

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Oregon Chapter of the American Historical
Society of Germans from Russia



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the Great**

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President's Message

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

With that happy salutation I now have to admit to you that I am a failure. Yes, a FAILURE! It was exactly a year ago that I wrote my president's message and told you all that 2022 would be the year that I would get a lot of my life story written. I really had good intentions. (And you have probably heard where that road leads!) But now I have to admit to you that I got next to no writing done. I really am serious about wanting to get it done, but I can't seem to get myself to do it. So, I'm going to say it again. I want to get some more of my stories down on paper, and 2023 is the year. I'll keep you posted.



I do like the feeling of new beginnings that the start of a new year brings. It's a lot of work to take down the Christmas tree, put away all the ornaments, take down the outdoor lights, and store all the Christmas decorations, but it does feel good to put everything in order again. (That should help me find some time to write, don't you think?) As I have been spending some time putting things in order, I have been going through stuff that I have accumulated and setting things aside to donate to charity. That feels good too, to lighten the load and make donations to help someone else.

I'm optimistic about the coming year. While covid is still with us, the worst is over. For the most part we are living normally again, and that feels good. We are gathering again with those we love. We feel comfortable traveling again. It was a long two years of pretty much doing nothing, and it's great to have that behind us now. And while the world and our country have a lot of problems, I take heart in knowing that there are more good people out there than bad. I see a lot of good things going on in our communities, and we can join in and be a part of that.

And speaking of joining in, we hope that many more of you will feel comfortable joining us in person at our monthly chapter meetings. We have some excellent presentations planned for 2023 and think you will find them interesting and enjoyable. Check the dates and descriptions in this newsletter for our upcoming programs.

Here's wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year of 2023! I hope to see you soon!

Fondly,

Carole

From the Editor

And just like that, it's 2023. Just as I was feeling comfortably settled into goblin mode, with my cozy robe and steady diet of melted cheese and Korean soap operas, all of a sudden we're all supposed to go back to whole grain bowls and daily exercise? To be honest, it feels a bit rude.

(I say this every year, and I'm mostly kidding. I actually like eating vegetables and getting my heart rate up.)

Over the past year, I've spent more time learning ways to find balance in my life. Instead of feeling like I'm always sliding off the rails with overindulgence and then over-correcting with "healthy" new habits, I'm learning to embrace my hedonistic tendencies and to find ways to bring more pleasure and joy into my world and into others'. Life is short and asceticism is overrated.

I know a lot of people are struggling, especially this time of year, and at the risk of being a bit "let them eat cake" about it...well, have you tried cake? It's pretty great. Small nuggets of happiness are everywhere if you know how to look for them. It's never too late to learn how.



Raphael Tuck & Sons, 1891

Linsensuppe (German lentil-Frankfurter soup). I've modified it from Horst Mager's recipe — Portlanders of a certain vintage may remember that soup (heck, many of you probably had a stint working for Mager at the Der Rheinlander back in the day).

Happy New Year,

Heather

Next time you're outside, even if it's just to walk to the car, listen for robins. If it's cold and gray, notice the specific shade of ash or slate the sky has taken on; if the sun is shining, let it warm your face for just a second. If you see a rosemary bush growing in the grocery store parking lot, pinch it and give your fingers a sniff. Stay in the shower just 30 seconds longer than you "need" to. There is so much pleasure to wring from this life. Dare to immerse yourself in it.

This is the first newsletter of the year, but sadly, it'll be the last one (for now) written by yours truly. My job's duties have expanded significantly, which is very exciting for me, but unfortunately doesn't leave much room for the amount of care I like to put into this newsletter. If you've always thought of finding ways to contribute to our chapter, this is a fun way to pitch in.

Until we meet again, I hope you all stay cozy. To help you in that endeavor, I've included a recipe for

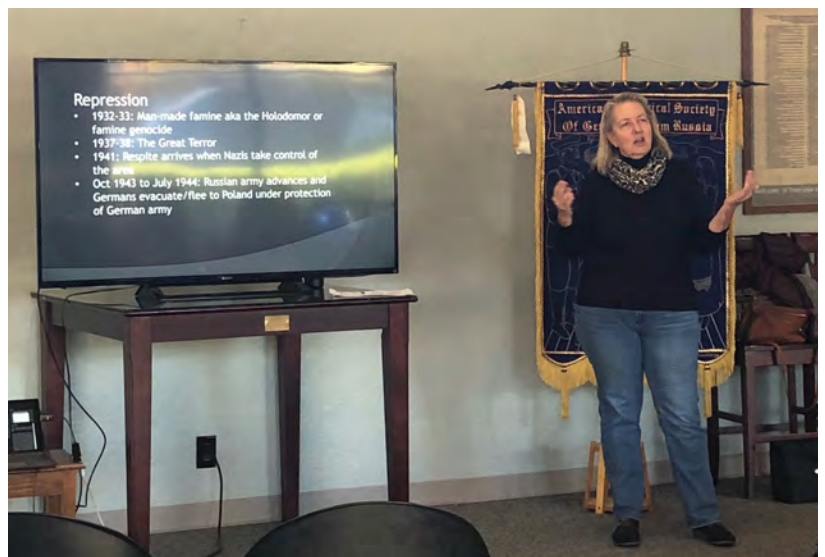
Recent Programs and Presentations Recap

For our October presentation, Donna and Steve Tetrault gave us a great summary of the tour they took to Germany this past summer. They joined Drs. Brent Mai and Mila Koretnikov who led a tour of the German homeland of our German-Russian ancestors.

In addition to Büdingen, Nürnberg, Rothenburg, and Lübeck, they visited the area in Schleswig-Holstein where some of the colonists had moved prior to leaving for Russia. Donna and Steve also stayed for the supplemental tour visiting Neuschwanstein castle, Mercedes and BMW museums, and Olympic Park. If you are interested in this tour, keep an eye on the Volga German Tours website at volgagermantours.com for updates.



Donna and Steve Tetrault, October 2022



Carolyn Schott delivering her November 2-22 presentation

In November, we were fortunate to have Carolyn Schott visit with us again from Seattle to share some more of her family research. This presentation entitled “From Church Archives to KGB Archives” was about her Billigmeier family who left Germany and settled in the Black Sea region where they lived in peaceful prosperity for a number of years. But then two branches of the family diverged; one branch immigrated to the United States to North Dakota, and the other branch stayed in Russia where they lived through the Russian Revolution and the rise of communism. She amazingly has been able to get records from the KGB out of Russia. The story of her family and of her ability to find and access these records was fascinating. Her presentation was recorded and is available on our Oregon AHSGR website: oregonahsgr.org

Oregon Chapter Mobile Library

We may not have a permanent location anymore, but the Oregon Chapter is doing what we can to provide research material to our members. We have procured a small number of materials that are available for research before and after our chapter programs. There may not be a lot there yet, but we have plenty of the essentials!

- Plevé Original Settlers Lists (AKA 1767 census). We have the first 2 volumes. AHSGR is hard at work getting the rights to republish volumes 3 and 4. As soon as they are available, we'll grab a copy.
- 1798 Census Books
- Schleswig Eichorn Book with information on the settlers who first attempted to settle in colonies of what was then Denmark.
- Kulberg Lists: Ship manifests from Germany to Russia in 1766.
- German Migration to the Russian Volga (1764-1767) by Brent Mai and Dona Reeves-Marquardt.
- The "Stumpp book"
- Transport of the Volga Germans from Oranienbaum to the Colonies on the Volga 1766-1767.
- 1785-1805 Lutheran Church Birth Records for Enders, Fischer, Katharinenstadt, Krasnojarsk, Reinwald, Rosenheim, Schulz, Schwed, and Stahl am Karaman.

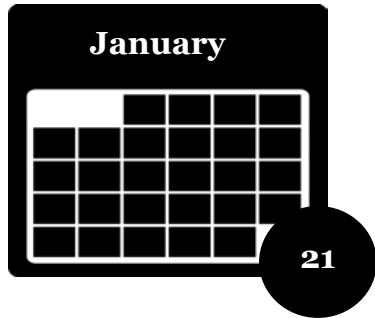


That's the beginning of our collection. If there are specific colonies you'd like us to focus on, please let us know!

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.

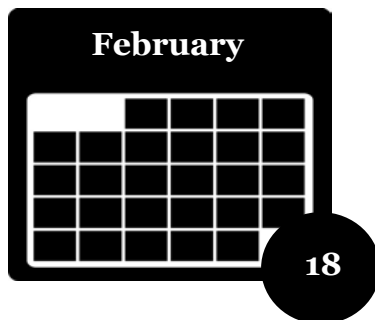
All upcoming programs to be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church (6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland), Saturdays at 2:00pm



Steve Schreiber: “Volga German Pioneers in Oregon”

January 21

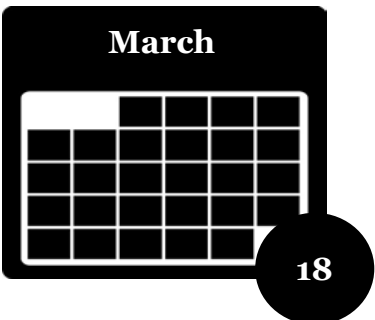
We are pleased to once again be able to enjoy a program from our local expert on the Volga Germans in Oregon and on the village of Norka. This presentation will focus on the earliest Volga German immigrants to our area.



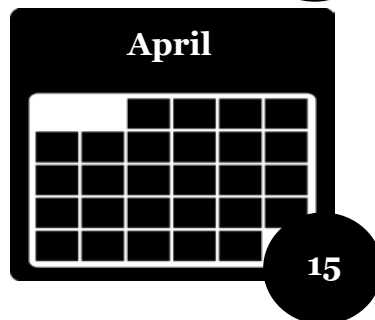
Allyn Brosz: “The Jacob Middlestedt Family at Ellis Island: An Iconic Photo Re-examined”

February 18

Allyn’s presentation is focused on a photo taken by Augustus Sherman in 1905 while the family was detained for an immigration hearing at Ellis Island and the subsequent fate of the family once they were admitted. There is a lot of information on the immigration experience that is pertinent to all our immigrant families. *Originally presented as a Treffen Tuesday program.*



March program TBD! Stay tuned.



Laurel Smith: Genealogical Forum of Oregon

April 15

Laurel is pleased to join us to tell about the history and mission of the GFO and how it could be useful to us in our genealogical research. She will fill us in on what materials they now have that were once a part of the now defunct Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University.

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).

Recipe: Linsensuppe (German lentil soup)



Photo from *Easy German Recipes* blog; recipe adapted from Horst Mager

Lentils are considered a lucky New Year food in Germany, and they also happen to be very good for you! Though it's been adapted from Horst Mager's famous Frankfurter lentil soup, this recipe is different from the one from Mager's cookbook — it was published in the *Oregonian* in 1973 with a collection of other Portland chefs' recipes. This recipe also somehow omits the most important part of the famous lentil soup: the Frankfurters. In the 1964 restaurant review of Maria's Kitchen (which opened in March of 1963 and was renamed *Der Rheinlander* two years later), Mager recommended thinly sliced skinless Frankfurters and the restaurant reviewer noted the soup was "laced with tomato some way." Look for traditional German style Frankfurters at Edelweiss or buy the Zenner's brand at mainstream grocery stores. If you're cutting back on processed meats as a New Year's resolution, feel free to leave out the Frankfurters. Makes 6-8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 lb (4 strips) raw bacon, diced
- 1 cup minced onion
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and diced
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 cup dry green or brown lentils (not split), rinsed in cold water
- 1 quart low-sodium beef broth or homemade beef stock
- 1 cup peeled, diced potatoes
- 1 14-oz can crushed tomatoes
- 2 skinless Frankfurter sausages, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large, heavy-bottomed soup pot, saute the bacon over medium heat until it begins to brown, about 5 minutes. Add the onion, celery, and carrot and stir to coat in the bacon fat. Saute until the onion begins to get glossy and fragrant, about 3 minutes.
2. Sprinkle in the flour and nutmeg and stir well to remove any lumps. Cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly, then stir in the lentils. Slowly pour in the broth and potato, bring to a boil, then cover and reduce the heat to low. Simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Stir in the canned tomatoes, one canful of water, and the sliced Frankfurters and bring up to a simmer. Cook uncovered for 5 more minutes, then taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Stir in the parsley and serve.



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:	\$
Total Enclosed:	\$

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 for current International membership levels and dues.) Please remit International dues directly to AHSGR Headquarters at: 631 D Street, Lincoln,

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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
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