

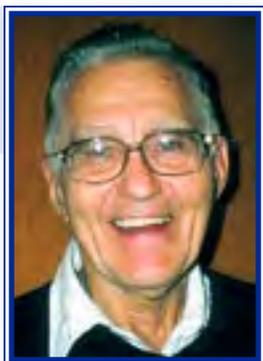
# GROW Quarterly Newsletter

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

Volume 7 Issue 2

January - February - March 2008

## Message from the President



**Roger Haas, President**

As I write this letter and review the year of 2007, the GROW Chapter has had a very good year, thanks to you, the members, the fine Board of Directors you have elected, and the committee members who have taken charge of the many activities.

Our Board embarked on a mission in January of helping our GROW members with their Family Histories. Lola Weber, Joni Jundt, and Vivian Messenger "took the ball and ran with it".

Susan Baird, Professional Genealogist, put on two work shops; she has set up a four-generation data base for the GROW Families participating. What a terrific resource Susan is! If you have not yet done your 4 generation Ancestry Chart, you can still be included by submitting your pedigree chart ASAP to her. In her annual tour to Salt Lake City, Susan has again been assisting several of our members who went with her for the purpose of doing more family research. Thank you, Susan.

During the year, we had GROW members sharing their Family Books, their work in progress, and giving many tips to make it easier in searching, in collecting, in compiling, and making it fun to put your Personal Histories and Family Trees together.

What was planned, as a GROW Board Christmas party, evolved into much more for 9 December 2007. A celebration of our successful GRHS Annual Convention held at the Portland Holiday Convention Center in 2006 was planned last fall, but the participants were fatigued and we couldn't manage to put it together. Consequently, the GROW Board decided to expand the 9 December party to include all 60 plus

Chairs, leaders, participants, & supporters. Of course, advance long term commitments, the activities of the season, our weather related problems, illness, etc. did not make it possible for some to attend our celebration. Group photos were taken and framed Certificates of Appreciation were presented to attendees and for others to be made available at the invitees convenience. Thank you again for all the help. The success of the Convention could not have been accomplished without you.

2008 will provide us with new opportunities. Please make you wishes known as to what you would like to see for our Chapter meetings??

At the November Chapter, the interest was to continue with our Family History Program, but we also know that some of you want/like structured Presentations, so we'll perhaps plan a combination as you share ideas and speakers.

Dr. Tim Janzen will be presenting at our 27 Jan 2008 Chapter Meeting on "Genetic Genealogy". Please review Dr. Tim's DNA Genetic Genealogy found in our July-Aug-Sept and the Oct-Nov-Dec Newsletters to refresh your memory of his write-up. It will help you to be ready to ask good questions and gain a deeper understanding of his presentation.

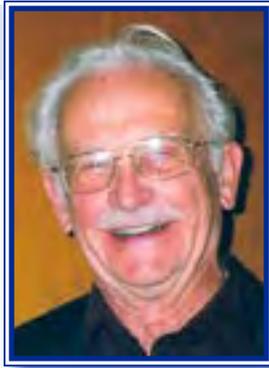
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## Ed's Corner

As I'm writing this Corner it is the last week in November and my deadline to get the Corner to the editor is December 1st. You won't get to see this until the January Newsletter, however. I'm going to write about Christmas Past.



Ed Weber

Several years ago about a week before Christmas I watched a TV program that described the unofficial truce declared by both the German and Allied troops occupying the trenches in Europe on Christmas Eve, 1917. The whole thing started when the German soldiers started singing Christmas Carols, the British soldiers joined them by singing the same Carols, in English instead of German, but the tunes were the same. The Carol singing started the truce that continued through Christmas Day. Soon the soldiers on both sides came out into "no mans land" to meet their adversaries face to face. The Germans came out with small-decorated Christmas trees, decorated with a candle. The British copied the trees and added Christmas trees to the Christmas tradition.

This German tradition was one that my Dad followed and I first became aware of it while we lived in Isabel SD in the 1920-1930s. The prairie around Isabel didn't grow evergreen trees, so the trees were imported to Isabel. It is a miracle that our house didn't catch on fire. The Christmas trees were generally spruce, were very dry and the needles would fall off the limbs of the tree if you just touched them. The tree was always lighted with candles and was decorated on Christmas Eve. The saving feature was the fact it only stayed up until New Year's day.

Dad once talked about what Christmas was like in Russia. He remembered that in the German community the young children would go house to house singing Christmas Carols. They would be rewarded with sweets, nuts and fruit for their songs. One of my Dad's favorite times of the year came at Christmas and especially Christmas Eve. I'm sure that a lot of this came from what he did when he was a child in Kassel, Russia. I'm going to copy out of the book *Homesteaders on the Steppe* (There are copies of the book in the GROW Library) this segment is from the chapter entitled *Folk Festivals and Customs*.

### Christmas

There is no historical evidence that the pioneer settlers set up a Christbaum at Christmas time. It is certain; however, that emigrants from the regions of the Upper Rhine knew about this custom and probably observed it in their homeland. In point of fact, the first Christmas tree of which we have any historical

record was set up in the town hall of the Alsatian village of Türkheim in 1597 by the councilors, who decorated a large Tanne (a fir tree) with colored streamers, paper flowers, fruits and pastries. In subsequent years the custom spread to Strassburg, Schlettstadt, and other localities in Alsace, and soon appeared in the Black Forest area and in the Rhine Palatinate. The first Tannenbaum with lighted candles made its appearance in Heidelberg as early as 1657.

If the colonists did not have a Christmas tree in their homes during the early decades the reason is simply that no evergreen tree of any kind could be found within a hundred miles of Odessa. It is, however, interesting to note that on Christmas Eve of 1828 Count Michael Vorontzov, the governor-general of New Russia, did have a Christmas tree in his palatial residence at Odessa. The tree is described by an English visitor as "a six-foot sapling that was placed in a box and adorned with a variety of artificial flowers and gift packages. The salon in which it stood was illuminated by a large number of lighted wax tapers that were placed on tables." In all likelihood the Count had learned of the Christmas tree custom from his very close friend and predecessor, Duc de Richelieu, who had encountered it in Alsace or in the Rhine Palatinate some years before he came to Odessa in 1803.

It is plausible to assume, therefore, that at least some of the colonists who came from those areas may have preserved the custom, at least to some extent in a modified form, even though it did not come into vogue until the pastors and schoolmaster developed a general appreciation of it in the seventies. At that time evergreen trees were brought to Odessa by train from the woodland regions of Podolia far to the north. In those years it became customary to set up a large tree in the church or school for the entire community.

For the children of the steppe the sight of the majestic Tannenbaum evoked a completely new kind of concept of the Christmas tree. About that inner experience Dr. Karl Stumpp who grew up in the colony of Alexanderhilf, makes the following interesting observations: "Upon the children of Germany who are used to seeing fir and pine trees the year around, the Christbaum does not make the impression that it aroused in our children, who have never seen a fir tree growing in the forest. It was therefore surrounded by a sacred splendor that filled them with profound awe and wondrous delight. Even the bringing in of the "big tree" for church from Odessa was for them an excit-

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## GROW Website — Redesigned!

by Jan Prunier  
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

It's been a long time in the works, but the redesign of the GROW Website is complete and available for use. This is something that's needed to be done for several years, but I didn't have the training to construct the website, so I've been limping along updating it as I could.

The redesign project was a joint effort by my son Patrick Ostrander and I. Patrick is a graphics student at Everett Community College. Fall term he took a web design class and needed to build a website for his class final project. So I enlisted his help in the construction.

He did a wonderful job in making my vision become a reality.

You can find meeting information, the current newsletter and newsletter archive, photos from past

events, and other chapter information.

Take a look and let us know if there is something else you'd like to see on the website. The link is: <http://www.grhs.org/grow/index.html>



## President's Message, cont.

Dr. Tim will explain the basics of how to use genetic information to help solve genealogical research problems. This perhaps is another instrument in helping you solve your historical line of ancestry.

Your GROW/GRHS donation/dues are due on or before Jan 1, 2008. Most of you have already paid those dues of \$5. for GROW and \$40. for GRHS. For the 117 paid members, GROW has recorded the information, forwarded your \$40. GRHS dues to Bismarck, and you are listed as paid GRHS members for 2008. Thank you! However, if you have not paid, GRHS will assess a \$5.00 late fee if the \$40. GRHS dues are not paid by 31 Jan 2008 and your password will be deleted to get into the secured areas after 7 January 2008. Technically you can't be a Chapter member unless you are first a National Member. Our records show as of 1 Dec '07 about 80 GROW members have not paid GROW, GRHS, or both GROW & GRHS. Please don't be remiss and please be prompt with your payment so that we don't to have send out a second reminder notice &/or make telephone calls. Thank you. Please utilize the application found on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Connecting with GRHS opens a world

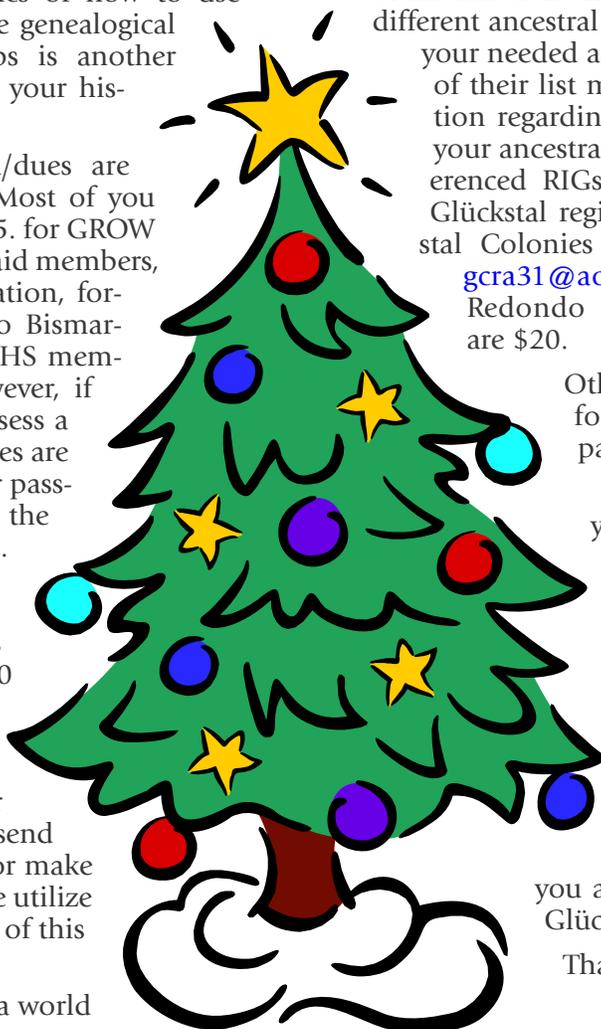
of information and the eight RIGs who specialize in different ancestral regions are there to help you with your needed ancestral village information. Some of their list members daily share new information regarding their particular regional area. If your ancestral region is other than the eight referenced RIGs area above and may be in the Glückstal region, please contact GCRA (Glückstal Colonies Research Association) at Email: [gcr31@aol.com](mailto:gcr31@aol.com) or mail 611 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-4130. Dues are \$20.

Other associations with much help for your research are listed on page 8.

Your GROW Chapter provides you with quarterly newsletters, with your contribution of articles from you, the members, monthly reports on the Chapter Meetings, and your GROW family members. Please stay in touch and support your local Chapter with your donations and attendance.

If you receive this newsletter before Christmas, I want to wish you a Fröhliches Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr!

Thanks, Roger



## Appreciation & Fellowship Dinner Summary

Well, how was the party? Thirty-three attendees thought that it was a great celebration on Sunday, December 9.

Jeanette McDermid's little gift boxes were cute and a nice surprise. With the multi-talented Janzen Family leading our group in singing the Christmas carols in German and English while they accompanied us on their instruments, the atmosphere, along with the Christmas tree and decorations, provided a beautiful



**Attendees at the 2007 Appreciation and Fellowship Dinner, Sunday, December 9, 5:00 pm at the Francis Xavier Restaurant, Portland, OR.**

Christmas time setting in sound and sight.

The framed Certificates of Appreciation to the recognized members were memorials of the work that went into to the success of the 2006 GRHS Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Our relaxed evening, filled with laughter and much "gemütlichkeit", was a way to catch up and get to know our GROW family better. Francis Xavier's food was delicious and the served portions were more than adequate with a lot of "doggie bags" requested.

In Dr. Knoeple's prayer, he thanked God for our great heritage, the eternal gifts to/for us, and the daily blessings before we indulged in our delicious ordered food. The prices

must have been affordable from \$2 - \$20 as Roger offered to pay, but he received no meal tickets.

An expression of delight came for President Roger's emceeing as he directed the moments of the evening and briefly covered the salient highlights of the Convention.

Seeing Geri Gander after 59 days of her being in and out of the hospital, the first time in public for almost six months, was refreshing and a real answer to many prayers.

Steve Geiszler surprised us and said that he would now be able to regularly attend our Chapter Meetings, having become a full time High School teacher.

Our great photographer, Ron Miller, exhibited his talent by relaxing his audiences and inspiring other members to have their pictures taken, aside from the group picture. All pictures turned out very professional. Thank you, Ron!

Our German American Society sound system and the good room acoustics added to our pleasure and delight. The large picture windows gave us a feeling of openness and afforded other attractions. Several indicated that this was their preferred meeting/eating establishment and a repetition of such a gathering would be desirable!

The idea of the GROW Board opening the dinner invitation to include the "worker bees" was appreciated. However, perhaps more advanced planning would have allowed others to attend. We had a Board member in New York, another in Arizona, and still another in Washington as an example. It was regrettable that we had people who became ill in the last moment who had made plans to attend such as

Maxine Daily and Lola Weber, giants of the Convention's success!



**Roger and Roberta Haas**



**GROW Board of Directors who attended Appreciation Dinner. Top left: Alice Summers, Treasurer; Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising; Jan Haberman, 1st Vice President; Front row: Roger Haas, President; and Jeanette McDermid, Secretary.**

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## Appreciation & Fellowship Dinner, cont.



**Dr. Tim Jenzen and Family**



**Kelly Garey and  
Alice Summers**



**Jan and Cliff Haberman**



**Vivian & Carroll Messenger**

In conclusion, the evening was a bright moment in time: a memory to shout and talk about. Plan for another great celebration for 2008!

## Ed's Corner, cont.

ing event."

Another element essential to the spirit of Christmas was—the snow. When as Christmas drew near the snowstorm roared across the steppe, the measure of inner suspense was complete. In the evening both young and old sat at home in the light of their kerosene lamps, and talked about the coming of Christmas and also about the village schoolmaster who would be setting out for Odessa on the morrow to bring back the big tree for the church, and bags of Christmas sweets for the children. But outside, the wind whistled, shook the shutters, and flung the snow against the windowpanes. When the storm raged all too furiously, we shuddered and huddled together. In such a night many a traveler lost his way. The older boys and men climbed up in the church tower and tolled the storm bell for hours, and sometimes all night. We were particularly anxious and worried when, on such a day, our schoolmaster was on his way home from the city. At the slightest noise we ran outside to see if he had arrived. Finally, our beloved teacher, enveloped in his big fur coat right up to his white beard, drove into the schoolyard with the big fir tree. Behind him on the sleigh were sacks of Christmas goodies: nuts, apples, figs, and candy. But these things we knew, would not be distributed to the children until Christmas Eve. That's it from Ed's Corner.

## In Remembrance

### Alma (Finck) Berreth

*February 19, 1919 - November 12, 2007*

Alma (Finck) Berreth was born to August and Mathilda Finck in Elgin, North Dakota on February 19, 1919. She married John H. Berreth on September 7, 1945. They had one child, Curtis Berreth, now deceased. She enjoyed her role as homemaker and was an extraordinary cook. Alma and John were a team in every endeavor, including farming. Alma was a beloved member of First Congregational Church of Salem, and active in its Women's Fellowship. She was proud of her many years of service at the Salem Senior Center.



Alma was one of eleven Finck siblings. She was preceded in death by brothers, Solomon and Edgar Finck; and sister, Edna Schrammen. She is survived by her husband, John Berreth; brothers, Curtis Finck of Odessa, Washington, August Finck of Oregon City, and LeRoy Finck of Milwaukie; and sisters, Bernice Mueller of Portland, Ruth Renken of Flasher, North Dakota, Hilda Renken of Mandan, North Dakota, and Norma Nelson of Vancouver, Washington.

Memorial services were at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, November 15 at First Congregational Church, 700 Marion Street NE, Salem. Burial will be in Oregon City. Memorial gifts may be made to the First Congregational Church of Salem. Arrangements are by Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.

## GROW Chapter Meeting Summary - 18 November 2007

The decoration of the tables and the singing around the piano was a wonderful precursor of our joy and celebration of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The head and food tables were decked out with the ornaments representing the bounty of harvest and the colors of the season. Thanks, ladies.

We had some early arrivals and with Vivian Messenger playing the piano; it caused foot tapping and the singing of some German folk songs. Thank you, Vivian. Maybe you'd like singing and would like to come early for a little songfest at our Chapter meeting?

Our weather was soggy and dreary, but we had a nice crowd who brought sunshine and delight to our program. Alice and Peter Patterson, long time members, graced our presence as first time visitors and Verna Porter, also long time GRHS member, visited us again. Thank you for your attendance and we hope you will become "regulars".

Our program was excellent with presenter Susan Baird. She is, as ever, most interesting, resourceful, and helpful in so many, many practical ways of helping members with their genealogical research and ancestry collection. After one hour and 20 minutes, she ended with answering the many questions from the attendees making comments as to their progress as to their research and answering the 175 questions: recording of your family history. She appreciated the GROW members sharing their four generation family sheets which were put into a database. Susan exhibited the combination in a binder: such a valuable reference book for the GROW Membership to investigate other family lines and connections. This reflects the generosity and interest that Susan has in helping all GROW members. She expressed the greatness of our GROW Chapter. Of course, she helps making it such. Thank you, Susan.

Our break allowed members to purchase raffle tickets, enjoy the most delicious refreshments of fresh apples, carrots and orange-carrot scones, pumpkin pies with whipped topping, spiral ham, bread, lemon bars, oatmeal-raisin-walnut cookies, smoked summer sausage, pumpkin bread, pumpkin nut penuche cookies, two kinds of onion & sugar plachinta, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, pumpkin shaped orange slices with a decorative fall leaf and green ribbon, Mint soother tea, light cranberry raspberry drink, alpine spice drink and Alice Summers' good coffee.

Special help to Roberta in preparing, serving and cleaning up came from Joni Jundt and Kay Carey. Thank you to each of the twelve who brought the above delicious and tasty munchies. S.O.S., Please look out for Marcine's white Christmas plate. She looked all over for it, but could not find it. Some-

body mistakenly has taken it, we assume. Marcine will be very appreciative if the plate is returned to her. Thank you.

Roger started the business session with the expression of thanks for the 100 GROW Members who have paid their 2008 GRHS & GROW membership dues, with about 90% paying directly to GROW. This has really helped our GROW Membership Chair in setting up her Membership Roster without waiting for a report from Bismarck. Thanks to each of you in assisting Arlene Maston. She has a big job and does excellent work in the renewal letters, the record keeping, depositing the dues, and the transmittal records to our Treasurer, Alice Summers who forwards your dues to Bismarck the next day. Arlene takes care of address and other changes, makes labels for the Non-Electronic GROW members receiving the Chapter Newsletters, makes Zip Code order labels for all GROW members for the German American Journal, creates the Member rosters, and many more unnamed tasks. She is generous with her time, has given herself unselfishly and has been most helpful in our Chapter. She thought she retired to an easy life and now she finds herself working full time-plus many a day. Thanks for helping making her job easier by sending your GRHS, as well as your GROW

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**Share Your Stories!**  
**Research requested for  
Germans from Russia  
in Portland in the early years.**  
*Where did they live?  
What were their customs?  
Where did they go to  
school, work, or church?*

We have received this request from  
an individual out of the area.

If you would like to take this on,  
it would be great information to  
put in the newsletter as well.

Please contact: Lola M Weber,  
106 Victoria St, Longview, WA  
98632, or call 360-423-8359 or  
email: [hunter6806@msn.com](mailto:hunter6806@msn.com)

## Chapter Meeting Summary, cont.

dues, directly to her and in a timely fashion.

We were pleased to honor Kay Carey and Marcine Herinck for having had another birthday. Our recognition of them also helps us to know their names and faces as we meet monthly. Thanks, ladies for giving us this opportunity of knowing you better.

On the more serious note, we remembered Geri Gander recovering from surgery, Marcine Herinck and Jeanette McDermid who are anticipating knee surgery, Lorraine Geiszler who is suffering from chemo treatments, Cliff Haberman who is getting weaker, and GROW Member Norma Nelson's sister's husband, John Berreth, following Alma's passing.

For Old Business, we indicated that Katherine Bell was voted in as Alternate Board Director #1, but we were looking for an additional candidate for Board Director Alternate #2. Dr. Tim Janzen has agreed to be a candidate for Alternate Director #2 position. The membership will vote on his candidacy at the January Chapter Meeting. Thanks Tim, for your commitment. Further, all members were reminded to renew their 2008 membership before the end of the first week in Jan 2008 to avoid losing their GRHS password and having to pay a \$5. late fee if their payment is not received before the 31 of January 2008.

For New Business, Sharon Voeller suggested an excellent 2008 Chapter Goal namely: "How to get records out of Russia?" The GROW Board will certainly consider along with the above, any other ideas. The 2007 Goal of helping GROW members has been most worthy and helpful to our members. GROW is YOUR Chapter and the GROW Board wants to help you achieve your aims & targets. So please share with us your wishes for our 2008 Programs. Thanks.

Jeanette McDermid expressed an interest to make more of the Royal Purple Vests. Katherine Bell, Sharon Bell, and Arlene Maston expressed an interest if more are made. Are there other persons/members interested? Please call Jeanette at 503-666-6939 if you have an interest in a Vest. Our two "A Twins", Alice Summers and Arlene Maston, promoted the thought of possibly screen painting the GROW Logo on good quality Tee Shirts, as exhibited on the Vests, for members who wished to wear the garment publicizing GROW not only at our Chapter Meetings, but in the market place, etc. Does this interest you? If so, please call Alice at 503-775-9929. Further, Joni Jundt also is doing a super job in giving of her time, and ribbon fabric to add to your GROW Name Badge,



your family names (up to 20 names) for stimulating conversations and making ancestral connections. Let her know of your interest in having a ribbon added to your name badge with your family names for a fund-raising donation of \$5. for the GROW Chapter. Call her at 360-210-4129. Thank you, Joni.

WOW, you like raffles! You are bringing gifts to raffle. Thank You! Seven winners appreciated you in the drawing of their

names. They were: Alice Patterson, Vivian Messenger, Joni Jundt, Jan Haberman, Marcine Herinck, Joanne Pfau, Rosalie Schachterle, and Sharon Bell. Alice Patterson won the door prize. Congratulations! Those bringing gifts were Vivian Messenger, Joni Jundt, Marcine Herinck, Jeanette McDermid and two unidentified members.

We wish all of you a great Thanksgiving, enjoying our freedom, our family, our bounty and remembering the less fortunate and our soldiers. While we are saying that, we want to also wish you a wonderful Christmas Season full of Blessing and Enjoyment. We will not have another Chapter meeting until 27 January. Mark your calendar for a continuation of an excellent program called "Tracing Your Family History through DNA" by Dr. Timothy Janzen, Portland Medical doctor and member of GROW. He is an expert in Mennonite History and very resourceful in ancestral searching. Tim was a 2006 Convention Presenter and you will not want to miss this program.

Now for events and activities for the Christmas season and on into 2008:

**31 Dec (Mon) New Year's Ball** at the Deutsches Haus, 7901 SE Division; 8:00 pm dinner followed by the dance band until 1:00 am Call Maria Schaffrina 503-236-6081 for details.

**16 Feb (Sat) Noon Potluck, 2008** Dr. William Wiest has arranged for a rare privilege to hear & see pictures from the German Russian Hutterite Colony from Hutterite Representative Theresa Gross presenting at the Oregon AHSGR Chapter Meeting, Rivercrest Church, 3201 NE 148th "The history of the Hutterites and their current way of life". This will be a unique experience learning from this close knit group. Mark your calendar.

Roberta and I wish you all the best for the remainder of 2007 and all of the New Year. Roger

## Resources for Aiding in Your Research

The Oregon AHSGR Chapter Library, 3201 NE 148th, Portland, OR is open twice a month: 3rd Wed of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There is a \$4.00 charge for non-members. Contact Ruth Williams at 503-252-0902 or [f26ruth@comcast.net](mailto:f26ruth@comcast.net)

Websites available for research:

### AHSGR Library

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

### G-R Heritage Collection

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

### GRHS Library

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

### EEGS - East European Genealogical Soc, Inc.

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

### FEEFHS - Fed of E. European Family His Soc

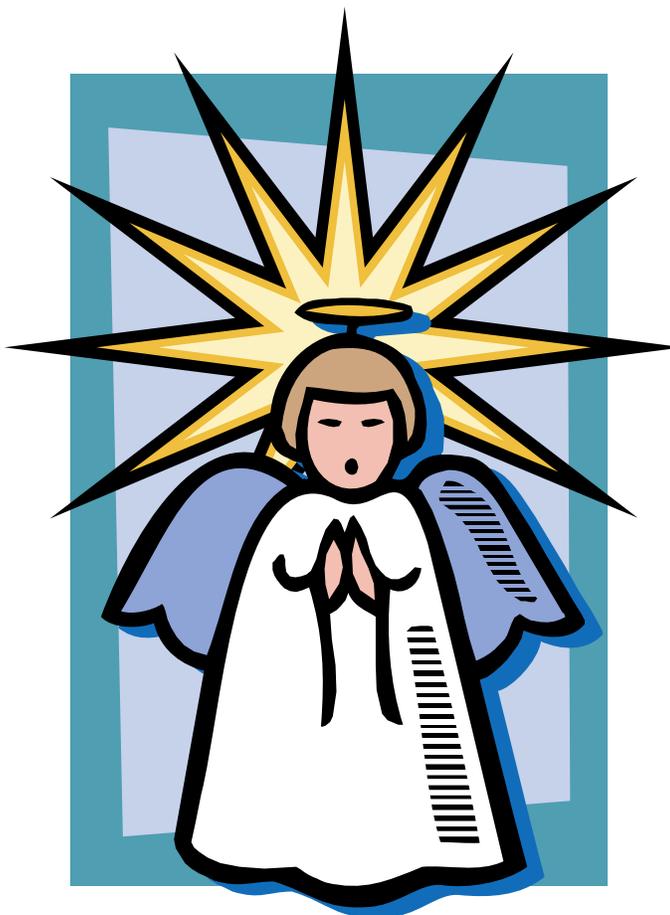
[eefhs.org](http://eefhs.org)

### LDS Family History Library

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

### National Genealogical Society

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



## 2007-08 GROW Board of Directors

### Roger Haas, President/Liaison

8618 SE 36th Ave. (503) 659-8248  
Portland, OR 97222 [rahaas@haasfamily.us](mailto:rahaas@haasfamily.us)  
*Term ends: 2010*

### Jan Haberman, 1st Vice President

8110 SE Madison (503) 252-5480  
Portland, OR 97215 [haberman988@msn.com](mailto:haberman988@msn.com)  
*Term ends: 2008*

### Kurt Radtke, 2nd Vice President, Programs

20023 Quinalt Dr. 503-518-8181  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
*Term ends: 2009*

### Jeanette McDermid, Secretary

327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939  
Gresham, OR 97080-7726 [toadlilyunique@comcast.net](mailto:toadlilyunique@comcast.net)  
*Term ends: 2010*

### Alice Summers, Treasurer

130 SE 155th Place (503) 775-9929  
Portland, OR 97233 [sewsum4u@msn.com](mailto:sewsum4u@msn.com)  
*Term ends: 2008*

### Arlene Maston, Membership

8202 NE Going St. (503) 255-5493  
Portland, OR 97220-4860 [amaston@aol.com](mailto:amaston@aol.com)  
*Term ends: 2009*

### Oscar Geizler, Fundraising

803 5th Ave (503) 656-1802  
Oregon City, OR 97045 [oscarandlorraine@msn.com](mailto:oscarandlorraine@msn.com)  
*Term ends: 2010*

### Ell Schiermeister, Member at Large

12010 SE McGillivray 360-253-2499  
Vancouver, WA 98683  
*Term ends: 2009*

### Leona Koth Hix, Member at Large

2704 Haworth Ave. 503-538-4508  
Newberg, OR 97132-1918 [JWHIX@comcast.net](mailto:JWHIX@comcast.net)  
*Term ends: 2008*



*Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus*  
*Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus*  
*Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus*  
*Ed Weber, Director Emeritus*

## Upcoming Events

**Featuring The Marlin Hutterian  
Brethren  
from Central Washington  
Presented by Theresa Gross  
Saturday, February 16, 2008 • Noon  
AHSGR Portland Oregon Chapter  
3201 NE 148th**

**H**utterites, Amish and Mennonites stem from the same roots in the Anabaptist movement of the Protestant Reformation. They also are a Germans from Russia group, living near the Mennonite villages (Molotschna) just before they all came to the US and Canada in the late 1800s.

Dr. William Wiest, member of GRHS/GROW and AHSGR/OR Chapter has visited the colony and has been instrumental in arranging this special meeting

Some of the topics that Bill has asked Theresa to address in her talk, which we expect will be supplemented by her excellent photographs are:

1. Provide a brief history of Hutterites—their origin and persecution in Europe, where they lived in Russia, how and when they came to North America
2. Where did they first settle in Canada and the US, and which Provinces and States now have colonies?
3. How does their economic system work; especially how does the idea of 'holding all things held in common' work out?
4. How are children educated and what subjects are studied. Also it would be interesting to hear some comments about the non-written dialect spoken and whether it is expected to continue being used in the future.
5. How it is decided what each person's job will be—do people get to choose what type of work they do?
6. What would be a typical day in the life of a Hutterite woman? (and the same question for a man)
7. Describe how (and why) Hutterites (and their historical 'cousins,' Mennonites and Amish) continue to resist participating in war.
8. Do all colonies engage in farming, and in manufacturing much of the farm machinery used?
9. How are leaders (for example the farm manager and preacher) selected?
10. How is the decision made to divide a colony to form a new one when a given colony gets to a certain size?

11. What do people do during winter when there is less farm work to do?
12. What arrangements are made to allow young unmarried people to meet and learn to know each other from different colonies?
13. Can outsiders (non-Hutterites) join the colony? Does this happen, and if so what are the requirements?
14. Approximately what proportion of young people decide to retain membership in one of the the colonies?
15. Since everyone in the US has to pay income taxes how does this work out for Hutterites?

Don't miss this opportunity to get an inside glimpse/view into their life, how they operate and thrive.

## **German Consulate General and Consul for Cultural Affairs from San Francisco & Musical Matinee Saturday, January 19, 2008 • 4 pm**

**S**usan Schlesinger, Board Member German American Society of Portland (Society) is expressing appreciation for GROW Members having participated in the recent German American Day celebration. It was a wonderful collaboration between the Society's Sister Clubs and the Society's Saturday School. It would be wonderful to experience this spirit in our German Haus once again.

The German Consulate General and Consul for Cultural Affairs from San Francisco will be visiting the German American Society of Portland on Saturday 19 January 2008, 4:00 pm. They will be hosting a musical concert featuring Rebecca Rust, Cello; Friedrich Edelmann, Bassoon, and a piano accompanist at the German Haus. The GROW Family is invited by Susan Schlesinger and the Consulates to attend this special Matinee.

It is Susan's hope that GROW and the Clubs affiliated with the Society will again work together to support the concert and represent the Society to the greater community in Portland. It will be open to the public.

An honorarium of \$500. will be given to the musicians for playing. A donation box will be at the door to help defray the expense of this event at 7901 SE Division St. Portland, Oregon 97206. For more information, please call Susan Schlesinger at 503-775-1585.

# GROW 2008 Quarterly Calendar

## JANUARY 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <i>Board Meeting</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Chapter Meeting</i>	28	29	30	31		

## FEBRUARY 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Board Meeting</i>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16
17	18 <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Chapter Meeting</i>	25	26	27	28	29	

## MARCH 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Chapter Meeting</i>	31					



**Chapter Meetings are held at:**

**Deutsches Haus**

**7901 SE Division, Portland, OR**

**Doors open at 1:00 pm**

**Meeting starts at 2:00 pm until about 5:00 pm**

**Coming from I-205 South take Exit 19 Ramp and turn West on Division St., then turn left and go to 7901.**

**Coming from I-205 North take Exit 19 Ramp onto Division St. Go West on Division to 7901.**

## Chapter Meetings

**27 January 2008** *Tracing Your Family History through DNA*  
by Dr. Timothy Janzen.

**24 February 2008** To Be Scheduled

**30 March 2008** To Be Scheduled

*Merry Christmas*

## Fundraising Opportunities—

**At No Cost To You!!**

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

### **Other Opportunities to Help...**

- **Oscar Geiszler** is recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. Bring your empty cartridges to Chapter Meetings or contact Oscar directly. He can also help you receive approximately 50% discount on refilled cartridges.
- Visit **Joe and Geri Gander, Cathy Lobb** 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 the GROW logo.

# Pay Your Dues Directly to GROW

You may have read in the Heritage Review that members should send their dues DIRECTLY to GRHS. That may be fine for some Chapters that haven't the desire for membership recruitment or don't care about their membership status.

GROW does not wish to WAIT up to three months for the GRHS to provide GROW's LIST OF PAID MEMBERS. Hence, the Chapter doesn't know whether the member is a paid GRHS member or not, plus the Chapter does NOT know the Members, such as having become a LIFE member? Even more important: WHEN did the member pay?

GROW has had an excellent service record, commencing about 15 October of requesting the following year's dues for both GRHS & GROW to be paid at a Chapter Meeting or by mail in (1) One check for both the National Dues and the local Chapter donation: a convenience to the Member. GROW records any changes in addresses, phone numbers, family name searches, added or deleted ancestral villages, birthday, and anniversary dates. Usually within 1 or 2 weeks, GROW forwards the national dues with other member dues to Bismarck. GROW DOES NOT

HAVE TO WAIT UP TO THREE MONTHS to get some of the information back and YOU will NOT have a delay of getting your password or Heritage Review.

GRHS has started to send monthly reports to the Chapter. GRHS changed its format in 2007 and has NOT provided in its new report the Members' GRHS number to match what the Members share as their membership number, current E-mail addresses, or other additional information found on the Member's application.

GROW provides more frequent and regular Membership reminders while GRHS sends out one reminder in January. Members are busy and sometimes lay papers aside and forget, are on vacation, or whatever. They respond with a gentle phone call or E-mail memo. GROW, being the largest, or next to the largest GRHS Chapter, has done MORE for enrolling GRHS members with about 150 families on the GRHS Membership rolls in 2007.

It is also obvious that the 42 GROW Associate or friends of GROW, choosing not to pay the National

*Continued on page 12.*



## 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: Arlene Maston, 8202 NE Going St., Portland, OR 97220-4860**

**Please send email updates and address corrections to Arlene Maston - amaston@aol.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: [icprunier@comcast.net](mailto:icprunier@comcast.net) or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

## Pay Your Dues Directly to GROW, cont.

GRHS Dues, are interested in the services rendered by GROW. They feel that they get their money's worth. They may attend their Chapter Programs/Meetings, but they don't hold offices.

GROW Members paying directly to Bismarck delays our Membership Chair from quickly compiling the information and putting together the Membership Directory that allows you to have a copy.

Look at the GROW Roster and see all the bits of information on it. You get NOTHING like this from Bismarck. A lot of changes occur in one year. HELP THE GROW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR. Bring your dues/donations to the Chapter meeting or send your combined GROW/GRHS check DIRECTLY TO GROW in Oct or when you respond. THANK YOU!

### Newsletter Submissions Welcomed!

Please send articles, photos, stories, anecdotes, recipes, etc. to:

Janice Prunier, Editor • 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

[jcprunier@comcast.net](mailto:jcprunier@comcast.net)

*Deadline for next issue is March 1, 2008.*



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

#### **GROW Chapter**

8618 SE 36th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97222