

# Chronicle Unserer Leute

Oregon Chapter of the American Historical  
Society of Germans from Russia

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January – March 2022



## Catherine II, the Great

### In This Issue

President's Message.....	2
From the Editor.....	3
In Memoriam.....	4
Updates.....	6
Upcoming Events.....	7
New Book: St. Johns Streetcars .....	9
Recipes: Apfelkuchen and Grebbels.....	12
Membership Renewal.....	14

# President's Message

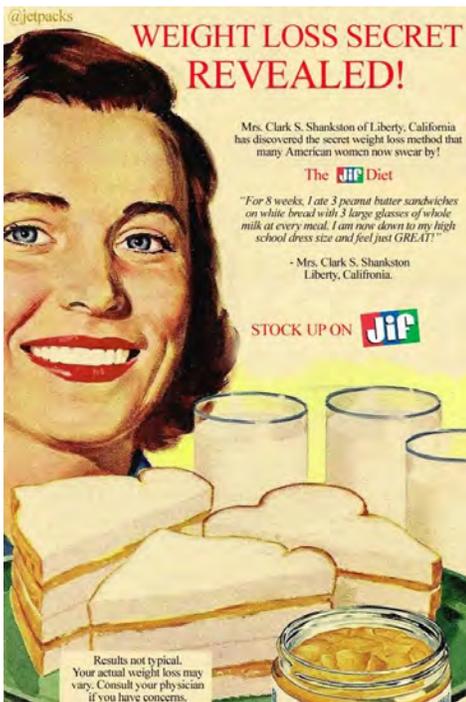
A Very Happy New Year to you All!

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is now behind us, and the new year of 2022 is stretching out in front of us. Not only is it a time for reflection on the year past, but a time for making plans for the new year. As disappointing as it is that we are still dealing with this covid pandemic, our situation has definitely improved, the variants notwithstanding, mainly thanks to the widely-available vaccines, and we can look forward to better things to come.



Many people find the new year a good time to make some resolutions. Some common ones are: This year I will eat healthier. This year I will exercise more. For myself, I find that I'm more successful if I set goals that are easy to measure. For instance, if I want to lose weight, I could set the goal of not eating between meals. To eat more healthfully I could count my servings of fruits and vegetables each day. To exercise more I could make it a goal to walk 2-3 miles three days a week. Goals need to be specific, realistic, and measurable. Too often we set our goals too high and we are burnt out by the third week in January.

Writing down our resolutions and/or sharing them with a family member or friend is another way to increase the likelihood that we will follow through. Nothing is as motivating as knowing that someone is watching you!



*Sadly, peanut butter sandwiches never quite made it to the fad diet status of grapefruit.*

So, what goals or resolutions are we going to choose? Maybe there is a new skill that you want to learn, or an old skill that you want to improve on. Maybe there are some books that you said you would read some day. Maybe this is the year to get out in the community volunteering in some capacity. Maybe this is the year to become more involved in our AHSGR Oregon Chapter. (That was a little advertisement, by the way; we would love to have more of you join us on the board!)

I'm a fairly private person so I'm only going to share one goal with you. I want to finish writing my personal story. I have already written quite a lot, but there is a lot more to write about, and I have just been dragging my feet. I have to get over the idea that whatever I write has to be perfect. I do want my posterity to know me and writing something is going to be better than writing nothing at all. I have made a list of topics that I still need to write about, and hopefully by the end of the year I will have gotten to them all. There! I put it in writing, and I have told all of you! Feel free to ask me how I am progressing, and that should keep me focused on my writing. And join with me in doing some autobiographical writing of your own. Your family will be glad you did!

My wish for you is a happy, healthy, and productive 2022. My wish for the world is an end to the pandemic and a return to normalcy. And maybe we can get together at the end of 2022 and have a big bonfire and all of us can burn our masks!

Fondly,  
Carole

# From the Editor

We did it, friends. We survived 2021. Maybe it's just me, but I always feel a certain ennui this time of year; putting all the holiday cheer back into storage always feels like the exact wrong thing to do in January, when winter has only just begun! We need the sparkle, cookies, and lights more than ever! This year I'm granting myself an extended grace period on leaving the lights up, and I grant it to you all, too. A couple extra weeks won't hurt anyone. Your neighbors will get over it.

This is not the time of year for ascetic restriction and self-denial, it's a time for cozy indulgences and self-care. It's the time for thick socks and a big, warm pan of galuskies (cabbage rolls; find my recipe in this issue). It's the time for remembering all we have endured over the past year, taking pride in our Wolgadeutsche mettle, and for looking forward to the coming year, preferably with a seed catalog, a cup of tea, and a thick slab of kuchen nearby.



Dusseldorf women in Weiberfastnacht costumes in 1989. Photo by Business Picture/ullstein Thursday before Ash bild via Getty Images

As I get older I feel a pull toward the traditions of my people, whether or not my own ancestors actually celebrated them. This year I learned of the existence of *Weiberfastnacht* – Women's Carnival Day – and think I'll give it a try. Any opportunity to celebrate women's rights, you can count me in. Though it's more often celebrated in the Rhineland, my people hail from neighboring Wiesbaden and I say that's close enough. On the Thursday before Ash Wednesday (that's

February 24 this year), I'll be wearing my favorite plum-colored duster, drinking sparkling Riesling, and blissfully shirking my womanly duties.

*Ich wünsche Euch Glück zum neuen Jahr, Gesundheit, Friede und Einigkeit; ein lange Leben; und nach Eurem Tode die ewige Seligkeit.* I wish you good luck for the New Year, health, peace and unity; a long life; and after your death, eternal bliss for your soul.

Hot soup and warm regards,  
Heather



# In Memoriam



*Isolde (center) with Bruno and their daughter Ramona at the Russell neighborhood Oktoberfest in 2016. Photo courtesy David Ashton, East PDX News.*

## Isolde Reule

*December 1936—October 2021*

Longtime Oregon chapter member Isolde Reule died October 30, 2021, having been recently diagnosed with a malignant pancreatic tumor. She was 84.

Isolde was born on December 20, 1936 in Cobadin, Dobrutscha, Romania, to Emmanuel and Ida (Kraus) Schlaps. Isolde's family spent numerous years during WW II in Austria, Poland and Stuttgart, Germany, before immigrating to Portland, Oregon, with her parents and two sisters in 1955.

Just 19 years old and fresh to the city, Isolde found work at a glass factory and later at BP John Furniture Manufacturing Co. She met her husband Bruno in 1956 at a party at a mutual German immigrant friend's home, but Bruno was drafted into the US Army before they could strike up a courtship. When he returned from overseas in 1959 he looked her up, and they were married the following year.

Isolde was a caring, creative soul. She was most happy when she could entertain and offer her baked treats presented at a perfectly set table. Her other creative talents included sewing, gardening and flower arranging. She shared her gifts with family, and circle of friends that included her church, the Sportclub Germania and American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. Isolde was an Oregon chapter member for about 30 years.

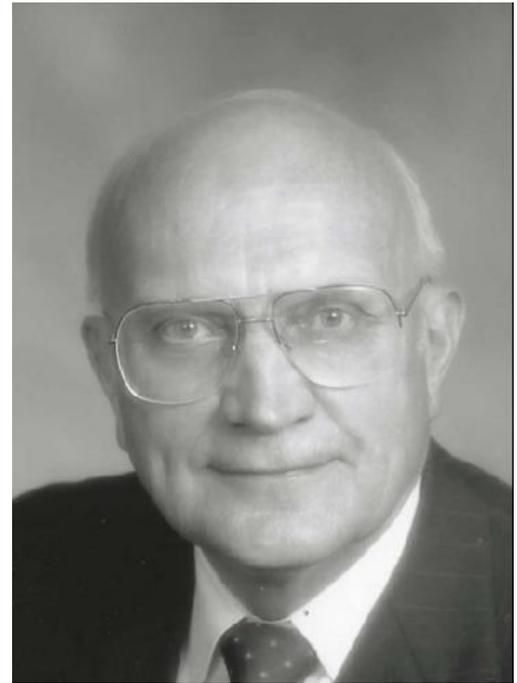
Isolde is survived by her husband Bruno; daughter Ramona; grandson Tristan Cooper; and sister Gudrun Hartfeil and her family. She was preceded in death by sister Treny Denton; niece Astrid Schlaps; and parents Ida and Emanuel Schlaps.

Donations can be made in Isolde's honor to the Alzheimer's Association or to Kaiser Permanente Hospice, from whom she received care during her final weeks.

Dr. Arthus Wiens

September 1926—December, 2021

Dr. Arthur N. Wiens, a longtime Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) professor of Medical Psychology, died of natural causes Dec. 18, 2021, at age 95. Arthur Nicholai Wiens was born in McPherson County, Kansas in 1926. Art was the oldest of two sons of Jacob and Helen Wiens. Born a Kansas farm boy, Art considered himself blessed to grow up in a three-generation home. His childhood, while it spanned the Depression years, was within a strong community of faith. He was descended from German-speaking Mennonites from Russia who settled in Kansas in the late 19th century.



The Mennonite community has a long tradition of service. One of the choices was assisting in health care programs and the one Art selected was in mental health. This sparked a lifelong interest in the mental health field and improving outcomes for patients. In 1948, Art met a young nursing student, Ruth Helen Avery, a Connecticut Yankee. History suggests that Art was too shy to ask Ruth for a date. So, she asked him. Her idea was to go to the beach for swimming and a picnic lunch. Unfortunately, she failed to consider the fact that Kansas-bred Art had no idea how to swim. Not too far from shore, Ruth had to turn around and bring Art back to solid ground. They laughed about that story many times. They maintained a daily correspondence for a year which culminated in a visit to Kansas by Ruth and they married in 1949 in Somerville, Mass.

Art and Ruth set up home in Kansas and both worked at the Topeka State Hospital. Their first daughter, Barbara, was born in Kansas in 1951. Career opportunities developed at the Oregon State Hospital (Salem) and the young family moved to Oregon. They arrived just before the birth of their first son, Bradley, born in 1954. Art continued his education and completed his PhD in 1956 at the University of Portland. Coincidentally, Commencement occurred on the date that his second son, Donald, was born.

Art was well known for his passion for tracing family history. After retirement, Art was able to give his undivided attention to working on his family's genealogy. As a lifelong researcher, he spent a great deal of time searching for data and primary documents. In 2008, he had the good fortune to be able to take a tour of ancestral sites in Poland and Ukraine. Art published notes from that trip as well as a collection of stories from his extended family.

Although spare time was scarce in his younger days, Art pursued his interest in hunting and fishing. His children remember his many hunting dogs and long hikes chasing after birds. In the 1970s, Art became an avid golfer.

Art was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ruth; and son, Don. He is survived by children, Barbara (Dan) and Bradley (Molly); four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his brother, Alfred; and his sons, Michael (Linda), Garry (Sheila) and their families. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that those seeking to honor Dr. Wiens through a contribution, do so by gift to the OHSU Foundation for the Ruth A. Wiens Nursing Education Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Due to the current pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later time. Assisting is Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service in Salem.

*[This obit has been edited for space. The original was published by The Oregonian from Jan. 7 to Jan. 9, 2022. —Ed.]*

# Updates

## A Plea from Ed Wagner: AHSGR Pacific NW Liaison Needed

The National Board of Directors of the AHSGR is looking for someone to represent Oregon and Southwest Washington. It entails three meetings a year, which can be attended via Zoom if that works best for you. Each member is assigned to a committee of their choice. Volunteering helps AHSGR accomplish its goals of collecting and providing access to our available resources, and it can be rewarding and enjoyable. Ed Wagner from our chapter has been filling this position for some time and is ready to step down and hand this responsibility on to someone else. He would be happy to tell you more about what this position involves. Sounds like it might be fun!

## January 2022 Board Meeting

All the board members from 2020-2021 have agreed to continue on in their positions for the new term with the addition of Michael Frank who is returning to the board after having taken a break. There are still vacancies on the board and we would love to have you join us! Consider it!



### Oregon Chapter Board — 2022-2023 Term

Left photo (from left): Marilyn Schultz, Secretary; Carole Hayden, President; Jim Holstein, Treasurer; Ed Wagner, Vice President. Right photo: Directors Donna Tetrault, Joan Porter, Michael Frank.

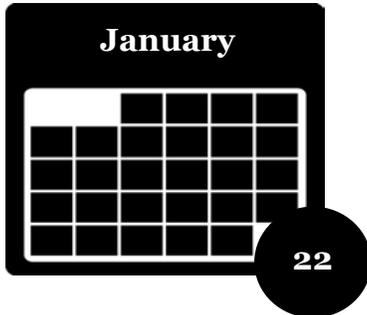
## 2022 Dues are Due!

If you haven't already done so, please send in your payment for 2022 membership dues. There's a membership renewal form at the back of this newsletter. *Danke!*



# Upcoming Events

**Note: programs are subject to change because of COVID. Please check our website, Facebook page, or email/call a board member to find out about any changes.**



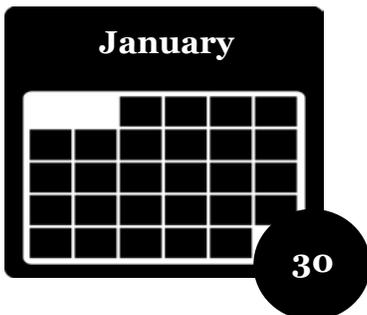
## **Michael Frank: Village Coordinator to Kautz and Merkel**

*January 22, 2022, 2:00 pm*

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland, OR*

We are pleased to announce that Michael Frank, a member of the AHSGR Oregon Chapter Board, will be joining us to speak about his experiences as the Village Coordinator for the villages of Kautz and Merkel. He will share with us what the role is of a village coordinator and how he came to

be one. He will talk about the acquisition, transcription and analysis of the Kautz Lutheran records which includes learning to read the Cyrillic handwriting. He will cover other records available as well as his trip to visit the Volga German colonies in 2016. He will also discuss his interactions with other Kautz and Merkel researchers. He also has some other surprises up his sleeve. This is going to be a very interesting program!



## **AHSGR Annual Conference — Call for Proposals**

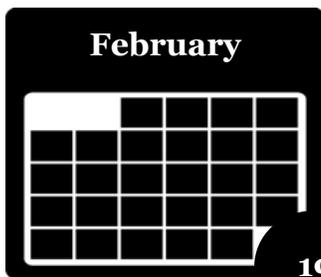
*January 30, 2022 — Submit proposals online*

We are announcing our call for papers for our annual in person and virtual convention to be held **July 27-30, 2022 (save the date!)**, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Our conventions attract members and other like-minded people from around the world with various levels of expertise in genealogical studies and research. We encourage a wide variety of subjects, and all submitted proposals will be considered.

Suggested topics for presentation include, but are not limited to:

- DNA
- Research methods and techniques
- Utilizing various data bases – where to find them, etc.
- German Russian foods and traditions
- Holiday traditions
- The Russian German diaspora
- Historical information related to the Germans from Russia and their exodus, beginning in the late 1870s.

Length of each session: 60 minutes, 45-50 for the presentation and 10-15 for questions. Up to three presentations may be submitted. Speakers interested in presenting for the 2022 year must submit their proposals by emailing [ahsgr@ahsgr.org](mailto:ahsgr@ahsgr.org). Proposals must be submitted no later than **January 30, 2022**.



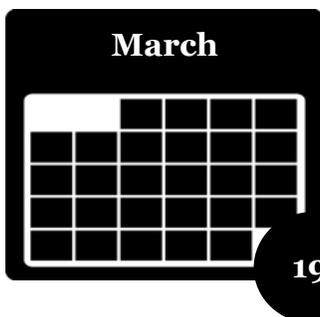
## **Back to Basics with Steve Schreiber: “The Germans from Russia in Portland, Oregon”**

*February 19, 2022, 2:00 pm*

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland, OR*

Please join us as we go back to basics in “Germans from Russia 101.” Steve Schreiber, one of our past presidents and an expert on the Germans from Russia (and especially the village of Norka), was instrumental in creating a DVD telling the story of our people in general and how so many of them

ended up in Portland, Oregon in particular. We will air a screening of the DVD during the program. Steve will be on hand to talk about his experience in creating the film and be able to answer any questions. This will be a great opportunity to invite your family members who would like to understand more of their ancestral story. Please invite your kids and grandchildren to come learn more about where they come from!



## **Herb Femling — DNA in Genealogical Research**

*March 19, 2022, 2:00 pm*

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland, OR*

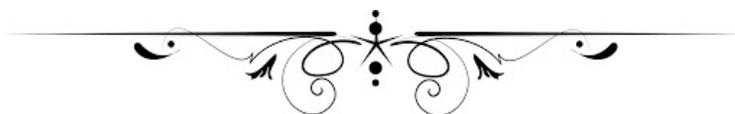
Longtime member, Herb Femling, will give a presentation focused on using DNA testing to expand your genealogical research. If you haven't pursued DNA testing yet, or if you have, but have questions on how best to utilize the results, this would be a great opportunity to learn more.

DNA testing can introduce you to distant family members and perhaps even break down some walls in your family tree. Herb always comes with a wealth of knowledge and should not be missed.

## **Treffen Tuesdays**

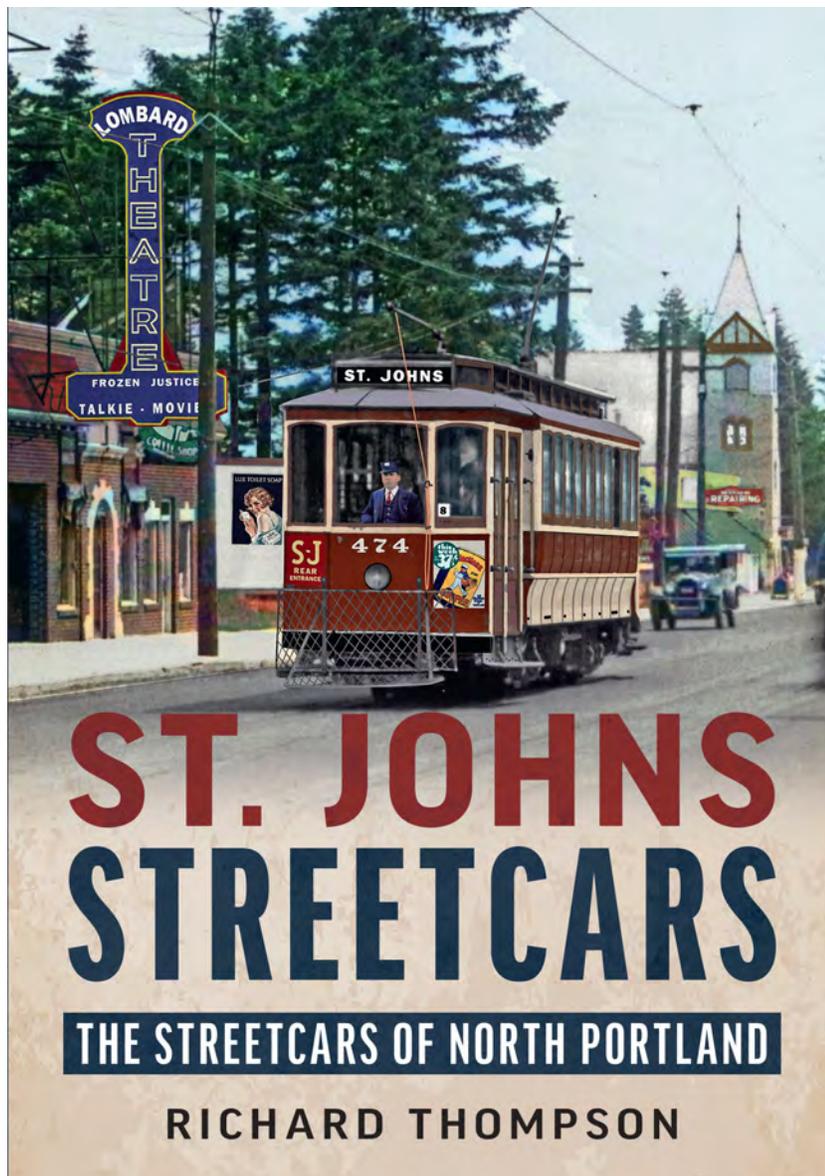
*Last Tuesday of every month on Zoom (3:30-5:30pm Pacific Standard Time)*

Join AHSGR's monthly speaker series on a variety of topics. For more information and to register for attendance, visit the Treffen Tuesday registration page (linked in the email every month).



# St. Johns Streetcars

*A new book by local historian Richard Thompson explores the streetcars of North Portland*



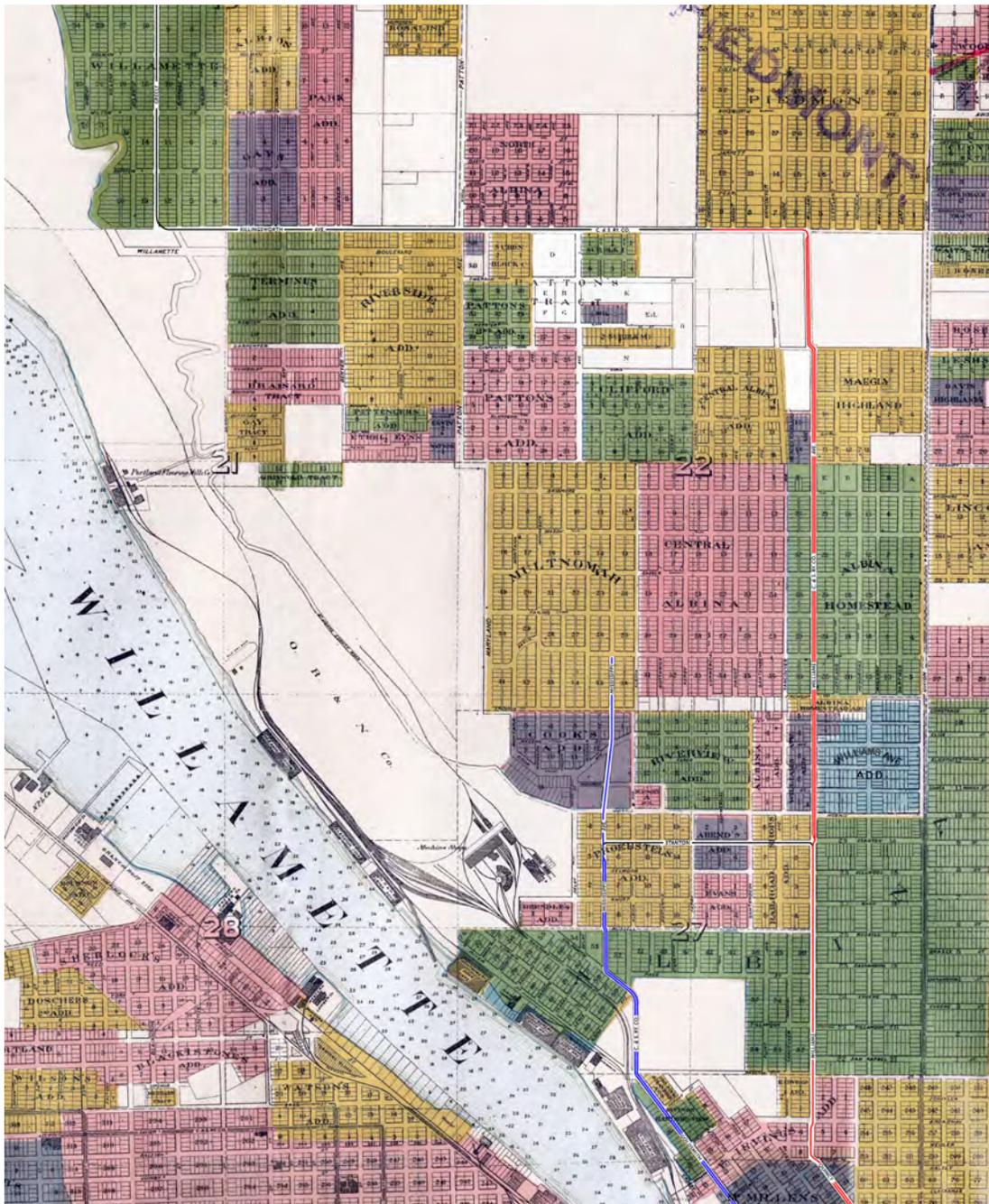
*St. Johns Line streetcar No. 474 passing the Lombard Theater at the intersection of N. Lombard Street and Peninsular Avenue in 1929. The only extant building in this colorized scene is the Peninsular Baptist Church in the background.*

I recently reached out to some rail historian friends for articles or stories about the old Albina Yard, and learned that one of them has a new book coming out that might be of interest. Richard Thompson's new photo history book is *St. Johns Streetcars: The Streetcars of North Portland*, which will be published by Fonthill Media as part of their "America Through Time" series on January 24th. Here are a couple images from the book; they're snapshots of Albina that have previously not been available in City archives.

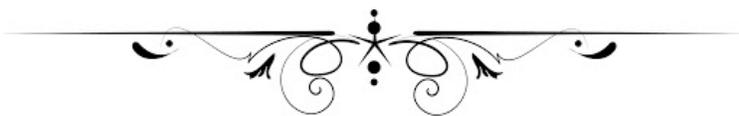


A postcard view of Williams Avenue streetcar No. 42, looking northward on Williams Ave. from the passing tracks at N. Page Street. Buildings in view include a cluster of streetcar commercial district storefronts and beyond them the bell tower of Williams Avenue School, built in 1889. At far right, the round cupola of the 1890 Hill Block peeks from the trees. *Photo courtesy George Charles "Chuck" Bukowsky.*

Though he ultimately had to omit it from his book, Richard had originally included a paragraph about how German Russian children from Albina had a hard time walking to Williams Avenue School during the construction of this streetcar line in the 1890s.



A reconstructed map highlighting the City & Suburban Railway lines in North Portland from the 1901 J Thornburn Ross real estate map of Portland. The map promoted Piedmont as “The Heart of the Peninsula (with) Double-Track Electric Trunk Lines.” The Lower Albina Line is blue and the Upper Albina line is red. Image based on an original courtesy Dan Haneckow.



# Recipe: *Galuskies*



by Heather Arndt Anderson

Galusky, galupsy, halusky, halumpki, or holishke — whatever you call them, cabbage rolls are a truly global dish. They're eaten throughout Northern and Eastern Europe, of course, but they're also loved in Central and East Asia, the Mediterranean, Middle East, North Africa, and South America. Whereas many other versions include a tomato sauce, German Russians never added tomatoes until they brought the recipe to the United States, because the tomato had not yet been integrated into the German diet before they left for Russia.

## **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 medium head cabbage (~3 pounds; Savoy cabbage is pretty if you can find it)
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1/4 lb ground pork
- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh dill (optional)
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth or homemade beef stock
- 1 15-oz can tomato sauce
- sour cream for serving (optional)

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Remove and discard the outer layer of leaves from the cabbage and, using a sharp knife, cut out the core from the cabbage. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. Place the cored cabbage on a steamer basket set inside a large pot with an oven-proof lid (a Dutch oven is great here), add an inch of water to the pot and affix the lid. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat to medium-low. Steam the cabbage for 15-20 minutes, or until the leaves are tender and easily peeled apart. Set the cabbage aside until cool enough to handle, and remove the steamer from the pot. Reserve the steaming liquid.

3. Separate the 12 outer cabbage leaves and remove the large midrib with the tip of a sharp knife. (If using Savoy cabbage, the entire leaf may be tender enough to use without fussing.) Chop the remaining inner cabbage leaves and spread them inside the pot.

4. In a large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients but the broth and tomato sauce. Spoon about 1/4 cup of filling into the center of a cabbage leaf, shaping it into a stout log. Fold the cabbage leaf over the filling about an inch on the left and right, then fold the bottom of the leaf up and roll like you would a burrito. Place the cabbage roll in the pot, on top of the layer of cabbage leaves. Continue with the remaining filling until you have about 12 cabbage rolls.

5. Combine the broth, canned tomato sauce, and reserved steaming liquid and pour it over the cabbage rolls. Place the lid on the pot and slide the pot into the oven. Cook for 1 1/2 hours, until the rolls are tender (test with the tip of a knife).

6. Serve with sour cream.

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# AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Renewal Form

Membership fees are for a calendar year that renews each January 1st. Annual dues for the AHSGR Oregon Chapter membership are \$25.

Membership Year 20\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I want my Oregon Chapter newsletter delivered electronically. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I want to receive my Oregon Chapter newsletter in the mail (paper copy). Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

In order for us to serve our membership more effectively, please list all of your German-Russian family surnames and all of the villages that you believe your ancestors are from:

**Villages**

**Surnames**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Annual Dues:	\$25.00
Annual Donation:	\$
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	<b>\$</b>

Please make all checks payable to **AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER** and send your membership dues and application to:

**AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER**

**P.O. Box 55218**

**Portland, Oregon 97238-5218**

You can also send dues and donations electronically via PayPal to our chapter email address:

**oregonahsgr@gmail.com**

The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a tax-exempt non-profit organization organized under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3). As such, your dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. (Federal Tax ID # 93-1313164)

PLEASE NOTE: Additional dues are required for membership in the AHSGR International Organization. (See [www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm](http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm) for current International membership levels and dues.) Please remit International dues directly to AHSGR Headquarters at: 631 D Street, Lincoln,

# AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER

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## Chapter Officers

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***First Vice President:***

Ed Wagner

***Second Vice President:***

Vacant

***Secretary:***

Marilyn Schultz

***Treasurer:***

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***Newsletter Editor:***

Heather Arndt Anderson

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Joan Porter  
Donna Tetrault  
Michael Frank  
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Vacant  
Vacant

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 quarterly the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR on our website: [www.oregonahsgr.org](http://www.oregonahsgr.org)  
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