

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).



"Frieda's Journey: From Bessarabia to America"

**Saturday, November 19, 2016
Berea Lutheran Church**

**7538 Emerson Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423**

1:00 p.m. - meeting with election of officers

2:00 p.m. - Program with speaker

Frieda Hofer Brehm Schlecht was born in 1930 in the German village of Hoffnungstal, Bessarabia. She will tell us about her journey of leaving Bessarabia at the age of 10, surviving the physical dangers of World War II, and wartime relocation to Chemnitz, Germany in the early 1940s. In 1943, the family was moved east to occupied Poland to work the land taken from Polish farmers. Join us as Frieda tells her story of leaving the only home she knew, enduring the war years in Germany and Poland, their escape to Northern Germany from the advancing Russian Army, life in post-war Germany, and her family's immigration in 1951 to Gackle, North Dakota.

November is Genealogy Research Month

Library opens 10 AM, Saturday November 19

Genealogy sessions 10:30 - 11:30 AM

- 1) Glukstal Colonies Research Association with Duane Stabler
- 2) Memoir writing workshop with Cynthia Miller

See workshop details on pages 2, 3, 4 and back page.

Sack lunches are encouraged for our lunch break.

Follow us on Facebook at: North Star Chapter of Minnesota



North Star Chapter 2016 Officers

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Please Take Note **Snowbirds:**

If you have a **winter address**, please notify the Membership Chair, Duane Stabler.

Chapter President's Message

by Chuck Kurle

Fall is in full swing with the trees changing to their fall colors and many Oktoberfest celebrations happening across the country. One of the many highlights from the GRHS convention in September was the debut of the GRHS publication "*Sunflowers and Thistles: Bessarabian Germans Speak Out*," which was translated by chapter member Jim Gessele. See the September 2016 newsletter for a brief synopsis of this very interesting book. The Chapter was able to purchase a number of books to make available to members only for only \$25, a \$10 saving over the regular price.

Our November 19th business meeting will include our annual election of officers. The Executive Board has been appointed as the nominating committee. If approached by a member of the nominating committee, please consider serving a term in support of our North Star Chapter. November is also one of our two annual genealogy meetings, with our extensive library open for your research in the morning. See you in November!

Saturday morning Genealogy Research Sessions

Glukstal: Four mother colonies make up the original colonies of the Glukstal Enclave, namely Glukstal (1809), Neudorf (1809), Bergdorf (1809) and Kassel (1810). In addition to Wurttembergers, who formed the largest group among the Glukstal Colonies, there was a large group

of Alsatians, and smaller groups from Baden, Palatine, and various other regions of Germany. Most practiced the Lutheran faith, although a small number aligned with the Reformed faith. From those four settlements, additional daughter colonies were formed, and others moved beyond the Glukstal area to other areas such as Bessarabia.

(Continued on page 3)

**Election of
Officers to occur
at our November
business
meeting.**

**Chapter volunteers
serve as officers and
committee members
to plan events and**

NOTE on email addresses: Use this format when emailing chapter officers. name@Provider.com at = @ in the listing at left.

NOTICE: It is time to check your shelves, end tables, and reading corners for books you checked out of our library. Please return them at our November meeting.

Submission Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 December 2016. Please put *newZletter* in the subject line, and email inputs to: [NancyGertner at mac.com](mailto:NancyGertner@mac.com) No Zip files please!

"All Aboard for Weihnachtsfest"

Germans from Russia Annual Food and Fellowship Holiday Celebration

Saturday, December 10, 2016

Berea Lutheran Church

**7538 Emerson Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423**

12:00 p.m. - Pot Luck Meal
Served

1:00 p.m. - Fellowship Time

Chapter Member Paul Maggitti to
share his holiday toy trains as a
highlight of this celebration.

Bring generous portions of food
and your family to our annual
holiday celebration.

Beverages, plates, cups, glasses and eating
utensils are provided. Mark your dishes and
serving spoons so they can return home with
you. Electric outlets are available for
crockpots.

Don't forget to be very, very good in the
coming weeks if you want to reap the
benefits of good behavior.

*Doors open at 11:30 AM so the food can be
all set up to serve at noon. Don't be late!*



WEIHNACHTSFEST Volunteer Opportunities! Volunteers are needed for Friday setup (December 9, 10AM) and cleanup at the end of our event December 10. Sign up at our November meeting, or contact Lil Ward via email or phone. Lil's contact data is on page 2.

2017 Schedule

Tentative dates

January 21, 2017

March 18, 2017

February 18, 2017

**Genealogy
Meeting**

April 29, 2017

Spring Banquet

**Library open for
research**

Saturday morning Genealogy Research Sessions

Glukstal: (Continued from Page 2)

This morning session provides an informal opportunity to ask questions and learn more from member Duane Stabler, who since 2014 has carried on the work of Glukstal Colonies Research Association founders Margaret Freeman, Carolyn Wheeler and others. Two displays provide illustrations of collection contents. Many of the GCRA published books are also found in the North Star Chapter library, which will be open for research.

“499 And Counting: Special Reformation Exhibit of Martin Luther Artifacts at Minneapolis Institute of Arts”

By Nancy Gertner

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) hosts a special Reformation exhibit with eight rooms of artifacts from many museums in Germany for only a few weeks. This exhibit has funding from THRIVENT and will be much better than similar exhibits in New York and Atlanta, and include some quite remarkable objects, including Martin Luther's table from his castle home (said to have been visited by Peter the Great) and the pulpit (built 1518) from the Erfurt church, where the Reformation leader delivered his last sermon.

The anniversary 499 of Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses is upon us, and the exhibit opens to MIA members on 29 October. The artifacts will be returned to the German museums to be on display for the 500th anniversary in 2017.

The exhibit closes 15 January 2017, so has a short run. Tickets are sold online, and sales have been very brisk. While not everyone has Lutheran ancestry in their family tree, we were all impacted by German history and culture and religious strife. The exhibit is said to include artifacts and educational elements on Catholicism and Judaism as well.

Tickets are \$20 / person. Entry is timed, with times beginning at 1015 am and ending at 3:30pm. (Students K-12 and children under six appear to be free, but still need reserved tickets. \$16 for MIA members.)

<https://tickets.artsmia.org/>

Chapter Book Project Update

Thank you to chapter members that submitted their writings to Book Project Chair Carol Just. Members are invited to submit now before the December deadline during the busy holiday season. Guidelines for submissions are on Page 5. See the description below for a special writing workshop to be held in the morning of our November meeting. The workshop will be led by Cynthia Miller, adjunct instructor at Cardinal Stritch University.

Memoir Writing Workshop

(Continued from Page 1)

Looking for a starting place for your memoir writing of “Growing Up German from Russia?” Bring along a memento or family heirloom for sharing at our Genealogy Workshop Saturday morning, November 19, 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Chapter member Cynthia Miller will lead a workshop on writing memories triggered by objects and events from our past. Objects are optional and not required for participation.



Exhibit opens 30 October 2016; Closes 15 January 2017.

Reminder: Submission Deadline for Essays on Growing Up German From Russia

At the January 23, 2016, North Star Chapter Board of Directors meeting, support was given to the editors of the North Star Chapter's successful anthology *"Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers"* to seek submissions for a companion second volume on the same topic: Growing up German from Russia in America.

The new publication will follow the same guidelines as the first volume:

- All essays or poetry will be written in their own voice by members of the North Star Chapter of Minnesota, Germans from Russia.
- Submissions should include a reflection on how growing up a descendant of Germans from Russia shaped their life experience.
- Contributions may be from 500 to 2000 words, double spaced, submitted in Times New Roman font, 12 point. Essays should be emailed to Carol Just at CarolJjust at gmail.com
- Members of the editorial team are willing to help writers with ideas and final product.
- Submissions can be sent throughout 2016. **Final submission date is 12/31/2016**
- Goal is at least 35 essays. If not enough are submitted, the project will not go forward.

Suggested topics were listed in the March 2016 newsletter, or can be found on our Facebook page or the Chapter's website.

1. When and why did your interest in your German from Russia heritage surface?
2. Do you remember if local/state/national politics was discussed in your German from Russia family? Did any family member hold local/state/national office? Was voting considered important?
3. Any military stories handed down? German/South Russia/USA?
4. Experiences with National Recovery Act programs like Works Progress Administration (WPA) or Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).
5. German from Russia interaction with Native Americans in USA, or Jews in South Russia or USA
6. German from Russia interaction with German POW internees from camps in the USA during WWII.
7. Germans from Russia migrations to other states such as California, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois.
8. Besides agriculture, what careers did your Germans from Russia family members pursue?
9. Share your stories of visits to ancestral villages in South Russia, Crimea, Bessarabia, Poland, Germany.
10. Reunion experiences with relatives that happened as a result of family history research.
11. Brauche/midwife/country doctor stories
12. Stories of generations living together
13. Wedding traditions, anniversary celebrations, "Names Day" parties
14. What did your family do for entertainment?
15. What affect did radio, movies, newspapers, or magazines have on your family values?

IN MEMORY

Members, former members and family members



Duane W. Maas

Duane W. Maas of Bloomington, MN, passed away Thursday 31 March 2016 at age 76. He was born to Walter and Lydia Maas of Jamestown, ND, the second of their six children. He grew up working on his parents' farm and was active in 4-H. He attended both Buchanan and Jamestown high schools, graduating from Jamestown in 1957. In 1961, he graduated from North Dakota State University with a B.S. in Mathematics and minors in Physics, Economics, and German -- with a sophomore year spent at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he was able to pursue his interest in astronomy. One of his proudest moments was his performance in Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing" with NDSU's Little Country Theatre. From 1961 to 1965, he taught high school mathematics, science, and German in Wing and Buffalo, ND. Duane completed his M.S. in Mathematics with an Education minor at NDSU in 1969 while working as a Mathematician on some of the earliest intercontinental trajectory systems for Remington Rand Univac in St. Paul, MN. Shortly thereafter, he moved briefly to Azusa, CA to work for Aerojet-General. On April 4, 1970, he married the love of his life,

Margaret "Peggy" (nee Newman) of St. Paul. During the 1970s, Duane worked at Control Data and Sperry Univac. In October 1982, he co-founded Office Information Systems ("OIS"), a successful local staffing business. In the early 1980s, Duane and his business partner successfully designed and built the first automated coin-counting machine for the blind using voice-synthesis technology. After leaving OIS, Duane returned to software engineering for Lockheed Martin's Tactical Avionics group (1997 - 2002), Oracle's Retek Division, and Honeywell's commercial avionics group. In 2008, Duane was delighted to return to one of his first career passions, teaching, as a mathematics instructor at Mankato State University. Duane retired in 2012 and spent his free time working on his antique cars, tractors, and farm machinery at his hobby farm in Henderson, MN. He had a deep faith and an abiding interest in religion and was active in and supported the Gideons. He was also passionate about his family's German history, stories, and genealogy -- studying German and taking several trips to Germany and Poland to meet with relatives and help research family ancestry with his brother Gene. Duane also remained engaged in mathematics, computer programming, history, and world affairs virtually every day of his life. He loved his wife, children, and grandchildren and is greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Peggy, son Daniel, daughter Katherine (married to David Williams), grandchildren Van and Holiday Williams; siblings Gene (Norma), Donna (Wayne) Tees, Marvin (Jane), Ronald (Charlotte), and Carol (Jim). Memorial service was held Saturday, 9 April 2016 at Washburn-McReavy: Werness Brothers, 2300 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431. Memorials suggested to "Mt. Hope Lutheran Church," "N.C. Little Hospice," and the "Prostate Cancer Foundation." Washburn-McReavy.com Werness Brothers 952-884-8145

North Star Chapter Membership Form**I belong to:**

____ New ____ Renew ____ Individual ____ Family AHSGR ____ And / Or GRHS ____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Membership: ____ AHSGR ____ GRHS ____ Both

Local dues are \$15 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS.**AHSGR members please submit \$80 (\$65 for AHSGR, \$15 for North Star).****GRHS members please submit \$15. GRHS requests that you send your national membership to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501**

***Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:
Duane Stabler, 4544 N River Run, Savage MN 55378-2973***

OR Renew in person at our November chapter event

*All Aboard for Weihnachtsfest
December 10!*

**The North Star Chapter of
Minnesota is a Volunteer-
Powered organization.**

www.NorthStarChapter.Org

Support the Chapter by buying our books!

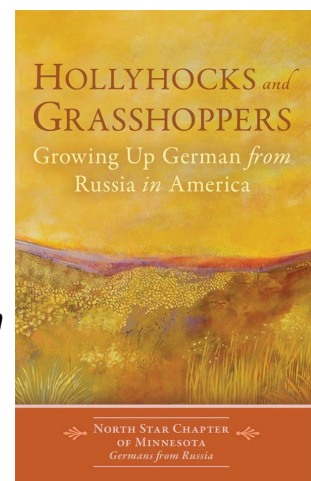
Member dues pay only a portion of our programming and newsletter costs due to the funds raised via sales of our published books.

Order our cookbook,

Sei Unser Gast,

or Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers: Growing Up German from Russia in America

via our website

www.NorthStarChapter.Org

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

Saturday Morning Genealogy Research Workshop Sessions

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