



# AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

## Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 38, Issue 2  
March-April 2017



### Mark Your Calendar

- Saturday, March 4 - 10 am**  
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting
- Sunday, March 19 - 2 pm**  
Oregon Chapter Program  
Tanja Schell - Letters From Russia
- Saturday, April 1 - 10 am**  
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting
- Sunday April 23 - 2 pm**  
Oregon Chapter Program  
Lea Duda—My Donau Schwabian Family
- Saturday, May 6 - 10 am**  
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting
- Sunday, May 21 - 2 pm**  
Oregon Chapter Program  
Sherry Pawelko - AHSGR Headquarters



**Catherine II, the Great**  
Empress of Russia

**AHSGR Oregon Chapter**  
P.O. Box 55218  
Portland, OR 97238-5218

**oregonahsgr.org**



2017 is the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the majority of original Volga-German villages in Russia.

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**  
**Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm**

### **Tanja Schell : Letters from Russia**

Tanja will give us a captivating presentation of famine letters from Russia. She is a delightful repeat speaker with an amazing grasp of Russian and Volga-German history. We welcome her back. (See also page 11).



**Sunday, April 23, 2017**  
**Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm**

### **Lea Duda - "My Donau Schwabian Family"**

Donau Schwabian is a collective term for the German-speaking population who lived in various countries of southeastern Europe, especially in the Danube River valley. Most were descended from 18th-century immigrants recruited as colonists to repopulate the area after the expulsion of the Ottoman Empire.

**NOTE: This presentation will be held at the German-American Society, 4330 NE 37th Ave, Portland, OR (near Sandy Blvd).**

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## President's Message for March/April

Steve Schreiber, President

After an unusually cold winter, spring is on the way. The ancient Germans believed that spring is a time of change, renewal, and rebirth after surviving the depths of winter.

Change and renewal are constants in life and often bring both challenges and benefits. The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is not immune to changes. At the end of this calendar year, we have several officers and board members with expiring terms. I will be completing my fourth year as President of the chapter and have served on the board for nearly 20 years. It's been a privilege and I've learned a great deal during that time, but it will be time for me to step down and turn the leadership of the chapter over to someone else. We also have two board members who have indicated they will not run for election again in October. As a result, we will have a least four openings on our eleven-person board of directors.

These changes present opportunities for renewal of our board which is positive and healthy for the organization. It's always best to have a mixture of experience and new members serving the chapter. You may ask, "What do board members do and how much time does it require?"

Board members are typically elected for a two-year term and perform a variety of tasks from preparing the newsletter, keeping track of our finances, managing our website and Facebook pages, helping to identify interesting programs, assisting with program setup and cleanup. We generally have 10 board meetings per year (there are no meetings in July or August) which are held on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to about noon. At the board meetings, we review our finances, discuss upcoming programs and other matters that are pertinent to the chapter. As President, I look to the board for advice and counsel on a variety of topics. While there is work to do, it's also a very social group and we have some fun along the way.

The Oregon Chapter would not exist without the time volunteered by our board members. We hope that a few of you will consider joining the board in 2018. While that seems like a long way off, our nominating committee will begin putting together a list of candidates this summer in preparation for the election which will be held at the chapter meeting in October.

Please consider joining us. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call or send me an email. (503-774-9753 or [steven.schreiber@gmail.com](mailto:steven.schreiber@gmail.com)).

We have several great programs coming up this spring.

One of our most popular presenters, Tanja Schell, will join us on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tanja will discuss her research analyzing a fascinating collection of letters sent from Russia to a couple from the Volga German colonies of Dietel and Kratzke who immigrated to the United States. It's a fascinating story.



Lea Duda will present her Donau Schwabian family story on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 p.m. This program will be jointly sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR and the Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington (GROW). Please note that this program will be held at the German American Society located at NE 57<sup>th</sup> and Sandy Blvd.

AHSGR International President, Sherry Loos Pawelko, will join us on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. to provide an overview of the exciting work being done at AHSGR headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. You will enjoy meeting Sherry. I have found her to be both delightful and hard working. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest information on these programs.

**Website:** [www.oregonahsgr.org](http://www.oregonahsgr.org)      **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/>

I wish you all a warm and wonderful spring and hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs!

Alles Gute,

*Steve Schreiber* President, Oregon Chapter of AHSGR

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## Council of Northwest Chapters of AHSGR (CNC)

The Council of Northwest Chapters of AHSGR (CNC) and The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) are sponsoring a conference in Leavenworth, Washington on April 26 – 28. The program will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Volga German colonies of Frank, Hussenbach, Kolb, Walter, Kautz, Norka and Yagodnaya Polyana. Please join us and invite others who may be interested!

**When:** Wednesday, April 26 – Friday, April 28, 2017

**Where:** Icicle Village Resort, 505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826

**What:** The program will feature the Bergseite colonies listed above. Presenters include: Dr. Richard Scheuerman, Maggie Hein, Steve Schreiber, Jean Roth and Michael Frank. More information about the program will be posted soon!

Registration: \$135 per person by March 24; and \$165 per person afterwards. The fee includes all programs and two banquet dinners.

Online conference registration by credit card is available here:

[cu-portland.edu/cvgs-event-registration](http://cu-portland.edu/cvgs-event-registration)

\*Note early-bird discount for registrations received by March 24!\*

The Icicle Village Resort is offering a special rate of \$109 (+ tax). Quote rate “CNC / AHSGR” for the discount: (800) 961-0162.

If you have questions about the event, please contact Valerie Miller at [highlife56.vm@gmail.com](mailto:highlife56.vm@gmail.com) (email preferred) or (503) 314-5686.

# The 2017 AHSGR Convention

Plans are underway for the 2017 AHSGR Convention, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Milwaukee August 28-31.

The Hyatt Regency is conveniently located in downtown Milwaukee, within walking distance of many local attractions, including nationally famous German restaurants and a German sausage store.



*The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, a distinctive feature of the downtown Milwaukee skyline with its circular rooftop ballroom, is the site of the 2017 AHSGR convention, Aug. 28-31.*

The hotel is 10 miles from General Mitchell International Airport. Shuttle services are available. Overnight parking is \$5 a day, with in-and-out privileges. A discount of 20 percent on daily parking, currently \$31, has been negotiated. Hotel reservations will open six months before the convention. Rates are \$139 for single or double occupancy.

Local attractions include the Milwaukee Public Museum, which has a re-creation of the “Streets of Old Milwaukee,” highlighting the impact of various ethnic groups that settled in the city. A live butterfly room, a planetarium, and an IMAX theater are of special interest to younger visitors.

Plans are underway for several bus tours, with emphasis on architecture and churches, breweries, and of course the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Museum, plus a variety of walking tours, either guided or “on your own.” Area attractions include the Milwaukee Art Museum and Discovery World, an interactive museum dealing with the history of the Great Lakes and its eco-systems.

Downtown attractions also include the Pabst Theater, Pabst Mansion, Milwaukee City Hall (of “Laverne and Shirley” fame), the Riverwalk along the Milwaukee River, boat tours, the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the Germania Building (which is on the National Register of Historic Places), and, of course, the bronze statue of “Fonzie” of “Happy Days” fame.

There are many other sights to visit and there will be both pamphlets and volunteers at the reception desk to help you decide what you may want to do. The Brewers will probably be playing home games during this time. There are many ethnic restaurants in the area and, in case you are not aware, Milwaukee is famous for its beer.

The program’s theme is “The Coming Storm,” referring to the Communist Revolution and Civil War. It will focus on the life of the colonies from 1763 to 1917 and how the Russian Germans reacted to the coming storm. Topics will include the history of Russian Germans in many areas of the Russian Empire, including Siberia. Speakers have been invited from both Russia and Germany.

Topics will include: • Village area discussions • Genealogical research using online resources • Basics of DNA genealogy • Overview of German colonization of the Russian Empire • Russian Germans in the Tsarist Army and their involvement in the revolution • German colonization of Wisconsin • German language newspapers in the Milwaukee area • Russian German settlements in Wisconsin • Railroads in the development of Wisconsin • History of breweries in the area

Several PBS videos will be shown, including “Schmeckfest,” “The Making of Milwaukee” and a Biel film taken in the Volga region in the 2910s. Ethnic entertainment will include folk dancing and singing.

Plan now to join other AHSGR members at the AHSGR Convention in Milwaukee and to renew old friendships and establish new ones. Every effort will be made to make this a rewarding experience for our younger generations.



## George Jerome Krieger

Mason City, Iowa, Jan 8, 2017

MASON CITY — George Jerome "Jerry" Krieger, 85, of Mason City, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, at the Good Shepherd Health Center.

Memorial services were held January 10, 2017, at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 120 First St. NE.

Memorials may be directed to the St. John's Episcopal Church.

George Jerome (Jerry) Krieger passed away surrounded by his family on Jan. 6, 2017. He was born on July 7, 1931, in Havelock, NE. He graduated from Northeast High School in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1949 and the University of Nebraska in 1953. He served in the US Army from 1953-55.

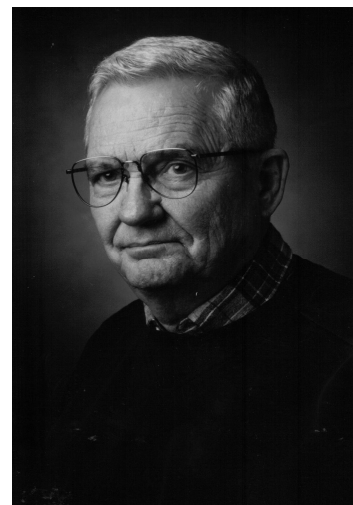
He married his high school sweetheart Barbara (Garrett) Krieger on Feb.2,1951, and they shared the rest of his life together.

He is survived by his loving wife and his children Mark J Krieger, (wife Terri Weeks) Lincoln, NE, and Michel J McCone, (husband John McCone) Shawnee, KS, grandchildren Katherine A. Krieger, New York, NY, Grant M. Krieger, (wife Alicia Krieger) Lincoln, NE, Jackson D. McCone Shawnee, KS, Zachary J. McCone Shawnee, KS.

Upon moving to Mason City in the late '50s he joined St. John's Episcopal Church wherein he was active throughout his life, serving in multiple positions in service of his faith. He was involved in Kiwanis, Toastmaster, Mason City Community Theatre, Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank, and Walk for Life. He was a long-time advertising man first with Mohawk Advertising and then Admark Advertising in Mason City.

He was an avid reader, historian, genealogist, publisher of the Norka newsletter, **Norka News**, which followed descendants that were Germans from Russia. He was a certified BBQ judge, bird watcher, beer can collector, and lifelong member of a poker club with his buddies.

He was a wonderful husband father grandfather and friend to all he met. He was a great guy and had a life well lived. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.majorericksonfuneralhome.com](http://www.majorericksonfuneralhome.com).



# Jerry Schleining

Born Gerald John Schleining to John Schleining and Margaret Derr in 1945 in Portland within the “Norka on the Willamette Community” otherwise known as Little Russia, The Albina District, or NE Portland, “Jerry” grew up in the Center of and amongst the first generation of Germans from Russia to settle in the area. A place where everyone was either a relation a family friend or someone “Like Us”.

Jerry’s family origins like most Volga Germans track to their migration roots from Germany to Russia during the “Catherine the Great Manifesto” call for German migration. Jerry’s Grandparent lineage flows on his father’s side from Caspar Schleining and Margretha Schneider of Stolberg, Germany; and on his mother’s side, John Derr and Katharina Pfenning from Isenberg, Germany (both cities from The Rhineland region of Germany). In 1767 they collectively migrated to the village of Norka in the Volga region. After several generations and quality of life changes, again both families migrated and arrived in Portland, Oregon via Boston in 1906. They settled in what we now call the “Old Neighborhood” of northeast Portland.

Growing up “Rooshian in the Old Neighborhood” was very much about common ethnic and family origin. Like most areas in Portland at the time, (German, Greek, Italian and Irish) communities evolved...the people in “Our Neighborhood” established and provided for German related enterprise, commerce, stores/shops, churches and created employment opportunities, while maintaining ethnic social activities and traditions. The commonality of the “People” was the staple. The names on the historical Norka maps were an overlay of the map of northeast Portland of the future. Initially, most families were employed by companies like “Doernbecher”. Jerry’s grandfathers both started work with Doernbecher. (The Doernbecher family greatly facilitated and assisted in the settlement of arriving Germans). Once settled, they learned of the security and stability in the “Garbage Business”. Being “On the Truck”, meant they were in the “Garbage Business”...1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation families found job security forming a union to protect their rights and futures. It became a profitable enterprise. Jerry worked the “Truck” with his father and uncles at an early age, through high school.

Jerry attended Sabin grade school where the majority of the kids were “like us” as Grandpa Derr used to say about the neighborhood. “They look like us”...which personifies the term: “Unser Leute”. At some point the “school boundaries changed” and our family was located outside the Jefferson High area which was predominately where “our kids” attended then; our new High School was US Grant High, a profound change from the “Rooshian” grade school environment and neighborhood.

In 1963, Jerry and several childhood contemporaries joined the US Army as the draft was inevitable and “advanced schooling was not on our horizon”. After training his initial assignment was to West Germany. First in the Rheine Hessen area, then Bavaria (Munich). While in Bavaria for several years, he met his future wife, Hannelore Woller. (Hanne for short, pronounced “Hon’ne”).

Jerry and Hanne soon married, started a family when Jerry elected to stay in the Army. This was the start of their lifelong adventure. Hanne and Jerry raised three children and have 5 (young adult) grandchildren, all residing in the Gresham Area. Jerry’s tenure of military service resulted in worldwide assignments and other assignments throughout the United States (from Washington DC to Washington State and points in-between). Overseas he spent tours of duty in Europe: Germany twice, Belgium and Holland. While in Holland, his family resided within 50 miles of his ancestral Village of Stolberg, Germany.

Interesting tours of duty and deployments included: Vietnam, Korea, New Zealand and Antarctica. Jerry is a graduate of US Military Non Commissioned Officers Education Program of sequential civilian and military progressive training and education and the United State Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Jerry ended his career at the highest enlisted rank, Command Sergeant Major. He holds many awards, decorations and commendations from his 25 years of service. He then was employed as a Veteran Advocate to the Department of Veterans Affairs, located in the US Federal Building in Portland, retiring totally in 2006.

Jerry and Hannelore often travel to Europe, visiting family and continue in their quest to see the rest of the world. Jerry and Hanne reside in Gresham. Jerry remains active in Veteran Affairs and several community associations. He remains the keeper of his family's cultural roots and history.





## Interesting Internet Sites:

### **At Home In Russia, At Home On The Prairie**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhMe4T2lyjg>

### **Germans from Russia: Wolgaheimat Legacy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRtZlHa9DsA>

### **It's All Earth & Sky**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56tSQNhOa2Q>

### **Schmeckfest:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1osSmq5UG9c>

### **Germans from Russia Settlement Locations Map Tutorial**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKAQ1JfdoQ>





## The Center for Volga German Studies

Dear Friends of the Center for Volga German Studies,

We at the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have already supported us. Founded in 2004, the CVGS is the only academically-based Volga German research center in the world. The CVGS library and climate-controlled archive house thousands of materials related to Volga German history and culture.

The CVGS has had a very busy year! The Center assisted over 570 visitors from 8 different countries with their research. On our Facebook page, we correspond with 2,100 followers from 45 countries. We sponsored conferences in 10 different states with a combined total 780 registrants in attendance and purchased \$36,000 worth of documents from the Russian archives that will open doors to our family histories.

The holiday season is a traditional time of year to give thanks and renew cherished family traditions. With your generous support, the CVGS can help preserve the heritage, history, and traditions of the Volga Germans for generations to come. Please visit <http://www.cu-portland.edu/give-cvgs> to make your tax deductible gift to the CVGS today.

We wish you great joy and happiness during the holiday season!

Best regards,

Steve Schreiber  
Interim Director, Center for Volga German Studies



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## Donald Leon Mai

1936-2017

A member of our Bergseite Volga-German Russian tour in August 2016, Don was a cousin to both Brent Mai and me, Michael Frank (through the Kautz Frickel line). Everybody enjoyed his company on the tour. May he rest in peace!

Donald Leon Mai, 80, died Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at his home in Oro Valley, Arizona. Don was born on March 26, 1936 in Finney County, Kansas, the fourth of five sons of Adam and Amelia (Killian) Mai. He graduated from Fort Hays State University and taught middle school and high school math in southwestern Kansas and Sacramento, California before settling in Seward, Alaska. He retired as a high school math teacher in 1990.

In Seward, he met Ruth Winnecke. They were married on August 9, 1965 in Missouri. Together they raised two daughters, Natalie Joye Mai-Dixon (Wesley) and Audra Michele Chai (Wayne) in Alaska. Don enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends in Alaska. He also loved the family farm near Kalvesta, Kansas, and many summers the family would drive from Alaska to Kansas, visiting friends and sightseeing along the way. Their love of travel led to trips across the US and also to Australia, Mexico, Kenya and Europe.

After he and Ruth retired, they divided their time between Oro Valley and the farm in Kansas. Don is survived by his daughters, Natalie of Fairport, NY and Audra of Orinda, CA; his three grandchildren, Jake Benjamin Dixon, Helena Joye Dixon and Nicole Ava Chai; his brothers, Raymond Mai and Wilbert Mai; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife and two brothers.

Funeral Service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 20, 2017 at St. James Lutheran Church in Garden City with Teri Sutherlin officiating. Burial followed at Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

# Presentation by Tatjana Schell

## for the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR

The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, Portland, Oregon | 03/19/2017

Title: "Letters from the Homeland: Analyzing Personal Letters to the Volga Russian Migrants in the American Midwest"

A folder with old letters stashed away in a family's archive might not be the most exciting find every scholar hopes to come across, but what if this small stack of nearly 100-year-old letters sent to an immigrant couple in the United States from across the ocean tells a compelling story? A story so touching that the letters would be kept for decades after their arrival, long after those they were meant for have passed away. What stories can be revealed through such a serendipitous find?

In this presentation, Tanja discusses her work with personal letters sent to Amalie and Jacob Jerger, a German Russian immigrant couple, from their relatives in Russia and preserved by the couple's son Manuel Jerger of Moorhead, Minnesota. In the fall of 1912, the newlyweds Amalie and Jacob left their home in Dittel, Russia, to go to the United States where they first settled in the Scottsbluff area in Nebraska. Following their journey across the Atlantic and the Midwest, a trail of letters connected the couple with their relatives remaining in Russia from the 1910s through the 1930s. Not only do these letters from Russia show their authors' efforts to maintain a personal connection to their loved ones in America, but they also tell a compelling story about a tumultuous time period in the Russian history of the 20th century. Her presentation will discuss the stories told through the letters and what she learned about them.

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## Volga German Tours

Volga German Tours is pleased to announce that three tours are planned to the former Volga German colonies in 2017:

**June 2-11, 2017** - Tour to the Bergseite Volga German Colonies

**August 4-13, 2017** - Tour to the Wiesenseite Volga German Colonies

**August 11-21, 2017** - Tour to the Wiesenseite Volga German Colonies

You can now find information about them on the website: **VolgaGermanTours.com**. We'll go to the colonies you want to see - mark them on the application form. It would be great to have a whole group of Norka descendants on one or more of these tours! Please let Brent Mai know if you have any questions. I hope you will join in the adventure as we literally walk in the footsteps of our ancestors!

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## Volga-German 250-year Celebration in Billings

The Volga German Institute at Fairfield University will be hosting a day-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the Volga German Colonies of Kautz (May 20), Dietel (July 1), and Kratzke (August 7) in **Billings, Montana**, on Saturday, 8 April 2017. The public is invited to attend.

See: <http://vgi.fairfield.edu/events/2017-billings> Advance Registration: \$30 per person if registration is received on or before 24 March 2017 [\$10 for children 12 & under].



# AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership fees are for one 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 (preferable). 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
Additional Donation:	
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$	

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

**AHSGR Oregon Chapter**  
**PO Box 55218**  
**Portland, OR 97238-5218**

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at [oregonahsgr@gmail.com](mailto:oregonahsgr@gmail.com)

The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a tax-exempt nonprofit 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).

Additional dues are required for [membership in the AHSGR International Organization](#).

(See <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, NE. 68502-1199.

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Board Meeting 10 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Tanja Schell - Letters from Russia	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Board Meeting 10 am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Lea Duda - Donau Schwabians (German American Society)	24	25	26	27	28	29

**AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER**  
**P.O. Box 55218**  
**Portland, Oregon 97238-5218**

**Address**

**Address**

**City**

**State, Zip**



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 bimonthly by the  
Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

Members can find the current schedule of chapter events and newsletters on our Facebook page at:  
[facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/](https://facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/)

Oregon Chapter Website  
[oregonahsgr.org](http://oregonahsgr.org)

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Second Vice President:  
**Vacant**

Secretary:  
**Mary Burbank**  
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Treasurer:  
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**Michael Frank**  
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**Harold Kammerzell**

**Joan Porter**

**Lee Ann Schlager**

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