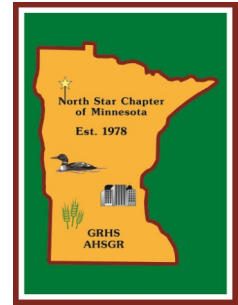


# North Star Chapter

November 2010

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

Volume 35 Number 4



## Fall Genealogy Meeting

**Saturday, November 20, 2010, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN**

10 am – noon: The library will be open; join other members working on genealogy projects.  
Noon – 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own; bring a brown bag or visit one of the local restaurants.  
1:00: Business meeting with election of officers  
2:00: Social Networking and Genealogy, presented by Nancy Gertner and Cynthia Miller

Many genealogists have turned to the internet for faster and easier ways to complete their family trees. But social networking, such as using Facebook, can also help you connect with relatives from all branches of your family tree, all over the world.

Nancy Gertner and Cynthia Miller will give an overview of using social networking to connect with family and help your genealogy pursuits, including pages and groups to join, and real examples and experiences. If you haven't set up a Facebook profile, this is a chance to join the 500 million users all over world. It's not just for students any more...learn how this fast-growing internet technology can help you come face-to-face with your family history.

## Weihnachtsfest

**Saturday, December 4, 2010, 11:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Berea Lutheran Church, 7538 Emerson Ave. S., Richfield MN**

One of the highlights of our program year, our annual Weihnachtsfest, will again be a chance to meet friends, eat great food, and share our holiday memories. This is a potluck lunch, so please bring your favorite item to share. Beverages and eating utensils will be provided, along with music and fun! Guests and family members are especially welcome. If you have an extra few minutes to help organize the food on the tables, please speak to Lil Ward (763-784-8626 or [lilward@comcast.net](mailto:lilward@comcast.net)).

## President's Message

By Lil Ward

As I write this, winter seems to be setting in real fast, so throw another log on the fire and keep warm. We have programs in place through January 2011 so mark your calendars...you won't want to miss any of them.

One of our most popular events is our annual Weihnachtsfest on December 4. Oh, the wonderful food! Usually there is kuchen, knoepfla, sausage, halupsy and sauerkraut along with many American dishes (some of us don't cook too much German/Russian food). Also the music and *maistube* will warm your hearts. Bring your entire family for a fun time.

Having Brent Mai from Concordia University in Portland was a great way to kick off our 2010 Fall Program. I look forward to seeing you on November 20 as Nancy Gertner and Cindy Miller update us on the latest tools for finding your family.

## Happy Birthday

November: Rebecca Ellsworth, Norma Herrboldt, Chris Huber, Donna Pauley, Tom Schonebaum

December: Erma Lechko, Rachel Mantik, Shirley Pfeifle, Cheryl Presler, Jill Reiswig, Dayton Ward, Lil Ward, Kathy Wellman, Elinor Wenzel

## Happy Anniversary

November: Sandy & Arnie Zimmerman, Mary Ann Weigel & Clarence Wanner

December: Elena & Marv Geske, Angie & John Ibarra, Carol & Arve Moser, Sharon & Jim Stoebner

## North Star Chapter 2010 Officers

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# A Painful Reminiscence

By Bernie Becker

When a person reaches the ripe old age of 82, you would think the days of youth would consist of fond memories. And there are those. But I had a restless night after I read the book *Anton*.

You see, this book is written through the eyes of a young German child who lived in the Ukraine through the days of the Bolshevik Revolution. Anton witnessed his father's cold-blooded murder. His mother struggled to feed her ten children while collectivization took place. Most of the food grown in her garden had to be given to the Party. The book is very graphic, and does not leave much to the imagination.

When I went to bed that night I thought back to my youth—of the many times my parents moved, and I'm ashamed to say I cannot remember being of much help to my mother. I can't even remember the actual moves, except for the time we moved to Detroit. I must have helped – but I can't remember it.

Just as Anton's life revolved around his childish world, his dislike of the watered-down *borscht* his mother was able to put on the table, thus I, too, in my childish way, was more concerned that once again I had to leave friends at the school I'd been attending and be "that new kid" in a new school.

I had no concern for the problems my parents were having, or the *why* of all those moves when jobs were almost impossible to find. It never dawned on my youthful brain that my parents had feelings too. I wonder just how my dad must have felt in 1937 when he had to auction all his belongings to pay off creditors, and rent out the farmland and buildings for \$5.00 an acre. He came

from a reasonably well-off family. His self-esteem must have plummeted. My mother, too, had to give up the sense of stability she'd had living in a nice home after a childhood of poverty. I always talk about having attended thirteen schools in twelve years. That also means my mom tore up stakes almost that many times, moving out of one old farmhouse she had cleaned up into yet another dirty one, never feeling part of another new community, lonely, wondering what would come next. It means my father had lost one job and found another, no easy task in those days.

My father became ill and was hospitalized for several months in 1945. Mom had to move off the farm where Dad had been working. She moved her family to the nearby town of Groton and found a job at the Bluebird Café. I can't remember the move at all. Didn't I help? How selfish could I have been if I didn't? She moved us to Aberdeen that fall. Who helped her? How did she find the house she rented? How did she bring dad home from the hospital? Did we have a car? I can't remember.

Later, she found work at the Milwaukee Depot Restaurant. We moved to an apartment close to there. I cannot recall the move at all. I can't believe I didn't help. I seem to have totally blocked out these memories, and I don't know why.

Just as Anton's mom thought only of what was best for her family, and through much sacrifice finally brought her children to Canada, so, too, my mom did what was necessary in trying times to care for her husband and children, even though, at the time, we did not understand her sacrifice and dedication. I just remember living in my own world, resenting much of what life was dealing out

(A Painful Reminiscence , continued on page 6)

# Al Neuharth at the 2010 GRHS Convention

By Bernie Becker

Al Neuharth, founder of *USA Today*, was the keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Duane Stabler had arranged for Al to speak, and introduced him, saying that Al had been born in Eureka, SD, and delivered papers at age 11. Rather than giving a speech, Al's presentation was done in interview style, with Jack Marsh of the Freedom Forum asking the questions.

At age 86 he looked healthy and alert. He is tall and slender with a beautiful head of gray hair. He sat the chair in a relaxed way and his mannerisms reminded me of my father. Here is my summary of the interview.

Al accepted the invitation to the convention because GRHS represents his heritage and he likes to get away to the Plains. He left his home in Florida at 4 AM that morning – flew to Minneapolis, drove to Bismarck, and arrived just minutes before the interview.

His family came from a village near Strasburg, Germany, to Kassel, Russia, to the Yankton-Menno area. Al's father was the first of 17 children. He died when Al was two. His mom went through first grade, supported her family, and died at 86. After Al finished fifth grade his widowed mother moved to Alpena, near Huron. He credits his work ethic to growing up in the Dakotas. He knew everyone needed to work, and he liked to work.

There were only 24 in his senior class in Alpena. Even with the small classes, Al was not good enough to play football. A teacher told him if he would write about sports for the school paper, he could ride to games on the bus. He eventually learned people actually could get paid for sports writing. Thinking he'd get rich and famous in a hurry, he and a friend developed a weekly paper, *SoDak Sports*. They borrowed \$50,000, but went broke in 16 months.

He served in the 86<sup>th</sup> Infantry Platoon in Germany during WW II. He interpreted with German prisoners of war and generals. He used the GI Bill to get his education at USD. At age 28, he left home for Florida. At age 68 he married and adopted a multi-racial family including two sets of twins. He has purchased the family home in Eureka where he was born. His children love to go there for vacations.

Al has known every US President since Eisenhower and has had dinner in the White House with Lyndon Johnson and George H. W. Bush. On a world trips he's met heads of state in 32 countries on six continents.

Asked about present status of newsprint, he admitted paper readership is going down, and *USA Today* readership is flat at two million. People are getting their news on the Web. But he is confident there will always be a need for good journalism, presenting news that is accurate, honest and fair, so he is not discouraged. He added that consumers should know whether what they are getting is fact or opinion, because much of what's out there at present is opinion.

## Please Take Note

Some of our members may not be able to make it to meetings due to driving restrictions. In order to help keep our members active, would you be able to pick up a member to bring to meetings? We'd like to publish a list of members willing to carpool, so folks can call someone from their area if they'd like a ride. Please contact Cindy Miller (612-386-1436 or [cynmbea@hotmail.com](mailto:cynmbea@hotmail.com)) if you have room to take along another member when you come to meetings.

If you are traveling back to your hometown or to visit relatives, and could drop off some cookbooks, please contact Jaci Williams ([jdaye119@aol.com](mailto:jdaye119@aol.com)). Smaller businesses are interested in ordering more cookbooks if they don't have to pay for shipping. Also, if you know of a small business in your hometown that might want to buy a few books to resell, please talk to them or encourage them to speak to Jaci. Even five books purchased to display in a small-town café are five more books sold!

Helen Kleingartner does a great job as our hostess for refreshments during meetings, and she'd love to have some folks join her. If you could

**(Please Take Note, continued on page 7)**

# Hooray for German-Russian Friends! The Clothesline

FRIENDS: Never ask for food.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Always bring the food.

FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Call your parents Mom and Dad.

FRIENDS: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Will spend hours talking, laughing, playing cards and just being together.

FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

FRIENDS: Would knock on your door.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, "I'm home!"

FRIENDS: Will visit you in the hospital when you're sick  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Will cut your grass, clean your house, then cook for you when you come home

FRIENDS: Are for a while.  
GERMAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

## Upcoming Events

January 22, 2011 – "It's All Earth & Sky" documentary

February 2011 – Date & Program To Be Announced

Do the kids today even know what a clothesline is? Here were the basic rules:

1. You had to wash the clothesline before hanging any clothes. Walk the length of each line with a damp cloth around the line.
2. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order and always hang whites with whites and hang them first.
3. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders, always by the tail. What would the neighbors think?

A clothesline was a news forecast  
To neighbors passing by.  
There were no secrets you could keep  
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link  
For neighbors always knew  
If company had stopped on by  
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the fancy sheets  
And towels upon the line.  
You'd see the company tablecloths  
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth  
To folks who lived inside,  
As brand new infant clothes were hung  
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could  
So readily be known.  
By watching how the sizes changed  
You'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck,  
As extra sheets were hung;  
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,  
Haphazardly were strung.

(continued on page 7)

## Library Corner

By Bernie Becker

My last Library Corner neglected to mention another book I purchased this past summer at the GRHS Convention in Bismarck. North Star Chapter members who attended Anna Fischer's workshop spoke highly of it.

***Cry Out of Russia ...Escape from Darkness (D)*** by Anna Fischer is a heart-wrenching account of the struggles and hardships encountered during the Stalin Regime. Anna Fischer's story depicts the long trek from the Ukraine to West Germany during World War II, eventually immigrating to Canada to begin a new life.

Another interesting donated book added to our library is ***Magda Goebbels, The First Lady of the Third Reich (J3A)*** by Hans-Otto Meissner. Magda was a lady of wit, refinement, and all the social graces. A perfect hostess, she was the adornment of any dinner party. Her husband, Joseph Goebbels, was a small, talkative, extremely ugly man with a limp. This is the story of a woman who played a leading role in the most evil regime in history, a woman with the charisma and ruthless glamour of Evita Peron and with a similar attraction to absolute power. With her husband, she rose to the pinnacle of the Nazi hierarchy. With him, she committed suicide in a Berlin bunker after they had poisoned their six children as the defeated Third Reich collapsed in ruins.

Just a reminder: Our website, northstarchapterofminnesota.org, contains an updated inventory of books found in our library. Most of the titles list the author and a sentence or two about each book's contents. If you peruse this list before coming to our meeting, making a notation of where it can be found

on the shelves (example: F – Cookbooks), you will find it much simpler to locate the book you desire. This is a pdf file, meaning you can print it on your own printer. Be aware there are 35 pages.

Please return books you have checked out before checking out new ones. I look forward to seeing you at November's meeting.

## Member News

Margaret Aman Freeman, 81, passed away October 1, 2010. Margaret, of California, was an active member of AHSGR and GRHS, and was one of the founders of the Glueckstal Colonies Research Association in 1987. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Robert, two children, and three grandchildren.

(A Painful Reminiscence , continued from page 3)

to me.

I wish my parents were still alive so I could apologize. I'd like to sit down and visit with them about those times, and what their feelings had been. I'd like to ask them more about their growing-up days. But it's too late. I can only hope that being parents, they understood my growing pains, and that they remembered when they, too, experienced their own. I hope they accepted my inconsiderate actions as those of youthful self-centeredness. Maybe that's what mother's answer "just wait" meant whenever I grumbled about things as they were.

She *knew!*

**(Clothesline, continued from page 5)**

It said, "Gone on vacation now"  
When lines hung limp and bare.  
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged  
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon  
If wash was dingy gray,  
As neighbors raised their brows,  
And looked the other way.

But clotheslines now are of the past  
For dryers make work less.  
Now what goes on inside a home  
Is anybody's guess.

I really miss that way of life.  
It was a friendly sign  
When neighbors knew each other best  
By what hung on the line!

**(Please Take Note, continued from page 4)**

bring treats, help make coffee, set up and/or  
clean up, please step in before or after our meet-  
ings to give Helen a hand.

At the October meeting, members discussed the  
possibility of hosting a joint AHSGR-GRHS na-  
tional convention in 2013. The national organiza-  
tions are discussing the details. This is an excit-  
ing opportunity for our chapter, and more infor-  
mation will follow.

**Over 20,000 Sold!**

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**10 or more books:** \$1.50 per book (U.S.),  
\$4.00 (Canada)

# North Star Chapter of Minnesota-AHSGR and GRHS

Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 583642

Minneapolis, MN 55458

## 2010 Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ New    \_\_\_\_\_ Renew    \_\_\_\_\_ Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ Family  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that a membership directory might be provided to North Star Chapter members that would include your name, address, phone, and email. If the chapter chooses to publish a membership directory:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I **agree** to have my name, address, phone and email in the published directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please **exclude** my information from the published directory.

**National Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ AHSGR    \_\_\_\_\_ GRHS    \_\_\_\_\_ Both AHSGR and GRHS

**Local dues are \$12.00 per year per family, plus membership in either AHSGR or GRHS. AHSGR members please submit \$62 (\$50 for AHSGR, \$12 for North Star membership). GRHS members please submit \$12.**

**GRHS requests that you send your national membership (\$50) to GRHS, 1125 W. Turnpike Ave., Bismarck ND 58501.**

**Please make your check payable to North Star Chapter and submit to:**

**Ardella Bennett, 175 Spring Valley Dr., Bloomington MN 55420**

**Questions: Contact Ardella at 952-884-4241 or [ardellabennett@msn.com](mailto:ardellabennett@msn.com)**

For newsletter greeting only: Birthday Month(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary Month \_\_\_\_\_