

# GROW Newsletter

*Germans From Russia of Oregon and SW Washington*  
Area chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)

Volume 3 Issue 1

October-November-December 2003

## *Message from the President*

*By Roger Haas*

GROW is alive and well beginning its third year! Our Board, Committees, and members at large have bonded as one cohesive unit and these first two years have been rewarding. Starting with 16 families on August 18, 2001, we have progressed to 255 families in 2002 with some of our members also joining with affiliated GRHS Chapters of the Genealogical Support and/or with the new Inland Spokane Chapter. That is progress as we form more Chapters and new outreach promoting the total GRHS mission.

In 2003 GROW has enrolled over 200 families; attend activities regularly, share our newsletter, point others to our interesting Website, and invite friends to a Chapter Meeting. Share your interests with others who have German-Russian ancestry. As well as GROW activities, attend Oktoberfests, the smorgasbord at Verbort Sausage feast (Forest Grove), the AHSGR German Christmas Program, the German German Christmas Concert of the America Society Liedertoffel has an annual German Christmas Concert (Portland), and others. It is our determination to inform and share about all German activities to add to our knowledge and understanding of our German-Russian ancestry.

The GROW family has many examples of a unique spirit of comradery and devotion. **Paul and Sharon Voeller** have given of their time and financial resources to provide travel expenses and lodging for some of our presenters. **Glen and Ann Gumeringer** have arranged the monthly meeting set-up, brought library materials, and provided coffee and often refreshments. The **Habermans** always extend open arms with greetings and warm wishes and much more. **Roy and Ilene Schnaible** make available German books, music tapes, other fundraising items, refreshments, and more. Kochen Queen, **Lorraine Geiszler** bakes and makes good keyboard music. **Oscar Geiszler** carpenters signs, performs public relations, and helps with the Solid Rock Church Roof repair. **David Martin** always has a harmonic tune and a story up his sleeve; if David's there, there is merriment and fun. **Jan Haberman** and **Ilene Schnaible** surprise us with door prizes and other gifts. You can bet on **Ed Weber** who finds humor in everything! Librarian **Vivian Messenger** sports a twinkle in her eye and a smile that matches the music she makes on the piano. The **Clyde and Maxine Daily Family** have organized resources for banners, a scrapbook, and fundraisers; and can you beat the newsletter performance of **Editor Dr. Velma Jesser**? The **Majhors** are just beginning and have provided refreshments and taught us Bocce Lawn Bowling. We haven't yet begun to see all the fun and

knowledge of our group; join us! I have never enjoyed myself more than working with such a fine Board and with Committee members. Many have contributed in many ways.

*Applause! Thank You!*

We are also grateful to spouses such as **Helen Majhor** and **Clyde Daily** who are at their spouse's side as unofficial Directors. Many perform beyond their official duties to make for success; is that Germans for you or just great people? Share your thanks wherever you see good, positive, informative, entertaining, productive activities that promote our mission. Of course, we also want you also to share those items upon which we can improve, add, or make better; we invite your input. I would like to continue with the fun of sharing and will look forward to seeing you at our next Chapter meetings; on September 28 you'll hear the exciting events of the 2003 GRHS Convention (South Dakota).

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## 2003-2004 Events

Add the dates of the Chapter and Board Meetings to be held during 2003-2004 to your personal planners now.

Dates, times, locations - page 12

### Picnic

About thirty members, including six new members attended the First Annual GROW picnic on July 12 in Willamette Park. Authentic German music,



food, drinks, stories, genealogical experiences, and celebrations were shared by all, a display of *gemütlichkeit!* Throughout this newsletter, see photos of lots of fun making this first annual event a memorable one!

### Ways to GROW!

\$crip purchases help the GROW treasury grow at no cost to you (For details, see page 10). The \$crip year goes from September to June and will be available for order at the first GROW Chapter Meeting on September 28. Items will also be available for sale, including:

- Books about German-Russian ancestry
- German cookbooks
- CDs and cassettes of German accordion music
- Tote bags with GROW logo
- Videos about Prairie Crosses
- GROW name plates and key tabs
- ... and more!

*Come and see!*

### Program Development

Do you enjoy a program at our Chapter Meetings? Most Members come to hear a good presenter, see an exciting travelogue, hear of new archival records, see exhibits and genealogical findings, and learn more about genealogy and our German-Russian culture. This has been the focus for GROW members. They didn't just happen! Members were excited and shared ideas, made contacts, and even volunteered to give presentations. What would you like to see as the Program at your next Chapter Meeting?

#### Can you help?

Would you or someone you know like to assist our Chapter in the key role of arranging and scheduling stimulating, entertaining, and/or informational performances? Don't be bashful; take the leap and volunteer. Contact any Board or Committee member.

*You and the programs are vital!*

## GRHS Convention 2003

The next newsletter will highlight workshops and photos from the GRHS Convention this year in Rapid City, South Dakota. Attending from GROW were: Mary Lynn Axtman, Milo Bauder, Virginia and Orville Chapman, Margaret Freeman, Evelyn Gatlin, Larry and Eleanor Haas, Roger and Roberta Haas, Wanda Hopkins, Mary Jacobsen, Velma Jesser, Shirley and Larry Nitschke, Albert Oster, Roy and Ilene Schnaible, Robert and Delores Schuh, Rudolph and Agnes Wagemann.

**Good show GROW!**

### Changes for Editor

Dr. Velma Jesser vjesser@yahoo.com  
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(505) 896-3347

### Albertson's Scan Cards

**FREE - FREE - FREE!**

Those words get our attention, don't they? Those words apply to the Albertson Scan Card program in which GROW Chapter Members are participating. It is a matter of your neighbors, friends, and you giving the card to the Cashier as you pay for your groceries. It does not cost you a penny and GROW gets a 2% rebate on your purchase! If we have more participants, we can work up to a 5% rebate! HELP us in this project.

We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to those of you who have participated. Call Roger Haas for cards (See page 10 for contact information) for you and your family. We just received our sixth successive rebate check from the Albertson Headquarters. GROW received \$60.11 because 59 enrollees have generously presented their cards for GROW. Here is our encouraging record:

Quarter	Date	Amount
1	May 24, 2002	\$23.02
2	August 20, 2002	\$36.68
3	November 19, 2002	\$38.70
4	February 8, 2003	\$58.87
5	May 16, 2003	\$52.74
6	August 19, 2003	\$60.11
7	<b>Help GROW grow!</b>	?????

*Get your card today - no extra time, no extra effort  
It's easy and it's free!*

### Membership

As of June 26, 2003, we have 200 GROW members.

**Go GROW!**

## Members' Favorite Web Sites

All sites below begin with <http://www>.

### GROW Chapter [grhs.org](http://grhs.org)

Click on *Chapters*, Look under *West Coast*

For changes/additions to GROW web site,

Debra Voeller at [debbily@earthlink.net](mailto:debbily@earthlink.net)

**Saratovskaya Branch of State Archive in Engels** keeps the basic document file on history of the Germans of the Volga Region from its settlement (1764-1767) through its eviction (1941). This site has the option of viewing in English

[engelsarchive.ru/obarkhive\\_eng.html](http://engelsarchive.ru/obarkhive_eng.html)

Find the Volga Germans, Saratov, Norka, Warenburg, and **The Germans from Russia (AHSGR-Portland)** through one website: [volgagermans.net](http://volgagermans.net)

**Ellis Island** search in one step

[angelfire.com/ks/gerrus/index.html](http://angelfire.com/ks/gerrus/index.html)

**Need Gothic Script assistance? Try these:**

[makeashorterlink.com/D46A52155](http://makeashorterlink.com/D46A52155)

[genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html](http://genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html)

[peter-doerling.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm](http://peter-doerling.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm)

[mun.ca/rels/morav/script.html](http://mun.ca/rels/morav/script.html)

**Reprints of old and interesting books:**

Saendig Reprint Verlag (Lichtenstein) [saendig.com](http://saendig.com)

**Hudson Bay Company Archives** - fur-trading company records from posts in OR, WA, CA

[gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca](http://gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca)

**Oregon Land Records**

[arcweb.sos.state.or.us/land.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/land.html)

**Oregon Trail** - facts about this migration trail

[isu.edu/~trinmich/Oregontrail.html](http://isu.edu/~trinmich/Oregontrail.html)

**Washington State Archives**

[secstate.wa.gov/archives/research.asp](http://secstate.wa.gov/archives/research.asp)

**Washington Vital Records** - how to get copies

[secstate.wa.gov/archives/genealogy.asp](http://secstate.wa.gov/archives/genealogy.asp)

### Other German-Russian Newsletters

Black Hills Chapter, GRHS

[//members.rushmore.com/~bhgrhs/index.htm](http://members.rushmore.com/~bhgrhs/index.htm)

Puget Sound Chapter, GRHS

[//grhs.com/psound/index.html](http://grhs.com/psound/index.html)

Portland Chapter, AHSGR

[//germans-russia-pdx.com/Portland/newsletter.htm](http://germans-russia-pdx.com/Portland/newsletter.htm)

**Send your favorite web site**

## G-R Dictionary CD

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/msd1/muret.htm>

(msd and the number 1, not L, above)

This link offers the 1901 version of the Muret Sanders German to English language dictionary as well as the Koehler Dictionary of the German and English Languages (English to German and German to English) on CD-ROM at a very reasonable prices of \$19 and \$28, including shipping. At the website, you will see the actual images of the dictionary pages in the Gothic or Fraktur script; there is a search engine so the whole CD dictionary is searchable. It takes about ten days to arrive from Australia and comes highly recommended.

*Cliff Haberman and Roy Schnaible prepare for GROW picnic at Willamette Park (West Linn); German music, games of horseshoes and Bocco, and the GROW outdoor banner attracted visitors to stop by and ask what was happening.*



## Just Getting Started?

Many GROW members have researched their families for years, but many others have only just begun or are just thinking about getting started in genealogy. Those who are new to genealogy or to Germans From Russia ancestors may even find the conversations a bit intimidating, inviting answers to such questions as:

Where can I register/find my surnames?

Where is the village of \_\_\_\_\_?

From what village did my ancestor come?

What is the German census?

How about German cemeteries?

What if I don't know German?

What if I can't read German handwriting?

Where are passenger lists and other ship information?

What is Germans to America?

How do I find a book about \_\_\_\_\_?

What genealogy resources are available?

If you find that these "frequently asked questions" have a familiar ring to questions you have been asking yourself lately, you may learn some answers at the [www.genealogienetz.de](http://www.genealogienetz.de) soc.genealogy.german web site by going to:

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/faqs/sgg.html#starters>

## ***A Family Letter: 1933***

***By Edwin J. Weber***

The *Isabel Dakotan*, June 2, 1933 - "In conjunction with many other communities a petition was circulated in Isabel May 30<sup>th</sup>, petitioning the German government to take steps to get starving German-Russians out of Soviet Russia. It is claimed that under the present regime that many of the tillers of the soil are being starved to death in their country."

The Weber Family remembers their Dad from Kassel, Russia, entering their home with tears running down his cheeks carrying a yellow envelope with a lot of stamps on it and a letter. He explained that he could no longer send packages to his mother in Russia; this would be the last letter he would get because the Communists took over his mother's farm.

His mother was assigned an acre of land, one cow, and one chicken. The acre of land would not allow the cow to live for very long; and when that was gone, there would be no more. At the writing of the letter, the cow and chicken were gone, and she had only a cat left for food.

The following letter was originally published in *Wishek Nachrichten* (April 13, 1933) and included in *We'll Meet Again in Heaven* by Ronald J. Vossler:

*I grab the feather in God's name, to write you a letter, from me, Friedrich Weber and my wife Katherine. I am Jacob Weber's son.*

*I would like to ask you for help. You know, I'm sure, exactly how things are in Kassel. I have four children, and for the past three months have not had any bread in our house. So I want to ask you, good friends, for a small favor. Could you please send me \$5? Otherwise, I must starve to death.*

*I also have grandmother with me. It is very hard for an old woman in such a situation. We have nothing for food except for several small potatoes. When they are eaten, I don't know what will be. If the loving God doesn't help, then we must starve.*

*My dear Uncle Jacob and Aunt Katherina, our loving God will surely soften your hearts and not allow us to starve because to starve is terribly hard. I would gladly give up and die, but the children need someone.*

*Such a terrible time we have never to this point experienced.*

*It is impossible to buy anything because everything is expensive. A pud [36 pounds] of corn flour is 200 rubles, and that amount of money can't be found. I have sold everything, so now we have nothing left but the clothes on our back. The children are entirely tattered. Help me and I will thank you a thousand times.*

*Here it is cold, but we must work everyday, so that we are entirely frozen and cold. I have written often but received no answer. I live in my grandmother's house. I must close now and I give you my heartfelt greetings once again.*

*Friedrich and Katherina Weber*

This letter was sent to widow Christine Meidinger and (by way of Jacob Frey) given to the newspaper to be printed. The grandmother mentioned in the letter is widow Reich, sister to widow Meidinger, the mother of Jacob Frey's wife.

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## ***Leave Your Legacy - Part II***

***By Lola Weber***

As we attended to our second session on writing our family books, I wondered if you remember what it was like when you were in school and didn't always "get" everything that the teacher was explaining? Well, this has me feeling those old feelings again! It's a good thing that we have the CD for backup to replay as many times as I need to . . . or until we "get" it!



We discussed memory triggers for articles, self-interviews, graphics to include (which means they need to be scanned and indexed), and document formatting and editing. I'll be racing to catch up before Workshop III.

(For information on this series of workshops by Doug and Linda Jacobs, see GROW Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 3, page 2.)

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## ***Thanksgiving auf Deutsch***

*Erntedankfest*, the German thanksgiving celebration is observed annually in late September or early October.



## **Radke Mystery Grave Marker**

**By Barbara Jones**

In a small cemetery in eastern Washington, an ornate, wrought iron cross stands mute to a tragedy and a mystery. The grave site is unmarked but not forgotten. **Gottlieb Radke** was one of the founding members of the Salem Evangelical Congregational Church, which was built in 1902, near the town of Ralston. The church no longer stands, but the cemetery remains and is tended by volunteers.



Gottlieb and his family lived on a wheat ranch between the towns of Ralston and Lind. Just south of his property, the Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railroad was laying a new line, and the site was a magnet to the young boys in the area. Gottlieb's oldest children, Rudolph, age 10, and his brother Reinhold, 8 (my grandfather), were two of the boys playing down by the tracks on a Sunday afternoon, August 10, 1907. The place was littered with construction materials, including blasting caps.

A friend related the story of what happened to Rudolph, as told to him by his father, who was one of the boys down at the tracks that day: The boys were putting blasting caps under cans, attaching strings as fuses and blowing them up. One of the cans that Rudolph had set up did not go off. He then jumped over the can as it exploded. He had been running around with his pockets full of blasting caps and the explosion literally blew him up with it. Rudolph received immediate medical assistance, per the *Ritzville Journal*, but he was so badly burned that he died within a few hours.

The mystery resides with the iron cross which is a handmade, single-bar Roman cross decorated with curled ribbons of iron around the center. It is similar to the iron crosses found in cemeteries in the Midwest. While this type of marker is common there, it is rare in the Northwest.

Who was the artisan who made this cross? As far as I know, my great-grandfather Gottlieb did not have these skills, and I have not been able to discover

who crafted it. Maybe someone who reads this article will remember something somebody said about a fellow who made an iron cross. It would be nice to end the mystery and give credit to the man who made a lasting and loving marker for a small boy whose death left such a large hole in a family.

My Uncle Rudolf was born October 21, 1896 in Kulm, Bessarabia, Russia, the oldest child of Gottlieb and Louise (Stelter) Radke. He was about a year and a half old when he and his parents and baby sister came to America. Gottlieb and Louise Radke are my great-grandparents. They settled in the Lind-Ritzville area in Washington State immediately after arriving in this country. My grandfather, Reinhold, was born in Ritzville in 1899, the first of their children to be born in America.



***Need Some Addresses?***

**Submitted by Paul Voeller**

The Oregon State Historical Society  
1200 S. W. Park  
Portland, OR 97203

The Washington State Historical Society  
1911 Pacific Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98402

The Oregon State Archives  
800 Summer Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

The Washington State Archives  
PO Box 40220  
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

The National Archives and Records  
Administration (NARA)  
6125 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115-0799

The Family History Library  
35 North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400

## ***Neuen Potz, Pfalz, Germany: A Book by Albert Weigel***

**Albert Weigel** lives in Hatzenbuhl, located in the southwestern corner of Germany just north of Switzerland. He has compiled books for several Pfalz towns, including *Vom Rheinübergang um das Jahr 275 zum-Neuen-Potz, Familien-und-Gebaudechronik der Gemeinde Neupotz von 1650 bis 1997* from which surnames are listed here.

The book includes the history of the town and photos of residents, school classes, town buildings, and churches. Information from the 1600-1900s is organized by surnames with names, births, marriages, deaths, and children. Surnames in this book include:

Amlein, Algower, Algayer, Allmann, Ament, Angermeier, Angermaier, Anthon, Antoni, Antony, Arenth, Arnold, Auler, Avril

Baier, Balbach, Base, Baer, Balzer, Bangers, Barandist, Baron, Barz, Baugers, Baumann, Bechtold, Beck, Becker, Bar, Behr, Beith, Bellaire, Bendel, Bentz, Bleyell, Blockmayer, Bospflug, Bottinger, Bohner, Borntrager, Braun, Breith, Brunner, Buchler, Bugel, Burgel, Burckel, Brunk, Baurges, Burger, Burck, Burk, Butscher

Casshard, Cerpeti, Clos, Colln, Colling

Damminger, Dannenmaier, Daub, Dauer, De Hooge, Deissler, Dekold, Delbe, Dellinger, Denzler, Deubig, Teibig, Dickerhof, Dillenz, Dirion, Dobler, Doerler, Doerrler, Dossinger, Dreyer, Dumser

Eberle, Aedisheimer, Edesheimer, Eisensteck, Elsenheimer, Emmerling, Engel, Englert, Eschermann, Eschmann

Fallenstein, Feketitsch, Felbers, Felder, Feldmann, Felix, Feth, Fillibeck, Fink, Fischer, Fitterer, Florchinger, Follinger, Foos, Frank, Frischholz, Frisson, Fritz, Fronheiser, Fromm, Fugen, Fuger, Furst, Funck

Geeck, Gebhardt, Gabriel, Gahrlein, Gerl, Gehrlein, Geiger, Geimer, Geissert, Gilb, Gimpel, Glaser, Gobebe, Goeck, Gorressen, Gotz, Gondal, Graber, Greiner, Grimm, Grischy, Gruber, Gschwind, Gulden, Gutzler

Haberer, Hanlein, Haesler, Haller, Hamburger, Hammer, Hassel, Hans, Hanzlik, Hassenteufel, Hatzenbuhler, Hauber, Hechler, Heid, Heidt, Heyd, Heim, Heintz, Heins, Heintz, Helck, Hemsing, Henecka, Hennigin, Herrle, Herrmann, Hertzler, Hess, Hesselschwerdt, Hick, Hilzendegen, Hinckel, Hirschel, Horner, Hoffer, Hoffmann, Holderbach

Ingenthron

Jahnel, Joachim, Jung, Just-Winkler

Kalesse, Kegler, Kapper, Kayser, Karn, Kauter, Keiber, Keil, Keller, Keppel, Kern, Kernstock, Kessel, Kiefer, Kiessling, Kimmel, Kintz, Kirchmer, Kirnberger, Kirsch, Kistner, Kissling, Kleber, Klein, Klingerle, Kloos, Knobel, Knobloch, Knoll, Konig, Konrad, Kozlevcar, Kraatz, Kramer, Krampf, Krapp, Kraus, Krager, Kreger, Kreichgauer, Kron, Kroener, Kurschner, Kuhn, Kuchmunch, Kuhns, Kurrer, Kugawa

Lau, Leibel, Leichs, Lenk, Leuthner, Liebel, Linnebacher, Lochbaum, Losch, Loew, Louis, Lowinger, Loy

Mack, Madlehner, Magin, Mahovsky, Majer, Malthaner, Marthaler, Martin, Marz, Matheiss, Mellein, Mendel, Menesklou, Merkel, Merckel, Mertz, Merz, Messemer, Metz, Metzger, Meyer, Mintzing, Mirow, Mittenbuhler, Mohr, Moser, Moster, Miller, Muller,

Neff, Negele, Nehlig, Nergenu, Nerbrandt, Neunreither, Niederer, Nist, Nuber, Nunnemann

Ochsenreither, Oswein, Ohmer, Olivastri, Orth

Parent, Patzer, Persohn, Peter, Pfadt, Pfalzgraf, Pfirrmann, Pfister, Pflug, Prack, Propheter

Radecker, Rapp, Raule, Reichling, Reif, Reisz, Reiss, Riedel, Riess, Riester, Rink Ritter, Rodach, Rohrig, Roether, Rother, Rosenberger, Ruck, Runck, Ruppenthal, Rupprecht

Sand, Sartowski, Sauer, Seibert, Seiler, Seither, Seleider, Selgrad, Sengel, Serr, Simon, Sinn, Sitter, Sittinger, Sohl, Schaff, Schart, Schauff, Scherrer, Schiele, Schindler, Schirmer, Schleicher, Schindwein, Schloss, Schmidt, Schmid, Schnee, Schneider, Schnorr, Schon, Schoch, Schumacher, Schwab, Schwan, Schwanecke, Schweidler, Schweigert, Schwein, Schwind, Spaett, Spitz, Stangl, Stein, Stoffler, Strasser, Stritzinger, Stubbenhagen, Stuppy, Deobalt,

Thomas, Topp, Trautlein, Trapp, Trauth,

Ulrich, Unterhalberger

Veit, Veith, Versteegen, Vogel, Volandt, Voltz, Vorphal

Wagner, Walter, Wayand, Weber, Wegheimer, Weichel, Weimar, Welsch, Wenske, Wentz, Werling, Werner, Wernike, Werrel, Woschler, Wessler, Weschler, Wiedemann, Wilhelm, Willig, Willick, Wingerter, Winkelmann, Winter, Worner, Wolf, Wolff, Wollherr, Wunsch, Wunsche, Wintzel, Wunschel, Wunstel, Wust, Wysochi

Xander

Zannoth, Zellner, Ziehl, Zimer, Ziemer, Zierold, Zimmerle, Zimmermann, Zircker, Zoller, Zwick

Mr. Weigel has compiled about a dozen books of church records on cities in the Pfalz area but lacks funding to publish them. Books are about \$50 each. He speaks and reads only German and can be reached at Wendelinusstrasse 5, 6729 Hatzenbuhl, Germany.

**Margaret (Herrle) Miesterfeld**, Co-Director of the Family History Center in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, has been kind enough to summarize the names especially for the GROW newsletter. She can be reached at [mahm@globaldsl.net](mailto:mahm@globaldsl.net) and is willing to copy and mail information about your specific family to you for the cost of the copies and the postage. In some cases, there are several pages on a surname; in others, there may only be one page.

*We extend another special GROW thank you  
to Margaret Miesterfeld  
for contributing this third list to our publication.*

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## **Zuhause**

## **At Home**

### **Recycle Those Leaves**

When you need to remove excess fat from the top of soup, gravy, or meat stock, gently move a cabbage or lettuce leaf across the top. The fat will stick to the leaf; the good stuff will stay in the recipe.

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### **Bürrocks (Russian Perog)**

This recipe was a hit by Jene Goldhammer at the GROW picnic. It originates from Betty Klein in Fresno, California.

#### **Filling**

1½ lbs beef cooked, cooled, and ground in food chopper  
2 lbs cabbage and 3 small onions, shredded  
Put into large kettle with a little oil. Add a little water if you like them moist. Cook until done. Do not brown or overcook cabbage. Season well with salt and pepper.

#### **Dough**

4 cups flour                      1 tsp salt  
2 Tbsp sugar                      1 Tbsp oil  
1 pkg dry yeast in ½ cup warm water  
1½ cups milk

Roll out dough and cut with a 47-oz juice can. Add ½ cup filling. Pinch and put upside down on cookie sheet. Let rise. Bake at 375° for 20 minutes. Makes 17.

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## **Leute**

## **People**

### **Irving Berlin**

**Israel Baline** was born in Mohilev, Russia, and rose to stardom with hits such as “Good Bless America,” “Blue Skies,” and “White Christmas.” His family of eight emigrated to the United States in 1893 when Israel was five years old.

They family settled in New York City where Israel left home at the age of 14 to sing in Bowery saloons for spare change. In 1907 he earned his first songwriting credit and changed his name to Irving Berlin, and the rest is rags-to-riches history. He died at the age of 101, an insecure and reclusive man but very rich with a rich legacy, indeed.

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## **Kunst und Gewerbe**

## **Arts and Crafts**

### **Handwriting and Computers**

*Gothic* handwriting emerged in Europe in the ninth century and *Roman* (also known as *Antigua* or *Latin*) became the standard through Western Europe, Canada, and the United States. However, it was the *Gothic* style that prevailed in Germany until the mid-1900s.

Variations appear in genealogical records of *Gothic* and *Latin* styles, often even on the same page of a written record. When moveable type was invented in Germany, two major styles corresponded to these two handwriting styles. Computer typeface options today still offer forms of Gothic and Roman (Latin) styles, the basis of thousands of other typeface styles.

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## **Sprache**

## **Language**

### **German Spelling Reform**

In 1901, the Staatliche Orthographie-Konferenz established the German spelling rules which most of us learned in the study of the German language, guidelines in effect until 1996. New spelling rules went into force for all schools and government offices in all German-speaking countries on August 1, 1998, with a transitional period ending July 31, 2005. With these changes still quite controversial, one thing remains the same: German will continue to capitalize nouns, the only language in the world that requires capitalization of *all* nouns.

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## **Geschichte und Kultur**

## **History and Culture**

### **Sunflower Seeders**

Nothing is quite as unique to the German-Russian ancestors as the eating of sunflower seeds, but there's a difference between the casual taster of these seeds and the experienced *seeder*.

David (ConAgra Brands, Inc.) explains this cultural technique, “Experienced seeders pop a handful of seeds in their mouth and store them in one cheek, then transfer a seed over to the other side with their tongue, crack it, then eat the seed, and spit the shell.”

### **Eat - Spit - Be Happy**

But there is also nutritional value to these little morsels. They are an excellent source of Vitamin E (an antioxidant), phosphorous, and magnesium. They are a natural source of fiber, zinc, and folic acid. They are naturally cholesterol free, and they provide 7 grams of protein per serving. So, what's a serving?

Well, 1/4 cup of kernels equal one serving. Now the big question: How many shells must you crack and spit for the nutrition of one complete serving. But maybe more importantly, how many calories do you burn with each crack, chew, and spit?

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***Und so weiter . . . . . And so forth***

***Family History Fair***

Sponsored by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

***It's free!***

Saturday, September 20, 2003

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parkrose High School

12003 NE Shaver, Portland, Oregon

It is easy to find with good parking. Genealogical and historical activities include many societies, exhibitors, and researchers providing a showcase of what is available to make your research fun and rewarding. Classes are available for beginners and advanced genealogists.

**Help GROW!**

GROW will be there! If you would like to be part of the GROW booth, contact any of the Directors (see page 10) and enjoy meeting other genealogists and learning more *von Unser Leute (of your ancestral family)*.

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***Traditional Folk Music***

The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection provides one of the most popular music CDs ever produced of Germans from Russia folk music, including 21 well-known folk songs from Ukraine, Volga, Kaukasus, and Central Asia (1763-1941).

**Deutsche Volkslieder aus Kasachstan und Sibirien: Bei uns, Ihr Leit, ist Hochzeit heit CD 1** includes performers Katharina Rissling, Jakob Fischer, Waldimir Dederer, and Eduard Frickel. For more information go to the web site at [www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/tapes/gmusic1.html](http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/tapes/gmusic1.html) or make a check for \$16 + \$3 s/h payable to NDSU Library and send it to:

**Germans from Russia Heritage Collection**

**Deutsche Volkslieder aus Sibirien CD 1**

**NDSU Libraries**

**PO Box 5599**

**Fargo, ND 58105-5599**

A song booklet publication with musical notes and text is also available for the songs on the CD for \$10.

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***Mount Angel Oktoberfest***

**September 11-12-13-14, 2003**

**11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

***Oregon Polish Festival***

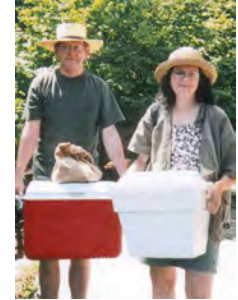
**September 27-28, 2003**

**St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church Portland**

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*Robin and Anna Haberman leave the GROW picnic with big smiles.*

*It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all!*



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***If I Can, You Can  
Decipher Germanic Records***

**Enda M. Bentz** prepared this wonderful book for those who have projects deciphering Germanic records. It's an invaluable resource for the modest price of \$16.50 + \$3.50 s/h or a total of \$20.

The Table of Contents for this spiral-bound book includes Alphabets [handwritten in German and Danish], Use of Umlauts in Surnames, General Information, Relationships, Terminology and Symbols - German, Common Abbreviations - German, Church Year and Feasts - German, Months of the Year and Days of the Week, Germanic Latin and Danish Terminology, Glossary of Illnesses - German, Latin and Danish, Glossary of Occupations - German, Latin and Danish, What Was Going On In The World And Community Of Your Ancestor When?, and Alphabet Song. This book ISBN 0-9615420-0-4, Copyright 1982, can be ordered from and make check payable to:

**Tamara J. Bentz**

**9150-187 Gramercy Drive**

**San Diego, CA 92123-4001**

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***Liedertoffel Singers  
AHSGR Chapter Program***

**October 26, 2003**

Hear as many as 60 Liedertoffel Singers for our Oktoberfest Chapter Program by the German American Society

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***Ukraine and Moldova 2004***

Are you planning to visit your ancestral villages in Ukraine, Crimea, or Moldova? If so, SCHNEIDER LLC is planning two tours in 2004. The first tour is May 18-June 3, 2004; the second, September 14-30, 2004. For tour information:

**<http://members.rushmore.com/~ukrainetours>**

Robert R. Schneider, Manager

1649 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 722-7712

email: [rschneider@rushmore.com](mailto:rschneider@rushmore.com)

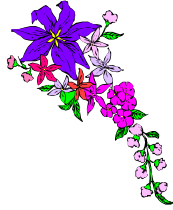


## Family News

Please submit news about your German-Russian family and friends to share with others of our GROW family (see page 11 for details on how to submit material).

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### *We send GROW Wishes for Pain-Free Days and Better Health to . . .*



**Roberta Haas** (Portland OR) had back surgery on July 31 and is recovering slowly but surely with a big smile and healthy determination. Hang in there Roberta!

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### *The Sunshine Gals*

If you know of any illnesses, marriages, births, deaths, anniversaries, or other news about members, contact:



**Agnes Herrle** or **Amelia Lybarger**

*(See contact information on page 10.)*

You can help *The Sunshine Gals* save costs for GROW by donating or making computer greeting cards and/or contributing funds for postage.

**The Sunshine Gals help us show GROW cares!**

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**Music,  
Raffles,  
Story-  
telling . . .**



*. . . (and yes, some suspected tales) at the GROW picnic 2003*

## Obituaries



**Hilda Magdalena Ott**, GROW member and mother of GROW member Marvin Pleinis, died April 6, 2003, at age 88. She was born September 20, 1914, in Hilda, Alberta, to Jacob and Christina Hauck who came to the Dakotas in 1901. She lived in West Linn since 1948 and worked for Crown Zellerbach for 22 years. In 1978 she married John, who died in 1986.

**William Richard Herder**, the brother of GROW member Jene Herder Goldhammer, died at age 71 on July 13, 2003. He was born July 29, 1931, in Portland and lived in Newport for 35 years. He married Teresa Curle.

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*The GROW picnic included creative singing and Congratulations to Dr. Velma Jesser on her 2003 retirement from more than 30 years of teaching.*



*What will she be up to now???*

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### *Congrats, Roy Schnaible!*

It is with pride that we share the fine job of our GROW Vice President, Roy Schnaible, who is actively serving on the National Board of the Heritage Foundation of Germans of Russia. We all benefit and grow as we get involved.

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**Cliff Haberman, Marlyse Goozey, and others enjoy good food and entertaining conversation at this year's GROW picnic. It was a beautiful day!**



## ***GROW Board of Directors***

### **Roger Haas, President/Liaison**

8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland OR 97222

(503) 659-8248                      rahaas@haasfamily.us

### **Roy Schnaible, Vice President**

3801 Calaroga Dr., West Linn, OR 97068

(503) 636-5541                      gourmetir@aol.com

### **Edwin Weber, Secretary**

16660 SW Monterey Ln., King City, OR 97224

(503) 639-4798                      weberd@easystreet.com

### **Sharon Voeller, Treasurer**

17064 SE Wiley Way, Milwaukie, OR 97267

(503) 659-2726                      voellerp@worldstar.com

### **Clifford Haberman**

8110 SE Madison, Portland, OR 97215

(503) 252-5480                      jan\_cliff@juno.com

### **Jan Haberman**

8110 SE Madison, Portland, OR 97215

(503) 252-5480                      jan\_cliff@juno.com

### **Robert Majhor**

23985 W. Baseline Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123-6937

(503) 648-5781                      rgmajhor@pacifier.com

### **Oscar Geiszler**

803 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oregon City, OR 97045

(503) 656-1802                      Oscarandlorraine@msn.com

### **Maxine Daily**

454 NE 69<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97213-5504

(503) 253-8388                      ddalicm@msn.com

For Board of Director meetings and activities, see page 12.

## ***Help GROW At No Cost To You!***

***Electronic Newsletters*** save GROW over \$40 per issue in postage. To receive your newsletter electronically, contact Jessica Mertz. (See Committee Chairs on this page.)

***\$SCRIP Fundraisers*** Scrip purchases earn a commission on sales of certificates for over 80 participating merchants, including grocery stores, restaurants, national chain stores, car washes, etc. Scrip is the same as cash and makes ideal gifts, an easy way to support GROW financially without costing you a penny. For more information, contact Roy Schnaible. (See Board of Directors above and related story on page 2).

***Albertsons Scan Cards*** earn cash for our Chapter and costs members nothing. Simply present the card when you pay for your usual groceries. To get a scan card, contact Roger Haas. (See Board of Directors above and related story on page 2).

### ***Need a GROW Name Tag?***

Name tags help you get to know other members at GROW activities and help others put your face with your name. Name tags cost \$5.50. Contact:

Leona Koth at (503) 538-3447

email: [lvkoth@aol.com](mailto:lvkoth@aol.com)

## ***GROW Committee Chairs***

\*Member of Board of Directors

### **Calling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

### **Car Pooling**

\*Oscar Geiszler

Glenn Gumeringer (360) 573-6453

Bob Majhor (503) 648-5781

### **Hospitality/Greeting**

\*Jan Haberman

### **Collection/Research&Genealogical Assistance**

Doris Seibert (503) 651-2394 / (541) 563-3114

### **Library**

Vivian Messenger (503) 574-2271

Evelyn Gatlin, Glen Gumeringer, Carrie Lippincott,

Doris Seibert, Alice Summers

### **Membership**

\*Cliff Haberman

### **Newsletter**

Velma Jesser, Editor (see page 11)

\*Sharon Voeller, Labeler

Alice Sumer, Printing/Mailing

### **Programs**

(Vacant)

### **Refreshments**

Roberta Haas (503) 659-8248

Ilene Schnaible (503) 623-5529

Lorraine Geiszler, Ann Gumeringer, Helen Mahjors

### **Pictorial Scrapbook**

\*Maxine Daily (503) 253-8388 or mandc22@msn.com

### **Special Interests/Obituaries**

\*Sharon Voeller

### **Sunshine Gals**

Agnes Herrle (503) 236-5642 or at

1914 SE Harold St., Portland, OR 97202-4935

Amelia Lybarger (503) 648-1058 or at

655 SE Washington St., Hillsboro, OR 97123

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Robert Mahjor (503) 648-5781 [rgmajhor@pacifier.com](mailto:rgmajhor@pacifier.com)

Dennis Levi (360) 699-4884

### **Web Site**

Bradlee/Jessica Mertz (503) 667-7953

[solandmoon@hotmail.com](mailto:solandmoon@hotmail.com) or [mertz@onid.orst.edu](mailto:mertz@onid.orst.edu)

Debra Voeller (360) 897-9671 [debbily@earthlink.net](mailto:debbily@earthlink.net)

## ***Book Reviews Wanted***

### **By Paul Voeller**

Perhaps some of you have a book, periodical, monograph, or an experience of an ethnic-German nature that you would be willing to share with others by way of this newsletter.

### **Why?**

Simply for the enjoyment, knowledge, and appreciation of all who read it. Please mail reviews to our Editor (contact details on page 11). To request an annotated bibliography of quality German-Russian books, contact:

GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501-8115 ([www.GRHS.com](http://www.GRHS.com))

or

AHSGR, 631 "D" St.

Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

[www.AHSGR.com](http://www.AHSGR.com)



**GROW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**GERMANS from RUSSIA of OREGON and Southwest WASHINGTON (GROW)**

Year(s) of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Circle appropriately: NEW RENEW

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of my ancestral village(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My family surnames \_\_\_\_\_

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

**GROW NEWSLETTER/OPERATION DONATION minimum \$5**

GRHS Membership \$40 GRHS LIFE (\$100 per year) \$650

(LIFE membership fees may be paid installments of not less than \$100.)

Names of adults in household desiring membership cards \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **GROW** - US Currency

**Mail to: Roger Haas, 8618 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97222**

***GROW Publication Information***

The GROW newsletter is a quarterly publication. Receiving your GROW newsletter and other communications electronically as an Adobe pdf file saves GROW printing and mailing costs, and you receive the newsletters immediately. (Adobe Acrobat Reader is available as a free download on the Internet at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.) You can also forward the electronic newsletter to friends and family as a way of introducing them to GRHS and to our GROW Chapter. To receive future GROW newsletters electronically if you are not already on the list, contact Jessica Mertz (see page 10) and help GROW's budget by doing so.

**Submission of Materials:** All materials should include a statement that gives permission for use in this newsletter. All contributions, including photos, are welcome; we can scan images and other graphics. Please provide a SASE for materials you would like returned. Send articles and other materials for publication, as well as ideas and suggestions for improvements, to the Editor:

**Velma Jesser, 3133 Renaissance Lp. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 or email [vjesser@yahoo.com](mailto:vjesser@yahoo.com)**

*Let me know what you do/don't like - Your comments are appreciated!*

***The Next Newsletter . . .***

Again, this is **your** newsletter; your contributions are what makes it yours; otherwise, it is just your Editor's newsletter. Keep your Editor happy; send short clips from something you've read, a German-Russian custom, an interesting website, a cartoon, a family photo/document, a question for other members, publicity for an upcoming event, genealogy tips and tricks, an article about your family, etc. Even if you think the material might not be relevant or too long or too short or too *whatever*, your Editor **edits!** Send anything you think might be appropriate.

The next quarterly newsletter will, of course, make **your** contributions the priority!

**Annual GROW Newsletter Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1**

**The next newsletter will feature Christmas - Please send your Editor anything holiday-related!**

## 2003-2004 Meeting Dates and Events

### Chapter Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 2 p.m.      *Solid Rock Baptist Church*  
September 28      January 25      April 25  
October 26      February 22      May 23  
November 23      March 28      June 27

No meetings in July, August, and December.

*For program descriptions, see page 2*

### Board Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1 p.m.      *All members welcome!*  
Libbie's Restaurant, 11056 SE Main St. In Milwaukie  
September 17      January 14      April 14  
October 15      February 11      May 12  
November 12      March 17      June 9  
December 17      No meetings in July & August

### GROW Newsletter Deadlines

September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1  
(See page 11 for submission details)

### Directions to Solid Rock Baptist Church

From I-205 heading South take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16). Turn right onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd. And then left onto SE Battin Rd.

From I-205 heading North Take the Johnson Creek Blvd. Exit (#16) and stay straight to go onto the ramp. Turn left onto Johnson Creek Blvd. Turn left onto SE Fuller Rd and then left onto SE Battin Rd.

Solid Rock Baptist Church  
8510 SE Battin Rd.  
Portland, Oregon

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## German-American Day - October 6

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Germans from Russia Heritage Society

Dr. Velma Jesser, Editor  
GROW Chapter  
3133 Renaissance Loop, SE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124