

# North Star Chapter

September 2009

<http://www.northstarchapter.org/>

Volume 34 Number 3

## Lunch Social

**Saturday, September 19, 2009, 11:30 AM**

**Glockenspiel Restaurant, 605 7<sup>th</sup> St. W, St. Paul, MN**

We will ease back into our active program year with a popular treat: lunch together at the German restaurant Glockenspiel near downtown St. Paul. We will order off the menu and everyone is responsible for the cost of their own meal. To reserve your spot, please contact Lil Ward by Saturday, September 12, at 763-784-8626 or [lilward@comcast.net](mailto:lilward@comcast.net). Directions and menu information can be found at [www.glockenspielrestaurant.com](http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com). Plan to see your North Star Chapter friends at our September gathering.

## Growing Up in a Changing Culture

**Saturday, October 17, 2009, 1:00 — 4:00 PM**

**Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN**

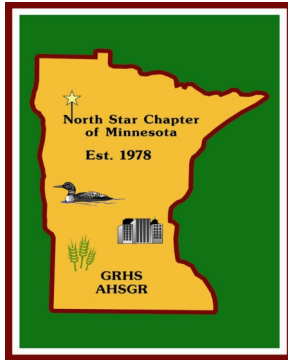
Fresh from an appearance at the GRHS Convention in Rapid City this month, for our October meeting we will welcome Charles Weisser. Weisser's presentation, "Growing Up in a Changing Culture," will feature his experiences with German-Russian accents, clothes, foods, and trying to fit into American culture. He will also bring you back to the old days of matchmakers, local German music, and Saturday nights in small towns.

Weisser is a native of Ashley, ND, and was a music teacher in Gackle, ND (with our own Lil Ward as a student) for many years. He now divides his time between Wausau, WI, and Peoria, AZ. We enjoyed his presentation "Gottlieb Weisser: Early German-Russian Dakota Pioneer Settler" at our 2003 Spring Banquet. Please join us for this lively and entertaining program.

## Member News

Our condolences to Pete Kleingartner, Helen Kleingartner, and Lil Ward, and their families, on the death of their brother, Rupert Kleingartner, of Gackle, ND, in June. He was 85 years old, the oldest of ten children, and loved to farm.

Congratulations to Gwen Schock Cowherd, who was awarded second place in the AHSGR  
(**Member News**, continued on page 7)



## **President's Message March 2009**

By Duane Stabler

As I write this message, I think back to the AHSGR Convention and the enjoyable time I had meeting friends and relatives, and making new friends.

Some have become regular email friends as we continue to share some information and experiences that we discussed at the convention. I learned a great deal again this year.

I also look forward to the GRHS Convention that will be held in September. Again, I'll get to see friends and certainly expect to make new friends. That's what national conventions are all about to me.

The GRHS Convention is taking nice shape; it will have some 28 speakers and will feature a silent auction of used books this year. There will be about 70 books or periodicals up for auction and I know there will be some bargains for those seeking some good reading material. The GRHS website has the list published so you can make plans in advance to the convention.

Like the conventions, our North Star Chapter meetings are intended for us to have time to visit, share, and learn. We do that best when our attendance is high and we get to meet many people. I hope you'll take the time to write down the dates that we'll have meetings and make it a point to attend. It's always nice to see a great turnout.

As I look further into the remaining part of 2009, I'm thinking of the needed elections and the need for volunteers to run for office. This year marks my second of the two years I can stay in office. There are others who will also step down and it's a good time for each of you to consider stepping

(**President's Message**, continued on page 9)

## **North Star Chapter 2009 Officers**

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## North Star Chapter— The Beginning

By Rosemary Larson

.On October 29, 1977, Jeanne Appelhans of Brooklyn Park MN, sent a letter to all international members of the AHSGR living in Minnesota. Jeanne obtained this list from AHSGR Headquarters in Lincoln. In this letter, a request was made to have a “get-acquainted/organizational” meeting in November. This meeting was held on December 4 at Twin City Federal Community room in the Village North Shopping Center, Brooklyn Park. At this meeting it was tentatively decided to call the chapter “North Star.”

Judge LeRoy Yost volunteered to draft a set of bylaws to be reviewed at the January 21, 1978, meeting held at the Twin City Federal Community room. Temporary officers elected were Jeanne Appelhans as Chair and Gary Bettcher as Secretary. A meeting was set for March when Ruth Amen, President of AHSGR, would address the prospective members about the objectives and advantages of having a chapter.

On March 16, 1978, the organizational meeting was held at Southdale-Hennepin County Library. In advance of this meeting Kenneth Larson arranged an interview for Ruth Amen to be a guest on the Boone & Erickson show on WCCO radio. This interview and press releases mailed to radio and TV stations brought in many prospective members.

The next meeting was held on May 13 with election of officers and formation of committees. Elected officers were President: Jeanne Appelhans, 1st VP: Dallas Zimmerman, 2nd VP: Kenneth Larson, Secretary: Carol Halvorsen, Treasurer: Rosemary Larson, Librarian: LeRoy Yost, Historian: Elvera Hofman, and Correspondence Secretary:

Allen Weber. Program Committee: Martha Dahl, Ray Giske, and Rose Wood; Ways & Means: Leah Guenther, Harold Hoppe, Rosemary Larson, Harvey Ratzlaff; Genealogy: Gary Bettcher, Jake Klotzbeacher, Jocelyn Muggli, Barbara Yerich, and LeRoy Yost; Membership: Evelyn Edmonson, Harold Hoppe, and Bill Muggli.

A Charter was granted to the North Star Chapter which reads: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, organized in 1968, on this 14th day of April 1978 presents with pleasure this Charter to the organization known as the North Star of Minnesota Chapter of AHSGR. The Charter was presented to President Jeanne Appelhans at the 10th Annual International Convention of AHSGR held in Lincoln.

At the July 26, 1978, meeting President Appelhans requested ideas for a banner to represent the Chapter. VP Ken Larson reported that dues would be \$3 per family for 1978 and \$6 per family for 1979. Telephone volunteers were Henry Werth, Elvera Hoffman, Fran Schwan, and Paul Hoffer.

The October 18, 1978 meeting was held at the Southdale-Hennepin Library. The first Treasurer's report showed income of \$183.35 from Chapter dues, cookbooks, coffee donations, and account interest. The speaker was genealogist Donal Nelson.

The Christmas party held on Sunday, December 3, 1978, at the Longfellow Community Center in Minneapolis was a huge success even though members came through deep snow to attend. Many members were stuck in the parking lot upon leaving. The same officers were elected for 1979. The sketch by Kathryn Larson was chosen as the winning entry for the Chapter banner contest. The following year at the Chapter's Christmas potluck the banner made by Rosemary Larson was presented to the Chapter.

## Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

The time has come to put the lazy days of summer behind us. A new North Star Chapter year lies before us. I hope you are looking forward to making use of our library every opportunity you have. Those of you with Internet connection to GRHS and AHSGR now have volumes of information at your beck and call with a few clicks of your mouse. Ladies, whoever thought we'd be handling a mouse every day of our lives and not scream. But hard copy can't be beat, and that's what you will find on our shelves.

Our latest purchase makes complete our four-volume set: *Igor Pleve, Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1763-1767 Volume 4*, Edited by Dr. Alfred Eisfeld. These detailed lists of the first settlers who responded to the Manifesto of Catherine the Great included information about their ages, occupations, families, and place of origin (Germany, Austria, France or other European country). The series lists the colonies in alphabetical order. Volume Four covers twenty-four villages (R-W Reinhardt through Warenburg.)

This work is a tremendous resource for anyone who is trying to trace his/her Volga German origins. The Pleve books are in Russian and German. However, most of the names are in English in the index. Also, our members who read German and Russian will be happy to help.

You may recall that in 2008 we pre-purchased the *The Volga Flows Forever Trilogy* by Sigrid Weidenweber. Book 1: *Catherine* and Book 2: *The Volga Germans* are in our library. Book 3: *From Gulag to Freedom* was scheduled for release in April of this year but has been delayed due to the death of the author's son. I received an

email August 13 assuring me it would be shipped within a month. It's been a long wait, but I'm sure it will be as good a read as the prior two. Even though the books are sold as fiction, Weidenweber's meticulous attention to accurate historical facts gives the books authenticity.

If you attended a country school, you'll enjoy paging through *The Prairie Schoolhouse*, by John Martin Campbell. It's a gem I found at the Half Price store. I passed it by but returned later, just could not resist it. Did you know that the country schools were "a product of the Western Homestead Era?" Thirty-three pages of print are followed by nostalgia stirring photographs.

**Don't forget to gather any North Star Library items you have at home and bring them to the next meeting in October so others can enjoy them. See you then.**

## Happy Birthday

**August:** Ray Current, Angie Ibarra

**September:** Janet Flegel, Elvera Hofmann, Albert Pfeifle, Marv Presler, Arnie Zimmerman

**October:** Lucille Elrite, Mayo Flegel, Marv Geske, Helen Kleingartner

## Happy Anniversary

**August:** Sandra Brown, Cheryl & Marvin Presler, Lil & Dayton Ward

**September:** Mildred & Elmer Deutschmann, Marlene & Chris Huber

**October:** Pat & Ray Current, Bernadine & Roger Kuhn, Cindy Miller & Sean Beaton, Martha & Robert Suppan, Marlene Walth

# AHSGR Celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Year as an Organization

in Medicine Hat, Alberta June 15 - 21 2009

By Duane Stabler

In the past 40 years the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia held two annual conventions in Canada. The first was held in Calgary and the 2009 convention was held in Medicine Hat, Alberta, some three hours drive from Calgary.

Southern Alberta has a rich heritage of German settlers and Rob Renner, minister for environment Alberta, represented the province in welcoming convention delegates during the opening ceremony. Mr. Renner said, "The ingenuity of those early settlers is applauded and they've contributed to the fact this area is one of the most stable economies in the province. We're pleased and proud you've come to celebrate your heritage and share your roots with us."



Ray and Hedy Stabler Welcome Visitors (Ray is Duane's 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin)

During his welcome, Mayor Norm Boucher said, "It's very important to know where you come from and it liberates you."

An extensive hardcopy library, transferred from Lincoln for this event, was available at the Medicine Hat Lodge while the convention was in progress. They also had an electronic database referred to as Save Our Ancestral Records (SOAR) which contains over 26,000

obituaries that have been digitized and are online for members to use. These are collected by volunteers and in some cases are translated from old German newspapers.



A portion of the banners on display in the convention hall



Displays available for viewing in the convention hall

A "Village Night" took place Thursday evening where individuals had an opportunity to meet individuals who had connections to small communities that their ancestors were from. I have always found this of particular value as I meet new people and it helps to build a friendship that goes beyond the time spent at the convention.





Convention Speakers: Anna Bartkowski shares photos and experiences of the trip to Argentina this past November

During one of the lunch meetings, the North Star Chapter was honored with receiving two certificates of appreciation. They are “for support above and beyond AHSGR Membership Recruitment campaign for 2008-2009” and for “a Thank You for the North Star Chapter’s financial support to the Reach Out Campaign during 2008-2009.”



Entertainment was provided by a local family who had a reunion while at the convention

Medicine Hat, as a community, is situated near the Saskatchewan border and is rich in history. I had the opportunity to visit the Hillside Cemetery, a large cemetery situated near the edge of the city. It has some 28,000 residents on a 56-acre plot with many beautiful trees. As I searched for some of my relatives there, I could not help but notice the

many familiar surnames that most of us would recognize especially if we come from the Dakotas and Nebraska. I walked part of the cemetery taking photos of headstones of relatives I never had the chance to meet.



Hillside Cemetery

Driving around Medicine Hat, one also sees some historic places less connected to the German-Russian heritage but certainly where German-Russians visited and worked. One such place was the Medicine Hat Clay Industries. This pottery is now the only place where one can tour the remains of what once was Medalta Potteries ([www.medalta.org](http://www.medalta.org)). What I saw reminded me much of Minnesota's own Redwing Pottery.



Madalta's surviving oven used to make a variety of products sold throughout Canada



Samples of items made and sold throughout Canada by the potters located in Medicine Hat

During my time in the library, I found it rewarding to help numbers of people with their search but sometimes such volunteer work has its reward. I met a lady who was born and reared in Medicine Hat. As she grew to adulthood, she married and lived elsewhere in Canada. As she and her husband retired, they longed to move back to Medicine Hat. With a little help, she's now busy learning about her heritage. As we talked, she told me of a POW camp that existed at the site of the present rodeo grounds. The POW camp housed some 18,000 German prisoners during WW II. She told me that Medicine Hat was only 10,000 in size during those years and of some of the fears and happenings at the site including several murders within the camp and the results and justice that happened later as the war came to an end.

If you wish to see more and learn more of the convention, please go to the chapter website where I've placed additional photos for your enjoyment.

I also must thank Anna Bartowski, who has given me permission to place some of her writings on the website and in this article. She had a daily "blog" (a web log of happenings) that provided a snapshot of what the convention was doing daily. It also provides a great way to capture the feeling and flavor

of the convention. Anna is the President of the Sun Chapter in Phoenix, Arizona.



Convention Speakers: One of the local Hutterite Colonists discusses the difficulties his ancestors experienced before immigration to Canada from South Russia

The 2010 convention will be held in Lincoln and I look forward to that convention and meeting some of the new friends I've made and seeing some I've known for years. I encourage you to plan to take some time for the next convention, too.

**(Member News** continued from page 1)

Storytelling Contest at the 2009 convention for her story "The Girls of '66."

An article by Nancy Gertner was featured this summer on the web site MinnPost.com concerning faith groups that help Minnesota's military veterans and families. To read it, visit [www.minnpost.com/community\\_voices/2009/07/22/10406/faith\\_groups\\_reach\\_out\\_to\\_provide\\_services\\_to\\_military\\_veterans\\_and\\_families](http://www.minnpost.com/community_voices/2009/07/22/10406/faith_groups_reach_out_to_provide_services_to_military_veterans_and_families).

Sam Brungardt was interviewed on FastRecipes.com about the culinary heritage of the Germans from Russia. The complete interview, as well as some tasty recipes, can be found at <http://www.fastrecipes.com/cookbook/german-russian-cooking-recipes:-a-culinary-heritage-2009052437994>.

## Please Take Note

Cindy Miller is looking for help on a future winter program. She is interested in family reunions, and would like to hear about your experiences, especially regarding organization and fun things you did to make the event interesting and memorable. Please contact her at [cynmillbea@hotmail.com](mailto:cynmillbea@hotmail.com), 612-386-1436, or at a future meeting.

The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at North Dakota State University is seeking applicants for the Dakota Memories Doctoral Fellowship. If you know an interested student, there is more information at [www.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories](http://www.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories). The deadline is Feb. 1, 2010.

Have you ever considered hosting a foreign exchange student? Now may be the right time! International Experience, a non-profit student exchange program, is looking for host families. Hosting a young German student can be an exciting opportunity and a positive experience for your family and com-

munity. For more information, visit [www.ie-usa.com](http://www.ie-usa.com).

The Prairie Public Television documentaries "Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie" and "Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices" were presented with Classic Telly Awards for being programs meriting special recognition in honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Telly Awards. The Telly Awards recognize outstanding local, regional, and cable TV programs. The North Star Chapter helped raise money for the production of "Children of the Steppe" which was the first Prairie Public Germans from Russia documentary.

The National Marrow Donor Program is always looking for possible donors to register for helping those in need of life-saving transplants. As Germans from Russia, who often intermarried, our marrow can be particularly helpful in matching with others from our heritage group, since the marrow typing is often done based on ethnicity. If you'd like to learn more, please visit [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).

## Everyone Loves Our Cookbook

You know that "Sei Unser Gast," our very own North Star Chapter cookbook, is a hit. Now is the perfect time to pick up some extra copies for holiday gifts. But don't take our word for it; here's what satisfied customers have to say.

"I'm impressed, so much that I'm ordering two additional books for my daughters! You folks did a GREAT JOB! I, as one of the many beneficiaries of this wonderful book, want to thank each & all of you who put so much effort forth to produce a top quality book. I'll enjoy each and every one of the recipes." -Carl H., former S. Dakota resident, 40 years ago, Clovis, CA

"I grew up eating many of these dishes. Thank you for putting all those wonderful recipes in a cookbook... I felt like I was back in my mother's kitchen." - Elmer N., Newcastle, WA

"Thank you very much for sending me a copy of "Sei Unser Gast" so promptly! I love the book and am ordering another copy for my cousin." -Loretta G.

"They are delightful and are recalling 'good old times,' Thank You!" - Joan H.



**President's Message**, continued from page 2)

forward. We do need new leadership and change because with it comes new ideas and energy. It is better to have volunteers rather than struggle so I am appealing to you early.

See you at the next North Star meeting.

## Youth Activity

By Gwen Schock Cowherd, GRHS Youth Committee

Rebeca Hulme, LaCrescent, MN, captured first place out of 23 entrants in the 2009 GRHS Youth Essay Contest/High School Division. Rebeca, who has Napoleon, ND, roots, was encouraged to enter by her grandmother. She received special recogni-

tion at Napoleon's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June 2009. Rebeca is a freshman at Carleton College, Northfield, MN.

There were 38 entrants from 15 states, plus Chile, in the three GRHS essay contest divisions. Most were first-time entrants. Winners will be recognized at the Rapid City, SD, GRHS September convention. Alexandra Hoffman, Miss South Dakota 2008, and her sister Elizabeth Hoffman, Miss South Dakota Teen 2008, will present the awards. The German-Russian Hoffman girls are from Eureka, SD. Alexandra placed in the top 15 at the January 2009 Miss America contest.

Evelyn Elaine Gaunt, nine, Albertville, MN received second place in the AHSGR Storytelling Contest/Youth Division.

Go to [www.northstarchapter.org](http://www.northstarchapter.org) for the winners' writings and bios, plus the 2010 entry forms.

### To Order More *Sei Unser Gast* Cookbooks

Share your German-Russian heritage with family and friends. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks make the perfect gift for birthdays, graduations, showers, weddings, anniversaries, and holidays. Give them to say "Danke schön." Donate copies to the libraries and schools in your community. *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks are sold at some North Star Chapter meetings. To order by mail, complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to "North Star Chapter" (payable in U.S. dollars) and mail to: Cookbook Orders, North Star Chapter of Minnesota, P.O. Box 583642, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3642. Additional order forms can be printed from our website: [www.northstarchapter.org](http://www.northstarchapter.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

St., Rt., P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province ZIP/Postal  
Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of cookbooks being ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of books (see insert) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cookbook Prices\*

1 to 4 copies: \$12.95 each. 5 to 9 copies: \$11.95 each.  
Save! Buy 10 or more *Sei Unser Gast* cookbooks and pay only \$10.95 each.

#### Postage/Shipping

*Only one mailing address per order, please.*

**1 to 4 books:** \$2.50 per book (U.S.), \$5.75 (Canada)

**5 to 9 books:** \$2.00 per book (U.S.), \$4.50 (Canada)

**10 or more books:** \$1.50 per book (U.S.), \$4.00 (Canada)

\*These are North Star Chapter prices. Other vendors may charge more or less for the book.

**North Star Chapter  
of Minnesota-AHSGR and GRHS**  
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## 2009 Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ New    \_\_\_\_\_ Renew    \_\_\_\_\_ Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ Family  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that a membership directory might be provided to North Star Chapter members that would include your name, address, phone, and email. If the chapter chooses to publish a membership directory:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I **agree** to have my name, address, phone and email in the published directory.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please **exclude** my information from the published directory.

**National Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ AHSGR    \_\_\_\_\_ GRHS    \_\_\_\_\_ Both AHSGR and GRHS

**Local dues are \$12.00 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS. AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star membership). GRHS members please submit \$12. GRHS requests that you send your national membership (\$40) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501.**

**Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:**

**Helen Kleingartner, 9513 Pierce St. NE, Blaine MN 55434 Questions: Contact Helen at 763-205-2297.**

For newsletter greeting only: Birthday Month(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary Month \_\_\_\_\_