



NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with AHSGR and GRHS

President's Message

— Eleanor Sissell —

Alton and I were not able to attend the December meeting because Alton has been very ill with lung problems. He is on oxygen and requires in-home care. So, Lee Macklin hosted the December meeting.

We had a wonderful Oktoberfest dinner at our October meeting. There was a good turnout of members for the festive event. We owe a GREAT BIG "Thank You to Lillie Coad for for all she does to prepare menu lists handle refreshments, organize meals, and supervise cleanup at our meetings. Thanks to all who brought delicious foods.

A key activity at our December Annual Meeting agenda item was the nomination, vote, and election of the 2020 Board. Following installation of the SVCGR Officers, Chairpersons were appointed for all Standing Committees.

Membership Chapter dues for 2019 will be \$15.00. Please pay your 2020 dues either online via our website or mail in a check no later than December 31, 2019.

Christmas Social

Music & good times
Plenty of good food!!
Education activity & quiz

Sunday, December 8, 2019
2:00-5:00pm

American River Community Church
3300 Walnut Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608
Corner of North & Walnut

Program

Please arrive by 1:30
New Identification Badges
Pay 2020 Dues

Board elections & appointments

10 Words You Need to Understand
Christmas in Germany

Review 2019 Annual Report

Discuss Main goals for 2020

Your 2020 SVCGR Board

One of the goals at the December 8th Annual Meeting was to fill all the SVCGR Officer positions for the upcoming year. The membership had the opportunity to consider the candidates as well as volunteer their services for any of the five Officer positions: President, Vice-President (Programs), Vice-President

(Membership), Secretary and Treasurer. There was only one candidate for each position, so after the vote they were installed.

2020 SVCGR Officers

- President:** Lee Macklin
- Vice-President (Programs):** Cindi Jones
- Vice-President (Membership):** John Kreutzer
- Secretary:** Freddie Nezbeth
- Treasurer:** Deanne Ellsworth



OFFICERS: Deane, Freddie, John, Cindi, Lee

Next, there was a call for candidates for Chairperson positions of any of the Standing Committees: Chapter History, Genealogy, Hospitality, Library, Newsletter, Sunshine, and Webmaster.

There were no candidates for Genealogy, so Lee Macklin will fill in temporarily until someone can be found. Linda Anderson will lead the library inventory indexing project which will be a key new project beginning January.

For all other positions, the existing 2019 Chairpersons were re-appointed to serve again in 2020.

2020 Committee

Chairpersons

- Chapter History:** John Kreutzer
- Genealogy:** Lee Macklin
- Hospitality:** Lillie Coad
- Library:** Eleanor Sissell
Linda Anderson
- Newsletter:** Alton Sissell/Lee Macklin
- Sunshine:** Roxanne Spizzirri
- Webmaster:** Lee Macklin



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS;
Lillie, Roxanne, Linda Anderson, Linda Boehm, Lee

2020 SVCGR Chapter Director to GRHS: Linda Boehm

Christmas Event

Our December 8, 2019 Christmas Social was a feast!! This year we rolled out new functionality on our website which encouraged members to sign up in advance to bring select menu items. The sign up page organized food choices by general categories then allowed the member to further describe what they planned to bring. This allowed event organizers to review the food choices and allowed time to make adjustments. There was also a report page where you could view exactly what people were bringing as well as how many people were bringing the same type of food. So, for example before someone made their sign up choice they could first view what other people already signed up for. This might have influenced the food choice they were about to make.

Salads	Side Dishes	Main Course	Desserts	Other
Signed Up 2	Signed Up 2	Signed Up 4	Signed Up 3	Signed Up 0
If you plan to bring a Salad, such as a Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, etc, please describe it below.	If you choose Side Dishes, please describe below what you plan to bring.	If you choose Main Course, for this Christmas Social please bring a casserole in a	If you choose Desserts, please bring a dozen cookies. Left overs will be bagged	If you choose Other, please describe what you plan to bring below.

Please check out the Past Events section on our website to view more details and pictures from our 2019 Christmas Social. <https://www.svcgr.org/2019-christmas-social>

We plan to use this same Menu Sign Up process for our upcoming February 9, 2020 Valentine’s Social.

Let’s Have Some Fun

Here are 10 words that reveal the Christmas culture in Germany. Author: Elizabeth Grenier <https://www.dw.com/en/words-you-need-to-understand-christmas-in-germany/a-36650001>



“Vorfreude”

Strangely, there is no English word to directly translate "Vorfreude," which expresses "joyful anticipation." The German saying, "Vorfreude ist die schönste Freude," reminds us that anticipation is the greatest joy. Children learn quickly enough that their impossible list of wishes will not always get fulfilled. The fun part is that they can still happily hope it will — maybe — next year.



Plätzchen

A good way to sweeten the long (but joyful) wait until Christmas is with cookies. The ones Germans bake are called "Plätzchen," which literally translates as "little place." "Platz" (place) is also dialect for "flat cake," so Plätzchen are just a smaller version of those. And we'll always have a little spot left to eat one or two more of them, no matter how full we are.



Lametta

In a classic 1978 Christmas sketch by German comedian Loriot, a grandpa complains, "Früher war mehr Lametta!," (There used to be more tinsel!). The couple decorating the Christmas tree explains that they now prefer ecological decorations. Tinsel was invented in Nuremberg around 1610. It was originally made with real strands of silver, and later lead — until that was discovered to be poisonous.



Krippenspiel

Even non-religious families often go to church on Christmas Eve. After all, the whole party was invented because Jesus was born, and that's something children should at least know before overdosing on sugar and presents. Most services that night include a nativity play, or "Krippenspiel," where children recreate the events that led us, over 2,000 years later, to continue celebrating Christmas.



Christkind

In some parts of Germany, and in different European countries, it's not Santa Claus who brings the presents under the tree without being seen, but rather the Christkind, represented as a blond angel with wings. Santa Claus started taking over in the mid-20th century, following his appearances in US films. Many German children still send their list of wishes to the Christkind — just to be sure.



Bescherung

This is definite proof that Germans are more precise with their Christmas vocabulary: "Bescherung" concisely refers to the moment during which gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve. When they add the adjective "beautiful" to that word, as in "schöne Bescherung," it can ironically mean "what a mess." That was the title of the German version of the comedy "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."



Heiligabend

Gifts are traditionally exchanged on Christmas Eve, called in German "Heiligabend" (literally, holy evening). Christmas itself translates as "Weihnachten," which is derived from ancient Germanic dialect and means the holy nights. The term is plural, as the celebration was traditionally one that covered 12 days. Now in Germany it runs from the evening of December 24 through December 26.



Raunächte

Although the exact dates differ from one region to the other, usually, the "Raunächte" correspond to the period known as the 12 Days of Christmas, from December 25 to January 6, ending with the Christian feast of Epiphany. In Germanic mythology, during this special period of the year, animals were said to be able to predict the future and demons could pay a visit at any time.



Morgenland

Epiphany is the celebration also known as Three Kings' Day, when the Wise Men came "from the Orient" bearing precious gifts for Jesus. In German, they're called "Die Weisen aus dem Morgenland." Martin Luther coined the term "Morgenland" in his translation of the Bible. The word is now an outdated way to refer to the Middle East or Far East.



Hüftgold

This is not exclusively a word for the Christmas season, but it's certainly a glittering German expression: "Hüftgold" (Hip gold) is what you might develop, like this gingerbread man, after spending several days feasting. It's the equivalent of "love handles." Go ahead, enjoy all those delicious Christmas treats. Those extra pounds will make your hips shine.

2020 Focus

The SVCGR plans to focus on three main areas in the upcoming year:

- Member Stories and Photos
- Genealogical Research
- Inventory and index our complete Library, put it on our website, searchable online

Member Stories and Photos: The family stories of Germans from Russia members are a gift to future generations and are integral to the vitality of each chapter. After recording, writing, editing and including photos, we plan to post member stories on the SVCGR website. Members can access these important chronicles of Germans from Russia history.

Genealogical Research: Our Genealogy for Members Only will focus on detailed SVCGR member research projects. Many times, a member hits an impasse in individually researching an ancestor. In this effort, a member can ask for assistance in solving the mystery. A genealogical research goal is stated. The project is implemented by a team of members, who work independently and collaboratively to solve the challenge. The project results will be posted on the website for all members to view.

Inventory of our Online Library: In 2020, our chapter will focus on categorizing and indexing our extensive library of books, journals maps and other materials. The end result will be a user-friendly, searchable Online Library. Even articles contained within each journal will be listed. Members will be able to reserve, check out and return any library item.

New Germans from Russia Index Available

In an effort to support other descendants of Germans from Russia in their family research, Linda Boehm has entered the information of 994 children who are listed in the [Speier Roman Catholic Baptismal Register](#). This register lists children born in Russia from January 6, 1878 to December 28, 1888, who were baptized in the village of Speier in Russia.

Information entered into the Family Search database (familysearch.org) includes the name of child, name of parents, birth place, place of baptism, name of priest performing baptism, name of godparents and (in some cases) the names of grandfathers.

Publication:

Speier Roman Catholic Parish Baptismal Register

January 6, 1878 to December 28, 1888

Saratov State Archive

A Project of Germans from Russia Heritage Society

Coordinated by the GRHS Clearing House

2018, Germans from Russia Heritage Society

Happy Holidays to Everyone..!!!

Alton Sissell & Lee Macklin,

SVCGR Newsletter Editors

