1955 and resided in the area until 1968 when they moved to Damascus. .

Ruth went to a beautician, fell and broke her hip. She was doing fine with her hip replacement and was recuperating at Cascade Terrace. On Tuesday, 23 Nov 2004, she succumbed to heart complications. She leaves her husband of almost 50 yrs of marriage and two sons, Brian and Mark, and a sister, Marge Parker.

A family memorial in Ruth Ann's honor was held in her home on Saturday, 27 Nov 2004 between the hours of 1 to 5PM.

Roland is a Life GRHS member and a faithful GROW Member. GROW sympathizes and prays that God may comfort Roland and his family.



GROW Membership Application

Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington



Years of Membership _____ New Renewal

Birth Month (optional) _____ Anniversary Month (optional) _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (include area code) _____ Email address _____

Name of ancestral village(s) _____

Family surnames _____

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards _____

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

GROW Newsletter/Operation Donation (minimum \$5.00)

GRHS Membership \$40.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$650.00 (\$130.00 per year)

Make checks payable to GROW - US Currency Only • Mail to: Roger Haas, 8618 SE 36th Avenue, Portland, OR 97222

Please send email updates and address corrections Sharon Voeller - voellerp@worldstar.com

GROW Quarterly Newsletter Deadlines: September 1 • December 1 • March 1 • June 1

All submissions are welcome. If you would like any materials returned, please include a SASE.

Send articles to: janice.prunier@verizon.net or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

GROW Chapter

8618 SE 36th Avenue
Portland, OR 97222