



Chronicle Unserer Leute

Vol 31, Issue 5

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/

Germans from Russia in
Portland website
www.volgagermans.net/Portland
and

The Center For Volga German Studies - Concordia
www.cvgs.cu-portland.edu/

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President's Message

September and October have seen significant changes in our **Oregon Chapter and AHSGR**.

Our very own **Lois Klaus** has been successful in securing the fascinating story of **Dr. Russell C. Schnell**, a co-recipient of the **2007 Nobel Peace Prize**. An abbreviated excerpt of his story is enclosed in this Newsletter. The complete story can be found on our Chapters WEB site at

<http://www.ahsgrOregon.com> Thank you, Lois, for this wonderful contribution. To my knowledge **Dr. Schnell** is the **first Volga German (or even German from Russia)** to be honored as a **Nobel Prize Recipient**. He traces his ancestry to **Norka**, as do many of our local Portland **Schnells**.

On sad notes, our community has lost some of our senior treasures: **Dr. Raymond Koch** has been a huge part of our world. It is rare to know a real-life human Teddy Bear. **Ray** was exactly that and much more. **Ray** held a special place in many of our lives and there is some interest in holding a local Portland Memorial event in his honor. Please let me know of your personal interest or concerns on this topic. My contact numbers are (503) 228-0007 and (503) 221-1837. See the enclosed article on page 7. Our collective hearts go out to **Diane** who has been a treasured member of our chapter and a wonderful helpmate for **Ray**. We all love you, **Diane** and hope to see you from time to time at our gatherings and events. You are truly a special person.

Our hearts also go out to **Isolde Reule and Bruno** for the sudden and unexpected loss of **Isolde's** niece, **Astrid Schlaps**. Astrid was a highly respected member of the Portland State University community and will be missed by all. **Isolde and Bruno** are some of our most cherished members and need your special prayers and gentle hugs at this tender time.

Ray Arndt was a huge supporter of the Oregon Chapter in the 70's, 80's and early 90's. We have not seen him lately but remember his enthusiasm and participation. A copy of his Memorial article is enclosed herein.

We have just learned of the Passing of **Rev. Robert Klein**, on Friday Nov. 5, 2010. He was the last pastor of **Zion Congregational Church** and founding Pastor of Rivercrest Community Church. Rev Klein was a descendant of the Henry Klein family of Frank Chutor Russia. A remembrance article will be forth coming in a future issue of this newsletter. Rev Klein was one of the very last surviving Volga German Ministers of our **Volga German Community here in Portland**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Esther** and the family.

Margaret Freeman passed away in Redondo Beach, California. Her Memorial Service was held October 30 in Santa Monica, California. Margaret devoted her life to the documentation and preservation of our G-R History. Conventions will never be the same without Margaret's vitality, enthusiasm and energies. A copy of her remembrance is enclosed.

Locally, we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Willette Bauer**, wife of our good friend **Howard Bauer** on September 30, 2010. Howard has been a strong support for our Chapter and has helped with distributing this newsletter for many years. He has also served on the Board and has been good at keeping us on point. Thank you, **Howard** for being there for us. Please feel free to let us know when and how we can be there for you.

On a happier note, the Holiday Season is approaching and this year holds many events:

- * **Nov. 20, 2010 The Swiss November Fest** will be held at Bethany Presbyterian Church on N. W. Springville Road. See the enclosed notice. This is a truly remarkable Holiday event with great music, singing, food, and happy times.
- * **Nov. 21, 2010 at 2:30 (Sunday), Christie (Miller) Schreiner** will present her pictures and observations during a recent visit to Russia. See the enclosed notice on page 3.
- * **Dec. 3, 4, 5 Concordia University's 60th Annual "Christmas Chorale"**—a service of lessons and carols" at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. This is a magnificent event and should be on everyone's calendar. See below
- * **Dec. 4 & 5 Scan Fair at PSU** is a MUST-DO for anyone interested in ethnic events. The Scandinavian Clubs of Portland provide excellent entertainment, foods, arts, crafts and much more.
- * **Dec. 11, 2010 at 2:30 Our Christmas Program** will be held at **St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Concordia University**. See the page 3. **Lizzie Schreiber** and her dad **Steve Schreiber** have been working hard to bring us a traditional **German Christmas Program** this year. While **Joanne Hummel** recently announced her retirement as the leader of this event, she has offered her counsel and support to Lizzie and her Dad. We look forward to a wonderful experience.

An expanded calendar of events is included herein for your convenience. Check it out and mark your calendar.

The Holidays are always a time to share happy times with everyone and give thanks for all our blessings. We hope to see you all on Nov. 21st and Dec. 11th for the Christmas Program. See you there,

Ed Wagner President

Concordia University's 60th Annual Christmas Tradition

The Christmas Chorale

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Featuring Concordia's Choral and Instrumental Ensembles
Ensemble Directors: Kurt Berentsen, Casey Bozell, Dr. William Kuhn, and Judy Schumacher
Organist: Dr. Walter Krueger

Friday,	December 3	7:00 p.m.
Saturday,	December 4	7:00 p.m.
Sunday,	December 5	3:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church | 6700 NE 29th Avenue Portland, Oregon

Due to overwhelming demand, free tickets will be made available beginning Nov. 1. To reserve your general admission tickets, please visit www.cu-portland.edu/christmaschorale or call 503-280-8505 or 1-800-752-4736. Admission is free, seating is limited, and advance reservation is required. Donations are accepted. Preferred seating will be offered for Concordia's Friends of Music, beginning Oct. 22.



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Inspired by the Christmas carol *The Holly and the Ivy*, the artwork for this year's Chorale was been provided by Kurt Bergdolt, Assistant Professor of Art, Concordia University.

Concordia University 2811 NE Holman Street Portland, Oregon 97211

Don't Miss the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR Meeting

Recent Travels to Russia

By
Christie (Miller) Schreiner
Of
The Dalles Oregon

Sunday November 21, 2010 @ 2:30 p.m.

Coffee and Cookies provided

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

Christie (Miller) Schreiner is a descendent of the Miller clans of Norka, Russia and an early member of Zion Congregational Church at N.E. 9th & Fremont. We welcome Christie and her family to our humble chapter and community at the CVGS.

**The Oregon Chapter
of the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)
and the
Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS)
at
Concordia University**

**Will present the annual traditional
Christmas Program
Saturday December 11, 2010 @ 2:00 pm
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
6700 N.E. 27th
Concordia University Campus**

**A reception with cookies and Coffee will follow the program.
Bring your favorite holiday cookies or treats to share.**

Please renew memberships now

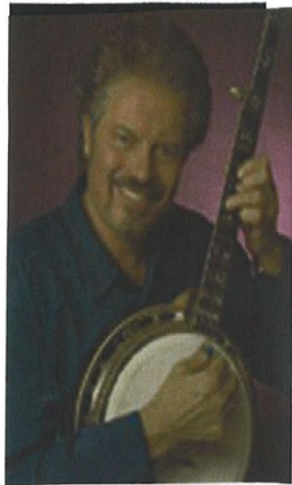


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Helvetia-Alpengluehn Singing Society, Inc.



With Our Concert Guest

Larry B Wilder

2008 National Yodeling Champion - Western Music Association
and

Larry and the Stumptown Stars

Performing a Dinner Show from 6:45 to 7:15

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Dinner 5:30 to 7:15pm only

Choir Concert at 7:30 pm

Bethany Presbyterian Church

15505 NW Springville Rd Portland, Oregon, 97229

Concert tickets—Pre-sale \$7.00 At the door \$8.00
Sausage Dinner - \$8.00

Tickets available at **JaCiva's** 4733 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Or from Helvetia-Alpengluehn Singers

Bake Sale & Beverages available before and after Concert
Call for information 503-246-8632 or 360-693-7866
www.helvetia-alpengluehn.com

In Concert

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Under the Direction of

Mr. Clifford Barron Fairley

Accordion: Doug Stickler

National Anthems

The Star-Spangled Banner
Schweizerpsalm

Key/Smith
Widmer/Zwyssig

Welcome

President Teresa Grossen Brandt

Helvetia-Alpengluehn Singing Society

Die Dämm'rung sinkt aufs Schweizerland Schneider & Hegar
Là-haut sur la montagne Kaelin
Steimandli-Juiz Moos-Muller
Ad air' Kaelin
's Landi-Dörfli Barmettler

Guest Performer

Larry B. Wilder

Helvetia-Alpengluehn Singing Society

Niene geits so schön und luschtig unknown
Swing in Switzerland Artur Beul
Autumn Leaves Johnny Mercer
Weisser Winterwald Schwielow & Bernard
Winter Wonderland arr: Don Marsh

AHSGR – Oregon Chapter Upcoming Events**November**

Nov 21, 2010 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm AHSGR Monthly Meeting see page
Sunday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd 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 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

Dec 11, 2010 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Christmas Program see page 3.
Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

January

Jan 8, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting
Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

Jan 16, 2010 2:30 am – 4:00 noon AHSGR Monthly Meeting
Sunday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

February

Feb 5, 2010 10:00 am – 12:00 noon AHSGR Board Meeting
Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

Feb 18, 2010 1:00 pm – 3:00 noon AHSGR Monthly Meeting (potluck lunch)
Saturday Concordia University Library, CVGS Room 3rd Floor, Members and guests are

Other Upcoming Events

Nov 20, 2010 Novemberfest, see page 4

Dec. 3,4,5 Concordia University Christmas Chorale, see page 2

Dec. 5 & 5 Scanfest @ PSU. The Scandinavian Clubs of Portland provide excellent entertainment, foods, arts, crafts and much more.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THE PROFESSIONAL CLASS FLEES

RUSSIA

BY OWEN MATTHEWS

Even honest cops are feared.



A NEW GENERATION OF exiles is fleeing Russia, and they're well-heeled and educated. Business-

people, lawyers, accountants, and bankers say they're leaving the country after being robbed and threatened with false arrest by crooked law-enforcement officials. Exact numbers on the exodus are difficult to pin down, but it's safe to say that thousands of well-to-do Russian professionals now living abroad don't dare return to their homeland for fear that the state's representatives will throw them in jail for the crime of making an honest profit. Police are believed to be colluding with organized criminals to seize control of legitimate businesses.

The crackdown is startling in its pace and scope. The anticorruption watchdog group Transparency International estimates that a third of Russian businesses have been targeted by police in attempted corporate raids. An anti-raider

hotline set up by Moscow's City Hall has reported a 10-fold jump in complaints, from 200 to more than 2,000 over the last year, and the European Union says 20,447 Russians sought political asylum there last year. Many others have sought EU business visas or U.S. green cards in order to continue their careers. (Asylum seekers are allowed to do only limited work in much of the EU.)

The problem is no secret: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has angrily warned the country's bureaucrats to "stop terrorizing business," and blasted Russia's culture of "legal nihilism." But his bold speeches are largely ignored in a system still dominated by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. The worst of it is that Russia badly needs brains and investment—exactly what the thieving bureaucrats are driving away. "Only free, independent, and enterprising people are capable of being the driving forces behind modernization, but those

are exactly the people whom the state is persecuting," says Vladimir Ryzhkov, a leader of the prominent opposition party Another Russia. Regardless of the raids, the country's best and brightest were already looking for the door. According to a survey by the Moscow-based Levada Center, 13 percent of Russians said they wanted out. That's the same percentage as in 1992, a year after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Now, with so many exiles in London, New York, and Tel Aviv, Russia is at risk of joining the ranks of countries, like Iran, Cuba, and Syria, whose gifted businesspeople prefer to make a future outside their native land rather than in it. That can't bode well for Medvedev's hopes of building a strong and prosperous future founded on real business and innovation—not just on pumping oil from the ground.

With ANNA NEMTSOVA in Moscow

3—AFP—GETTY IMAGES

NEWSWEEK AUG. 23 & 30 2010

NEWSWEEK.COM **N** 7



Dr. Raymond Koch, 84, a longtime resident of The Dalles, died on September 20th, 2010, in Everett, Washington after an accidental fall.

He was born April 21st, 1926, in Portland, Oregon the oldest child of Peter and Anna Koch, German-Russian immigrants. He attended Jefferson High school, graduating in 1944. He received an athletic scholarship to Oregon State University, played offensive guard for the Beavers, and studied business and engineering. His college was interrupted by service in the Navy during World War II, after which he graduated with honors in 1950. He later served in the Korean War, as an officer.

Raymond met and married Donna Lee Davis in Portland, and they were married on June 20th, 1954. After accelerated one year courses in chemistry and biology, which he completed in eight weeks with an A in both courses, he was accepted at the University of Oregon Dental School, graduating in 1957. Shortly after moving to The Dalles the same year, his first child Peter was born, followed in 1960 by son Robert.

He practiced dentistry in The Dalles for 35 years, retiring in 1992. He was an active member of The Dalles Yacht Club, The Elks, The Dalles Athletic Boosters, and coach for The Dalles Little League and president of Mid Columbia Babe Ruth Baseball for many years. He never

missed a game that his sons played, anywhere in Oregon, and was thrilled when Pete and R.B. were on Varsity and JV at the same time, so he could make one trip to watch them both. He enjoyed watching and encouraging others kids to participate in sports, as much as his own, and was thrilled when they had success.

His wife Donna passed away in 1991. He later married his best friends widow Diane Gabrielson in 1994. They both enjoyed watching any event that involved the grandkids, and traveled extensively, including a trip to Germany. He was a charter member, and long time president of The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, and his passion was tracing the family history back some 300 years. He was working on a book on his research when he died.

Dr. Koch is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Diane; his sons, Peter and Dr. Robert Koch and his wife Teri Mengis Koch, The Dalles; his stepdaughter, Debbie Mattson of Portland; his beloved grandchildren, Richie, Benny, Adam, LeeAnna and Maddie; a brother, Dr. Norman Koch, Salem, and numerous nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Dr. Richard Koch, Pendleton, and a stepson, Michael Gabrielson.

Memorial services held at Gateway Presbyterian Church in The Dalles at 2:00pm on Saturday, October 2nd with Pastor Jim Hazlett officiating.

Miss me...but let me go.

*When I come to the end of the road and the
Sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little...but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared;
Miss me...but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.*

*When you're lonely and sick of heart,
go to the friends we know.
Bury your sorrows in doing good deeds and
Miss me...but let me go.*

DR. RUSSELL C. SCHNELL
GERMAN FROM RUSSIA DESCENDENT
CO-RECIPIENT 2007 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



I am the firstborn child (December 12, 1944) and only son of Annie (Traudt) and Henry Schnell and was raised in Castor, Alberta, Canada. I have two sisters, Lorna Jean Schnell, Ponoka, Alberta, who attends most AHSGR Conventions, and Brenda Faye Schnell Scott, Edmonton, Alberta.

Our father, Henry E. Schnell, was born April 22, 1916, at Stony Plain, Alberta, to Germans from Russia parents John Schnell and Amelia (Stertzt) Schnell. Henry's parents left Norka in October, 1911, traveling across Europe, then departing from Southampton, England, on October 31, 1911, on the Cunard liner Ansonia, and arriving in Quebec City November 12, 1911. They took the train to Edmonton, Alberta, where they were met by Norka friends who took them to Stony Plain by horse and buggy. They farmed in the Stony Plain area for five years before purchasing a farm north of Castor, Alberta, in an area settled by 24 other families from Norka.

Our mother, Anna (Annie) Traudt, was born March 1, 1917, in Norka to Conrad Traudt and Christina (Giebelhaus) Traudt. They left Norka in September, 1924, and crossed the Atlantic on the Empress of Scotland, landing in Quebec City, Canada, on October 18, 1924, and then taking a train to Edmonton, Alberta. As well as Annie, there were two younger sisters and one younger brother who came with their parents. The Traudt family first settled near Spruce

The complete story can be found on our Chapters WEB site at
<http://www.ahsgroregon.com>

THE OREGONIAN • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010

**Raymond Arndt***Feb. 14, 1914 - Oct. 18, 2010*

Raymond "Ray" Arndt was born Feb. 14, 1914, in Portland to German immigrant parents, Henry Arndt and Alice Weber. Ray grew up in Northeast Portland where he attended Kennedy Elementary School and Benson High School.

As the eldest in a family of seven children, Ray became responsible for the family's well-being when his father died at an early age. Like his parents and siblings, he had a strong work ethic that transferred to every job he undertook. His strong faith

in God kept him steady as well as actively involved in church.

Ray met Geraldine Bess Bowdish at Portland Foursquare Church in the late 1930s. They married Nov. 15, 1941, and started a partnership that lasted until 1995 when Geri preceded him in death.

At the time they were married, both Ray and Geri worked for Keller's Bakery - he as sales and route manager, and she providing clerical and accounting support. Ray's knack for sales eventually led him to the optical industry, and in 1952 he and Geri founded Ray Arndt Optical Supplies. Together they grew the business and remained at the helm until its sale in 1982.

For many years, Ray was the head usher at Portland Foursquare Church and continued this role at First Baptist Church where he was also president of the Homemakers Adult Sunday school class. He was a member of The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia.

Ray is survived by his daughters, Sandra Parr (Jack), and Kathleen Arndt; granddaughters, Catherine DeMerritt and her children, Donald and Eleanor; and Anne-Marie Fausto, her husband, Matthew, and their children, Alexa and Serena; and his brother, Lester Arndt.

A memorial service honoring his life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010, in First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Ave., Portland.

Remembrances may be made to First Baptist Church.

Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits

Member ship

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form – 2011

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

Newsletter Only \$ 12

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State and ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER and send your membership dues and application to Lois Klaus, 111 N.E. 67th Ave, Portland OR 97213-5209

Phone (503) 232-3065, e-mail: lklaus@earthlink.net

They are due next month, let's not be late

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CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010-2011

President: Ed Wagner (term expires 2011)

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Vice-President: Bob Thorn (term expires 2011)

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(503) 639-4381

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Jene Goldhammer (term expires 2010)

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Dr. Bill Wiest (term expires 2011)

Zane Miller (term expires 2011)

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Ken Prickett (term expires 2010)

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