

GROW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

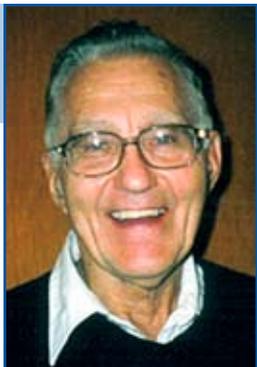
Area Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 15, Issue 1

October - November - December 2015

Message from the President

Summer spirits are remaining high with the Oktoberfest activities quickly approaching: the gaiety and the thoughts of fun, of dancing, food, and drinking. GROW is looking at München, Bavarian and German music, dirndls, lederhosen, beer, etc.



October 4 is the established date for GROW, a Sister Club of the German American Society, to open its doors to the public starting at 2 pm. The program will be excellent if it compares to 23 August GROW picnic with the *European Take-Out Band*. Allen and Nancy White were responsible for coordinating that splendid activity and will be engaged in assembling the Oktoberfest. So stay in tune for that announcement.

For 25 October, we will have the GRHS Convention reports, along maybe with the South American flavor as to Michael Miller's first South American documentary as shown in Bismarck, ND in July. Larry Kuntz and Kaye Kuntz-Igoa GRHS Convention Attendees may preside if they will be residing in the Northwest. There is talk that Larry may be down in Arizona for the winter months and Kaye may be relocating to Wyoming.

On the 22 November, we will have our annual Christmas Program with Program Presenter Allen White and Bill Glenn as the Belznickel. There will be a "goodie sack" for each attendee. On the 6 December, there will be Sister Clubs Christmas Festivities with Steve Easterday in charge of the activities.

As GROW starts its 16 year in its existence, we will have in January 2016, our Honorary German Consular, Robert Manicke. For February 2016, we had plans for our Food Specialist regarding German Foods and other nutritional information. However, that will depend on whether Kaye will be living in Oregon.

In March we will have Presenters Ron Schauer and Adi Hartfeil presenting on Latvia, and in April we will have our annual elections. The Board terms will be ending for Roger Haas, Jeanette McDermid, and Oscar Geiszler.

This is the time to indicate your interest in running for a Board position. It is a high privilege to be serving our club.

May and June chapter meetings have not been designated. This would be a super time for you to indicate your wishes for a special program or activity. Please let me or any of the Board Members know of your thoughts. Thank you.

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As I write, the temperature is 87 degrees, the only rain of the past months has been in a few small splatterings. It is our summer for setting temperature records. It is our summer for dryness, low rivers and lakes, with fish being poached in water that is their home. All the snow remaining on Mount St. Helens is an old, dirty grey color—snow from winters past.



Our five year old granddaughter was with us a week in mid-August. As I often do, I asked, "Did you have any dreams last night?"

She didn't hesitate. "I dreamed about home; and it was snowing."

One should not be surprised that at times of incessant heat even summer types—and Paige is clearly a "summer type"—dream of snow and winter, or even of cold, boring rain. We need, we seek variety. Aah, wouldn't sitting by a warm fire with the monotonous drumming of rain on the roof be oh so restful?

So I sit and dream, remembering scenes from my life. Scenes of snow and cold. Snow is dangerous, if it gets a chance, it will kill innocent (although perhaps careless) people. Yet we have a symbolic place for it. We once referred to certain people as being pure as the driven snow. In an old hymn we sang Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Winter.

I don't know how the weather will be when you read this. If it is unseasonably warm, relish the cool of a different season. If you read to the sound of a cold, wet wind driving rain drops against your window, well, that's reality!

Christmas Eve, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Napoleon, North Dakota

We weren't a pair, just very good friends and kidding partners at school and we did like each other. I, being a good Baptist boy, was so unfamiliar with the Latin Mass, the ritual of it, and the small mediocre but enthusiastic choir. I sat transfixed, in awe, and, since Jean was in the choir, alone. I didn't mind, I would only have been distracted sitting beside her and I might have missed the magic.

While we were in the mass, it snowed, a slow-falling, fluffy whiteness that wiped away all the old footsteps and automobile and bicycle tracks. The mass ended, I waited for her and we walked out together. All the people were gathered in the vestibule of the church and at the top of the steps. It was as if no one wanted to despoil the unbroken pure expanse in front of the

church. We stood that way for a few moments longer, speaking quietly with our eyes focusing far out in the whiteness. She reached over and placed her now mitted hand over mine.

Gradually, some began to realize there was a lot of incredibly good food waiting at home. Carefully and reluctantly, we broke the spell and, as many holy moments end, we wandered off to get something to eat.

The Sleigh Ride

Several years before my story of the mass, we were a mass of young adolescents on a large flatbed wagon, drawn by a team of horses. You can't get any more old time rural than that! Why we were there, and who else was there besides Phyllis and me, I have no idea.

If you have ever lived in places of dry cold, with a decent snow cover on rolling prairies, you know that the stars are so much larger and ever so much brighter than at ordinary times. The Milky Way was a wide swath of light over us. Burrowing into the hay and fighting over the available blankets was both fun and sensible.

What took hold of me was the light. In the glow of flickering stars, it seemed we could see for miles. The world we saw in this magical light was not what we usually saw. "It looks like another world," Phyllis said. And I knew we understood.

Dachau, Germany, late December, 2005

We walked from our hotel in the altstadt to the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, and spent the next five hours viewing exhibits and learning the horrible history of this place. As we wandered from building to building and among the memorial churches, we stood in the yard where the endless lines of barracks had been. In the increasing wind and rising flurries of the afternoon, it was easy to imagine thousands of pajama clad prisoners standing perfectly still, trying not to shiver uncontrollably, and waiting for roll call to end. On days like this, people would fall and die where they fell.

Our weather continued to deteriorate. The snow grew and the wind rose, driving hard icy crystals into our faces. We were ready to leave and dreaded the walk back into the altstadt.

A bus pulled in at the gate and people streamed toward it. We followed, hesitating by the door, the driver waved his arm and yelled "Komm." Jammed tightly into the bus, we revived in the heat of each other, and a small heater overhead trying its very best. No one could sit, there wasn't that kind of room. The girl pushed into my arm was a familiar one. We'd traveled together, literally and figuratively, for over forty years. We were used to sharing each other's warmth.

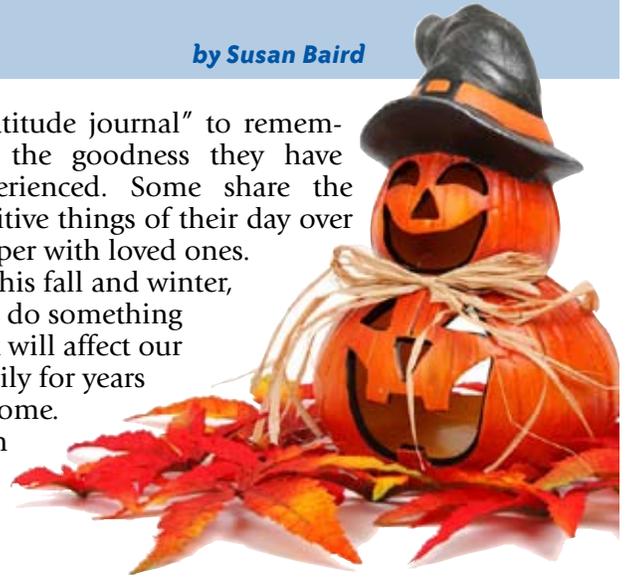
I am looking forward to cooler days, colorful and falling leaves, homemade soup dinners, harvesting the summer's bounty and getting ready for winter. Each season brings specific events, holidays, gatherings and cherished traditions. We are so blessed to have all four seasons even if they are usually sprinkled with rain here and there. It has been a hot and dry summer this year and most of us are ready for the cooler autumn days that are sure to come.



Fall can be a busy time, as most seasons are, but it is also a reflective time. We count our blessings with gratitude for the richness of our lives. Some keep a

"gratitude journal" to remember the goodness they have experienced. Some share the positive things of their day over supper with loved ones.

This fall and winter, let's do something that will affect our family for years to come.
I am



challenging each of us to write a gratitude sketch of family members and ancestors that have touched our lives. All you need to do is write your thoughts on how a particular person has had a positive influence on your choices.

Knowing a family member or studying the life of an ancestor does impact us and can spark an endeavor to be more, to be better and to be grateful for the influence their life has had on ours.

Then share these sketches with your family. It will be of great worth to them now and through years to come.

2015 GROW Picnic

by Allen & Nancy White

G In August 23rd GROW had its annual picnic from 11 am to 3 pm at Willamette Park at West Linn. We had 35 members and guests in attendance, however the chairman was hoping for more people.

Everyone was entertained by the *European Take-Out Band* under the direction of Terry Rudd playing the accordion with three other musicians and they are: Bobbie Ferrero, on the accordion; Hel Sherr, on the bass guitar; and the third member is Roxanne Klingler, soloist. Everyone enjoyed their selection of music. A tip jar was available and a good amount was given to them.

Allen and Nancy want to thank those that helped set up and dismantle especially Adi Hartfeil and Karla and Spencer Haas. A special thank you to Adi for getting there at 9 am to keep the parking lot clear of cars so our members had a place to park. He also was able to secure two more tables for us, which we used. Allen and Nancy brought two large tables for food and two small tables for beverages.

We were honored to be able to celebrate Harold and Violet Lang's 68th anniversary, they brought the equivalent of a sheet cake that was left over from an earlier celebration and some strawberry ice cream that Harold made and it was delicious.

Thanks to all for bringing food and no one went hungry.

With the weather being hot and smoky, Allen and Nancy made sure that all had plenty to drink choosing from iced tea, lemonade, pink lemonade and iced cold water.

Allen and Nancy White, Chairmen

Winter's Night, cont.

By the time we exited at the stop closest to our hotel, we had revived enough so we were quite sure we could make it the rest of the way.

We stripped off our wet clothes, pulling on wonderfully warm dry things and went to the hotel restaurant to eat German food and beer made just for a time like this.

Once outside, we stepped into another world framed by winter magic. The old buildings full of shops were brightly lit. The trees along the gently curving streets all were festooned with Christmas lights. The raw, stinging and numbing weather of the afternoon remained cold but became gentle and soothing. The wind now gone, only a few late snowflakes drifted lazily down through the lights. We walked with renewed energy, feeling the joy of all this beauty around us while still tortured by the history we had seen and heard and handled and walked. Pat said, "I can't make sense of all this." I thought, that's why we travel.

I just checked the temperature again. It is now 93 degrees at 5:15 pm. What I need to do is save this very moment for February.

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 VII-Final)

Compiled by Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz, Associate Professor of History,
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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.

18 Mar. 2000 -- In Moscow, the so-called "rebirth" of the old Wiedergeburt Society; a conference of the Moscow-based "Coordination Council" takes place under the leadership of the Fund of Russian Germans; the Russian Federation's current "Rebirth" chairman Ivan (Johann) Becker wishes to create a rejuvenated social-political movement for Russian Germans, to consolidate activities, and to solve the group's still pressing political and cultural challenges; fast becoming a competitor with Vladimir Bauer's FNKA-"Russian Germans" (Föderale nationale kulturelle Autonomie "Rußlanddeutsche" or Federal National-Cultural Autonomy "Russian Germans"), this "new" organization is now called "Rebirth-Unity-Harmony" (Wiedergeburt-Einigung-Eintracht/Vozrozhdenie-Edinenie-Soglasie).

12-13 Apr. 2001 -- In Moscow, an expanded session of the FNKA's presidium takes place; the Russian Germans must confront many problems, especially concerns over regional differences, varying political priorities, and the proper oversight and use of financial resources designated for "rehabilitation"; some express hope that "national-cultural" steps toward statehood can still be achieved; this "international" gathering of different ethnic representatives and leaders, including Dr. Heinrich Groth (the chairman of the Ukrainian "Rebirth") signifies renewed efforts to work together, if possible; in yet another attempt to coordinate remaining ethnic Germans across the CIS, the FNKA produces more documents and establishes more councils and committees, but concrete results for "rehabilitation" and autonomy remain elusive.

For all these recent political coordination efforts, the FNKA is still not cooperating fully with other ethnic German organizations and the German government; the FNKA, concerned that the German government is "ignoring" it, also continues to seek recognition from Berlin as the one legitimate organization for all ethnic Germans in the former Soviet Union; most of all, the bitter rivalry between the FNKA and the "Rebirth-Unity-Harmony" continues to frustrate more constructive "rehabilitation" efforts on behalf of the remnant of ethnic Germans still living in the region; the Moskauer Deutsche Zeitung (Moscow German Newspaper) under chief-editor Heinrich Martens (who also directs the International Association of German Culture [Internationaler Verband der deutschen Kultur or IVDK/Mezhdunarodny soyuz nemetskoy kul'tury or MSNK]), also takes sides in this emerging intra-ethnic rivalry, supporting Ivan Becker's Wiedergeburt.

27-28 Aug. 2001 -- The international congress of all Russian Germans convenes in Moscow, led by Vladimir Bauer's FNKA-"Russian Germans"; however, Ivan Becker's "Rebirth-Unity-Harmony" refuses to attend; the congress calls for "full rehabilitation," but Russian officials, seeing no need to provide for a "separate rehabilitation" of Germans since "all repressed peoples" are already "rehabilitated," continue to endorse the notion of "national-cultural" autonomy rather than territorial autonomy; oddly enough, Russian nationalist and Russian Duma Deputy Speaker Vladimir

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

Zhirinovskiy tells the congress that Moscow's failure to restore German territorial autonomy inside Russia is a "grave mistake."

At the international congress of all Russian Germans in Moscow, the FNKA under Vladimir Bauer recalls the sixtieth anniversary of the Stalinist mass deportations of Volga Germans; during this solemn ceremony, Bauer and his associates at the congress announce their decision to decorate Russian President Putin with its highest award, the Catherine the Great Medal, a gesture of goodwill and appreciation toward Russia; interestingly, Putin, who speaks some German, had served as a KGB agent years earlier in Dresden in the former Communist East Germany.

- 2002 -- The Collective Security Treaty Organization or CSTO (Organizatsiya Dogovora o Kollektivnoy Bezopasnosti/ODKB) is formally established by several post-Soviet states belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance acting as a counterpart to the NATO alliance in the West, in effect replacing the now defunct Warsaw Pact (1955-1990). Its initial incarnation was known as the Collective Security Treaty or the "Tashkent Pact" or "Tashkent Treaty." The treaty was signed on 15 May 1992 and went into effect in 1994. In 1999, six of the nine original signatories agreed to renew the treaty for five more years, but decided in 2002 to create the CSTO as a formal security arrangement. The alliance uses Russian as the official language, and its headquarters is located in Moscow. As of 2015, Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan are members, while Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status. Uzbekistan was an original member, but dropped out shortly after 2002, rejoining in 2006, only to withdraw in 2012. The two other former signatories from 1994 include Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- 2003 -- In more recent years, with annual Spätaussiedler immigration levels hovering around 100,000, the German government decides at the start of the new millennium to reduce by half this quota to about 50,000 per year; this new policy is to take effect in 2003.
- With considerable publicity, Ukraine and its Diaspora community abroad commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Holodomor (the Murder-Famine under Stalin).
- Nov. 2004- Jan. 2005 -- Ukraine's bloodless, pro-democracy "Orange Revolution"; supporters wear orange ribbons to symbolize non-violent protests; a brief period of Ukrainian unity follows.
- 2005-Present -- Angela Merkel of the CDU/CSU is chancellor of Germany.
- 2005-2010 -- Viktor Yushchenko serves as Ukraine's "pro-Western" president.
- 2006 -- Starting this year, further reductions take effect on Spätaussiedler immigration levels into Germany, with only a few thousand per year now permitted entry.
- 2007 -- Russian President Putin calls upon "homesick" émigrés in the West to return to the Motherland; because of its potential demographic implosion, Russia continues to entice its former citizens to come home; thanks to oil and natural gas revenues, Putin and his supporters are convinced that distributing cash and social benefits over the next several years will lure at least some of these former citizens back to Russia; in 2007, Moscow implements a program worth more than 2.8 billion rubles (\$109 million) to improve housing, health care, and education and perhaps in this way help to convince ethnic Germans to immigrate eastward; only a handful heed the call.
- Germany and Kazakhstan for the past decade have tried to build diplomatic bridges and mutual economic incentives by keeping productive citizens of German ancestry in Central Asia; both governments hope that the ethnic Germans in Kazakhstan might one day establish a geopolitical "bridge" to permit united Germany and the Soviet successor states various opportunities to advance a mutually beneficial relationship; for instance, in recent years Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued state citizenship to about 2,000-3,000 German returnees.
- 12 June 2007 -- The International Memorial to the Victims of Communism is unveiled in Washington, DC, dedicated to the estimated 90-100 million people who have died under such regimes worldwide since the early twentieth century; approximately one million ethnic Germans perished in late tsarist Russia and the early Soviet Union between roughly 1915 and 1950.
- 2008-2012 -- Putin's political ally Dmitry Medvedev serves as Russian president for one term, while Putin assumes the office of Russian prime minister.

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

- Summer 2008 -- The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) is created at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon.
- Aug. 2008 -- The Russo-Georgian War, sometimes now called the Five-Day War or August War; under President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin, Russia intervenes militarily and occupies South Ossetia in Georgia on the grounds of protecting ethnic Russians there; the Russians continue to hold the area today.
- Dec. 2008 -- The International Center for German-Russian Studies is established through the signing of a significant strategic partnership between Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Saratov State University in Saratov Province of Russia; it has offices on both university campuses; its expressed purpose is to advance the study of German-Russian history and culture worldwide.
- Spring-Summer -- Kyrgyzstan's revolution, ousting President Kurmanbek Bakiyev; violence and the physical displacement of ethnic Uzbeks from the country also take place.
- 2010-Feb. 2014 -- Viktor Yanukovich serves as Ukraine's "pro-Russian" president, but is later forced from office during a violent pro-democracy and pro-Western popular uprising; he is exiled across the border in Russia.
- 1 Jan. 2011 -- In January 1993, the German government established a closing date (moratorium) for future ethnic German immigration; ethnic German descendants (Abkömmlinge) born after 31 December 1992 will no longer enjoy the right to make a personal request for immigration to Germany; this policy now takes effect.
- 2012-Present -- Putin is elected again to serve as Russian president.
- 2013 -- The two-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Tsarina Catherine II the Great's manifesto inviting foreigners to immigrate to Russia.
- Nov. 2013- Feb. 2014 -- Ukraine's violent and bloody revolution in Kiev's city square (Maidan), removing "pro-Russian" President Yanukovich; over 100 killed and 1,100 injured in the protests; the event soon precipitates Russia's intervention into the Crimea in March 2014, highlighting Ukraine's split along ethnic and regional lines; greater pro-Russian sentiments are found especially in the eastern part of the country as opposed to stronger pro-European Union (EU) attitudes in the western part.
- 2014 -- The year 2014 marked several landmark anniversaries recognized among Germans from Russia worldwide:
- The two-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the initial arrival of Germans into Russia along the Volga under invitation of Tsarina Catherine II the Great (1764);
 - The two-hundred-twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Mennonite and other German colonists into Ukraine and the Crimea under Tsarina Catherine II the Great (1789);
 - The two-hundred-tenth anniversary of Tsar Alexander I's manifesto that made possible the migrations of Germans and others into South or New Russia, including Bessarabia and Ukraine along the Black Sea (1804).
 - The two hundredth anniversary of the first German settlements in Russia's newly acquired territory of Bessarabia under Tsar Alexander I (1814).
 - The one hundredth anniversary of the First World War's tragic outbreak, which held enormous implications for the fate of the German from Russia Diaspora and many others (1914).
 - The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Second World War's terrible outbreak, which radically transformed the course of history for the German from Russia Diaspora and numerous others (1939).
 - The seventieth anniversary of Germany's mass evacuation (called the "Long Trek") of 350,000 ethnic Germans from Soviet Ukraine to Nazi-occupied Poland (1944).
 - The fiftieth anniversary of the official Soviet "rehabilitation" of ethnic Germans following World War II (1964).
 - The twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, launching the end of the Cold War (1989).

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

A total of about 2.5 million ethnic Germans have emigrated from Russia to Germany and the West since the end of the Cold War; as scholar Dr. Timothy Kloberdanz has observed, this fairly recent exodus represents the largest mass population movement in the long history of the German from Russia Diaspora, easily surpassing the initial German population movements eastward in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the German emigration from Russia to the Americas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and even the forced mass population removals of ethnic Germans in the USSR under the Hitler and Stalin regimes during the 1940s.

Kazakhstan, with a total population of about 18 million, claims only about 180,000 ethnic Germans; however, in more recent years, the ethnic German population there has stabilized; according to 2010 data, the group has even experienced slight growth, thanks in part to natural birth rates, Kazakhstan's relative political stability, and Germany's economic and cultural support.

In Ukraine, slightly over 33,000 ethnic Germans are found out of a total population of more than 44 million.

In the Russian Federation, with a total population of around 140 million, only about 400,000 ethnic Germans remain, some having fled the Central Asian states in recent years.

Other former Soviet republics in Central Asia have also witnessed a severe depletion in the number of their citizens of German ethnicity, many of whom had once ranked among their most celebrated workers.

According to the German Embassy in Argentina, an estimated 1-2 million descendants of Volga Germans and other Germans from Russian today reside in that country out of a total population of approximately 41 million; this number is comparable to the approximately one million Volga German and other German from Russia descendants today in Canada out of a total population of about 35 million; other sources claim that Brazil today is home to about 1.2 million German from Russia descendants out of a total population of more than 200 million; according to one source, about 45,000 descendants of Germans from Russia are now living in Paraguay out of a total population of almost 7 million; the contemporary German from Russia population figure in the United States roughly compares with those of Argentina and Canada (i.e., about one million out of a total U.S. population of nearly 320 million).

- 7-23 Feb. 2014 -- The 2014 Winter Olympics are held in Sochi, showcasing to the world President Putin's new, confident Russia; two women known to claim German from Russia heritage compete at the Olympic Games in Sochi.
- On 9 February, Olga Graf of Omsk, Siberia, Russia, who speaks Russian, German and English, wins the bronze medal in the women's 3,000-meter speed skating competition; she is also the first Russian athlete to win a medal at the 2014 Games; Putin praises her shortly afterward, stating: "You brought an unforgettable moment of triumph and utter joy to millions of fans, taking the first medal for our team."
- With family roots in Saskatchewan, Canada, ice hockey player Hayley Wickenheiser has participated in five Winter Olympics, winning a Canadian women's record of four gold medals and one silver medal; she also has represented Canada in the sport of softball at one Summer Olympics; at Sochi, she leads Canada's national women's hockey team to a thrilling overtime victory over the United States.
- Feb.-June 2014 -- Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov serves as head of the Ukrainian interim government during its crisis with Russia in the Crimea.
- 21 Mar. 2014 -- Under President Putin, the Russian Federation formally annexes the Crimea from Ukraine shortly after holding a favorable referendum there; a large majority of ethnic Russians lives in the Crimea; this move proves highly popular in Russia, even supported by Putin critic and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev; this action in the Crimea represents a clear violation of the December 1994 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed in Budapest, Hungary, as well as the May 1997 Peace and Friendship Treaty.
- 21 Apr. 2014 -- Russian President Putin signs a rehabilitation decree for the Crimean Tatars and other "repressed" national minorities in the Crimea, including ethnic Armenians, Greeks, and Germans; it is intended to reassure these peoples in wake of Russia's recent takeover of the Crimea from Ukraine.
- June 2014 Present -- Petro Poroshenko serves as beleaguered Ukraine's president; Poroshenko seeks Western military aid and diplomatic support in the continuing crisis with Russia.

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

- Mid-Late 2014 -- Growing international tensions in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region as result of the Russo-Ukrainian crisis; the United States and Western Europe start to impose economic sanctions on Putin's Russia in response to the crisis; in the United States and elsewhere, public speculation arises about "Cold War II" or a "New Cold War" breaking out between Russia and the West.
- Russia responds to the West with retaliations and threats: Russia continues to build ties with former Soviet republics, especially in Central Asia, to serve as a new Eastern Bloc to the West; Russia maintains a strong military presence along the Ukrainian border and moves forward with the arming of pro-Russian rebels across the border; some Russian covert armed forces start entering the eastern part of Ukraine; Russian rebels shoot down a Malaysian airliner and other aircraft over Ukraine; the United States publicly confirms that Russia is breaking the 1987 Missile Test Ban Treaty; Russia begins to boycott certain food imports from the West; Moscow further tests Western resolve with an increase of incursions by Russian strategic nuclear bombers into northern air defense zones of the United States, Canada, Scandinavia, the North Sea, and the Baltic; Russia continues to pursue its geopolitical interests in the Arctic Region; Putin still plays host to American exile Edward Snowden of NSA spying fame; and the Kremlin threatens to cut off oil and natural gas supplies to Ukraine and much of Europe this winter (vis-à-vis the Gazprom pipelines).
- 1 Jan. 2015 -- The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU or EEU) is put into effect. First proposed in 1994 by Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev, it is based on a series of treaties that led to the gradual development of an economic union of independent countries mostly in northern Eurasia. Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are the first to join, followed shortly thereafter by Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Despite some calls for further and more far-reaching regional integration, it remains only an economic and not a political, military or cultural union, as each member country retains its sovereignty. It is also partly intended to act as a geopolitical counterweight and alternative to the European Union (EU).
- 11 Mar. 2015 -- Moscow announces that it will terminate its commitment to a significant arms control agreement signed at the end of the Cold War; sixteen North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries and six Warsaw Pact countries signed the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in 1990, which placed limits on the number of soldiers, tanks, artillery pieces and other non-nuclear military assets that could be positioned in Europe.
- Mid-Mar. 2015 -- The German newspaper Welt am Sonntag in Berlin reports that more than 100 German citizens have gone to eastern Ukraine to assist pro-Russian separatists; most of these combatants are also believed to be ethnic Germans called Spätaussiedler ("late settlers from abroad"), who had enjoyed the legal right to immigrate to Germany from the former Soviet Union after the early 1990s; though most Spätaussiedler have integrated into Western society, many of these fighters had grown disillusioned with their imagined homeland in Germany; feeling alienated and isolated in the West, they have now turned to their Russian identity and language.

2015 GROW Picnic Photos



European Take-Out Band, Terry Rudd, Bobbie Ferreo, Roxanne Klingler and Hel Sherr



Chris Murtha and Adi Hartfeil and others

2015 GROW Picnic Photos



Adi Hartfeil, Harold Lang, Kaye Kuntz-Igoa, Roger Haas and Ken Reinsch



Allen & Nancy White and Terry Rudd & Alishia Cook dancing to the music of "European Take-Out Band"



Violet Lang, Harold Lang, Ken Reinsch, Pat Synder; right side of table: Wendy Reinsch, Adi Hartfeil and Chris Murtha; on the table to the rear Terry Rudd, Allen White and Nancy White; the top of the picture standing Hal Sherr and Roxanne Klingler

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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

OCTOBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	Board Meeting	21	22	23	24
Chapter Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	Halloween



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

Chapter Meetings

NOVEMBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	Board Meeting	18	19	20	21
Christmas Program	23	24	25	Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

04 October

Oktoberfest at Deutsches Haus

25 October

GRHS Convention Report with South America PP

22 November

GROW Christmas Program with Bill Glen as Santa Klaus

06 December

GROW with Sister Clubs Christmas Festivities

DECEMBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Newsletter Deadline	2	3	4	5
Sister Clubs Christmas Festivities	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve		

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

GENEALOGICAL HELP

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

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 December 1, 2015.

Oktoberfest

By Marcine Herinck

October 4 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 bringing 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 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 \$65.00 • GRHS Lifetime Membership \$1300.00 (\$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@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

New Books in Our GROW Library

These books will be in the GROW library.

Wm Wiest has donated:

"Rohrbach, Beresan District Odessa, 1858 Census",
a joint project of GRHS & AHSGR.

Roger Haas has donated:

Die Rußland deutschen, Zweihundert Jahre unterwegs:
by Karl Stumpp

Americans from German by Gerard Wilk
201 German Verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses
by Henry Stuitz

Freut euch des Lebens: Liedertexte für alle, die nur die erste Strophe kennen vom Deutschen Genossenschafts
The Joke is Wild, Way-out New Humor
by Stanley Davis

Flotsam of World History; The Germans from Russia between Stalin & Hitler
by Richard H. Walth

Russia: Broken Idols, Solemn Dreams
by David K. Shieler

The Land of the Russia People
by Alexander Nazaroff

Der Deutsch-Englische Geschäfts-Briefsteller German-English Business Letter Writer
by Saalfield Pub Co.

HMOs home remedies and other medical Jokes
by Lina Perret

Deutsch Für Amerikaner
by Goedsche-Spann



Germans from Russia Heritage Society

GROW Chapter

8618 SE 36th Avenue
Portland, OR 97222