



GROW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 14, Issue 4

July - August - September 2015

Message from the President



Exciting events are coming up with the summer vacation and during the rest of this year.

First: the National GRHS Convention in Bismarck, North Dakota, July 15-19, 2015. One item affecting each of us is the voting on the annual dues: whether you'll want to increase the annual dues from \$50 to \$60 to conform closer to the annual costs per member, which has been \$62.27 for 2014 and \$64.26 in 2013. I'm going to stay out of this debate, as I sacrificed and enrolled my family and myself a few years ago. I guarded against that possibility of increased dues and paid the LIFE Membership.

I know that the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) has changed their Annual Membership Levels and Dues as follows. This may be also the GRHS alternative of the increase of \$10 to the \$60?

- *Premium: (\$100.00) Receives all*
- *Standard: (\$50.00) Receives all except NO Members Only GR-Research or Clues*
- *Basic: (\$35.00) Receives all except NO members Only GR-Research, Journals, Newsletters or Clues*
- *Student: (\$15.00) (15-years to 24-years old) Receives all except NO Members Only GR-Research or Clues*
- *Youth: (\$8.00) (14-years old & younger) Receives Open Access GR-Research and Jugendzeitung, a Youth Newsletter, except NO Members Only*

Second: We will again have a GROW Chapter Picnic on Sunday, 23 August 11am to 3pm, at the Willamette Wetland Shelter Park, West Linn, Oregon. From I-205, take 10th Street exit (Exit #6). See the directions and map in this newsletter on page 3. The Take Out Band with 5 members (an increase from 3 to 5 members) again will perform for us. Horseshoe pits, grass vol-

leyball court, softball field, etc. are available. We will have a great fellowship after a summer vacation.

Third: On Oct 4, there will be a Combined German American (GAS) Sister Club Oktoberfest put together. The Board decided on investigating the current German-type of Oktoberfest and will be searching out different music fests and so this is in the works of being researched, investigated and to be put to display for our creative Oktoberfest.

Several sisters' clubs such as the Liedertafel will be having their Heritage Ball on Friday evening and the other entire sisters' clubs will be having their music with the Lyle Heilman Band on Friday, Oct 2 and all day Saturday, Oct 3. Among the booths on Saturday, there will be a festive dinner and drinks served as well. GROW is invited to all three days, but responsible for Sunday, Oct 4 only when we have our regular Sunday Chapter Meeting.

Fourth: We will have another October session on 25, and a Christmas Program November 22 with Allen White Directing and Bill Glenn in the Santa Klaus costume with all the goodie sacks for every attendee. Then following that will be a December 6 GAS Sister Christmas gala: Liedertafel, Frau Verein, Deutsch Unterhalten Verein (DUV) and GROW Combined Club Program and festive event.

Inside This Issue

Where Pray?	2
GROW Annual Picnic	3
Historical Timeline	4-8
Genealogy Forum	8
Board of Directors	9
GROW Quarterly Calendar	10
GRHS Clearinghouse	11
RIGs Contacts	12
Resources for Aiding Your Research	12

I concluded my last article with the thought to return to the subject of war with a little more about Mara and the deleterious effects of war on the young. Given some other thoughts and plans about that previous article, I am writing instead about prayer this month. Someone once said, "There are no atheists in foxholes," and someone else said, "There are no atheists during finals week."



So I can probably get by talking about prayer for a while. This is a piece I've been working on for several years. I have a pile (no other way exists to describe it; it is a pile) of articles, essays, and stories that I periodically return to and work a bit more. This is, as we are in our lives, a work in progress.

On Praying:

Jesus, reacting to the self-promoting and hypocritical prayers of some, said, "... whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door..." (Matthew 6:6). Luke reports that, to avoid the crowds, Jesus "...would withdraw to deserted places and pray." (Luke 5:16).

Prayer is a conscious act, but I can't always tell when I am praying, I'm not readily aware that is what I am doing. Sometimes, prayer just "happens."

Let me be clear, I love to participate in large, formal prayers and litanies, such as the prayers common to a *high church* tradition. If they are sung and chanted, so much the better. I find there sometimes the experience of disappearing into the prayers and becoming one with the words, entering a sense of transcendence. Henri Nouwen said he liked prayers out of a book so he wouldn't get lost in merely his own words and wants.

Mother Teresa instructed us. "The beginning of prayer is silence...If we really want to pray we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks." The silence of contemplative prayer, the silence of a shaded forest path, the silence of a roaring storm battering the shoreline --these are places where I can open my heart to God.

We have grown used to the instant: We look for a faster and faster internet connection, we can't wait for the light to change so we creep into the crosswalk, we want happiness, answers, relief, NOW. But often God seems to say,

"Wait." Wait your turn; wait a minute. By learning to hold our time, wherever we are, we develop a significant spiritual discipline: Waiting patiently, waiting expectantly, waiting for God's time rather than our own.

Walking. Walking is a time I often begin to pray without realizing it. It has a rhythm: one foot, the other foot, swing the arms. The cadence of walking naturally draws me to prayer. I for a time carried a plastic-coated copy of The Lord's Prayer in German to read and memorize in my outings. Now, the Vater Unser is tied to my walk, a part of the rhythm. The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ave Maria, all join in the parade.

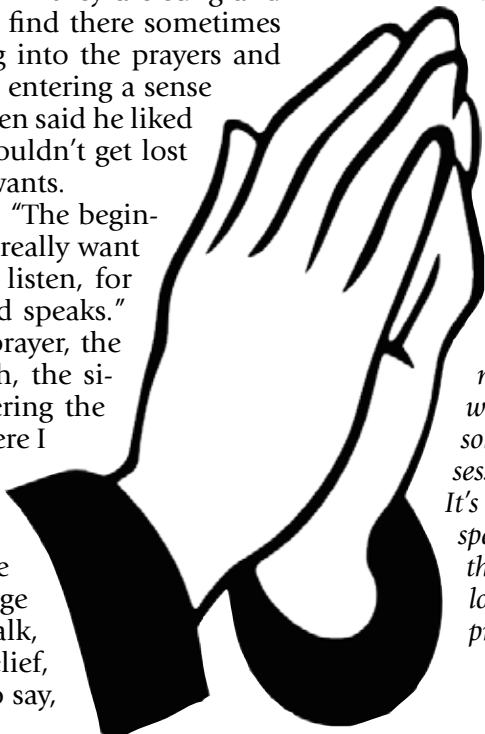
Walking becomes a time to remember others in intercessory prayer, again, often without conscious realization. Seemingly random thoughts form around a name...a need, "God have mercy."

Now the outcome of all this half-lit prayer? I object to making claims. I think I heal faster due to prayer, but I count no magical cures, no major miracles. I remember a charismatic young Lutheran grabbing another's pencil and saying, "I've been praying for a pencil! God answers prayer!" No, instead, God might every so often tap my shoulder and point out I am in the right place and, rather than rearrange the world for me, give me a nudge toward acceptance, thankfulness, and belonging. The Holy asks us - in the words of a wise counselor I once knew - to shut up and pay attention.

Look again to the solitude of prayer. Henri Nouwen explained:

In solitude we can unmask the illusion of our possessiveness and discover in the center of our own self that we are not what we can conquer, but what is given to us. In solitude we can listen to the voice of him who spoke to us before we could speak a word, who healed us before we could make any gesture to help, who set us free long before we could free others, and who loved us long before we could give love to anyone. It is in this solitude that we discover that being is more important than having, and that we are worth more than the result of our efforts. In solitude we discover that our life is not a possession to be defended, but a gift to be shared. It's there we recognize that the healing words we speak are not just our own, but are given to us; that the love we can express is part of a greater love; and the new life we bring forth is not a property to cling to, but a gift to be received.

(Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Mornings: Readings and Reflections*, 1997)



ANNUAL GROW PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015 • 11 am to 6 pm

Willamette Park, West Linn, Oregon

Willamette Wetland Shelter (past the marina & close to the river)

Live Music by “European Take Out Band”


Nearby parking, covered seating area, electrical hookup and water provided & fairly close to a nice restroom.

Bring along your best foods, drinks (with alcohol being permitted) and share some GROW Gemuetlichkeit.

From the park description, you can see that there are a number of things you can do with the little ones when they want to share in the fun.

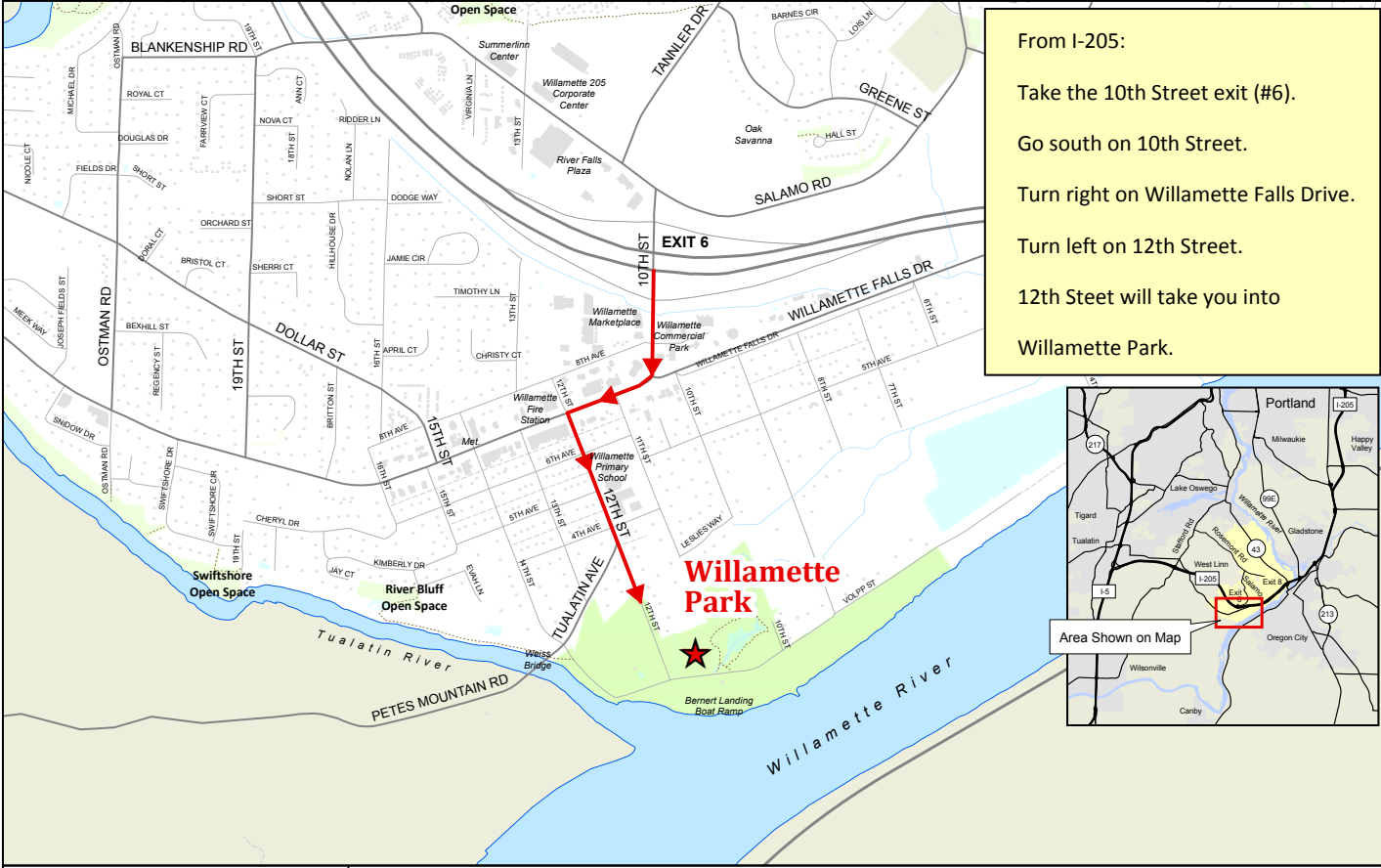
Willamette Park and Bernert Landing Boat Ramp (4905 Volpp Street) are a combined 22.5 acres Located at the intersection 12th & Volpp Street where the Tualatin River meets the Willamette River, this scenic 15 acre park offers the following amenities: 2 large picnic shelters and a smaller gazebo all with water and power, stage area with concrete pad in front, baseball field, 2 soft-ball fields, 1 grass volleyball court and 1 sand volleyball court, 5 horseshoe pits, river access including boat ramp at Bernert Landing and dock system, playground, wading pool, and wildlife viewing.



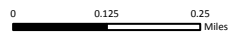


DIRECTIONS TO: Willamette Park, West Linn, Oregon
1100 12th Street

From I-205:
Take the 10th Street exit (#6).
Go south on 10th Street.
Turn right on Willamette Falls Drive.
Turn left on 12th Street.
12th Street will take you into
Willamette Park.




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Germans in the Russian Empire, Soviet Union and Their Successor States, and Their Descendants' Subsequent Life in Germany and the Western Hemisphere: A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part VI)

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

Compiler's Note: I translated many of the following entries directly from the German and Russian languages out of numerous academic and popular sources. For some translated entries, I took the liberty to make careful modifications of words and phrases or include corrections and additional pertinent information. Like an expanding coral reef, key historical dates, personalities, events and developments continue to be collected, layer upon layer. Documentation of both our individual lives and family histo-



ries remains enmeshed by this accumulation of knowledge. Different versions of the historical timeline have already appeared in two significant publications: Eric J. Schmaltz, "Chronicle of Events for Ethnic Germans in Russia, 1549-Present," Heritage Review 32:1 (Mar. 2002): pp. 26-31, 33-44; and Schmaltz, An Expanded Bibliography and Reference Guide for the Former Soviet Union's Germans: Issues of Ethnic Autonomy, Group Repression, Cultural Assimilation and Mass Emigration in the Twentieth Century and Beyond (Fargo, ND: Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, 2003), pp. xiii-xxxvi. Copyright permission is granted by both publications. For this series, I made several necessary revisions and updates to the timeline.

- Late 1992 to -- Based in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Society for German American Studies (SGAS) submits a report at Bill Clinton's
Early 1993 Presidential Transition Roundtable Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas; it calls for establishing basic human rights for the ethnic German minority group in Russia, as well as for ethnic German minority groups in Poland and Eastern Europe.
- 1993 -- At its peak, "Rebirth" membership reaches about 170,000 (other estimates put it as high as 200,000-250,000).
The Sidney Heitman Germans from Russia Collection at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, is established; it is devoted to late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Volga German immigrants involved in the beet farming industry of Colorado and western Nebraska.
- 1 Jan. 1993 -- Feeling the pressure of mass immigration, Germany issues a decree regulating legal compensation for war-induced losses (Kriegsfolgenbereinigungsgesetz) and guarantees for legal entry of all those ethnic Germans who wish to go to united Germany; along with some cutbacks in social services, the establishment for the first time of an annual quota in Germany's admission of ethnic settlers from abroad (Aussiedler), which is set at 225,000 (from both the former USSR and Eastern Europe, with the vast majority of Aussiedler coming from the CIS); more restrictions soon follow, including language competency tests for immigration applicants (i.e., the heads of families, and later for their family members); the German government's official distinction between the Spätaussiedler (those Germans abroad who had experienced World War II and forced resettlements and who are only now returning to Germany) and their descendants (Abkömmlinge) is more clearly formulated; in Germany, legal distinctions between the "more German" pre-1990 Aussiedler (typically older individuals) and the "more Russified" or "non-German" post-1990 émigrés (usually younger and more ethnically mixed families) are taking shape.
- 4-6 Feb. 1993 -- In Saratov, the First Congress of Volga Germans; the creation of the National Organization of Volga Germans (Landmannschaft der Wolgadeutschen), led by Yuri Haar for the next few years.
- 26-28 Feb. 1993 -- As the last of the major international congresses of all ethnic Germans, the Third Congress of Germans of the Former USSR in Moscow establishes an intergovernmental council of ethnic Germans and the election of a preliminary (provisional) parliament (Vorparlament) of ethnic Germans as part of a proposed future German republic.

Continued on page 5.

A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part VI) cont.

- 1 Mar. 1993 -- Out of the Third Congress of Germans of the Former USSR, the International Council of Germans of the Former USSR "Rebirth" (Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR "Wiedergeburt") is formalized; no longer the "Rebirth's" all-union (international) chairman, Dr. Heinrich Groth heads this council; it grows out of his earlier council by a similar name and is also known as the Rat der Rußlanddeutschen (Sovet nemtsev Rossii) and the Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byvshego SSSR (ZSRD/MGSN); some of its delegates also come from the moderate wing of the autonomy movement led by Peter Falk and Hugo Wormsbecher.
- 5-6 Apr. 1993 -- In Bonn, the Third Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans; includes the decision over the opening of Germany's embassies (consulates) in Novosibirsk, Kaliningrad and Volgograd.
- 25 May 1993 -- In Moscow, the session of Dr. Heinrich Groth's Council of Germans of Russia (Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Sovet nemtsev Rossii or ZSRD/MGSN), in which the decision over the participation of the representatives of ethnic Germans in the work on Russia's Constitutional Convention is accepted.
- 27 May 1993 -- In Moscow, the session of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Germans of the Former USSR (Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Deutschen der ehemaligen UdSSR/ Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byvshego SSSR or ZSRD/MGSN) under Dr. Heinrich Groth.
- 28-30 May 1993 -- In Moscow, the session of the International Council of Russian Germans (Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byvshego SSSR or ZSRD/MGSN) under Dr. Heinrich Groth.
- 10 June 1993 -- Joint declaration concerning basic relations between Germany and Ukraine; Article 15 is devoted to the ethnic Germans in Ukraine.
- 22 Sept. 1993 -- The chairman of the Council of Ministers of Russia, Viktor Chernomyrdin, signs the governmental order "Concerning Customs Privileges" for freight directed by the government of the FRG to the ethnic Germans to be free of charge.
- 1-2 Nov. 1993 -- In St. Petersburg (former Leningrad), the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans; in the Region of Leningrad, a new settlement of ethnic Germans is supposed to be created.
- 12 Dec. 1993 -- A new Russian Constitution under President Boris Yeltsin is adopted, delegating to the president considerable powers.
- 19-20 Dec. 1993 -- In Moscow, the session of the Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byvshego SSSR (ZSRD/MGSN); using this occasion to protest against the perceived slow pace of full rehabilitation, Dr. Heinrich Groth steps down from his various leadership posts in the Wiedergeburt, the ZSRD/MGSN, and the Confederation of Repressed Peoples; as a colleague of Russia's "Rebirth" chairman Jakob Maurer, Viktor Diesendorf replaces Groth as the head of the ZSRD/MGSN.
- 1994-2005 -- Leonid Kuchma serves as Ukraine's second president.
- 9-11 Mar. 1994 -- In Bonn, the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans; it is decided among other things to set aside in West Siberia and along the Volga living space for ethnic German settlers from Central Asia and Kazakhstan.
- 23-27 Apr. 1994 -- In Almaty, the First Session of the German-Kazakh Government Commission on Questions of Culture.
- 25 May 1994 -- The governmental order of the Russian Federation "Concerning the Establishment of a Fund for the National and Cultural Revival of the Peoples of Russia."
- 14 June 1994 -- The Second Session of the German-Kazakh Government Commission on Questions of Germans in the Republic of Kazakhstan; the promotion of German citizens of Kazakhstan in the areas of education and culture receives particular attention.
- 4-11 Sept. 1994 -- The Festival of German Culture in the Volga Region (Saratov, Volgograd, Samara, Ulyanovsk).
- 22 Oct. 1994 -- The founding of the Social Academy of Russian Germans.
- 5 Dec. 1994 -- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is signed in Budapest, Hungary; this major post-Cold War agreement between the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States, and the United Kingdom (Britain), later including France and China, requires independent Ukraine to relinquish its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal to Russia; Ukraine in turn receives formal international recognition of its sovereignty and territorial boundaries; Russia's forced annexation of Crimea in March 2014 breaks that agreement.

Continued on page 6.

A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part VI) cont.

- 15-16 May 1995 -- In Novosibirsk, Russia, the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans; among other things it is decided by the wish of the Russian side that the project Natsia in the Region of Leningrad is not to proceed any further; instead of this, another resettlement project in Strenla should be promoted; it is decided that by decree a "German House" in Moscow be placed as a central organization of Russia's Germans.
- 29 May 1995 -- President Yeltsin meets with leading representatives of Russia's Germans.
- 22-23 June 1995 -- In Bishkek, the Third Meeting of the German-Kyrgyz Government Commission on Questions of Germans in Kyrgyzstan; in 1995 an agreement between Germany and Kyrgyzstan in favor of Kyrgyzstan's German minority is still supposed to be settled.
- 24-25 June 1995 -- In Almaty, the Second Congress of the Germans of Kazakhstan takes place.
- 26 June 1995 -- The Third Session of the German-Kazakh Government Commission on Questions of Germans in the Republic of Kazakhstan; the common goal is the settlement in 1995 of a bilateral agreement in favor of Kazakhstan's German minority.
- 4-6 July 1995 -- The founding of a Writers' Union of Russian Germans (Schriftstellerverband der Rußlanddeutschen); one of its proponents is Dr. Eugen N. Miller of Ulyanovsk, Russia, who also serves as its chairman.
- 16 Sept. 1995 -- Russian President Yeltsin signs the decree "Concerning Measures for the Realization of the Territorial Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples."
- Dec. 1995 -- After a two-year hiatus from the former USSR's political scene, Dr. Heinrich Groth (who has lived in Berdyansk, Ukraine) becomes chairman of the (regional-level) "Rebirth" in Ukraine.
- 1996 -- For the ethnic Germans, Bruno Reiter replaces Peter Falk in the Ministry of Nationality Affairs of the Russian Federation; Falk had served in this capacity since the early 1990s; in the next year or so, Vladimir Bauer replaces Reiter.
- Russian President Yeltsin wins re-election and begins his second term.
- Jan. 1996 -- The Russian resolution concerning the establishment of the first regional cultural autonomy of ethnic Germans in the Volga Region.
- 1 Mar. 1996 -- The law concerning the determination of a temporary living space for Spätaussiedler is amended (i.e., changes are made to Germany's "Law on the Assignment of a Place of Residence" or Wohnortzuweisungsgesetz); on 22 December 1997, the law is changed again, effective until 15 July 2000.
- 22 May 1996 -- Law of the Russian Federation "Concerning National-Cultural Autonomy."
- 31 May 1996 -- An agreement is signed between Germany and Kazakhstan concerning cooperation on the support of citizens of German nationality in Kazakhstan.
- 7 June 1996 -- The decree of Russian President Yeltsin "Concerning Measures for Guaranteeing the Rehabilitation of the Russian Germans."
- 15 June 1996 -- Russian President Yeltsin ratifies the "Conception of the State Nationalities Policy of the Russian Federation."
- 17 June 1996 -- Law of the Russian Federation "Concerning National-Cultural Autonomy" from 22 May of that year goes into effect.
- 3 Sept. 1996 -- An agreement between Germany and Ukraine concerning cooperation in the affairs of persons of German heritage living in Ukraine.
- 8-9 Nov. 1996 -- The First Congress (Peoples' Congress) of the Germans of the Crimea; the Peoples' Parliament as an executive body is elected, and the concept for the self-organization of the Crimean Germans from 1996 to 2015 is passed.
- 15 Nov. 1996 -- In Bonn, the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental (Joint Governmental) Russian-German Commission for the Affairs of Russian Germans; for 1997, Russia plans 103 billion rubles, and Germany 89.5 million DM, for the interests of ethnic Germans.
- 24 Nov. 1996 -- The First Congress of Ukrainian Germans elects a Peoples' Council (Volksrat der Deutschen der Ukraine), with Dr. Heinrich Groth as its chairman.
- The General Council of the International Association "Rebirth" is created (Generalrat der Zwischenstaatlicher Vereinigung "Wiedergeburt").
- 18 Dec. 1996 -- The resolution of the government of the Russian Federation concerning the creation of a consultative council for the affairs of national-cultural autonomy in the government of the Russian Federation.
- 22 Jan. 1997 -- The leader of Russia's Communist Party, Gennadi Zyuganov, meets with representatives of the Russian Germans.

Continued on page 7.

A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part VI) cont.

- 22 Feb. 1997 -- Order of the government of the Russian Federation "Concerning Measures for Altering the State Conception of Nationalities Policy of the Russian Federation."
- 1 Mar. 1997 -- The session of the Executive Council of the "Rebirth" of Ukraine.
- 14-15 Mar. 1997 -- In Bishkek, the Fourth Congress of the German of Kyrgyzstan; in Kyrgyzstan, the total of around 100,000 ethnic Germans has declined to about 20,000 in recent years (an eighty percent decrease).
- 17 Mar. 1997 -- In Kurgan, a youth circle of Russian Germans is formed with a place in Moscow.
- Apr. 1997 -- The first issue of the Moskauer Deutsche Zeitung (Moscow German Newspaper) appears; the newspaper's predecessor ran from 1870 to 1914.
- 4-5 Apr. 1997 -- In Saratov, the Third Congress of Volga Germans is held; the delegates direct an open letter to Russian President Yeltsin and German Chancellor Kohl with the request for additional assistance in financing the return-settlement program for the Germans on the Volga.
- 9 Apr. 1997 -- The Supreme Soviet of the Crimea recognizes the Peoples Parliament of Crimean Germans.
- May 1997 -- Russia and Ukraine sign the Peace and Friendship Treaty, in which Moscow rules out any territorial claims to Ukraine; in a separate agreement, both countries establish the conditions of Russia's long-term lease of territory, facilities, and resources in the port of Sevastopol and the Crimea; Sevastopol continues to serve as the naval base of the post-Soviet Black Sea Fleet of Russia.
- 2 May 1997 -- German Chancellor Kohl meets in Almaty with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nazarbaev; both politicians request that Kazakhstan's Germans remain in the country and contribute through personal engagement to the building of relations between both countries.
- 8 July 1997 -- The Russian government decrees the "Federal Program for the Development of the Social-Economic and Cultural Basis for the Rebirth of the Russian Germans for 1997-2006."
- 14 July 1997 -- The Organizational Committee for the Support of the Social Unity of Russian Germans and the Realization of Their Particular Rights in the "Federal Law on National-Cultural Autonomy" is established; Vladimir Bauer, the Representative Nationality Minister, becomes chairman.
- 30 July 1997 -- The German Foreign Office makes a verbal statement to the Ukrainian government concerning measures for the integration of ethnic Germans who resettled in Ukraine between 1992 and 1995 (Ukraine's German population is still rather small).
- 20 Aug. 1997 -- Through Russian President Yeltsin, the "Federal Program" of the Russian government from 8 July of that year receives the status of a "presidential (executive) program."
- 29 Nov. 1997 -- In Fulda, Germany, the founding of the émigré association "Homeland" (Heimat); with its own candidates, the association commits itself to participating in the Bundestag election campaign.
- 19-20 Dec. 1997 -- In Moscow at a congress of Russian Germans, the establishment of the "National-Cultural Autonomy of Germans in Russia" (Nationale Kulturalautonomie der Deutschen in Rußland); Vladimir Bauer, the Representative Nationalities Minister of Russia, is elected chairman; the organization is also known as the Föderale nationale kulturelle Autonomie "Rußlanddeutsche" or FNKA (Federal National-Cultural Autonomy "Russian Germans"); as a new autonomy movement for Russia's Germans, the FNKA soon competes with other autonomy organizations and ethnic special interests, resulting in some political controversy among activists within the larger ethnic community; this new association is most concerned with issues of German education, language and culture, not with receiving humanitarian assistance from Germany.
- Late 1997 -- In Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, more than 6,000 German-language courses (instructing about 100,000 persons) are established across 600 communities; there remains the task of improving the quality of German-language education.
- 26 Jan. 1998 -- In Falkenberg (Elster), Germany, the Federative Union of German Late Settlers from Abroad (Bundesverband deutscher Spätaussiedler or BUDESA) is founded; the major request of the Union is the integration of Spätaussiedler into German society.
- Late Jan. 1998 -- The Zwischenstaatlicher Rat der Rußlanddeutschen/Mezhgosudarstvenny sovet nemtsev byvshego SSSR (ZSRD/MGSN) in Moscow demands that ethnic Germans from Russia be represented in Germany's Bundestag.
- 12 May 1998 -- The first residents of the model settlement of Neudorf-Strenla near St. Petersburg, Russia, move into their homes.
- July 1998 -- The Department for Russian Germans in the Ministry for Regional and National Policy of Russia is moved down a level to a Ministry Section; Arthur Weber becomes the Section Chief; this change is temporary, however.

Continued on page 8.

A Historical Timeline, 1549-Present (Part VI) cont.

- 22 Sept. 1998 -- Amid administrative reshuffling, the Ministry for Regional and National Policy of Russia is split into two ministries; Ramazan G. Abdulatipov becomes the Minister for Nationalities Questions; the Department for the Affairs of Russian Germans is reestablished, and Vladimir Bauer is appointed as its chief.
- 1998-2005 -- Gerhard Schröder of the SPD is chancellor of Germany.
Jochen Welt of the SPD is named the new German Government Representative of Spätaussiedler Affairs, replacing the long-serving Horst Waffenschmidt of the CDU/CSU.
- Late 1998 -- In Kazakhstan, where at the start of the 1990s approximately one million ethnic Germans lived, only about 250,000 remain (around a seventy-five percent decrease); in Uzbekistan during the same period, the ethnic German population declined from about 101,000 to around 10,000 (roughly a ninety percent decrease); most of these ethnic Germans have gone to Germany, and a smaller share to the Russian Federation (particularly West Siberia).
- 1999 -- In Nuremberg, Germany, the Historischer Forschungsverein der Deutschen aus Russland or HFDR (Historical Research Association of Germans from Russia) is established.
- Late 1999 -- During a fifty-year span beginning in 1950, a total of 1,885,333 Spätaussiedler emigrated from the regions of the former USSR to Germany; about ninety-five percent of this total (or 1,790,226) left for Germany only in the period after 1986 (the era of significant emigration policy relaxation in the former USSR).
- 31 Dec. 1999 -- Only a few months before Russia's scheduled presidential election, an ailing and scandal-ridden President Yeltsin steps down from power; his then popular 47-year-old prime minister and former KGB intelligence officer Vladimir Putin assumes Russia's presidency.
- 2000 -- The fiftieth anniversary of the Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Rußland in Stuttgart, Germany.
According to reliable estimates, about 500,000 ethnic Germans remain in the Russian Federation (some of whom had recently migrated from Central Asia); about three-quarters of the more than two million Germans listed in the 1989 Soviet census have since left the regions of the former USSR for Germany; of those staying in Russia, approximately fifteen percent of them want to emigrate to Germany at this time, and another thirty percent wish to do so in the near future.
- 2000-2008 -- After completing the brief remainder of Yeltsin's term in office, Vladimir Putin is elected as Russian President for two successive terms.

(To be continued.)

Genealogy Forum

Fall in Love with Your Ancestors

by Susan Baird

It is a wonderful time of the year! We get to enjoy longer daylight, warmer weather, fresh produce, the scent of bed sheets dried in the sun and evening visiting after the chores are done with family, friends and out of town visitors.

We gather for family reunions and class reunions. We go on road trips that can be short (a couple of hours) or long (taking up to a few days to reach our destination). We gather to "ooh" and "awe" over the firework displays as we celebrate living in America.

Summer is a celebration and it reminds us that life is a gift. Through the years our perspective changes on what we hold dear and treasure. We experience the four seasons every year just as the earth does. Each chronological year helps refine us and gives us opportunities to share with our posterity the insights we have gained and the gratitude we have felt for all



of our life experiences. Everyone has difficult history and has to make the decision of what to do with it. Sharing memories of difficult times and the lessons learned with our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will be some of the most treasured moments we create. Our lives are also full of fun, delightful and brave experiences. Sharing those memories help your family see you as the girl or boy you were.

I would encourage you to put together a Memory Book so you can share the world of your life with your future generations. It will mean more to them than you can imagine. I know a man who wrote a bedtime story book for his grandchildren. Each bedtime story was an experience he had in his life and the lesson learned from it. It is the story book that all the grandchildren want to be read from. He has since passed away. What a gift and treasure he has left for all of his descendants!!

Help your family get to know you better this summer.

If you need ideas, don't hesitate to contact me susanb120@comcast.net

Oktoberfest

By Marcine Herinck

October 2 is the combined GROW and GAS Oktoberfest program. It will feature prizes, beer, polka dances, German songs, German sausage, sauerkraut, salad, hot races and special desserts made by club members.

Also, please plan on bring an item with a story behind it to show or tell about.

Of course a gift to raffle off would be very nice too. After all, our German is to bring an item when you went to visit your mother's, sister's or brother's home. That is the old traditions, the custom our grandparents and mothers taught all of us. That is why we always bring a gift to our meeting each month for drawing.

In addition, please bring a decoration of your choice for a table.



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: 2016

Jan Haberman, Vice President/
Sunshine Chair & Calling Asst.
8110 SE Madison (503) 252-5480
Portland, OR 97215 haberman988@msn.com
Term ends: 2017

Jeanette McDermid, Secretary/Library Specialist
327 SE Elliot Ave (503) 666-6939
Gresham, OR 97080-7726 toadlilyunique@comcast.net
Term ends: 2016

Adi Hartfeil, Treasurer-Membership
4230 S Terra Vista Ct. (503) 636-2272
West Linn, OR 97068 abhartfeil1114@outlook.com
Term ends: 2018

Allen White, Caller/Brochure Disseminator
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1574 allenandnancy@juno.com
Term ends: 2018

Oscar Geiszler, Fundraising
803 5th Ave. (503) 656-1802
Oregon City, OR 97045 oscarandlorraine@msn.com
Term ends: 2016

Ell Schiermeister
12010 SE McGillivray (360) 253-2499
Vancouver, WA 98683
Term ends: 2017

Kaye Kuntz-Igoa, Library Assistant
313 Julie Ann Dr. (503) 680-1514
Oregon City, OR 97045 rkioga@outlook.com
Term ends: 2018

Larry Kuntz, Name Badge Chair, Brochure Printer
16500 SE 1st St. Unit 159 (360) 953-8709
Vancouver, WA 98684 vwlarry@centurylink.net
Term ends: 2017

Nancy White, Alternate #1
10400 SE Cook Ct. #75 (503) 253-9551
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1574 allenandnancy@juno.com
Term ends: 2016

Sharon Bell, Alternate #2 - Set-Up Chair
126 NE 86th Ave. (503) 254-2583
Portland, OR 97220 bellglen@teleport.com
Term ends: 2016



In Memory—Maxine Daily, Director Emeritus
In Memory—Clifford Haberman, Director Emeritus
Robert Majhor, Director Emeritus
Ed Weber, Director Emeritus

GROW QUARTERLY CALENDAR

JULY 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
July 15-19 Germans from Russia Heritage Society International Convention						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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 Sandy Blvd. Exit,
 turn right on Sandy going West to Alameda & Sandy.
From I-5, take I-84 to 60th, turn North to Halsey,
 Left to 57th, North to Sandy & Alameda.
 38 car parking across from the Deutsches Haus.
Doors open at 1 pm • Meeting 2-5 pm

AUGUST 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 GROW PICNIC	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Chapter Meetings

July & August - No Meetings

- 23 Aug**
Picnic at Willamette Park with 5 member Take-out-Band
- 04 Oct** Oktoberfest at Deutsches Haus
- 25 Oct** GRHS Convention Report with South America PP
- 22 Nov** GROW Christmas Program
with Bill Glen as Santa Klaus
- 06 Dec** GROW with Sister Clubs Christmas Festivities

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 Geizler** 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

SEPTEMBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Newsletter Deadline	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Board Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

GENEALOGICAL HELP

by Harold Lang
will be held in a room
across from the library
one hour before each
GROW Meeting

GRHS CLEARING HOUSE HAS NEW FILES AVAILABLE!!

For a complete list please see the website
www.grhs.org

1816 REVISION LIST, COLONY OF LUSTDORF, GROSSLIEBENTAL DISTRICT, KHERSON GUBERNIA - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2013

1816-1817 REVISION LIST, COLONY OF MÜNCHEN, BERESAN DISTRICT, KHERSON GUBERNIA - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

STATISTICAL REPORT ABOUT COLONISTS, (Includes Family Members & Ages) DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND FARMING INVENTORY IN THE TAURIEN GOVERNMENT, FEODOSIA AND SIMFEROPOL DISTRICT, 1818: Colony of Friedental, Colony of Neusatz, Colony of Rosental - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

1816 REVISION LISTS, CRIMEA: Includes Feodosia, Colony Near Feodosia, Friedental, Heilbrunn, Kronental, Neusatz, Rosental, City of Simferopol, Sudak, Zurichtal - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

1811 BERESAN DISTRICT FAMILY LISTS With Statistical Information About Their Economic Condition; Includes villages of: Landau, Sulz, Karlsruhe, Speier, Worms, Rohrbach, Rastadt, München - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

KUTSCHURGAN: Register of 6 colonies of the Odessa Settlement Region, 1814 - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, June 2012

1816 Revision List, Colony of Neuburg, GROSSLIEBENTAL DISTRICT, Kherson, Gubernia - a project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society, coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House, 2012

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED!

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

Jan Prunier, Editor
1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201
grownewslettereditor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue is September 1, 2015.



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 \$1000.00 (\$200.00 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@comcast.net

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

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

Send articles to: grownewslettereditor@gmail.com or by mail to: Janice Prunier, 1218 Pacific Ave., Everett, WA 98201

RIGs Contacts *Compiled by: Roger Haas*

BERESAN (BDO)

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BESSARABIA

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List Serv Administrator: Elaine Morrison, c2ware@comcast.net

CRIMEA

Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

Wanda Hopkins, whhopkins@comcast.net, 509-926-6951

GERMANS to PRUSSIA & POLAND to RUSSIA (GP-PR)

Spokesperson: Tom Stangl, tstanglsr@aol.com, 703-723-4692

List Serv Administrator: Janet Netz, netz@applecon.com

GROSLIEBENTAL (GDO)

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List Serv Administrator:

Karen Abel, karenjabel@gmail.com, 253-853-6471

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Spokesperson: Melvin Bender, lemhat@telus.net, 403-526-3794

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Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

Tim Janzen, tjanzen@comcast.net, 503-761-8781

KUTSCHURGAN

Spokesperson & List Serv Administrator:

Dennis Roth, deroth100@msn.com, 425-235-5559

List Serv Administrator:

Margaret Rehwalt, mjrehwalt@aol.com, 509-466-9400

Resources for Aiding in Your Research

Organization Websites:

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

Archive Websites:

National Archives (US)

archives.gov/aas/

Odessa Archives (Pixel)

odessa3.org

Ellis Island

ellisland.org

Canadian National Archives

archives.ca



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

GROW Chapter

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