

# North Star Chapter

September 2011

<http://www.northstarchapter.org/>

Volume 36 Number 3

## **Autumn Potluck Picnic**

**Saturday, September 24, 2011, Noon**

**Chuck and Vicki Kurle Residence, 2040 Highland Drive, Hastings, MN**

The North Star Chapter is kicking off our 2011-2012 program year with an old-fashioned picnic at the home of Chuck and Vicki (Kempf) Kurle, 2040 Highland Drive, Hastings, MN, on Saturday, September 24, beginning at noon (look for directions inside this newsletter). Please bring a dish to share. Meat, paper products, and beverages will be provided.

In the early years of the North Star Chapter, we had an annual summer picnic. It was a time for families to get to know one another in a relaxed setting and share their stories. Please join us once again as we celebrate family and our shared heritage. Those who attended summer conventions or family reunions can report on their experiences and we can all get caught up on one another's lives. [Many thanks to Chuck and Vicki for hosting this event.](#) Contact chapter members you know who live near you and consider carpooling. See driving directions on page 4.

## **Dakota Air: The Radio Show**

**Saturday, October 29, 2011, 7:00 pm – 9:00pm**

**Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Main Street, Hopkins, MN**

North Star Chapter pioneers the Twin Cities' debut of Dakota Air: The Radio Show. This two-hour radio variety show entertains, educates, and inspires audiences by featuring talent from across the region while showcasing a bit of culture and history about the location from which each show originates. Dakota Air is taped before a live audience. Prairie Public Radio broadcasts the shows at a later date, making the show available worldwide for playback via podcast at any time online at [www.DakotaAirTheRadioShow.com](http://www.DakotaAirTheRadioShow.com).

You won't want to miss this event. Dakota Air: The Radio Show is two hours of toe-tapping fun for all ages, featuring skits, music, monologues, a history lesson and more music. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors; a good time is guaranteed for all. See the flyer inside this newsletter for full information on the Radio Stars Band, the Dakota Airheads Acting Troupe, and the special guest stars, including two descendants of Germans from Russia: Debra (**Dakota Air**, continued on page 5)

## **Upcoming Events**

November 19, 2011: Bi-Annual Genealogy Workshop; program to be announced

December 3, 2011: Annual Weihnachtsfest

## President's Message

By Lil Ward

Welcome back, and I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As we look ahead to the great events that are lined up for the fall and winter I realize how very fortunate we are to have an organization like the North Star Chapter. We have meetings with speakers, food and fun for eight months of the year so we can learn, use the library and have *maistube* with people.

I know that Carol and Nancy have some new programs planned for the next couple months which are listed in this newsletter. Our picnic in September at the Kurles' home is very special. They have wanted to host the North Star Chapter for a food event for some time and we are excited about it. Most of you know what wonderful treats Vicki has made for the past months for our chapter meetings as she is an awesome baker.

I am really excited about the October Prairie Public Radio Show that we will be hosting. Carol and Nancy are working hard on this new venture so tell your friends, family and neighbors about this event.

Then we move on to our November genealogy meeting and December Weihnachtsfest potluck. Mark your calendars for all these events. I look forward to seeing you all there.

We have a few officers who will be completing their terms of office so we will need to have a nominating committee to put together a slate of officers for 2012. We need to replace Ardella Bennett as Membership Chair, Ron Scherbenski as Treasurer and my position as President. We will be checking with all the other officers to see if they are willing to serve another year. It is always nice to have people volunteer so call a Board member if you would be willing to consider taking one of these positions. Without officers our chapter cannot stay in existence so please help us keep the chapter up

**(President's Message, continued on page 3)**

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## Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

***Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea***, by Ute Schmidt, translated by James Gessele, published by German Russian Heritage Center, is now on our shelves. It's beautiful to look at, easy to read, easy to hold, loaded with beautiful pictures, and best of all, contains information that will surprise you. The author's painstaking research reveals much historical data we may never have heard of. Please take time to peruse this book.

### ***The Kuhlberg Lists: Lists of Colonists in Russia in 1766 – Ivan Kuhlberg's Reports by Igor Pleve***

The Kuhlberg Lists (520-page hardback book) was compiled by Titular Counselor Ivan Kuhlberg as the colonists arrived in Oranienbaum. More than 20,000 persons in 6,500 families are documented in the Kuhlberg lists. These lists are compiled by ship, date of arrival in Russia, port of departure, name of the ship, and name of the skipper. Listed are name and surname of the colonists, composition of the family (age of children), where they came from, religious confession, and place they desired to settle.

Thanks to Sam Brungardt for alerting me to this valuable source of information for members whose ancestors came from the Volga region. This book would include people who also died on the way to the Volga region.

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO MARILYN BRINK!**

Marilyn has graciously agreed to help during library time at our meetings.

### **WATCH FOR FREE TABLES!**

We have boxes of loose material, and no way to display it. Our shelves are loaded. We have no other space available. Please keep an eye out for material that interests you. If no one picks it up, it goes to recycle.

### **PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY ITEMS**

Please look around for checked-out books and bring them when we meet in November. There will only be four meetings this coming season where you will have opportunity to bring books back, and to check books out.

### **(President's Message,** continued from page 2)

and running.

The North Star Chapter is run by volunteers and we have been so fortunate to have so many people willing to help. Whether it is helping to set up chairs for the meetings, making coffee, bringing food, helping people with the library and genealogy or putting on a smile and making a new person feel welcome.

As this is my last "President's letter" I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for helping me though the past two years. Each time I asked for volunteers (and I asked a lot) you were there to help. I've been an officer in the organization for several years now and would like to take a break from office but will be an active member and volunteer.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. See you at the picnic.

## **Picnic Directions to: Chuck & Vicki Kurle, 2040 Highland Dr., Hastings, MN, 55033**



Parking on both sides of the street and the driveway

From the North on Hwy 61:

Right on Hwy 55 and go west past McDonalds on your left to Pleasant Dr  
Left on Pleasant Dr to 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Right on 15<sup>th</sup> Street to Highland Dr.  
Left on Highland Dr.

From the West and North on Hwy 55:

Right on General Sieben Dr (first stoplight – Cub Foods is on your right)  
Left on 15<sup>th</sup> Street to Highland Dr.  
Right on Highland Dr.

From the South-West on Hwy 52:

Cty 46 east to Hastings.  
Left on Pleasant Dr (second turn into Hastings on 46) to 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Left on 21<sup>st</sup> Street to Highland Dr (last street)  
Right on Highland Dr.

From the South on Hwy 61/316:

At the Vermillion River bridge, take a left on Cty 46 for a couple miles to Pleasant Dr.  
Right on Pleasant Dr to 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Left on 21<sup>st</sup> Street to Highland Dr (last street)  
Right on Highland Dr.

## **Member News**

Condolences to Paul Winter on the passing of his sister Selma Hayhurst. She was 94 years old when she passed away March 24.

Condolences to Bernie & Roy Becker on the passing of Roy's daughter Kathy Becker on August 23.

Condolences to Sharon & Pete Kleingartner, Helen Kleingartner, and Lil and Dayton Ward on the passing of their sister-in-law Lorraine Kleingartner on August 31.

## **Happy Birthday!**

September: Janet Flegel, Elvera Hofmann, Marv Presler, Clarence Wanner, Arnie Zimmerman

October: Roy Becker, Lucille Elrite, Mayo Flegel, Marv Geske, Helen Kleingartner, Myrle Reising, Alice Rutzen

## Please Take Note

The Fox Pavilion and Sunflower Chapter of AHSGR, Hays, KS, are sponsoring a German buffet and a movie on Friday, September 16, 2011, at 6:00 pm. The movie, "Eine Hochzeit in Ellis County – 1881" is a re-enactment of a Volga-German wedding as it would have been in Ellis County in 1881. There will be an open cash bar available. Tickets are \$15. For more information, contact Kevin Rupp at [krupp@ruraltell.net](mailto:krupp@ruraltell.net).

You may now search the AHSGR card catalog from home using your Internet browser. Simply open the AHSGR website (<http://ahsgr.org>) and select the Research Material button on the left side of the screen followed by clicking the On-line Library button on the left side of the next page OR enter the site directly using <http://ahsgr.org/FindAncestors/ResearchMaterials/Onlinelibrary.htm>.

## Happy Anniversary!

September: Marlene & Chris Huber

October: Pat & Ray Current, Bernadine & Roger Kuhn, Cindy Miller & Sean Beaton

(**Dakota Air**, continued from page 1)

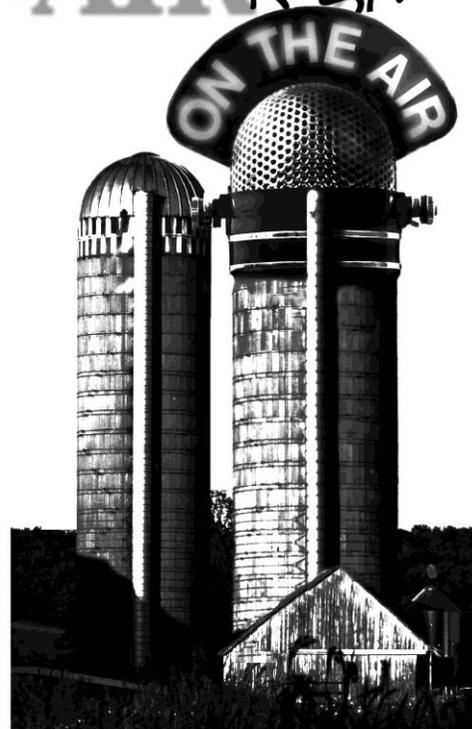
Marquart, known to chapter members as a North Dakota native with numerous talents, and Sean Benz of southwestern Minnesota, a student at SDSU-Brookings, an emerging talent in country and rock music.

Hopkins Center for the Arts (HCA) has over 700 seats. We'd like to see the

house full for this special show that will give us an opportunity to celebrate our rural heritage. The venue is handicap-accessible. Parking is free. There are many eating establishments near the theatre so come early and enjoy.

Full information on how you can get tickets is included in the flyer inside this newsletter. We included extras so you can share with others or post at a coffee shop or other venue near you. The flyer is also available on our website ([www.northstarchapter.org](http://www.northstarchapter.org)) so you can forward or print it out and share with all your friends. If you are a Facebook user, "friend" the North Star Chapter page and share it with your friends. See you there!

# DAKOTA AIR *The Radio Show*



## Book Review: Bessarabia - German Colonists on the Black Sea

By Bernelda Becker

Due to the vision, effort, and expertise of many people, *Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea* is now available in English. Our own Jim Gessele has translated into English this clearly written, well-researched reference book, authored in German by Ute Schmidt. Jim will tell you he did not do this by himself, but with the help of many others. After two-plus years of cooperative effort, the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection published this 432-page book, beautifully illustrated with photos and maps.

Beginning with Chapter I: Colonists—Resettlers—Refugees, and ending with Chapter XVIII: Bessarabia after 1940 until Today, the author presents a comprehensive record of the life, culture, religion, industry, and Russian influence in this area of Russia covering some two and a half centuries.

American Germans from Russia will readily identify with the German colonists to Bessarabia, who, as stated on page 36, “*tapped the rich topsoil, cultivated it and transformed Bessarabia into one of the breadbaskets of the Black Sea region.*” Didn’t their forefathers do likewise to the virgin prairie soil of the Central Plains states following immigration to the United States?

Each chapter is a treasure chest of surprises. For instance, Chapter X: Trades, Industry, Infrastructure,

tells of the entrepreneurial spirit of the colonists. Wagon building, first for their own use, then for sale to Russians; book binding, mainly of their hymnals; textile mills; and harvesting of salt are just a few of their industrial efforts. We Americans tend to look back through our “agricultural lens,” but there are many surprises to misconceptions we may have.

The Foreword, Preface, and Appendix, along with the many color plates add keen enjoyment to an already fascinating historical reference.

Minnesota’s North Star Chapter played a major role in getting the English version of *Bessarabia: German Colonists on the Black Sea* published. Longtime North Star Chapter member Jim Gessele served as English translator, and the North Star Chapter provided a \$5000 grant to NDSU’s Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) in the spring of 2010 as seed money for raising the funds to finally publish in May 2011. Because of our role in helping to get the book published and available to English readers, North Star Chapter members in good standing are eligible to purchase the book at the wholesale price of \$48. Regular price is \$60. Please email Carol Just at [caroljust@hotmail.com](mailto:caroljust@hotmail.com) or call her at 612 554 3050 to order your book.

### Did You Know?

German-American Day is October 6. It commemorates the date in 1683 when 13 families from the Rhine Valley arrived in Philadelphia. They went on to found the nearby community of Germantown, Pennsylvania. President Reagan first declared it a holiday in 1983 to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German immigration, and signed it into law in 1987.