



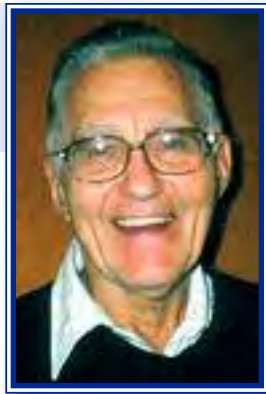
# GROW Quarterly Newsletter

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

Volume 11 Issue 4

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## Message from the President



**Roger Haas, President**

We are so pleased that NEW members have walked into our lives because you have been faithful and dedicated. You'll find articles about Larry Kuntz, a dynamic, talented member who joined us due to our GROW website. He has been very instrumental in printing our revised GROW Brochure and assisting with electronic set-ups at our Chapter Meetings, etc., and the membership has elected him as an alternate Board Director. Other long time members enrolled their daughters and a friend, namely: Bernice Raszler, Doris Magee, and Joanne Pfau. Bernice's daughter, Vickie Young, hails from Mosier, Doris's daughter, Stephanie Harty, comes to us from Oregon City, and Joanne's special friend, Meme Blair, comes to us from Scappoose. Congratulations and welcome! See their bios in this issue.

We are still feeling the loss of several of our members. Three GROW members have recently passed away as well as my only remaining brother. These obits and memorials of Gene Magee, Miranda Davis, Brad Maston and Larry Haas will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. These once vibrant people have closed their eyes and the work/leadership falls on those remaining to carry forth valiantly.

Thanks to the excellent Program Presenters for this quarter: German American Society President Wolfgang Werner, Genealogist GFO (Genealogical Forum of Oregon) Nanci Remington, and GROW Traveling Director Adi Hartfeil and his wife Barbara, we have witnessed more than the normal number of attendees. Please let the Board Directors know of special future program you desire to have at our Chapter

meeting.

Our summer is upon us as we see longer days, warmer temperatures and vacations looming to get together for reunions, family gatherings, traveling, and sightseeing. Request a brochure or print one out from our GROW website to give to friends and family.

<http://www.grhs.org/chapters/westcoast/grow/index.html>

Also, you can print this Newsletter or forward it to a friend or family member. Your friends will thank you for your generosity/ passion for your GROW Chapter.

No GROW Chapter meetings will be held in July, but many are planning their vacation to attend the GRHS Bismarck Convention 18-22 July 2012. See GRHS.org website for details.

The GROW Annual Picnic, 26 August 2012, will be again at the beautiful sheltered Happy Valley City Park, 13770 SE Ridgecrest Rd, Happy Valley, OR.

The 23 September GROW Chapter Meeting will feature the Convention attendees at the Portland

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## No Date: Language vs. Communication

Some of us grew up in bi-lingual households; first or second generation Americans who were at times perplexed by the complexities of the English language. I remember that errors, confusion, and misinterpretations happened regularly, sometimes with wonderfully funny results. Consider the following story, one I've heard from several different sources which suggests that it has achieved the status of an urban legend:



Ronald Schauer

In a direct and firm voice, Leona said to Allen, "You're not brave enough." He didn't know what to say, how to respond, so he just stood there blinking his eyes with his mouth slightly open and his face curled into a huge question mark. He was hurt by this: He had a bit of a reputation as a wise guy and a Romeo who'd try most anything on a dare, and he wasn't brave enough? He dropped his head, muttered, "Sorry," and slumped off to his English class.

The youngest child of a large German Catholic farm family from west of town, Leona was beautiful although, shall we say, not all that academic. Allen had always thought of her as rather innocent and naive. What he had done, what led to his rejection, embarrassment, and confusion, was to ask her a simple question.

"Leona," he had spoken confidently, "Friday night, after the game, would you like to go to The Broiler with me for a burger and shake? Dad said I can have the DeSoto." He had thought saying "DeSoto" would impress her because it was a brand new 1954 shiny black ride. Instead, she had called him a coward. "You're not brave enough." He still winced at her words.

The next day he put his chagrin aside and told his friend, Clarence, about the conversation. Clarence was a responsible and quiet young man who was always thinking and was very good at algebra and geometry. If anyone could help figure this out, it would be Clarence.

After North Dakota History class, they ate hot lunch together. Clarence finished his glass of milk and said, "Al, can you think of a German word that sounds and looks a bit like *brave*?" After a minute of head-scratching silence, Clarence suggested, "Try *brav*."

*Brav* was understood to mean well-behaved, quiet, worthy, and good. Although *brave* was one of the definitions, it wasn't the first one people thought of. Allen instantly felt better. Oh so much better. A misunderstanding, a rejection and refusal, yes, but his

reputation was intact. He was *brave* enough, he just wasn't *brav* enough.

Another story.

Our son and I were in Bad Urach, Germany for a few autumn days in 2000. Realizing the small health resort town had four Bäckereien, we walked a daily route, buying something at each shop. After two days of always getting one more than we thought we ordered, a kindly clerk explained that the thumb is number one. So the two or three fingers we signaled automatically had one added to take the thumb into account.

Our attempts to communicate are always subject to misinterpretation and misinformation. If this happens with people we know well and with whom we live and share a common language, imagine how easily it happens across borders of language. A final story.

We were at breakfast in a privatzimmer in Bad Wimpfen, a lovely mediaeval village on the Neckar River. For some reason, our bi-lingual conversation turned to bicycles. I remembered and used the word, "Zweirad," and our host, Gaby, broke into laughter, saying she was sure that word hadn't been used in fifty years. And we learned to say Fahrrad. As cousin Reinie said, "Those people don't even speak German!"

### President's Message, cont.

AHSGR Concordia U Convention in June as well as those attending the GRHS Bismarck Convention in July. At the Conventions, your reunions, and family gatherings, you will have many opportunities to enroll members, share about GROW and learn of excellent Program Presenters. Please share your experiences with me. Thank you.

On another note, there is little doubt that our meeting place at 57th NE Sandy will evidence some major changes as the GAS (German American Society) membership voted to have remodeling on the Main building with an added elevator for three floors and also refurbishing the "red room" auditorium. With the large amount of space, there will be no doubt that GROW will have a Chapter Meeting place, although maybe in a different area. As for the opening of our GROW Library, that may be a little while depending on how fast the construction will move ahead?? We indeed can be so fortunate to have a meeting area/room at the GAS location.

Have a great summer,

Roger

# Genealogy Forum

## Captured German Documents - Hopf's Lists

This is the first of a two part series that deal with Captured German Documents, microfilmed by the U. S. Government at the close of World War II, and housed in the National Archives in College Park, MD. This time we will deal with Hopf's Lists of Germans who migrated from Poland to Russia in the early 1800s. Next time we will deal with the EWZ films which contain pedigree charts of Germans from Russia who returned to Germany ahead of the retreating German troupes in 1944.



Harold Lang, PhD

At the close of World War II the United States and Great Britain microfilmed millions of German documents, some of which contain information useful in genealogical research. The very large number of documents filmed and the fact that there was little organization of the material at the time of filming has made it very difficult to find the genealogical information they contain.

Johannes Hopf grew up in Danzig. After earning his doctorate in history he spent three years doing research on the history of German settlements in Poland in the State Archives in Danzig and in Polish archives. In 1939, after Germany invaded Poland, the Deutsches Ausland Institute (under Dr. Stumpp) sent Hopf to Poland to see what he could find in the Polish archives. In his work he found 100 volumes of applications of Germans, living in Poland, to emigrate to Russia. It is from these records that what we know as Hopf's Lists were created. These lists were among the German records that were microfilmed, however before they could be used they had to be found, which was no small task.

Richard Benert published an article, *Dr. Johannes Hopf's Inventory of German Emigrants from Poland to Russia between 1813 and 1866*, in the 1997 edition of *CLUES*, published by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. The article first describes Dr. Hopf's work in developing the lists, and then gives the lists as found on Captured German Documents film Series T81, Roll 634. For each list Benert gives the frame numbers for the list, a brief description of the list including dates and places and then a list of the surnames in that list. In Oct 1998 Benert placed these lists on line in the Odessa Digital Library ([www.odessa3.org](http://www.odessa3.org)). This time he included given names as well as surnames for each lists, thus listing each head of family. You can find it in Odessa Digital Library under the Immigration, Migration,

Naturalization and Ship Records heading, and titled "Hopf List of German-Polish Emigrants to Russia (Benert)". In February 1999 Elli Wise placed a more detailed version of the lists in Odessa Digital Library under the title "Hopf List of German Emigrants from Poland to Russia (E. Wise)". Wise merged the names on all the lists into one list, giving: the last and first names, date, where from, going to, film and frame number, and remarks. Under remarks he tells if there was a family or other persons going with him.

The emigrant list in Stumpp's book lists my ancestors Paul Lang and Christoph Reich as having migrated to Kassel/Odessa via Poland in 1914, and the 1816 revision list for Kassel lists them as among the 12 "Warschau" emigrant families in 1914. So when I read Benert's article in *CLUES*, I became very interested and looked for their names in the lists. In list III, "List of Emigrants from the former "Kingdom of Poland" to South Russia (Odessa) (Mostly 1813, 1818, 1819, one 1840, one 1846)" I found both the name Lang and Reich which were likely my ancestors. I decided I needed to look at the film but where could I find a copy. Obviously I could see a copy the National Archives in College Park, MD, and both GRHS and AHSGR have copies. But the most available source was a local Family History Center (LDS) where they can (for a small fee) order the film for your use at the center. The Family History Center film number is 2189295 (a copy of NARA film Series T81, Roll 634) with the title, "Lists of Settlers from Poland to Russia (19<sup>th</sup> century), compiled by Dr. Hopf". Other Hopf lists on this film give information on people migrating from Poland to Bessarabia, Volhynia, and the Caucasus (Georgia) as well as Odessa.

I ordered the film at a local Family History Center, and when I looked at it I found the records of both Paul Lang and Christoph Reich. They were listed as coming from Wielkie Jesiorke/Hohensalza and were going to Cherson/South Russia. The records lists each member of the family and give there age. The records look very much like the revision lists in Stumpp's book. I compared the 1813 emigration list information with the 1816 revision list information in Stumpp's book and found a good correlation considering that some died and some were born between the two records. There were some discrepancies in age. They should be three years older in 1916. The list contained the names of 27 families coming from Wielkie Jesiorke and going to Cherson. I was able to identify 15 of those families in the 1816 revision lists in Stumpp's book (10 in Grossliebental, 3 in Kassel, and one each in Gueldendorf and Worms).

I learned that both Paul Lang and Christoph Reich

## Genealogy Forum, cont.

came from Wielkie Jesiorke/Hohensalza, but I also learned something else. There were other Langs and Reichs among the 27 families coming from Wielkie Jesiorke and going to Cherson. Besides Paul Lang (who settled in Kassel), there was a Peter Lang (who settled in Grossliebental) and a Egon Lang (for whom I have not found records in Russia). Besides Christoph Reich (who settled in Kassel) there was an Egon Reich and a Gottfried Reich (who both settled in Grossliebental). Coming from the same place it is likely that Christoph, Egon and Gottfried were related, probably brothers. I also I think that Paul, David and Peter were brothers. All three had Bible names that were not common, with the Germans in Russia. While David's decedents were list in 1816 and 1858 revision list for Kassel, there is evidence that they also lived in Grossliebental as the Lutheran Parish Records list number of their children as born there, and some married there. (Those on the list with the

name Egon appear to have the name Johann in Russia)

The question comes up, why was David Lang (Paul's brother) does not on Hopf's list. In developing his lists Hopf used cards David' card may have been lost or overlooked when the list was copied from the cards, or he may have come at a different time. I have found other evidence of people living in Grossliebental who came from Wielkie Jesiorke who were not on Hopf's lists, so do not consider Hopf's lists to be complete. I have told you some of my story to illustrate the kind of information that can be found in Hopf's lists.

If your ancestors came from or via Poland to Russia check out Hopf's lists. First go to Wise's abstraction of the lists in the Odessa Digital Library. If you find a name significant to you, then go to a Family History Center and order film 2189295.

## Larry J. Kuntz Biography

I came into the world on May 9, 1943 (Mothers Day) and my parents, John M. and Kathleen O. Kuntz (nee Senger), christened me Lawrence John Kuntz. Since that is a bit lengthy, I have always used Larry as my first name. I am the oldest child in the family of 4 children (2 sisters and 1 brother).

Mom and Dad owned a small farm near Drake, North Dakota (Drake is 52 miles SE of Minot) growing small grains as their cash crops and supplementing that income by milking cows, raising hogs, sheep, chickens, turkeys, and geese. I attended public school in Drake and graduated from high school in 1961. I gave some thought to becoming a priest but after a year in the seminary I decided that was not what I wanted to do, but I was likewise unsure of what I wanted to pursue. I knew I could not stay on the farm because of my grain & hay dust allergies.

During the early 1960's the USA was building missile defense systems along our northern border. After helping dad with the harvest in 1962, I was hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers and performed soil compaction tests around the silos & command center during soil backfilling as well as pressure testing of water and gas systems, kept the filing system current /organized, 'go-for' tasks, etc.

I had become fascinated with the VW Beetle. It seemed like such a practical and low cost vehicle.



Larry Kuntz

The job with the Corps of Engineers allowed me to earn enough money to buy a used 1959 VW Beetle. Many people use the phrase "it was meant to be". In my case, it certainly is true because buying that car, then having an accident with it, and repairing it, led to a career in the automobile industry.

I began working as a VW mechanic at Import Motors of Minot in 1963 and then as a VW dealer service manager in Ames, IA in July of 1965, which gave me the experience to apply for a District Service Manager with Volkswagen of America, Inc. in 1973. This led to other positions in VWoA and the Porsche Audi Division including warranty, quality control, Service Operations Supervisor, Regional Service Manager in Pleasanton, CA and Thousand Oaks, CA, and finally as an Information Technology Consultant to the Service group at Volkswagen of America, Inc. in Auburn Hills, MI. I retired on December 31, 2003 after having relocated 8 times and spending 40 years in the automobile industry.

I was married to Katharine A. McKenzie on August 22, 1964 in Kenmare, ND. We have three sons, a daughter and two granddaughters. Our three sons live in the San Francisco Bay area and our daughter & granddaughters live in Fresno, CA. I have been active in the Boys Scouts of America, Cub Scouts, Amador High School Band Boosters, Thousand Oaks Band Boosters, Thousand Oaks Sunset Hills Homeowners Assoc. and in various parishes as a lecture, Eucharistic minister, usher & greeter. Kathy and I were "full time" RVers from 2006 to 2011. We still have our RV and truck but now reside in a home *without wheels* in Vancouver, WA.

## The American Volga Relief Society and the North Dakota Citizens' Relief Association in Relation to the American Relief Administration during Soviet Russia's "Great Famine" of 1921-1923

By Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz, Associate Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva

In April 2011, the one-hour TV documentary *The Great Famine* was shown on the well-respected and long-running series *American Experience*. The program treated the humanitarian efforts of Herbert Hoover's American Relief Administration



Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz

(ARA) in famine- and post-civil-war-stricken Soviet Russia in the early 1920s, especially in the Volga Region and Ukraine. The documentary rekindled interest among some Germans from Russia in North America, as evidenced by email correspondences in some quarters anticipating the program's showing.

The timing of the documentary's release proved most opportune for the Germans from Russia community. Over the past fifteen years, newly published research and compilations on the topic of the ARA and its connection with the German from Russia experience have also appeared in North America. Part of this interest had grown out of the post-Cold War era and the opening of new archives and other documentary resources.

This brief article will describe how the German-Russians cross the United States coordinated its famine relief activities in the Soviet Union with Hoover's ARA during the early 1920s. Considering the context of the Soviet "Great Famine," it will highlight the key personalities and issues behind the establishment of the two German-Russian relief organizations coordinated with the ARA. Finally, it will examine the legacy and significance of these humanitarian efforts as well as their impact on the German-Russians in North America.

The German-Russians have long represented a significant immigrant community across many Great Plains states and Canadian Prairie provinces. Because of the anti-German stigma of the two world wars, not to mention sometimes negative affiliations with Russia and the Soviet Union, the German-Russians until more recent decades have tended to downplay their identity and contributions to their adopted homelands. They are descendants of Germans who immigrated to Tsarist Russia in search of new opportunities during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Later on, growing political and socio-economic pressures prompted a large migration of tens of thousands of Germans from all parts of Russia to North and South America in the half century following 1870. For the most part, Black Sea and Bessarabian (Ukrainian) Germans in the United States came to reside on the northern plains, such as the Dakotas, while the Volga Germans and Mennonites typically lived in the central and southern plains and on the West Coast, such as California, Oregon and Washington.

By the time of the Bolshevik Revolution, millions of ethnic Germans still lived in what became the Soviet Union—the friends and relatives of those who had left only a few years before. The disastrous Russian Civil War followed the Communist takeover in November 1917, with all sides of the conflict engaging in brutalities and destructiveness, catching many ordinary civilians in the crosshairs. When the conflict ended with a Communist victory in early 1921, Russia lay in ruins, its surviving civilian populations, especially in Ukraine and along the Volga Region, on the precipice of ruin and starvation. Part of the problem stemmed from the Bolsheviks' forced grain requisitioning during the civil war, including the confiscation of seed needed for the next planting season. Complicating matters further was a drought that hit the country around the same time. Thus a combination of man-made and natural disasters led to the "Great Famine" of 1921-1923, affecting millions of civilians.

Hoover's involvement in humanitarian causes began during World War I in 1914 and continued until 1923. During this time, beginning with President Woodrow Wilson's administration, Hoover served as head of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium, the American Food Administration, and of course, the ARA. Starting in 1919, the ARA even offered food to Russia, but the new Communist leadership rejected it. By 1921, however, matters had worsened so much in Russia that the Soviet dictator Lenin and his associates were prepared, albeit reluctantly, to allow western aid into the country. Even famous Russian poet Maxim Gorki felt compelled to appeal to the international community for help, without mentioning Lenin or the Bolsheviks at the time. In August 1921, a deal was concluded between Moscow and the ARA, and famine relief continued until 1923 when the famine subsided. Numerous famine-relief organizations of various stripes rose up in the United States during the early 1920s in response to the humanitarian crises beset-

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## The Great Famine, cont.

ting postwar Europe. Two such organizations came from the German-Russians in the United States: The American Volga Relief Society (AVRS)—better known as the VRS—and the North Dakota Citizens' Relief Association (NDCRA).

The VRS was formed in Portland, Oregon, on August 11, 1921, at the Zion Congregational Church. The goal was to raise money for relatives along the Volga River who faced immediate starvation in one of the worst famines in European history. At this initial gathering, the group elected John Miller as its president, and George Repp was selected to serve as its personal representative in Russia. All the VRS's activities were to fall under the auspices of Hoover's ARA.

Just as Portland's group organized, the Volga Germans in Fresno, California, and Lincoln, Nebraska, also convened among themselves on the issue of famine relief. Soon relief funds were raised by various Volga German communities in Colorado, Washington, Montana, Illinois, Kansas, and Oklahoma, as well as in many other states where German-Russians had settled. In a short time, the Portland group decided to join with their Nebraska compatriots to create a much more expansive VRS. Interestingly, evidence in the form of written correspondence indicates that bitter disputes and personality conflicts erupted among some of the VRS organizers, especially between Jakob Volz of York, Nebraska, and Miller in Portland. In fact, the ARA at times had to convince these leaders to cooperate better. For all that, this period marked the ethnic community's first and probably most outstanding organizational effort in its relatively short history in the United States. According to scholar Brent Mai, within six months the VRS was able to feed more than 100,000 Volga German children and, by the following year, it raised over \$1 million in relief aid.

Meanwhile, the Black Sea (Ukrainian) Germans pushed ahead with their own ambitious famine-relief efforts to assist their compatriots in the old country. The NDCRA was formed in April 1921. Businessman Jakob Rothschiller of Bismarck, North Dakota, was elected its president, and he spent time abroad between October 1922 and March 1923 in Soviet Ukraine to oversee relief activities. Not only were funds, foodstuffs, and other necessities gathered for famine relief, but also arrangements were made to transport livestock into Russia to help assist the famine populations, a tremendous logistical feat indeed.

Twenty-four-year-old college graduate Carl Wishek accompanied Rothschiller to Ukraine as his secretary during this time. Significantly, while in Europe, Wishek wrote extensive correspondence on

his tour of Germany and Russia. Some of his letters soon appeared in the *Ashley Tribune*, a local North Dakota newspaper, and much later parts of his diary were also published, all of which provided Americans with details about conditions in Ukraine at the time.

Recently accessed and translated former KGB Records from Odessa, Ukraine, and elsewhere have confirmed that the Soviet authorities at the time continued to distrust and keep close watch on the ARA and all foreign agents in the country, as well as on those with whom the relief groups associated in Russia. The secret police, the GPU (State Political Administration), even tried to infiltrate "anti-Soviet" and "bourgeois elements" in the ARA. In other words, Soviet secret surveillance of ARA activities took place during the Great Famine.

After the ARA concluded its efforts and the famine subsided, Germans from Russia and others continued to send private monetary and material assistance to friends and relatives still living precariously in the USSR for the remainder of the 1920s and into the mid-1930s (especially through the so-called Torgsin stores). During this time, they also received many letters from those experiencing Stalin's forced collectivization drives and mass repressions of the 1930s. Numerous such correspondences were published at the time in German-language newspapers on the Great Plains, including the *Dakota Freie Presse* (North Dakota and Minnesota), *Die Welt-Post* (Nebraska) and others. After around 1937, however, the Soviet regime sealed off its population from the rest of the world. More intense scholarly and popular interest in these so-called famine and Gulag letters only arose after the mid- to late 1990s with the end of the Cold War.

The NDCRA ceased operations in 1923, while the VRS shut down in 1926. Their legacy has continued, however, since these early organizational efforts led eventually to the creation of actual German-Russian heritage societies in North America more than a generation later, namely the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) in 1968 and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) in 1971. Some of their founding members had been quite active with humanitarian efforts several decades before, notably Portland, Oregon native Emma Schwabenland Haynes (1907-1984).

One of the famine survivors—K. Lehmann, a schoolmaster in Alexandrovsk, Russia—paid tribute many years ago to the ARA and affiliated organizations that strove to combat one of the worst calamities in history, offering us a fitting closing to this story: "It is

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*Continued on page 7.*

## The Great Famine, cont.

true, no country of the earth has carried out such a large relief effort as America. This relief effort shall be remembered for all time."

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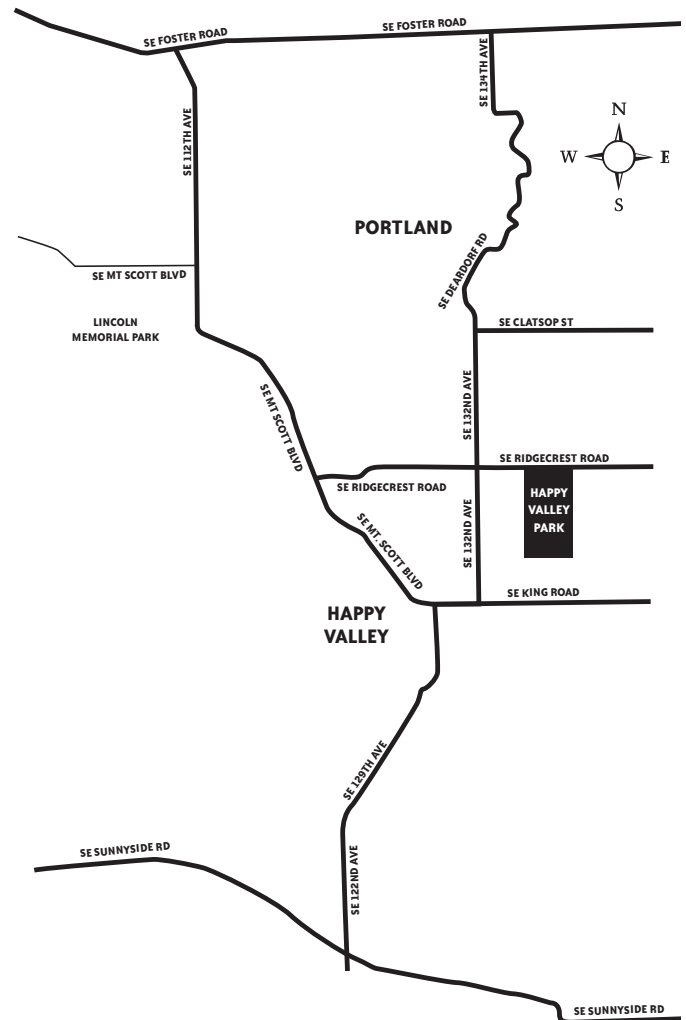
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## 11th Annual GROW Picnic



## Happy Valley Park

**Sunday  
August 26  
11 am - 3 pm**

Happy Valley Park is at 13770 SE Ridgecrest Rd. There will be a covered shelter, electric outlets for making coffee and warming foods. Also, there are toilets, picnic benches for 60 people, volleyball, horseshoes, baseball and children's playground facilities.

Your ideas and input as to how we should celebrate will be greatly appreciated. Call Vice President, Jan Haberman, Picnic Chair at 503-252-5480 to share your ideas and/or suggestions.

## In Remembrance

### Marion Bradley "Brad" Maston, Jr.

January 1, 1938 - May 14, 2012

Marion Bradley Maston Jr., 74, passed away May 14 in Portland. Brad was the first baby born in Olympia, Wash., in January 1938, entitling him Tulip City Baby of the Year. The only child of Marion Maston Sr. and Gladys McArthur, Brad lived in either Washington or Oregon his entire life. Brad's paternal grandfather was George Watson Maston, a surgeon and family physician in the Willamette Valley and Southern Oregon.

Brad is survived by his wife, Arlene Dexheimer Maston; his son, Michael Cory Maston; granddaughter, Madeleine Christine Maston; and devoted dogs, Gretel and Bandito. A celebration of life will be held at a future time. Arrangements provided by Portland Memorial Funeral Home.

*The Oregonian, May 27, 2012*



### Gene W. Magee

January 11, 1917 - March 25, 2012

Gene Marcus William Magee went home to be with his Lord on March 25, 2012. He was born on January 11, 1917 to Maude Stewart and William Magee in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Gene's father passed away when he was only four years old. Since there was no public assistance available at that time, Gene would sell apples or donuts to help support his mother and baby brother. He was a hard worker his entire life but still managed to get an education. He was a very intelligent man with a wonderful sense of humor who knew no strangers. He immediately put everyone at ease when they met him.

Gene worked in the Naval Shipyards during WWII to support his young family, one of several jobs during his distinguished career. He was a credit manager for Weisfield's Jewelers for over 15 years where he won numerous awards. Later, Gene served as a fundraiser for Ecumenical Ministries and for Christian psychologist Dr. Clyde Narramore where he contributed several articles to the monthly magazine *Psychology for Living*. Gene joined the Oregon Coast Association in the early 1970s as Executive Director.



In just over a year, he increased the membership from about 100 to over 700, including all of the Chambers of Commerce from Long Beach, Washington to Crescent City, California. He was the Association's lobbyist and whenever a bill came before the legislature affecting the coast, legislators would call on Gene for his input because "No one knew the coast like Gene Magee."

In 1977, Gene married the love of his life, Doris E. Forster Magee. They both felt God had blessed them by putting them together, and enjoyed nearly 35 wonderful years of marriage. Gene was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Virginia Lee Magee Larman, two brothers, two adult half sisters, and a grandson. He is survived by his beloved wife Doris who misses him dearly, his daughters Alice Jeanette Magee Stoker (Wayne) and Carol Ann Magee McGinnis (Murray); three stepchildren - Stephanie Lane Harty, Bruce Alan Forster, and Cathy Ann Ramsdell, seven grandchildren along with several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Visitation will be Friday from 1pm - 6pm at Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service. Services will be Saturday March 31st at 11 a.m. at Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the National Parkinson Foundation.

*StatesmanJournal, March 29, 2012*

### Larry Alfred Haas

November 28, 1935 - April 15, 2012

Larry Alfred Haas, age 76, died April 15, 2012 at home. Larry was born November 28, 1935 in Zeeland, ND, to August and Kathryn (Schauer) Haas. His mother was born in Neudorf, South Russia and came to America in 1911. She died in 1945 in Eureka, SD. His father was born in Zeeland, ND and died in 1982 in Aberdeen, SD. Larry received his B.A. degree from the University of SD and his M.S. in Chemistry from the University of MN

Larry served in the US Army, worked for Honeywell 5 years, and 33 years for the US Bureau of Mines. He held positions of Research Chemist, Project leader, Supervisor, and Principal Investigator in fields involving mining and metallurgy. He was active in leadership in the Society of Mining Engineers (SME) both nationally & locally. His professional accomplishments include a Book Publishing Award in 1983, Engineer of the Year for the US Bureau of Mines in 1989, Engineer of the Year by the SME in 1990, the Josef S. Kapitan Award at the Iron-making Conference by the AIME—ISS In 1993, speaking engagements, five patents, authoring several books, journal articles and a chapter in the McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology. He was listed in the



*Continued on page 9.*



## In Remembrance, cont.

Who's Who in the Midwest 1978-79 edition.

On Sept 4, 1959, he married Eleanor Allen at the 1st Baptist Church in Detroit Lakes, MN where she was a member. They made their home in St Louis Park, MN during the early years of their marriage before moving to Burnsville, MN in 1966, and moved to Sun City Arizona in 1997.

Larry was a member of Berean Baptist Church in Burnsville where he was a leader in Christian Service Brigade and a sixth grade Sunday School class teacher. Later, when they moved to Sun City, he became a member of Grace Bible Church. His greatest wish was that his family would accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother, a sister as a baby, two brothers and one stepbrother, Elmer (Helen) Haas, Milwaukie, OR; Chris (Monies) Haas, Sun City, AZ; and Ferdinand Wolff, Aberdeen, SD.

Larry is survived by his wife, 2 sons: David and wife Barbara of Berwyn, IL; Doug and wife MaryKay of Farmington MN; 6 Grandchildren; one brother and two stepbrothers, Roger (Roberta) Haas of Portland, OR; Christ (Leona) Wolff and Ted (Karen) Wolff of Forbes, ND.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. His body was donated to Parkinson's research (BSHRI) and the remains cremated at his request. They will be buried in Pelican Rapids, MN. Memorials given to Grace Bible Church, Berean Baptist Church missions program, or Legacy Hospice are preferred.

### Miranda Charlene Bechtold Davis

*July 3, 1927 - May 2, 2012*

Miranda Charlene Bechtold Davis was born July 3, 1927, Herreid, SD and died, May 2, 2012, Portland, OR. She left behind husband, William (Bill) living in Portland, two daughters: Charlene of Oregon City, OR and Marlene of Vancouver, WA, a son killed earlier. She also leaves behind four grandchildren. Her mother's maiden name was Huber, her parents were quite young when they died.



She was a Godly person, taught Sunday School for over 20 years at the Lents Baptist Church where she also a pianist and a great singer. She worked at the Davison Bakery for 23 years. She was also a great seamstress and made blankets for all her nieces and nephews and two to finish. She was a very energetic woman and loved to clean.

Miranda was a member of GROW. On special occasions she led singing, helped in the kitchen and was a joy to be around. Her sister Marcine Hernick,

### 2012-14 GROW Board of Directors

#### **Roger Haas, President/GRHS Director Rep**

8618 SE 36th Ave. (503) 659-8248  
Portland, OR 97222 rahaas@haasfamily.us  
*Term ends: 2013*

#### **Jan Haberman, Vice President/ Sunshine Chair & Calling Asst.**

8110 SE Madison (503) 252-5480  
Portland, OR 97215 haberman988@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2014*

#### **Jeanette McDermid, Secretary/Library Specialist**

327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939  
Gresham, OR 97080-7726 toadlilyunique@comcast.net  
*Term ends: 2013*

#### **Adi Hartfeil, Treasurer-Membership**

4230 S Terra Vista Ct (503) 636-2272  
West Linn, OR 97068 abhartfeil@q.com  
*Term ends: 2012*

#### **Arlene Maston**

8202 NE Going St. (503) 255-5493  
Portland, OR 97220-4860 amaston@aol.com  
*Term ends: 2012*

#### **Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising**

803 5th Ave. (503) 656-1802  
Oregon City, OR 97045 oscarandlorraine@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2013*

#### **Ell Schiermeister**

12010 SE McGillivray (360) 253-2499  
Vancouver, WA 98683  
*Term ends: 2014*

#### **Harold Lang, Membership Recruiter/Calling Chair**

410 NE 114th Ave. (503) 251-2948  
Portland, OR 97220 hvlang@msn.com  
*Term ends: 2012*

#### **Leona Koth Hix, Name Badge Chair/Greeter**

2704 Haworth Ave. (503) 538-4508  
Newberg, OR 97132-1918 JWHIX@comcast.net  
*Term ends: 2014*

#### **Sharon Bell, Alternate #1 - Set-Up Chair**

126 NE 86th Ave. (503) 254-2583  
Portland, OR 97220 bellglen@teleport.com  
*Term ends: 2012*



**Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus**

**In Memory—Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus**

**Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus**

**Ed Weber, Director Emeritus**

also a GROW member was always at her side. April's meeting was the last she attended.

Funeral services were held by Lincoln Memorial Home, Portland, OR on May 11, 2012 at 10:00 am, the graveside service was 11:00 am at Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.

# GROW 2012 Quarterly Calendar

J U L Y 2 0 1 2						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
A U G U S T 2 0 1 2						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
GROW PICNIC						
S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 2						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 Newsletter Deadline
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Board Meeting	19	20	21	22
23 Chapter Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Genealogy Workshop					



**Chapter Meetings are held at:**  
**New Deutsches Haus**  
*(formerly the Fellowship Masonic Center)*  
 5626 NE Alameda St., Portland, OR  
 (57th & Sandy Blvd.)

**Directions:**  
 From the North taking I-205 or I-5,  
 Take Columbia Exit and go to Cully, turn South  
 until you come to Sandy Blvd & 57th NE Alameda.  
 From the South on I-205 take Halsey exit,  
 go W to 57th, make R to Sandy/Alameda;  
 From I-5, take I-84 to 60th, turn N to Halsey,  
 L to 57th, N to Sandy & Alameda.  
 38 car parking across from the Deutsches Haus.  
**Doors open at 1 pm • Meeting at 2-5 pm**

## Chapter Meeting

**23 September - Convention reports**

### Fundraising Opportunities— At No Cost To You!!

- Electronic Newsletters. Receive your newsletters via email, and save GROW in postage costs. 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 **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.
- \* **Family Heritage Recipe Book** - \$12.50 at Chapter Meeting or add \$4.00 s/h for mailing. Call 503-659-8248, rahaas@q.com

## Resources for Aiding in Your Research

The Oregon AHSGR Chapter Library, 27th-29th NE Liberty St., Portland, OR, at Concordia University is open on the fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact Jene Goldhammer at 503-771-5813. It is best to call before coming.

### Websites available for research:

AHSGR Library

ahsgr.org

G-R Heritage Collection

lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc

GRHS Library

grhs.org

EEGS - East European Genealogical Soc, Inc.

Eegsociety.org

FEEFHS - Fed of E. European Family His Soc

eefhs.org

LDS Family History Library

familysearch.org

National Genealogical Society

ngsgenealogy.org

## GENEALOGY WORKSHOP GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church,  
10501 SE Market Street • Room 20  
(Just east of the Adventist Medical Center) Portland, OR

Starting September 24, 2012

7:00 pm - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Sept 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 12, Nov 26, Dec 10

*Learn how to find your ancestors among  
Germans who lived in Russia.*

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

Census Records (Revision Lists) (In Russia)

Birth Marriage and Death Records (In Russia)

Emigration to Russia

Emigration to US: Naturalization Records, Ship Records

Relatives who remained in Russia

In the US: Settlements, Town Histories, Census Records

Family Data on the Web

Record Keeping (Computer Software)

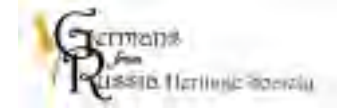
For more information, how to find the church,  
and how to get into the church contact:

Harold Lang, hvlang@msn.com, 503-251-2948



## 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 \$50.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$650.00 (\$130.00 per year)

**Make checks payable to GROW - US Currency Only • Mail to: Adi Hartfeil, 4230 S. Terra Vista Ct., West Linn, OR 97068**

**Please send email updates and address corrections to Adi Hartfeil - abhartfeil@q.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.

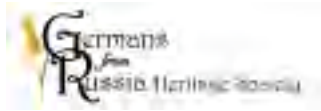
Send articles to: [icprunier@comcast.net](mailto:icprunier@comcast.net) or by mail at 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

# NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED!

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

**Janice Prunier, Editor**  
**1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201**  
**jcprunier@comcast.net**

***Deadline for next issue is  
September 1, 2012.***



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

**GROW Chapter**

8618 SE 36th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97222