

North Star Chapter

<http://www.northstarchapter.org>

Preserving the heritage of the Germans from Russia, in dual affiliation with the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) and the Germans from Russia Historical Society (GRHS).

"Their Century: A Multimedia Performance" by David Schlosser

**Saturday,
November 17, 2012,
Berea Lutheran Church,
7538 Emerson Avenue S.,
Richfield, MN 55423**

10:00 AM - Library open for
genealogy research

12:00 PM - Bag lunch on your own

1:00 - Short business meeting

1:45 - Refreshments

2:00 – "Their Century"
presentation

Fresh from its debut at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, **"Their Century,"** the multimedia story of a German-Russian family in North Dakota, is coming to our Biannual Genealogy Meeting. Actor/playwright David Schlosser uses photos, music, and stories to bring to life his



family's journey from Russia to America in the 20th century. It reminds us, yet again, how important it is to know and gather our ancestors' experiences. Several North Star Chapter members saw the show in August, and agree this is a presentation you do not want to miss!

Join us for informal genealogy work in our library in the morning, enjoy lunch on your own or with other members, and stay to see David's amazing performance of his family's history. It will take you back to your own family memories, and leave you smiling.

October meeting is Saturday, October 27 with guest speaker **Frieda Hofer Brehm Schlecht** talking about her trek from Bessarabia to North Dakota via Poland and Germany! Meeting 1 PM.

North Star Chapter 2012 Officers

President

Ron Scherbenski

952-541-1917

ronscherbenski@msn.com

1st VP/Program Chair

Carol Just

612-554-3050

carolJjust@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Nancy Gertner

612-396-9186

nancygertner@mac.com

2ndVP/Membership

Chuck Kurle

& Co-Chair Vicki Kurle

651-437-1380

kurlec@asme.org

Treasurer

Marilyn Brink

zumplebump@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jerry Renner

jerryrenner@q.com

Newsletter Staff

Editor/Production

Cynthia Miller

612-386-1436

cynmillbea@hotmail.com

Layout/Graphics Editor

Nancy Gertner

Facebook Group:

**North Star Chapter of
Minnesota**

Website

www.northstarchapter.org

Webmaster

Duane Stabler

952-447-8654

dstabler@bigfoot.com

Please Take Note

If your ancestors or extended family ended up in the Fresno, California, area, Connie Coberly of the Central California Chapter has compiled a book of newspaper clippings from 1920 to present featuring Germans from Russia that appeared in the newspaper *Fresno Bee*. The book is \$8, with \$2 for mailing, and can be purchased by contacting Connie at 559-229-0792.

On the Big Screen

The film *Argo* was released and may be playing at a theater near you. The film chronicles the rescue from 33 years ago when six Americans escaped from the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran, to the safety of refuge with staff of the Canadian Embassy. Directed by and starring Ben Affleck, the cast of characters includes Lee Schatz, a Department of Agriculture attaché from Idaho, who was one of the six Americans rescued. Schatz is a German-Russian second cousin of North Star member Cindy Miller (their great-grandparents came from Kronental, Crimea, in 1910). A film trailer can be found at <http://www.imdb.com> Enter "Argo" into the search box.

Member News

The North Star Chapter would like to welcome new members Sharon & John Mojsiej, Stillwater; Cecelia & Rodney Lipp, St. Louis Park; Penny & Emil Eberhart, Oak Park Heights; Beth Mullinax, Fridley; Steve and Jean Weninger, Woodbury.

Happy Birthday!

November: Rebecca Ellsworth, Neoma Herrboldt, Chris Huber, Mike Larson, Jim Rodlund, Tom Schonebaum

December: Cheryl Presler, Jill Reiswig, Robert Sellin, Dayton Ward, Lil Ward, Kathy Wellman, Diane Wentz, Elinor Wenzel

Happy Anniversary!

November: Jennie & Jim Rodlund, Mary Ann Weigel & Clarence Wanner, Sandi & Arnie Zimmermann

December: Angie & John Ibarra, Carol & Arve Moser

Snowbirds:

If you have a winter address, please notify the Membership Chair, Chuck Kurle, or assistant Vicki Kurle, or Newsletter Editor Cindy Miller.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT FEATURES FOOD,

North Star Chapter's 34th Annual *Weihnachtsfest*

Saturday, December 1, 2012, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

A great way to kick off the holiday season, our annual *Weihnachtsfest* promises good food, great music, storytelling, and, if we've been good, a visit from a jolly soul in a red suit. Steve Weninger, accordionist extraordinaire, will perform his musical magic, entertaining us and leading us in song. This is a potluck event, an opportunity to prepare and share your favorite ethnic food. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. The North Star Chapter *Weihnachtsfest* is a multi-generational event so bring the whole family. Food serving will be at noon. (12PM)



"Frost" is a Russian folk tale, just right for the Minnesota Holiday Season. You know the characters already: Nasty Mother, two Bad Sisters, and Kind Sister whom they despise. Hear how Nasty Mother conspires to have Kind Sister sent out into the cold, colder, coldest Russian winter to marry, of all people, Frost. But Kind Sister's pure nature overturns the nasty of Nasty Mother and the Bad Sisters get their comeuppance. Will they all live happily ever after? "Frost" will be told at the North Star *Weihnachtsfest*, by Storyteller Patsy Ramberg.



WEIHNACHTSFEST VOLUNTEERS TO DO SETUP AND CLEANUP

If you are able to come early Saturday to help organize the tables, please contact Lil Ward, (763-784-8626) or lilward@comcast.net.

Thanks to those that signed up to help during our September meeting. Look for an email to update you on the time of the setup.

Chapter President's Message

by Ron Scherbenski

The leaves are falling, corn is being harvested, and the first frost of the season has occurred. This can only mean that fall has arrived and another North Star Chapter year is under way. We started out with our own Don Weidenbach, an "Urban Pioneer," sharing how he got into a career in computers. Don had an interesting presentation and we are thankful for him sharing his life experience with us.

Lil Ward and Helen Kleingartner have been busy arranging with their cousin Frieda to be the presenter at the October 27 meeting. I am looking

forward to hearing what life was like on her trek from Bessarabia to America. The November meeting will feature David Schlosser and December will be the annual *Weihnachtsfest*. More program details are on pages 1 and 3.

We had an Executive Board meeting in September 12 and will be presenting a new slate of officers to the membership at the meeting on November 17. Some budget items will also be discussed at that meeting. The North Star Chapter is a volunteer-run organization so we are always looking for new people to step forward and help out. Contact me or any of the board members if you are willing to help or if you have an idea or two for programming. I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events:

October 27, 2012

"Frieda's Journey - from Bessarabia to America"

November 17, 2012

Biannual Genealogy Meeting
Presentation: "Their Century"
by David Schlosser

December 1, 2012

Annual Weihnachtsfest
Our annual holiday celebration with a pot luck meal, some music, and sometimes surprises for the good girls and boys!

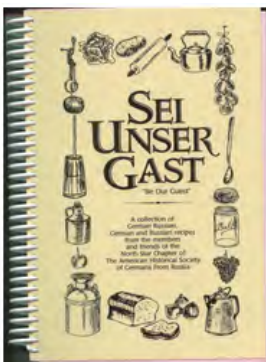
January 26, 2013

Documentary: "*At Home in Russia, At Home on the Prairie*"

The newest documentary film of the Germans from Russia series produced by Prairie Public TV.

February 23, 2013

Program to be announced.



SEI UNSER GAST COOKBOOK MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Look for cookbook sales at chapter events for stocking up on gifts. Our German Russian collection of recipes makes a great gift for bridal showers, weddings, birthdays, and holidays. An order form can be found on page 6.

Chapter Librarian Bernie Becker checks out chapter library materials to chapter members at upcoming meetings in October, and November.

Thank you Librarian Bernie, and to chapter member Marilyn Brink for assisting with the library. Thank you Carol Just for your recent donation. Welcome aboard to new volunteer Patsy Ramberg.

Chapter Members: Please remember to return your reading materials!

LIBRARY CORNER

by Bernie Becker

Things have been rather quiet on the library front of late. A big “thank you” for a welcome donation from Carol Just of *Centennial Memories 1900-2000, Java, South Dakota*.

Carol’s distant cousin’s husband, Jim Ackerman, purchased several of these Java books at an estate sale, and passed one of them on to Carol, who has graciously given it to our Library. Thank you, Carol! Thank you, Jim! We treasure these collections filled with stories of the perseverance and community effort that brought town sites to

villages, which became, and remained, towns like Java.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Our library is available beginning at 10:00 a.m. at our November 17 genealogy meeting. Come early and take advantage of this extra time to study the larger books that can’t be checked out, or to spend more time becoming familiar with how the book carts are organized so you can find a book of your present interest.

Are you thinking ahead to a family reunion in the near future? We have several good books with helpful suggestions. You also can find books to guide you in recording your life history for your grandchildren. Do you have a hankering for a good strudla recipe? We have several good cookbooks. Is poetry your thing? There’s a section for that. Fiction, serious research, statistics, maps, music, and much more are there for your perusal. Don’t forget we have DVDs of past programs—a wealth of information.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Patsy Ramberg has graciously volunteered her help with the library. *Welcome aboard, Patsy, and a big thank you!*

SILENT AUCTION ALERT

Following discussion at the September meeting, plans are in the works to hold a Silent Auction fundraiser next spring (2013). We’ll be asking for your contributions to make it fun and interesting. Please keep a box or basket in a closet and begin to collect items (new or gently used) that would be of interest to bidders.

Any ideas or suggestions you might have to help make this event successful and entertaining will be welcome and greatly appreciated. We’re novices at this.

You may use Bernie Becker’s telephone number (952-929-5577) and/or her E-mail address (berneldas@aol.com) to submit ideas and suggestions. Hopefully Bernie’s phone will ring off the hook and/or her E-mail in-box will overflow with your responses.



North Star Chapter of Minnesota Cookbook Order Form *Sei Unser Gast*

Cookbooks may also be purchased at Special Chapter events at:
Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423
 See chapter schedule of events (Page 4) for upcoming opportunities

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.

Make checks payable to: "North Star Chapter."

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Number of books ordered : _____

Send form with payment to: Cookbook Orders, North Star Chapter of Minnesota,

P.O. Box 583642, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3642.

Postage/Shipping

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)

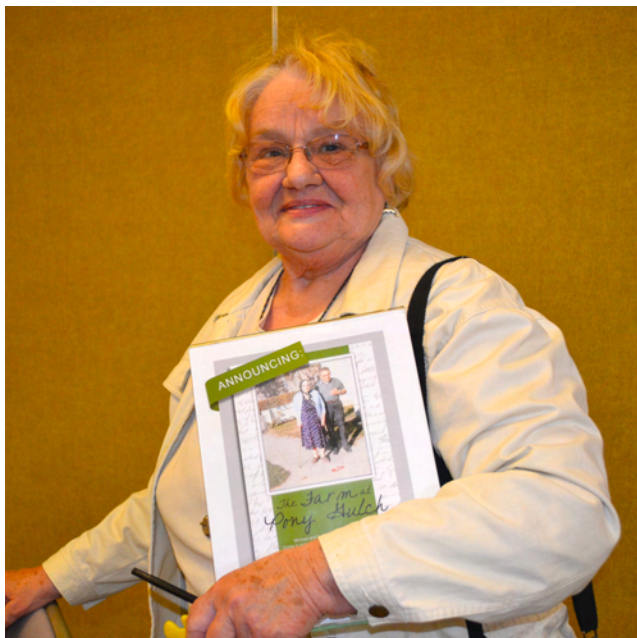
"URBAN PIONEERS"

North Star Chapter's September 2012 program featured chapter member Don Weidenbach speaking about his career in the computer industry, 1946-1976

Don Weidenbach Launched "Urban Pioneers" topic at September meeting

Don Weidenbach with wife Charlene, great-grandson Luke, and granddaughter. Inspired and encouraged by his great-grandfather Don and parents in technical careers, Luke enjoys Lego engineering.





CHAPTER MEMBERS HONORED WITH HERITAGE AWARDS FOR LITERARY WORKS

The **Heritage Education Commission at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN**, has awarded the **Beverly M. Paulson Book Awards** to two members of the North Star Chapter.

Patsy KnalsonRamberg received the Memoir Award for *The Farm at Pony Gulch: Michael and Anna Sophia (Witt) Baier Come to America and Homestead in North Dakota, 1883-1926*. Patsy's father, Eddie Knalson, left a memoir of his experiences growing up and working on the Baier farm, near Harvey ND. Patsy combined her father's memories with his Aunt Bertha Johnson's oral memories, and her own insights. Publisher is the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU in Fargo ND. The book is available at www.ndsu.edu/grhc/order.

Angelina Reinbold Ibarra won the Scrapbook Award for *Tales of a Community That Was . . . Krassna, North Dakota, A Memoir*. This book is filled with Ibarra's tales about Krassna's 1920s

Local Authors Honored with Book Awards in October at Minnesota State University, Moorhead

Patsy KnalsonRamberg (left), and Angie Reinbold Ibarra (below), were recognized for excellence in their recent published works by the Heritage Education Commission at Minnesota State University, Moorhead.



schooling, fashions, food, celebrations and news, complete with newspaper clippings from the *Emmons County Record*. Publisher is Elderberry Books, Okanogan, WA, and is available at Krassna@q.com.

The awards were made at the Heritage Commission's annual Family History Workshop held on October 6, 2012, at Moorhead.

Angie and Patsy both gave presentations on their books at North Star meetings, and the DVDs of the programs are available to chapter members for loan through our library. Angie and Patsy also presented workshops at the GRHS Convention in Bismarck in July. The books are available for purchase from the authors, and available for checkout from our library. **Congratulations, Angie and Patsy, for keeping alive the legacy of German Russian pioneers.**

Time to Renew Membership!

North Star Chapter Membership Form

____ New ____ Renew ____ Individual ____ Family

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: ____ AHSGR ____ GRHS ____ Both

Local dues are \$12 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.

AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star).

GRHS members please submit \$12. GRHS requests that you send your national membership (\$50) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501

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

Chuck Kurle, 2040 Highland Dr., Hastings MN 55033

For newsletter greeting: Birthday Month(s) _____ Anniversary Month _____

North Star Chapter
of Minnesota
AHSGR / GRHS Affiliated
Non-Profit Organization
PO Box 583642
Minneapolis, MN 55458