

# American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

## Southern California Chapter



### SPRING MEETING

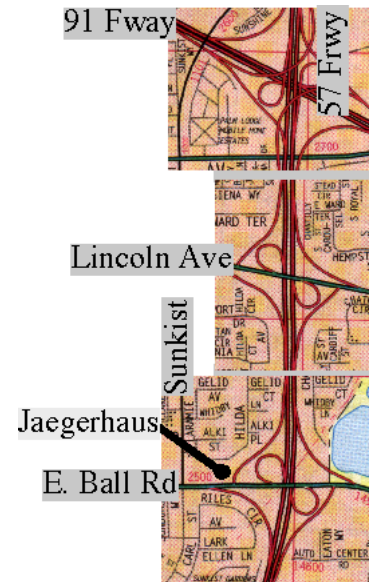
Saturday, April 26, 2003

JAEGERHAUS Restaurant  
Authentic German Food  
2525 E. Ball Rd.  
Anaheim, CA  
(714) 520-9500

- 10:30 A.M. AHSGR BQARD MEETING
- 11:30 A.M. Sign in / Get acquainted
- 12:00 NOON Family style Lunch and Program

Luncheon will include two entrees:

- Roulades of Beef (stuffed with bacon, onion and pickle)
- Cabbage Rolls, Green salad with German dressing, German potato salad, and creamed spinach
- All served with rolls, butter, peach cobbler, soft drinks or coffee.



### THE PROGRAM

"Dedication of a Monument in the Village of Glueckstal" by Margaret Freeman (who was there).

Our chapter is fortunate to have Margaret, one of the few AHSGR National Distinguished Service Award recipients. In 1996, Margaret, her husband Bob, Barbara Horn and Harold Ehrman were a part of a "Journey to the Homeland" tour, visiting the villages of their ancestors, Bergdorf, Neudorf and Glueckstal which are now in Moldova, and Kassel which remained in the Ukraine.

Michael Miller of North Dakota State University, suggested establishing a monument in Glueckstal, now Glinoye, to honor our Germans who lived there from the founding in 1803 to the removal in March of 1944 with the German army. Margaret, with pictures, will share the historical background and development of the experience and the establishment of the monument, the first of its kind of the Russian colonies.

Margaret, Gwen Pritzkau and Carolyn Wheeler founded the Glueckstal Colonies Research Association which has grown to over 400 members and may well be the largest organized village research group for the Germans from Russia.....DON'T FORGET THE RAFFLE!!

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Please make your reservations for the 2003 Spring Meeting, April 26, by **Monday, April 21**

Make your check payable to AHSGR Treasurer.

Mail to Shirley Arendt, 2530 N. Spurgeon, Santa Ana, CA. 92706-1731, phone (714) 543-2358.

Help our new treasurer give the correct count to Jaegerhaus by getting your reservations in on time.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$17.50 (incl tax and tip) ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Presidents Letter**

April 2003

Your Board Officers and Director held the annual old/new board meeting in Pasadena on March 31, 2003. Despite valiant efforts by the election committee headed by Rick Anderson to fill all of the open positions, no one would volunteer to take the position as Chapter President. Therefore, the board voted to have me stay on as president for one last year. The bylaws review committee will include term limits for Officers when the new revision is presented for approval in April. At this meeting the scheduled meetings for 2003 were approved. Again we have a great year planned.

The CDC sponsored Heritage Fest is in Sacramento this year. (see enclosed information) The fests are a good opportunity to hear excellent speakers and learn "how to do tools" to assist you in your genealogical research. I encourage you to attend.

Mark your calendars for the Annual AHSGR Convention in Yakima, WA in June 2003. You should have received your convention package by now. Again, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about and socialize with folks with the same ethnic heritage as your own. There will be demonstrations of the SOAR database and search capabilities that will be so much help in future research. The CDC meeting at the Freeman home in February provided input to the 2004 California Convention planning committee This convention is going to require assistance from all of the CDC chapters to be successful.

Dot Kerr, one of our chapter founding members, and long time parliamentarian, has resigned her position but not her membership in the chapter. We all owe Dot a great big vote of thanks for the many years of devoted service to the chapter. If it weren't for people like Dot Kerr we all would have missed so much of our heritage.

There have been some organizational changes in the staff at Lincoln Headquarters. The position of Executive Director is vacant and during the March meeting in Lincoln the board will determine how they can strengthen the support that we get from Headquarters. I'll report on the progress of that at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We have done very well on our membership drive thus far, however, it is not to late to join for 2003. The membership committee has worked very hard to contact all of you and is due a big vote of thanks.

See all of you at the Jagerhaus on April 26.

*Al Hart*

**AHSGR MEETING DATES.....(Circle the dates on your calendars)**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>
April 26-----	Jaegerhaus - Anaheim -----	Via Email please !
Aug. 24 -----	Alpine Village - Torrance German Day -----	July 13
Oct. 11 -----	Oceanside - Yacht Club (Tentative)-----	Aug 31
Dec. 6-----	Monte Vista Grove Pasadena -----	Oct 26

**SUMMARY OF THE AHSGR BOARD MEETINGS IN LINCOLN, NE  
MARCH 20-22, 2003 ..... by Diana Bell**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Bruce Cropper, Chairman**

Presented a revised 2003 budget that was very lean. Cash flow still a problem  
An IRS audit gave us a clean bill of health.. Grafton & Associates will finish the 2002 audit after April 15th.

**EDITORIAL & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Jerry Siebert, Chairman**

Committee worked on police issues, work plans and policy & procedures manual.  
Are investigating sending Journals and newsletters from headquarters by electronic mail.  
Want other committees and members to seek and submit good articles for the Journal.  
The Post convention newsletter will have short reports from all Board committees. Will be printing numerous anthologies for sale. Reported on their revised priorities for expenses.  
Planning a book sale promotional.

**HISTORICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE: Henry Smick, Chairman**

Working on making contacts with the Landsmannschaft in Germany to index their publications list in English. Updated their Policy on Collections. The Deitz Book is being translated, as well as other projects in the works. Norka Village Video should be finished in April. A Farming Equipment Exhibit is planned for the other half of the Robert Kincade Blacksmith Shop. The Fanning Mill will go there when it is restored.

Applying for a grant for the Volga Relief Society translation, indexing and preservation project which is shared with the Nebraska University who has some of the records.

A Video Tour of the Heritage Center in Lincoln is completed. Copies will be available for purchase by the Chapters.

**GENEALOGY COMMITTEE: Doris Evans, Chairman**

Working with the Village Coordinators toward the VC meeting at the Yakima Convention. Urges all VCs to attend convention. Has total list of all Pleve Charts at Headquarters and held privately: **570 Charts** will be listed on the AHSGR web site.

The PAF genealogy database has been cleaned up by Frank & Delma McLean of Yakima, WA. From 480,000 to **240,000 individuals**. (Note: Central California Chapter has 189,000 in their unedited PAF database) Updated Policy for Lincoln Research Library:

**"No children allowed in the Research Library, unless they are doing research" .**

**FOLKLORE & LINGUISTICS COMMITTEE: Diana Bell, Chairman**

Committee making direct contact with the Chapter Presidents has helped in bringing some results for the 2003 Story Telling Contest and the Action Picture Exhibit for the convention. A five year anthology of all the stories submitted for the past contests, will be worked on after the 2003 contest. Updated Policy & Procedure Manual and the Work Plan for 2003-04. Working on a list of interview questions to standardize and encourage chapters to record member stories before it is too late.

Working on finding volunteers with the proper equipment to convert audio tapes and records, held at Headquarters, to CDs or DVDs for preservation. There are over 500 to convert. Have firm program for the Yakima 2003 Convention.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Bob Gies, Chairman**

Plan to advertise in Heritage Quest magazine. Picked a nominee for the 2003 Distinguished Service Award to be given out in Yakima. Enforced the procedure of sending out a letter with each purchase from

headquarters. A membership survey will go out in mid April. Survey forms will also be given out at the Yakima convention.

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO LINCOLN PROMPTLY.**

Committee is trying to work directly with Chapter Presidents, Membership chairs and Newsletter Editors. The new Meta-file database is starting to be used by Diane White, membership staff.

**TECHINCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Ken Leffler, Chairman**

Worked on projects for SOAR & MORE. Workpapers and Journals have been digitized. MORE to market. **SOAR:** 102,000 obits sent out to 93 volunteers; 99,000 obits indexed and returned for quality control and **30,000 finished and ready for the database to be used at the Yakima convention.** Have had computer problems at Lincoln; viruses, hackers and hard drive crashes. Plan to purchase one new workstation for use of the public. Updated backup procedures and the Policy Manual.

**We need member volunteers to convert audio cassettes to CDs or DVDs. If you have the equipment needed to convert tapes to CDs or DVDs, please contact Ken Leffler or Diana Bell.**

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Jim Fabricius, Chairman**

Has researched many old records and gave report on the buildings at the AHSGR Heritage Center. Gave a summary of options possible to manage the Heritage Center site.

Proposed a Farm Equipment Exhibit in one half of the Robert Kincade Blacksmith Shop building. Viewed the Heritage Center Tour at AHSGR and will sell copies for \$15.00 each. Reviewed the Strategic Plan and revised the Policy Manual on Collections.

**JOINT MEETING OF BOD AND BOT : Alton Sissell, Calif. representative on Foundation**

Foundation will present a fund raising project at Convention. **Start Now ! -- collecting ink jet cartridges, etc. .** Watch for details in the Newsletter from Lincoln.

**No cost to us but will bring in \$ to AHSGR general operating funds.**

A pilot project of selling AHSGR books on E-BAY was successful. Sold over \$500.00 worth since September 2002. Will expand to include other items members might want to donate for sale on E-BAY. MORE: working on a marketing plan for obituaries and other AHSGR items.

Need more volunteers to help staff in Lincoln and at home.

The AHSGR/GRHS Special Committee is making progress in joint cooperation for GRHS.

The Russian Archives Committee is working with the Kansas University to copy records in Russia. Planning a trip to Saratov to make and improve contacts.

The McLeans gave a report on the 2003 Yakima Convention.

Jerry Siebert, chairman of the CDC hosted 2004 AHSGR Convention in Modesto, CA, gave a progress report on the current plans.

Marianne Long, chairman, reported on the 2005 Oklahoma City Convention progress.

Next Board of Directors and Trustees Meeting will be in Yakima, WA on June 16-17, and Lincoln, NE on Sept 18-20, 2003

## HERITAGE FEST 2003

Plans are being finalized for the CDC Heritage Fest 2003, which will be held Saturday, May 17 at Greenhaven Lutheran Church, 475 Florin Road, in Sacramento. Please mark your calendar for this all-day event hosted by the Sacramento Valley Chapter AHSGR. The theme will be "Celebrating Our Heritage".

The Festival Committee, chaired by Eleanor Sissell, has arranged an informative program about Russian-German heritage, history, and genealogy. Included will be presentations on Ministry in South America, Farming on the Volga - past and present, Land Measures and Coinage in Russia, Growing up in Russian-German Communities, Folkways Demonstrations, Research Aids, What's new in the Salt Lake Family History Center Library, Translations, Village Research/Projects, and Writing a Personal History. Luncheon music will be provided by Carl Diesendorf on his dulcimer, accompanied by John Weber, button box, and John Kreutzer, guitar.

For the youth there will be a number of learning activities covering aspects of Russian-German culture in Russia and America, which will include history, folklore/customs, and handcrafts, as well as traditional games such as Bannock.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES and displays at this year's Heritage Fest:

The AHSGR Traveling Exhibit sent from Lincoln will be on display.

Amy Whitlatch, a German-Russian with ancestors from Kiev, will show us how to "Save Your History" by demonstrating artifact preservation for documents, photos, and textiles.

Alpentanzer Schuhplattler, a local dance troupe, will entertain us.

Pre-registration for the Fest is a modest \$10, if mailed before May 1 st. The Registration fee will be \$15 after that date. Plans have been made for a German-style luncheon on site, also at a very low cost. A delicious evening banquet, for an additional fee, at Cafe Vienna in West Sacramento will follow the day's activities. The keynote speaker for the evening program will be Edward Hoak, International President of AHSGR.

On Sunday, the California District Council General Meeting will give you an opportunity to speak on issues that concern you most. Come and meet with us and share your needs and concerns.

## 2000 in 2000

What is 2000 in 2000 and what does it mean? It is a campaign or concerted effort to raise funds for AHSGR. We need the support of every member of our great organization, to preserve our heritage. It is an opportunity to give and to support the collection and preserving of valuable documents, letters, books, tapes or any other artifacts, which give us the opportunity to save our heritage for future generations.

The phrase, "2000 in 2000" is a special fund-raising effort to help us reach our million dollar Endowment Fund goal for AHSGR. With dollars from this campaign we hope to gather more documents from Russia about our German-Russian ancestors. We do not know when the door will close on this opportunity. If we do not raise the funds, we will not be able to gather information that will be lost forever to our people. There are boxes of valuable papers in Russia which have not been discovered. It will take dollars to get the information out of the country, translated and published. This must be done so that our story, culture and heritage can be preserved.

On a personal note, this last year we received a phone call from a relative whom we had not heard from for over 60 years. He wanted to come and see where his mother had grown up. When he came we were able to provide him with information and pictures of his heritage. This was possible because of our

international organization and the historical documents and other information obtained from sources outside the USA.

At the AHSGR convention in Lincoln, the International Foundation introduced the "2000 in 2000" campaign. This effort will be ongoing until our next convention in Yakima, WA this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to give and help preserve our heritage. Whether you are able to give two thousand dollars or two hundred dollars, all is needed to help reach our goal. Won't you become a "legacy builder" to promote our special German-Russian heritage? Give now and thank you to those of you who have given to reach this noble goal!

If you are still considering making a contribution, there are two reasons to make your contribution now. First, it is tax deductible and second; all contributions from now until the Yakima convention will help meet the matching challenge of an anonymous donor. Your contribution and the matching funds will help the Society to continue the preservation of the precious heritage and culture of all people with German-Russian ancestors. Contribute now and make a difference'

(Article contributed by Mrs. Lela A. Miller, IFAHSGR Trustee)

### **NEED HELP WITH MODERN EUROPE TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES?**

Do you have Volhynian or Poland German family members (or their descendants) that you think might have made it back to Germany but you are not sure or don't know how to find them? The same situation could exist for any ethnic German that returned from any other Eastern Block country as well. If the surname (or given names) are at all unusual this tool can be very powerful.

A possible answer or resource to check is a CD-ROM of Germany's telephone (if listed) numbers/addresses and the holder's name. GDATA Software produces a CD called PowerInfo Auskunft that is Windows compatible (95.98, 2000, ME or NT) that is relatively easy to install and use. A limited knowledge of German is certainly helpful. You can search surnames and once found the screen data can be printed out. Their WebSite is at: [www.gdata.de](http://www.gdata.de). Your local software store can probably get the CD for you or it should be available via the WebSite. Our copy (a 10/2000 version) cost less then ten DM.

We have used our copy of the CD to find two German cousins that none in our family in America, nor other of our cousins in Germany, had contact with for over 50 years! What a thrill for both sides to be rediscovered. For Mildred's Volhynian paternal side we have located several families with the same surname presently living in Germany. We wrote most of them a letter (in German and English) with data on the family history in Pommern and Ukraine and have received several replies. Many responded by email. Although we have not received any actual help with Mildred's own line we have found many that have ancestors that lived in either Pommern or Volhynia or both. In some cases we had data to help them! One lady has sent us her data on Family Tree Maker format on a CD-ROM. So if you think it might help give it a try.

Ron and Millie Akers, 21061 Vandenberg Ave, Riverside, CA 92518-2889; 909-567-5978; [rlmlakers@earthlink.net](mailto:rlmlakers@earthlink.net).

**LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR AHSGR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003**

It is time to do something about renewing your membership. If you are serious about your search for ancestors then membership in AHSGR is one of the best bargains available. Included with this message is a renewal form. You can cut it out or copy it on a copier, or copy it by hand if your handwriting or printing is legible. The total cost for the year is \$58.00, unless you are a Life Member, in which case total cost is \$8.00 chapter dues. If you want to become an International Life Member, that is a one-time cost of \$750 and does not include chapter dues. If you want only to receive the newsletter, become a friend with an annual payment of only \$8. Remember, anyone can attend meetings but only members can vote.

To those of you getting complimentary newsletters and still trying to decide if you want to become a member - give it a try - keep the newsletter coming. International Membership gives you access to a huge amount of genealogical information available at International Headquarters in Lincoln, NE, some of which is becoming available on the internet at [www.ahsgr.org](http://www.ahsgr.org)....AND Southern California Chapter membership brings you four or five issues of a great newsletter and four meetings each year with informative and meaningful programs and socializing aimed at helping you in your search.

Renew now by mail, or at the meeting on April 26. Send your completed membership form and money to our Treasurer, Shirley Arendt, 2530 N Spurgeon St, Santa Ana, CA 92706-1731, before it is too late.

Questions about membership? Call Membership Chairman Bill Davis, 661-946-5575, [billdavis31@earthlink.net](mailto:billdavis31@earthlink.net) or Chapter President Al Hart, 714 847 6481, [ahhart@aol.com](mailto:ahhart@aol.com)

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

<p>Dear New or Renewing Member:</p> <p>AHSGR dues are payable by or before January 1 and become delinquent on January 31. <b>Please remit promptly to help save postage costs and labor.</b></p>	<p>Enclosed is my check for <u>\$58.00</u> for 2003</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW</b>                      <input type="checkbox"/> <b>RENEWAL</b> (circle one)</p> <p><u>          </u> International Dues <u>\$50.00</u></p> <p><u>          </u> Local Chapt. Dues <u>\$ 8.00</u></p> <p><u>          </u> I am an International Life Member</p>
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SEND BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTER DUES TO THE LOCAL CHAPTER TREASURER: Shirley Arendt, 2530 N Spurgeon St, Santa Ana, CA 92706-1731

IF YOU ARE NEW, OR YOUR INFORMATION HAS CHANGED, PLEASE HELP US BY ALSO FILLING IN THE FORM BELOW. If you have questions please contact one of the Membership Committee Members

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_ Ancestral Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_ Ancestral Village: \_\_\_\_\_

# AHSGR NEWSLETTER

AHSGR  
43228 Vineyard Ave.  
Lancaster, CA 93535