



# Chronicle Unserer Leute

## Vol 31, Issue 3

The **American Historical Society of Germans from Russia** is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

The **Chronicle Unserer Leute (Chronicle of Our People)** is published bi-monthly by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. All content is copyright of the Oregon Chapter or the original copyright owners.

Oregon Chapter website  
With the newsletter  
[www.ahsgroregon.com/](http://www.ahsgroregon.com/)

Germans from Russia in  
Portland website  
[www.volgagermans.net/Portland](http://www.volgagermans.net/Portland)

The Center For Volga German Studies - Concordia  
[www.cvgs.cu-portland.edu/](http://www.cvgs.cu-portland.edu/)

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### President's Message

Spring is bursting out all over; lots of showers and lots of flowers and blossoms. The northwest is coming to life with the colors and smells of new growth. The birds provide a wonderful accompaniment of songs and squawks as they build their nests and feed their young families.

Our **Center for Volga Germans Studies (CVGS)** at **Concordia University** is bursting with new life as well. Growing numbers of Volga German descendants are learning of the **CVGS** and are scheduling visits for detailed research. **Brent Mai** and his assistant **Linda Church** have a very full plate in communications with, and appearances in Volga German communities throughout the U.S.

Our general membership meeting March 27<sup>th</sup> featured **Ellen Eischen** sharing her life with Germans from Russia relocating in Germany; describing their new lives and challenges. A very good turnout of enthusiastic members and visitors were most appreciative of **Ellen's** message.

The **Council of Northwest Chapters (CNC)** met at the **CVGS** April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. **Brent Mai, Jene Goldhammer and Shirley Hurrell** held classes on historical issues and computer internet research opportunities and innovations available to the international Volga German Community. Dozens of guests spent busy days of research, learning and renewing friendships.

Many visitors drove hundreds of miles to attend the meetings. **Doris Evans** came from her home in **Washington** (a six hour drive). She brought a carload of Russian archival records for our special collection at the new **Concordia University Library**. **Vern and Betty Kembel** came from **Canada**. **John and Sue Groh** came from Iowa (a distance of about **1800 miles**). **Roger Clymore** and his wife came from **Idaho Falls, Idaho** and became new members. And a real treat for us all was to once again have **Ray & Diane Koch** share in our activities. Many thanks to all you special folks for making a truly memorable weekend at **Concordia University in Portland**.

Over 50 attendees shared a German banquet at the **Rheinlander Restaurant**. **Jean Roth** danced the **Chicken Dance** with a dead chicken plopped on top of her head, providing a truly unforgettable spectacle. The real all-stars for the weekend were **Jene Goldhammer, Shirley Hurrell, Doris Evans, Linda Church and Brent Mai**. Their hard work and dedication were appreciated by all.

The entire weekend, it turns out, was actually a preliminary rehearsal exercise in anticipation of a main event revealed on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### *The Big News:*

*The Greater Oregon & Washington Region has been selected to host the*

*AHSGR International Convention for 2012.*

*The Oregon Chapter and the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University will be the focal setting for the*

*43<sup>rd</sup> Annual AHSGR International Convention.*

*It will be a time for all of us to rise to the occasion.*

**Concordia University, Brent Mai, Linda Church** and the extended **Concordia University community** have gone more than the extra mile in making a remarkable venue available to the international Volga German Community. Lets all plan to work together as we prepare for the 2012 convention here in Portland.

Mark your calendars for **July 10<sup>th</sup>** for our annual summer picnic at Tualatin Community Park, see **page 11** for the map and instructions.

A special feature in this issue of your newsletter is a calendar of “**Sister Organizations Upcoming Events**” on **page 5**. Various ethnic and special interest groups’ activities are listed for your convenience. If you know of other events or organizations that you would like to share with our members please let me know @ 503-228-0007.

**Sigrid Weidenweber’s Trilogy “The Volga Flows Forever”** continues to shine as a remarkable asset and achievement for **Sigrid** and our **CVGS**. Please share this treasure with your friends and family as you remember special family events and holidays. See **Page 10** for further information.

We also have a few “Bruno” books still available. The book tells a remarkable story of our good friend Bruno Reule and his life as a young boy in Europe during WWII. See **page 6** for your opportunity to order this special book for your family and friends.

Please reserve **Sunday afternoon June 13** for a very special membership meeting when our very own **Ken Prickett** will share his experiences as a **soldier in WWII**. Ken served in the Battle of the Bulge and other areas. He has a marvelous history to share as we honor the **66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944**. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this special day. See page 15.

Please note all the opportunities in our updated schedule of events enclosed.

See you all on **May 15<sup>th</sup> for our general membership meeting** with a special message for us from **Gary Reiswig**. Don't forget to bring your **Melmac**,\* favorite entree, salad or desert, and appetite as we all share in the traditional potluck "**trough**". **Enjoy!!**

See you soon,

President,  
Ed Wagner.

\* Editors note (**Melmac** is a fictional [planet](#) in the [television series ALF](#). The name is a joke reference to the [Melmac](#) brand of dinnerware made popular in the 1950s.)



### ***LOST BOOKS***

***Please return all books and materials to our  
CVS Library. If you have materials in your home  
Libraries that were checked out or borrowed while  
we were at Rivercrest please return them to Jene or  
Brent at your earliest convince.***

## AHSGR – Oregon Chapter Upcoming Events

### May

May 1, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome  
 May 9, 2010 Mother's Day  
**May 15, 2010 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm AHSGR Monthly Members Meeting (Potluck Lunch)**  
**Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome**  
**1:00 Potluck, 2:00 Gary Reiswig Special Presentation "The Thousand Mile Stare"**

### June

Sunday  
 Jun 5, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome  
 Jun 6, 2010 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944  
 The Allied invasion of Europe – WWII.  
 Jun 13, 2010 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm AHSGR Monthly Meeting (Coffee & Cookies) Special program **see p15**  
 Sunday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome

June 20, 2010 Father's Day

### July

**July 10, 2010 Summer picnic @ Tualatin Park (see insert and map on Page 11)**

### August

Aug 1-8, 2010 AHSGR International Convention of Germans from Russia to be held in Lincoln, Neb.

### September

Sep 4, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome  
 Sep 26, 2010 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm AHSGR Monthly Meeting (Coffee & Cookies)  
 Sunday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome

### October

Oct 1-3 2010 CNC Fall Meeting, Walla Walla, WA see page  
 Oct 9, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome  
 Oct 16, 2010 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm AHSGR Monthly Members Meeting (Potluck Lunch)  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome

### November

Nov 6, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome  
 Nov 21, 2010 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm AHSGR Monthly Meeting (Coffee & Cookies)  
 Sunday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are welcome

### December

Dec 4, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting  
 Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Members and guests are

**December Program to be announced**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## **Sister Organizations Upcoming Events**

### **June**

Jun 6-11, 2010

RCAC Accordion Camp  
Silver Falls Conference Center, Sublimity, Oregon

Jun 17-20, 2010

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration  
Leavenworth Washington

Jun 26, 2010

Midsummer Festival, Scandinavian Heritage Foundation  
Celebration, German Hall, 7901 SE Division, Portland Oregon

### **July**

Jun 15-18, 2010

Accordions by the Sea  
Victoria B.C. Canada

Jul 19, 2010  
Monday

Helvetia Swiss Picnic at the Helvetia Community Church  
Helvetia, Oregon

### **August**

Aug 1, 2010  
Saturday

Schwingfest @ Club Paesano-Cedarville Park (\$12) - Swiss  
Gresham, Oregon

Aug 8, 2010  
Saturday

German American Society Summer Picnic @ German Club  
7901 SE Division, Portland, Oregon

### **September**

Sept 7, 2010  
Tuesday

Remembrance Event Re; Stalin's Atrocities  
Friends of History @ PSU Portland, Oregon

Sept 16-19, 2010  
Friday - Sunday

39<sup>th</sup> Deutschesfest Celebration of German Heritage  
Odessa, Washington

Date to be announced

Fall Festival Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. John the Baptist.  
8014 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97202

Sept 25, 2010  
Saturday

Jodel Klub Edelweiss Concert @ German Hall  
7901 SE Division, Portland, Oregon

### **October**

Oct 24, 2010  
Sunday

NW Accordion Social, Forest Grove Community Center  
2037 Douglas Street, Forest Grove, Oregon

### **November**

Nov 20, 2010  
Friday

Helvetia - Alpengluehn Singing Society November fest  
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro, Oregon

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The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR Offers Our Published Book

**BRUNO**

by Bruno Reule, as told to Rev. James Estes

This book has been published by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR at the price of \$20.00. Postage and handling are \$3.50 per book. Purchase 5 or more books and receive a 10% discount (\$18.00 per book) or purchase 25 or more books and receive a 20% discount (\$16.00 per book)

**Order Form**

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Bruno's book. I have enclosed a check payable to "AHSGR Oregon Chapter" and understand that postage and handling is \$3.50 per book

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



**Please order your copy of this book from  
Lois Klaus at  
111 N.E. 67th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213-5029  
503-232-3065 [lklaus@earthlink.net](mailto:lklaus@earthlink.net)**



Center for Volga German Studies  
at Concordia University

and Oregon Chapter  
American Historical Society  
of Germans from Russia

present

## Gary Reiswig

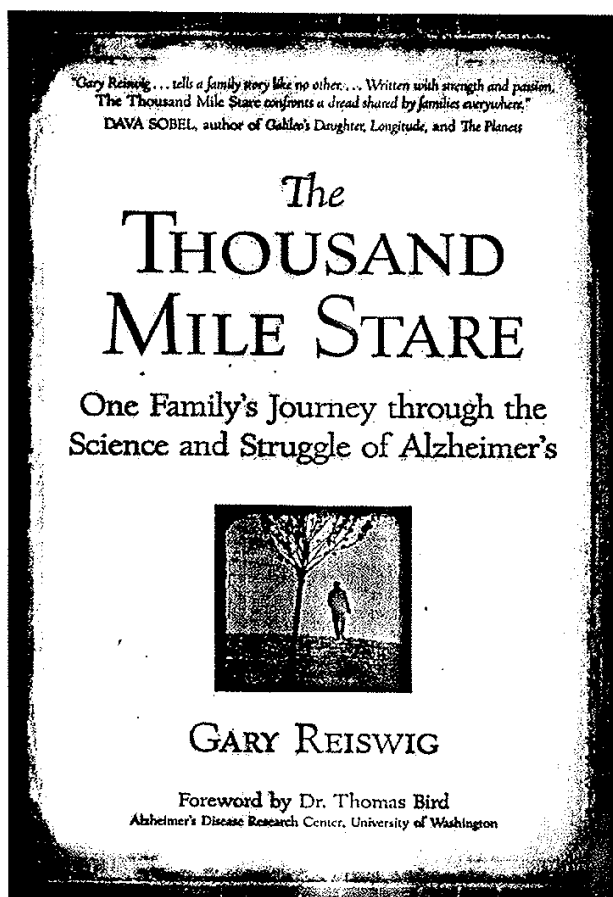
author of *The Thousand Mile Stare*

Presentation/Reading and Book Signing

2:00 p.m. – Saturday, 15 May 2010

Location: Center for Volga German Studies, Concordia University Library (Suite 300)  
2800 NE Liberty St., Portland, Oregon 97211 (telephone: 503.280.8507)

The AHSGR Oregon Chapter will be holding a pot luck luncheon and at 1:00 p.m., followed by the presentation and book signing at 2:00 p.m.



### About the Author

Gary Reiswig was born in the Texas Panhandle near the end of the Dust Bowl, and grew up on a farm across the border in Oklahoma.

At eighteen, Gary married his high school sweetheart, and began training for the ministry. At age twenty-five, he was the father of three children and the minister of a large congregation in central Illinois.

As a child, Gary had taken his grandfather for walks. His grandfather no longer worked because his behavior had grown odd and erratic following an accident at a railroad crossing that killed his wife, Gary's grandmother.

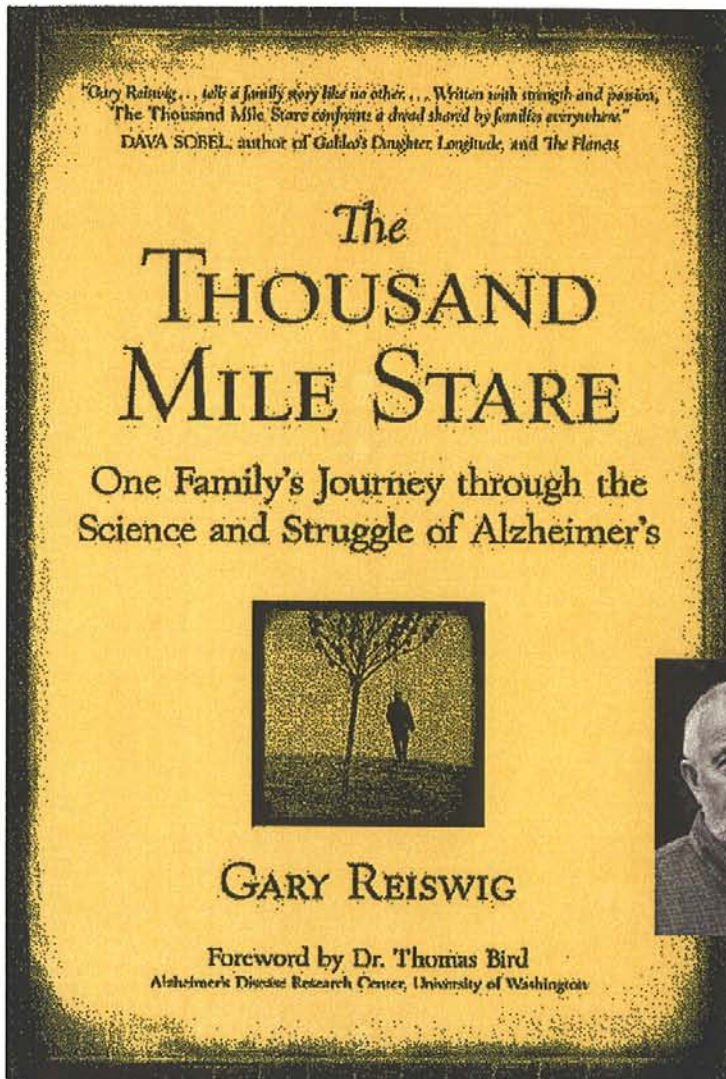
As a teenager, Gary observed changes in his father that made him realize his dad was like his granddad. Gary was, sometimes, afraid of his father. A few years later, his family was told his father, age fifty-one, had Alzheimer's disease, and that the disease was, in all likelihood, genetic. His father died six years later.

When he was thirty, Gary left the ministry, and earned a PhD. He worked as an educator and a city planner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, publishing articles in journals appropriate to his work.

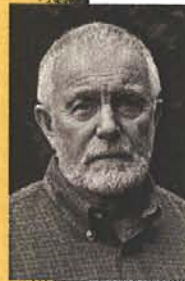
Nearing forty, the approximate age he had observed the first changes in his father, Gary and his wife purchased an inn in East Hampton, New York, so they could be self employed in case Alzheimer's disease struck. Over the course of twenty-five years, Gary and his wife owned and operated two different hotels in East Hampton.

After Gary's sister and brother both died in their fifties with early onset Alzheimer's, he began collecting information for a book about the family's tragic genetic heritage and how the family has dealt with the disease. *THE THOUSAND MILE STARE: One Family's Journey through the Science and Struggle of Alzheimer's*, is the result of years of thought, conversation, and data collecting.

## Facing a Genetic Legacy of Alzheimer's



Today, with a drop of blood, science can tell each of us whether or not we have a gene that will cause early onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD). This medical leap forward is due in large part to the Reiswig family, who had the courage to reverse generations of denial and share their medical history with doctors, researchers, and policymakers on Capitol Hill. In *The Thousand Mile Stare*, Reiswig traces the strange and troubling history of his family, starting with his Volga German ancestors of the early 1900s.



Interweaving cutting-edge medical science with a poignant family chronicle, Reiswig explores themes that include: warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, when and how to get genetic testing for EOAD, new treatments for

Alzheimer's that slow its progression and what can be learned from the Reiswig family experience.

Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University and  
Oregon Chapter - American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

Present

**Gary Reiswig**

*Author of The Thousand Mile Stare*

Join us for a presentation, reading and book signing on

Saturday, May 15, 2010

At 2:00pm

Concordia University Library - Suite 310  
2800 NE Liberty Street, Portland, OR 97211



**AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form**

Membership fees are for a calendar year that **renews each January 1st.**

Dues shown below include \$10 for an **Oregon Chapter membership.**

The remaining fee is for membership in the AHSGR international organization.

We will forward your fee to AHSGR international.

Membership Categories - Annual International and Oregon Chapter Dues

**Individual & Family \$ 60      Institutional \$ 60**

**Contributing \$ 85              Sustaining \$110**

Int'l Life Member \$750 (may be paid in 5 annual installments--add \$10 to each installment for Chapter dues)

Int'l Life Member \$ 10 (for fully paid International Life Members who pay only Chapter dues)

Student (15 - 24) \$ 15 (Receive 4 newsletters, Youth Membership packet, Membership card, and discounts)

Youth (1 - 14) \$ 8 on specially advertised books and special convention benefits.)

Newsletters Only \$ 12 For non-members

New Member\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_ Individual\_\_\_\_ Family\_\_\_\_ Youth\_\_\_\_ Student\_\_\_\_

**Membership Year 2010**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I want to receive my Oregon Chapter newsletter through the web (Adobe Acrobat format)?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

In order for us to service our membership more effectively, please list all of your German family names and all villages that you believe your ancestors are from. Ancestral Villages - Please specify for each member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surnames - Please specify for each member

\_\_\_\_\_  
There are many opportunities to help build our chapter. Let us know if you desire to participate actively.:

Genealogy Workshops \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Publicity \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Ways & Means \_\_\_\_\_

Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Reminder Calls for Upcoming Meetings \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_

Sunshine \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER and send your membership dues and applications to: Lois Klaus, 111 N.E. 67th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213-5029 phone: (503) 232-3065 e-mail: lkklaus@earthlink.net**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES PLEASE SEND THEM TO LOIS KLAUS NOW.  
LOIS NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR NATIONAL.**

**The Center for Volga German Studies  
at Concordia University**

Presents

*The Volga Flows Forever – A Trilogy about the Volga Germans*

By Sigrid Weidenweber



***Catherine***

(ISBN: 1-934961-00-0)

***The Volga Germans***

(ISBN: 1-934961-02-7)

***From Gulag to Freedom***

(ISBN: 1-934961-03-5)

The Volga German immigrants and their descendants converted the harsh steppe into fields of waving grain dotted with wind-driven flour mills and, in this isolated place, developed a culture that was uniquely their own. They survived savage attacks of marauding tribes, the unpredictable often harsh climate and the vagaries of tsarist edicts. Author Sigrid Weidenweber tells the fascinating story of these courageous people in the historical fiction trilogy *The Volga Flows Forever*.

*Catherine*, the first volume, brings to life the fascinating historical character of Catherine the Great who invited her native countrymen to settle the Russian frontier. *The Volga Germans*, the second volume, continues the story of the German immigrants and their descendants who civilized the bleak Russian frontier of the lower Volga River Valley, surviving an unpredictable and often harsh climate to transform the barren Russian landscape. In the final volume, *From Gulag to Freedom*, she follows the Volga Germans through the hardships of Soviet collectivization and deportation to finally immigrate to the San Joaquin Valley of Central California.

Please send me:

- ☐ Vol. 1 : *Catherine* only (\$29.95)
- ☐ Vol. 2 : *The Volga Germans* only (\$29.95)
- ☐ Vol. 3 : *From Gulag to Freedom* only (\$29.95)
- ☐ All Three Volumes (\$80.00)

Please mail volume(s) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

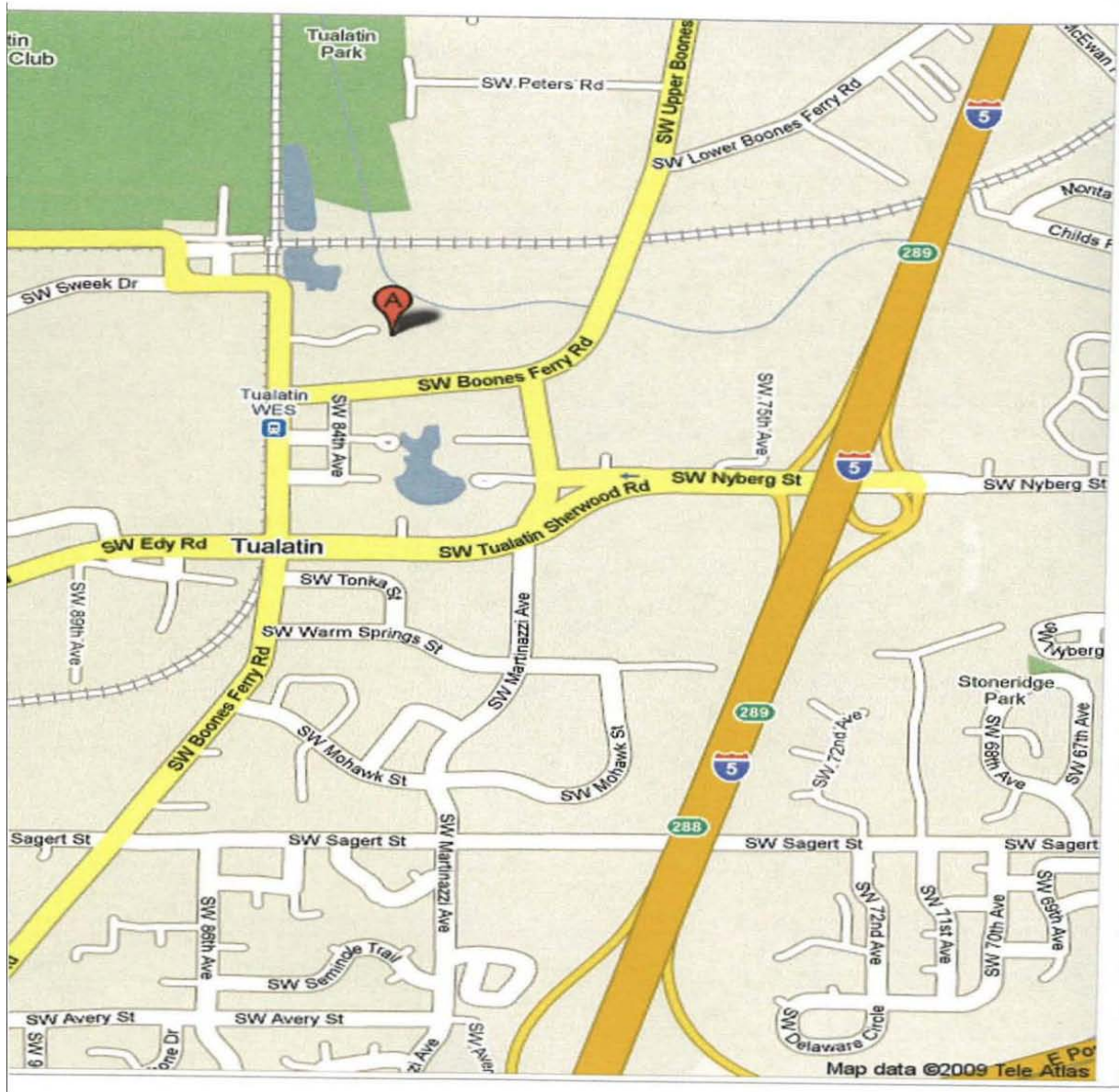
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment by check and send form to: Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland, OR 97211.

To place an order online by credit card or e-check, visit [cvgs.cu-portland.edu](http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu) and select order online now. To order by phone with a credit card, contact Linda Church at **503-493-6370**. All three volumes are also available through Amazon.com or a bookstore near you. If your local bookstore does not have these volumes in stock, ask the store manager to contact the Center at **503-493-6370**.



**Driving directions to AHSGR Picnic and Potluck at Tualatin Community Park:**

**From Portland SOUTH on I-5:**

1. **Take exit 289.** At the end of the exit turn right on to Nyberg Rd/Tualatin-Sherwood Hwy.
2. **Turn right on Boones Ferry Road.** Keep on Boones Ferry Road (which becomes Tualatin Road)

**OR**

**From Salem NORTH on I-5:**

1. **Take exit 289.** At the end of the exit turn left on to Nyberg Rd/Tualatin-Sherwood Hwy.
2. **Turn right on Boones Ferry Road.** Keep on Boones Ferry Road (which becomes Tualatin Road)

**July 10, 2010 12:00 Noon**  
**AHSGR SUMMER PICNIC**

## **FUTURE CNC METINGS**

### **Fall 2010 Walla Walla, WA**

**In: Friday, October 1, 2010**

**Out: Sunday, October 3, 2010**

Business Meeting sponsored by Blue Mountain Chapter.

Walla Walla was one of the earliest settlements of the Germans from Russia in the Pacific Northwest and many of our various chapter members have their origins in Walla Walla's "Russaecke". This where we stayed in 2007

Ten rooms are reserved (6 rooms with two queens and 4 rooms with a single queen)  
Best Western Walla Walla Suites Inn – 7 E. Oak Street (off 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)  
Walla Walla 993621 (509) 525-4700 under group name AHSGR

Two beds \$85.60 and One bed \$75.60 plus 10.3% tax  
Includes deluxe breakfast. 24 hour XL policy and rooms held until one month out.

### **Spring 2011 – Leavenworth, WA**

**In: Wednesday, April 27, 2011**

**Out: Friday, April 29, 2011**

Mini-Conference sponsored by the Greater Seattle Chapter.

Our CNC members voted to go back to their favorite destination – the popular Bavarian village of Leavenworth. We will be staying again at the Best Western Icicle Inn. We are staying mid-week to get a better rate in this popular resort. This is where we stayed in 2008.

Best Western Icicle Inn -505 Highway 2

Leavenworth, WA 98826

1 (509) 548-7000 or 1 (800) 558-22438 under group name AHSGR or "American Historical Society of Germans" 48 hour XL policy and rooms held until one month out.

All space \$109.00 plus tax. Includes deluxe breakfast.

### **Fall 2011 – Ocean Shores, WA**

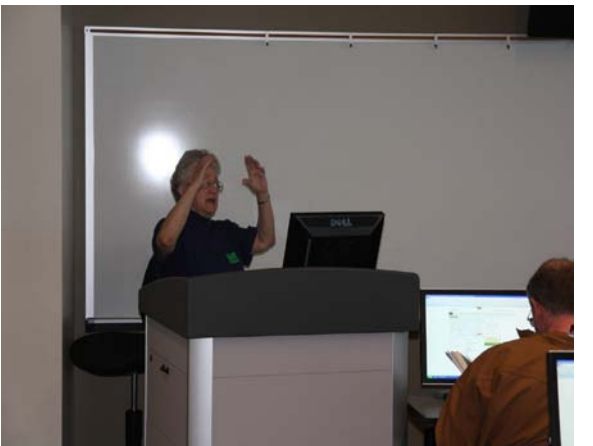
Date to be determined



## The Council of Northwest Chapters of AHSGR meeting in Portland at CVGS







# **Don't Miss**

## **Our June Meeting**

### **Featuring**

# **Ken Prickett**

Ken will share his experiences during WWII. Ken served in the U.S. Army as a Sergeant leading his platoon in live combat during the battle of the Bulge. He is a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Ken and Joyce are also members of the Scandinavian Genealogical Society and serve locally each year at Scanfair. Joyce is Swedish and Danish. Ken's ancestral village is Norka.

**In Honor of**  
**D-DAY June 6, 1944**  
**66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Sunday June 13, 2010**  
**2:30 P.M. (coffee and cookies)**  
CVGS Library 3<sup>RD</sup> floor  
Concordia University  
**Bring your family photos & memories**  
**of WWII & Share**

**CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010-2011**

**President:**

**Ed Wagner (term expires 2011)**

1836 NW Couch  
Portland, OR 97209  
(503) 228-0007 - (503) 221-1837

**Vice-President:**

**Bob Thorn (term expires 2011)**

(503) 635-6651  
[bobthorn@hotmail.com](mailto:bobthorn@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:**

**Mary Burbank (term expires 2011)**

9051 SW Hill St  
Tigard, OR 97223  
(503) 639-4381

**Treasurer:**

**Lois Klaus (term expires 2011)**

(503) 232-3065 e-mail: [lklaus@earthlink.net](mailto:lklaus@earthlink.net)

**Directors:**

**Jene Goldhammer (term expires 2010)**

(503) 771-5813 e-mail: [Gold520@comcast.net](mailto:Gold520@comcast.net)

**Dr. Bill Wiest (term expires 2011)**

**Zane Miller (term expires 2011)**

360) 573-5628

**Ken Prickett (term expires 2010)**

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**Molly Ann Rimerman (term expires 2010)**

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**Steve Schreiber (term expires Dec. 2011)**

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**Chuck Williams (term expires 2011)**

(503) 252-0902 e-mail: [f26ruth@comcast.net](mailto:f26ruth@comcast.net)

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***2012 International Convention***

***For AHSGR***

***Will be held***

***In***

***PORTLAND OREGON***

***At***

***Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS)***

***@ Concordia University***