

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).

Gutes Essen

Good Eating in German-Russian Country

A video on ethnic foods

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Berea Lutheran Church

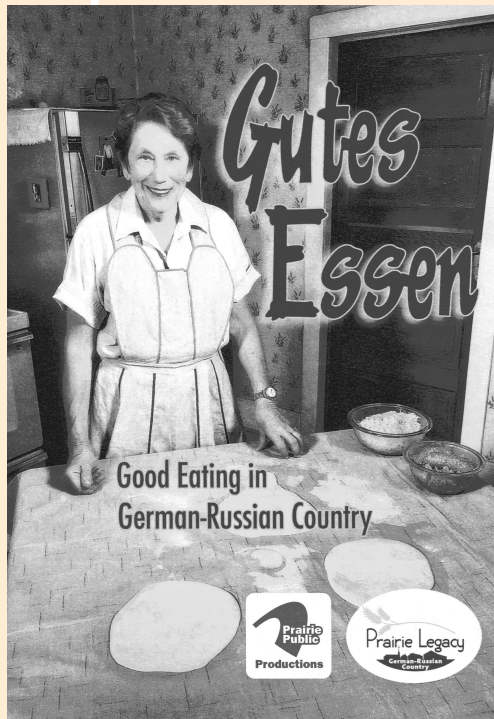
**7538 Emerson Avenue S.
Richfield, MN 55423**

1:00 p.m. - Meeting

2:00 p.m. - Program with
video of 70 minutes

Good eating! The defining feature for most cultures is food. For the Germans from Russia, there is so much food to talk about; to celebrate that, sometimes the art of food becomes an event!

My family meets annually to can dill pickles. It is a multi-generational effort that takes place in a barn on the ancestral farm. It is a time when family members come from many directions to work together toward a common goal



and catch-up on one another's lives. The added bonus? Dill pickles to enjoy until the next time we meet.

Gutes Essen, the 70 minute DVD created and produced by Prairie Public Broadcasting and the Tri-County Tourism Alliance (Emmons, Logan and McIntosh Counties in ND) is like getting together to celebrate that goal of creating and savoring the food ways of our culture. The companion recipe book, **Guttes**

Essen: Good Eating in German-Russian Country" is the added bonus! Both will be available for sale at this September program for the convention price of \$40.

Watching **Gutes Essen** is like spending time in the garden or kitchen with your mother or a favorite aunt. Be prepared to feel nostalgic and just a little hungry. For those of us who have worried about just how we would keep interest in our food ways going - never fear - the DVD includes 4-H members and high school students learning German from Russia culinary skills and liking it!

"Our food culture is safe." —Carol Just

Follow us on Facebook at: North Star Chapter of Minnesota

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Please Take Note:

If you have a seasonal address, please notify the Membership Chair, Lil Ward.

Chapter President's Message

by Chuck Kurle

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Vicki and I made several trips to the Dakotas. We attended the Kulm, North Dakota 125th anniversary celebration in June along with visiting relatives in the area. The communities are getting smaller, but the celebrations are still well organized and attended. We had fun talking to all the friendly people and relatives. In July, we traveled to South Dakota to celebrate Mom's 99th birthday, and again enjoyed visiting with friends and relatives.

This fall includes volunteer opportunities for our membership. November is the annual election of officers. Positions that reached the maximum three years or won't be running for re-election include President, 1st VP- Programs, and Treasurer. Please consider helping with one of these positions by contacting any of the officers listed in this newsletter. Your Board of Directors will select a nominating committee, so please say "Yes!" if asked to volunteer. Remember, 2018 marks 40 years for the North Star Chapter.

Please consider volunteering for the *Weinachtfest* special committee to organize that December event. Several people working together will minimize the time required to plan this event. As English writer John Heywood said back in the 1500's, "Many hands make light work." I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

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

NOTICE from Henrietta and Kathy: It is time to check your shelves, end tables, closets, under the bed, and reading corners for books you checked out of our library. Please return them at our September meeting.

Submission Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 October 2017. Please put **newZletter** in the subject line, and email inputs to: NancyGertner at mac.com No Zip files please!

German Spaß

“Retelling those Great Humorous
Stories and Jokes
from our German Relatives”

With Charles “Chuck” Weisser,
Kronenwetter, Wisconsin

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Berea Lutheran Church

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

1 p.m. - Meeting

2 p.m. - Program

Our heritage is rich with stories and jokes that were often told at family gatherings or when neighbors came to visit. The stories brought humor and laughter to lives filled with hard work and often hardships. This program will be an opportunity to share those jokes and stories.

Chuck Weisser will begin the program by telling his stories in both German and English. Opportunity for sharing your stories will follow, in either language. If you lack a story to share, simply sit back, listen and laugh.



Weihnachtsfest Volunteer Opportunities! Volunteers are needed for Friday setup (December 1, 10AM) and cleanup at the end of our event December 2. Sign up at our upcoming meetings, or contact Vicki Kurle via email or phone. Vicki's contact data is on page 2.

2017 Schedule

September 16

October 21

November 18

Genealogy Workshop Day.
Library opens, 10AM.
Workshop at 11AM.
1PM Meeting and Election.
Program with speaker at 2PM.

December 2

Weihnachtsfest Pot Luck

About our November Speakers, Kristi and Gary Graner

The Graners recently returned from Ukraine and visited the village of Glückstal. They will share their experiences and photos with us.

Library Corner

by Bernelda Becker

When I resigned as librarian late last fall, our Chapter was fortunate to have Kathy and Henrietta Weigel step forward to accept the job with the request that I would be available to mentor them for a time. As it turned out, I soon experienced a serious health problem, and Marilyn Brink, who had been working with me the past several years, stepped in and did the mentoring. And that's not all she did. Thanks to her computer expertise, many hours of time and energy went into improving and updating our library inventory list. Marilyn had many books to work with. We give thanks to donors Michael Miller, Louise Weins, Jim Gessele, and Elvera Hepner Hoffman, and also welcome new books purchased by the chapter. To whet your appetite, I've written a short report on two of the books.

A non-fiction, true story donated by Louise Weins I especially found extremely interesting was ***The Boy From Baby House 10***, © 2009, subtitle: *From the Nightmare of a Russian Orphanage to a New Life in America* by authors Alan Philips and John Lahutsky.

The book details the experience of a boy named Vanya, born with Cerebral Palsy in Russia, then abandoned by his mother. Russian state officials labeled him an "imbecile," and confined him to bleak baby houses. Imprisoned in psychiatric hospitals, Vanya was denied the love of a real family until his adoption by Paula Lahutsky. He was brought to the United States, his name translated to John. Paula Lahutsky became the mother he had dreamed of in his darkest hours. I suggest you read both the Preface and the Epilogue before *and* after you read

the book. This story has 'staying power' in your mind.

Louise Wiens also donated the novel:

Block 11
© 2012 (H).

The plot, described by another

author, Ron Balson, reads: "Ten souls, confined as pieces in a demonic chess game, everything taken from them but their character, are forced to confront a godless challenge." Another writer, Il Mattino, states his opinion in only seven words: "One of the best Italian thriller writers."

Italian writer, Piero degli Antoni, isn't writing about Italians. ***Block 11*** is based at Auschwitz in early spring 1944. Ten prisoners are rounded up for execution, but at the last minute, the commandant decides to lock them up in an empty building in Block 11, where they have to decide by dawn which of them will die, allowing life to the other nine. What transpires between these ten prisoners during that night, and who they select, is a page turner. One bit of advice. Check the glossary at the end of the book before you begin your read – unless you are well-versed in German language, you'll want to check the meaning of a few special German words. Example: *Appelplatz*: central square in the concentration camp where daily roll call took place.



(Continued on Page 5)

Library Corner

(Continued from Page 4)

As of this writing (August 15), Marilyn Brink has processed, ready for checkout from the Library at our September meeting, the following newly acquired books:

An Expanded Bibliography and Reference Guide for the Former Soviet Union's Ethnic Germans compiled with Explanatory Essay by Eric J. Schmaltz

3 Cookbooks (Section F):

In Memory's Kitchen, A Legacy from the Women of Terezin, A Taste of Germany.

The German-Russians In Words and Pictures by Dr. William Bosch (J)

The German Settlements in Bessarabia – A Study of the German Immigration to, Successful Settlement in, and Ultimate Abandonment of Bessarabia by Burkett W. Huey (J)

Johnny Schmidt, Son of a Dakota Pioneer by B. A. Bose (A)

Journey for Freedom – Defection from Communist Czechoslovakia by Peter Vodenka (C)

Knak Sot – Low German Poems and Stories by Jacob M. Fehr (H-2)

Prairie Mosaic – An Ethnic Atlas of Rural North Dakota by William C. Sherman and Thomas D. Isern, with new photograph insert. (J-4)

IN MEMORY

Former Member

Gordon P. Herrboldt

Gordon Herrboldt, age 88, longtime Richfield resident, died on Friday, July 7, 2017 while residing at the Minnesota Masonic Home in Bloomington. He was born and raised in Hosmer, South Dakota. After high school, Gordon attended Northern State University at Aberdeen, SD and then taught school in Hosmer, until he was drafted into the US Army during the Korean War. He served two years in Korea with the 25th Infantry Division. In 1956, Gordon married Neoma Bertsch of Ashley, North Dakota. They moved to Minnesota and became teachers in Twin Cities school districts. Gordon spent 30 years as a secondary school teacher in the Saint Paul School District. He was a longtime member of Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555. Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Olga (Huber) Herrboldt, his wife, Neoma, sisters Irma Herrboldt and Verna (Melvin) Sonnenfeld, and brother Arnold (Arlene) Herrboldt. He is survived by his sister Lora (Ray) Holzworth, his sons Brooks and Murray (Barbara), grandchildren Matthew and Rebecca (James) Wright, and great-grandchildren Lucilia and Mabel Wright.

Memorial Service was held Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN.

Gordon and Neoma were long time members of the North Star Chapter. Neoma passed away in July 2014 and was interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Lutherans in Siberia: Pastor Alexander Scheiermann reports on his new assignment following his transfer from Saratov

Ministry Tour Through Siberia: From Ulan-Ude to Tjumen

Ulan-Ude, capital city of the Burjati people; their main religion is Buddhism. About half the people are Burjati, the other half are various groups. We met Vyacheslav Romanov and Rev. Thomas Graf-Grote. Locals are interested in planting a Lutheran congregation to read the Bible together.

Irkutsk Area: Rev. Thomas Graf-Grote, wife Evgeniya and three children have lived in Irkutsk for 20 years. They return to Germany in 2018. We visited the charity “Istok” (fountain, source), founded by parents of special needs children (Down Syndrome, epilepsy, etc.). The parents wanted their children growing up not in city apartments but in the countryside. They acquired a large, abandoned 10 acre military property with some badly preserved barracks. Now, with volunteer labor, they built a house, in which the team and the disabled children and teens can live. A small farm with two cows, pigs and chickens, vegetable garden and workshops (wood carving, weaving mill, etc.) provides opportunities to contribute talents. Rev. Thomas built relationships and helped with construction and finance. He leads weekly Bible groups and is met with great joy. Most of the team are parents. There is not enough staff. They find strength in the Gospel.

Shelechov: (approx. 60,000 people). This association is open for all children of the town; many participants suffer from psychological or physical diseases. Here, the children may paint or do crafts. The club leader is a member of the Lutheran congregation in Shelechov. The Pentecost celebration here had around 35 adults and children present. After the service, food and fellowship were enjoyed.

Rev. Thomas and I visited the village **Pichtinsk** (200 miles from Irkutsk). The village history is very interesting: The villagers’ forefathers came to Siberia from Poland in 1912, from an area close to the border to Byelorussia/Ukraine. Almost all villagers have German names, but the hymnals, Bibles, and sermon books are all written in Polish, and the services are still held in Polish. Unfortunately, this is a communication obstacle for the young generation. Rev. Thomas held the liturgy and I preached the sermon in Russian.

Krasnojarsk: This city counts over one million inhabitants; a wealthy town with gas, oil and other heavy industry. The Lutheran church that existed during the Czar’s reign was unfortunately destroyed under communist rule. A few years ago, the new Lutheran congregation acquired property with a small house. Every Sunday, about 45-50 people of different ages worship here. Now a bigger church center (90 m²) is under construction; the congregation has built the foundation and is raising money to purchase building materials for next construction stages. In 2018, the congregation under leader Rev. Gleb Pivovarov hopes to celebrate the Reformation service in the new building.

Tjumen: 100 km from Tjumen, on the railway station of Savodukovsk, I met two sisters in Christ. **Savodukovsk** is a provincial town with about 30,000 people. We held a worship service in the church center (a former school), acquired in 1992. Services are in German, which is rarely spoken by the younger generation. I traveled by coach to Tjumen – a nice city with a warm (for Siberia) climate, met by preacher Maxim Scheker. He is a lawyer and preaches the Russian service, as a volunteer, every Sunday. The congregation meets in a café for services in German and Russian, with their dream to have their own church center. The service attendance was around 35. *(Continued on back page)*

[Editor’s Note: Rev Scheiermann was our guest speaker in November 2014.]

Driving Across the USA: Postcards from . . .

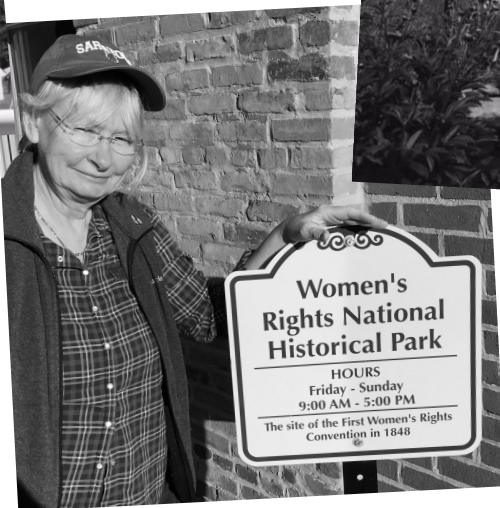
by Nancy Gertner

Attending conferences for One-Room School Preservationists and Toy Train Collectors had Paul and I on the road this summer, out of Minnesota and driving through 14 different states. We saw a few things, and learned a lot!



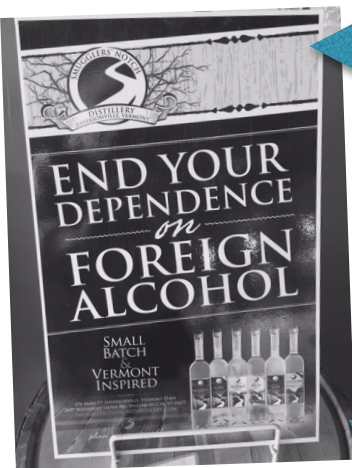
New Hampshire:

Outhouses were added to schools at the insistence of Horace Mann, champion for public education.



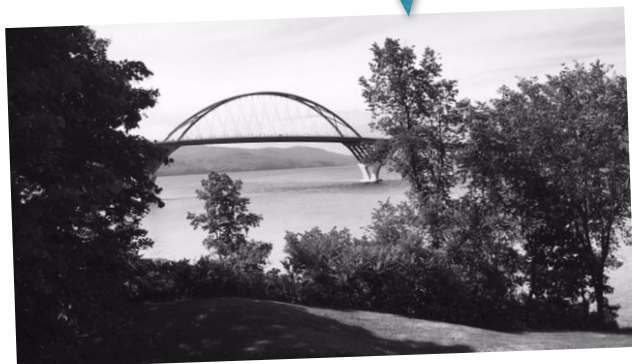
Massachusetts:

Birthplace of Susan B. Anthony at North Adams, Womens' Rights Pioneer for equality.



Vermont: Smuggler's Notch is a mountain pass where alcohol was brought into USA from Canada during prohibition.

Lake Champlain: New bridge, built 2011, connects Vermont and New York. Site of historic naval battles in Revolutionary War and War of 1812.



New York: Womens' Rights National Historic Park at Seneca Falls has funding to be open three days a week.



Colorado: Displays at Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden include a rotary snow blower used to clear tracks in mountain passes.

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

Chapter Book Project Update by Carol Just

After a summer hiatus, the editors are back to work on Volume 2 of the North Star Chapter series on the topic of "Growing up German From Russia in America." The first round of essay editing is nearly complete. Next we go over everything again so that every essay complies with the Chicago Manual of Style - meaning punctuation, abbreviation, and capitalization in every essay meets that standard. Then we sort the essays into chapters, determine chapter titles, search for photos, choose cover art, gather biographies, and finish many other little details until ready for publishing. We hope to have a finished product by Spring 2018 - in time to celebrate the North Star Chapter's 40th Anniversary.

Support the Chapter by buying our books!

Member dues pay only a portion of our programming and newsletter costs. Funds raised via sales of our published books help to keep membership dues low. Order our cookbook,

Sei Unser Gast,

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

via our website

www.NorthStarChapter.Org

Lutherans in Siberia: *(cont. from Page 6)*

How to support the work of Rev. Alexander Scheiermann: Send donations to: **First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach and Preschool of Richmond Beach, 18354 – 8th Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177-7398; Noted: For the ministry of the Church in Saratov or Siberia.**

(Tel.: 206 546 4153) *Please specify your support (e.g. Ministry Scheiermann – OR Saratov).*
