

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM POLAND & VOLHYNIA



A Society dedicated to preserving and promoting the historical heritage of Ethnic Germans—highlighting those from Poland & Volhynia.

Plowing Scene --Brücke zur Heimat (1957) + Der grosse Treck -Jahrbuch Weichsel-Warthe 1993]

Room 11, Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014-81 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Editor: Sandra Tober

2017 Christmas Potluck Lunch

Thursday December 14, 2017

12:30 p.m.

Luther Centre, Trinity Lutheran Church



It's time for a Christmas party!

Please bring your favourite dish to share, a small program will follow. The library will also have a "take & donate" table for its excess books. Friends & family are welcome!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kashubian Christmas to Remember by P. Lipinisky	2
HSGPV call for volunteers	3
The HSGPV Library by Barbara Stenzel	4-6
Donation Form	8



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E B Y L A R R Y J A V O R S K Y

Another winter season is here. Christmas is just ahead of us. It is our turn to host the annual Christmas Potluck gathering shared with the Edmonton Chapter of the AHSGR. This year we are holding the event as a midday potluck luncheon.

The HSGPV Board is greatly appreciative of the financial donations received during the past year and reminds you that receipts for tax deductions are provided for donations greater than \$10.00. We have been very fortunate in 2017 to have received a generous donation from "Capital Power's Empowering Communities

Program." This has helped greatly to offset some of our increased expenses.

The HSGPV relies on cash donations and membership fees to continue to operate and keep our library open. However our membership numbers have shrunk over the last several years which means lower revenues. Therefore we have had to increase membership fees.

In order to keep the fees as low as possible, we ask you to renew your membership and to encourage the younger members in your families to join the HSGPV. We also ask that you consider mak-

ing a financial donation towards the continuing function of our Society.

Please take care in your travels and enjoy the company of family and friends during this Christmas season. Remember to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Fröhlich Weihnachten!



Kashubian Christmas to Remember

By: Peter von Pazatka Lipinsky

Originally published in 2001

The first snow storm of the season was covering our city with a fluffy white blanket. I was sitting by the window watching the large snow flakes dance to the whispering sound of the wind. It was slowly getting dark and it started to snow more heavily now. On a few houses along the street, Christmas lights were being turned on, but the road itself was barely visible. Only the beam of an occasional passing car would gingerly feel its' way along the street in the darkness. It was Christmas Eve and my thoughts started to drift back a long time ago, to a little village in Pomerania, the homeland of the Kashubs.

It was Christmas Eve 19 -hundred-and-something and this was a big day for us children. Would not Santa Claus come tonight and bring us some candies and maybe a new toy, perhaps even two? Papa had gone the day before to the near-by forest and got a nice straight Christmas tree. Now Mama was busily decorating the tree with a few strands of tinsel which had survived the previous Christmas. A few colored stars, tree and bells cut from cardboard as well as a few sugar tree ornaments rounded out the tree decoration. We knew that after Christmas, we could plunder the Christmas tree and the little sugar delicacies would be ours to enjoy. (Oh, why did we have to wait so long?) A few wax candles were sitting on different tree branches and these candles would only be lit for a very short time when we were singing "Silent Night - Holy Night". Candles were hard to come by and these candles had to do us for another couple of Christmases. While Mama was busy with the tree, Grandmother was preparing Christmas dinner, which was usually being served around 7 p.m. The Christmas goose was slowly being cooked to perfection and the roasted potatoes with onions, dumplings, sliced carrots, cabbage, mashed turnips, a few parsnips were also slowly cooking away, to be ready for the Christmas feast.

Since it was at least a couple of hours until dinner, I asked my Grandmother to tell me one or two of the old fairy tales she knew and could tell like nobody else. So Grandmother said : I will tell you a story about some very special tiny people, called the "Karzelki's". But,..... Grandmother said: Only a real Kashub can hear and see the "Karzelki's", which lives under the floor boards in Kashubian homes. The "Karzelki's" are also known as the "Dremni's" and in some other parts of Kashubia as the "Krosniata's". The older "Karzelki's" have a long white beard and usually wear a blue or green coat with golden embroidery and black boots. The young girl-Karzelki's are called "Krosnicys". When these little people celebrate a wedding or a birthday or even Christmas, they make so much of a ruckus that often you can hear them laughing and singing old Kashubian songs in the middle of the night, and carrying on until the wee hours of the morning. The "Karzelki's" like it when you put out a little fresh milk for them in a small dish. However, if you put the milk in half a walnut shell, then the "Karzelki's" know for sure that the milk is for them.

Grandmother was going to tell us more stories, but it was time for the long awaited Christmas dinner. Mother had put out her very best and only tablecloth and the dinner table looked just perfect. The Christmas dinner was again a masterpiece of Grandmother's cooking talent. For dessert, we had a delicious bread pudding and a baked apple with a sweet sauce. After dinner, the table was cleared off and everybody was ready now, to celebrate Christmas Eve. Papa lit the few candles on the Christmas tree and we all sang "Silent Night - Holy night" and other Christmas carols. It was getting late and Papa reminded us to get ready to attend midnight mass.

The Church was packed to capacity and the service was about "Peace to all men". As we left the church it was still snowing, but the wind had stopped blowing. It was a beautiful night and everybody was hurrying home, because while we were all at church, Santa Claus would have visited our house (or so we hoped) and had left a present for us. And sure enough, in the meantime Santa Claus did visit our house. (I never did figure out how Mama or Papa managed to get all the presents put under the tree while we were all in church together). The gifts were knitted socks, scarves, sweaters and wooden toys for the children. We could play with our new toys for a while and then it was off to bed, dreaming about a wonderful Christmas. As I started to fall asleep, I could hear the wind starting to pick up again and in the distance I was sure that I could hear the laughing and singing of the little "Karzelki's" coming from underneath the floor boards. One of these little fellows even came up to me and pinched me in the arm, saying: wake up....., wake up.

I must have been sort of half asleep sitting by the window and watching the snow. As I woke up, my grandson was standing in front of me and said:.....wake up,.....wake up grandpa, it's time for Christmas dinner.



HSGPV is looking for willing volunteers to help with some things to enhance our services:

- **Membership committee;** Generating ideas to increase membership and renewal follow-up. Helping with event creation and planning. Periodic meeting with Board members required.
- **Library assistance:** Help sort and put away books being catalogued, during library hours on Thursday. Comfort with Dewey decimal system an asset or willingness to learn.
- **Newsletter/social media content creator:** Creating or editing word documents relevant to all members for the newsletter, website and possibly social media. Documents will need to be finalized in MS Word 2016. If you work in another program, please check that conversion is easily possible for our communication team.
- **Copyright Researcher:** Provide reports on research acquired. Research would be done on home computer and discussion with our librarian on a periodic basis. Reports will need to be finalized in MS Word 2016.
- **E-book Researcher:** Looking for books already available on line and pasting the link into Excel for future publication on our website. An e-list would be provided by our librarian and the work would be completed at home. Comfort with Excel required.
- **Record Transcriber into Excel:** Transcription of written records of names, dates and page numbers into an Excel sheet. Deciphering older script from 1800s to early 1900's is a skillset that is needed and HSGPV has cheat sheets available. A page is provided by the librarian, as well as the Excel format. The finished product is submitted electronically to the librarian for any further editing and then another page is sent out. Deadlines are very flexible. The work is done from home, however the librarian is available for help during library hours.
- **Researcher:** for TAL library system and an HSGPV Library fit, providing a report for the HSGPV Board. Documents will need to be finalized in MS Word 2016. See <http://thealbertalibrary.ca> and/or <https://talonline.ca>

If you know someone or would like to help please email hsgpv@telus.net.

Volunteer positions are unpaid. However we can sign volunteer hours from a registered charity. Students requiring volunteer hours or work experience are welcomed. We would also be willing to thank you at the AGM, on our website or social media, with your permission and for students under age 18, with consent of the guardian. Any help is appreciated.

Library Supplies Wanted:

Binders of from ½ inch to 6 inch width, in good shape with spines that allow identification inserts. Colour preference is white, but we would gladly accept any colour.

NO TIME

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.

Must hurry off and get to work,
for bills would soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer,
jumped up from off my knees.

My Christian duty now was done,
my soul could be at ease.

All through the day I had no time,

to speak a word of cheer.

No time to speak of Christ to
friends, they'd laugh at me I
feared.

No time — No time, too much to
do, that was my constant cry.

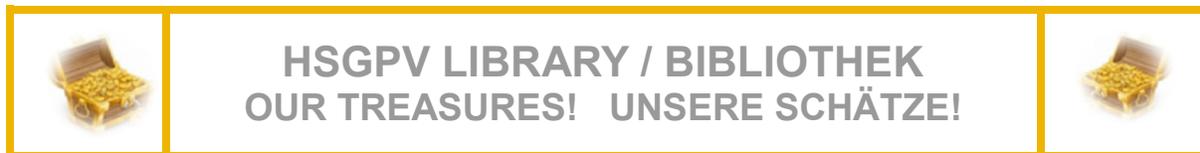
No time to give to those in need,
at last was time to die...

And when before the Lord I came,

I stood with downcast eyes.

Within his hands he held a book,
it was the "Book of Life"

He looked into the Book and said
— "your name I cannot find. I
once was going to write it down —
but never found the time."



*HSGPV exists through many people who support the treasures in our library!
Our librarian is fundamental to keeping the library initiatives moving forward.*

HSGPV has had an interesting few years, taking the library from its roots in about the year 2000 to the next generation of digitization. Our library is now available to the public world-wide on our new website: www.hsgpv.org through its searchable database. Leane Evans, our librarian played a key role in allowing HSGPV to bring this to fruition in record time.

Ewald Wuschke's search for a library for his research materials brought him to Edmonton and resulted in the HSGPV being formed in 2000. Our website has further historical information.

Lorraine Yackulic, a relative of a founding Board member, offered her services as an experienced librarian to organize the treasure trove of material that Mr. Wuschke donated to the library. Materials ranged from the complete collection of Mr. Wuschke's quarterly periodical "The Wandering Volhynians", books, magazines, various genealogical periodicals and maps. Over the next several years, Lorraine organized the materials in a professional manner, ensuring easy and clear access for members and visitors. She catalogued the multitude of resources by type and alphabetically, and organized the library shelf layout that we still have today. The visually appealing décor of our library is another legacy of Lorraine's. She showcased visuals representing the German, Volhynian and Polish cultures that visitors continually compliment us on. Our library is a comfortable and visually appealing place to research in, thanks to Lorraine's extraordinary efforts and creativity.

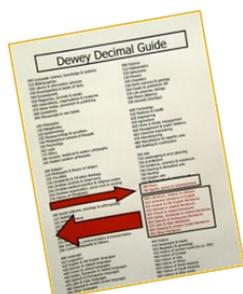


A prior Board Director saw the need to bring in a secondary librarian to help. In the spring of 2009, Leane Evans began to attend the library when Lorraine was not available. By the summer of 2009, Lorraine's labour of love was handed over to Leane Evans, our next great librarian. She is still our librarian, and was instrumental in allowing HSGPV to take the library to the internet.

Leane Evan's story... in her own words...

*In the summer of 2009, I initially spent time going through the library material to become acquainted with the extensive material. One day a member came into the library and inquired about a book he had donated to the library, "My Kashubian Heritage." I looked for this book in the digital library index and found the book. But when I went to the shelf the book was supposed to be on, I simply could not find it. After much searching, I found his book, but he had already left. Later that year, I found the need to find the book "Nine Children Who Started Our World." Again, I could not find the book until I did an extensive search for it on the shelves. I became **determined** to thoroughly know the material in the library! Through the many generous donations of members and other interested parties, I began to realize the library had grown far beyond the original alphabetical categories and filing system to be easily searchable for anyone.*

In 2012 I investigated the methods used in other libraries. Most libraries set up their inventory by category and then assign a numerical value to each book.....the Dewey Decimal system, we're all familiar with. Lorraine had already done the hard part of sorting the material and placing them in categories. I took it one step further by assigning each category a Dewey decimal number, and placing this into a spreadsheet, so now easily searchable for me. I quickly came to the next decision, that each book in each category would be assigned a number. I realized that the task would be time consuming, but valuable, as the library materials were continually growing. In this process I also thought this would be a good time to inventory the material Lorraine had organized. I wanted to make sure that what was supposed to be on the shelves, actually was there. Taking the original inventory spreadsheet Lorraine had begun, I expanded it to include each book numerically, its shelf location, and whether..... it was in the library? Or signed out? Or needed to be located on another shelf? Over the next few years my focus was the inventory and coding the books individually. By 2015, I had most of the existing books on the shelves inventoried and labeled, up to about 80% of them. I could confidently search my spreadsheet for visitor enquiries.



The HSGPV Board of Directors thanks Leane profusely for her initiatives in carefully cataloguing our treasures. The professional standards are comparable to any library!

Leane's initiatives and follow-through actions were instrumental in allowing decision-making for our new website to become a quickly realized dream!

The primary reason for updating our website was to showcase our library resources by having a searchable database. By September of 2016, our research had progressed to realize an Excel spreadsheet could be attached to a program onto our concept website. We were ecstatic to find out, that Leane had that "hard part" already 80% complete. Without that phenomenal treasure trove of information, the searchable list would have taken several years to complete.

To have an effective database, a unique identifier was needed for each resource. The concept and potential solutions were discussed with Leane in the spring of 2017. In March 2017, she submitted a proposal to the Board of Directors to enhance the library collection by barcoding all the material so that as the collection grew, it would be easier to enter and track books. This included researching the most efficient and technologically friendly manner of executing this initiative.

In addition to barcoding each item in the collection, each would be assigned a value and condition for insurance purposes. The proposal was agreed upon, and in May 2017, she began barcoding and scanning the library collection into a digital format, expanding on Leane's existing Excel spreadsheet. The project began with the books already verified and inventoried through Leane's previous efforts. As the project continues, periodicals, magazine and maps will also be added to the inventory and assigned bar codes. As of this date, the project is 20% complete!



This is what Leane is working on this year....barcoding the existing books (about 2000+) on the shelves and verifying the inventory again, culling where necessary for resources outside of the library's mandate. The Board of Directors wanted this inventory to be as extensive as possible to include condition of books, number of copies, ISBN#s images of the books and much more. So again, Leane accommodated and added more fields to Excel and

added this information for each resource. So each and every book is looked at individually by Leane again. Then there are the rest of the resources to look at..... But first the books on the shelves!



On top of the big projects, this is what else Leane has been doing.....

Leane set up a superb Standard Operating Procedures Manual. It is a "How To" and contains all the responsibilities of the librarian and the "how to" method of performing the tasks expected of the librarian. It also includes all pertinent information related to the operation of every facet of the library: suppliers, inventory notes...essentially everything the librarian or Board of Directors need to know. And she is fastidious about keeping all the information up-to-date. Plus she has barcoded all assets belonging to HSGPV, and updated that inventory list for insurance purposes, including furniture, shelving units, equipment and software.

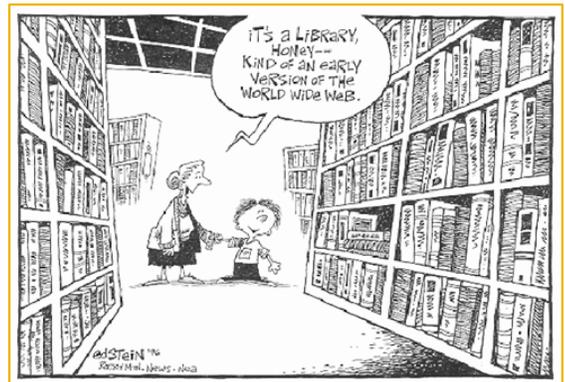
She attends to the visitors who come to do individual research and see what material we may have that would be relevant to their research. She has compiled a list of frequently used websites useful to this research and is always looking for additional websites that may be helpful in an individual's research.

2017 has been a particularly busy year for the library. There been many reoccurring members coming in to do research. Also, many distinguished persons have also come to the library such as Professors Jan Musekamp from Frankfurt, Germany and Erich Berendt from Tokyo, Japan. These gentlemen spent several days going through our library and gleaning whatever information we may have on pedigrees, culture and history of Volhynia, Poland and East Europe in general.

Our next steps with our library resources / database....

Our website presently has Leane's original database from September of 2016. So on the website, you can access that 80% of the book resources. For the rest, a visit to the library will allow you to access the rest of our treasures.

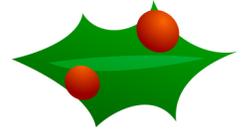
As the barcoding project progresses, we will update the database on our website periodically. There will be a note identifying when the last update was made. We are also planning to



upgrade the picture gallery to include the many photographs collected over the years. Other upgrades we're researching include members being able to access the Wandering Volhynians online and being able to print single articles. There are a myriad of considerations, before we're able to do that, and there are a limited amount of volunteer hours available.

Our logo / brand is being discussed by the Board this fall. We will have an updated header for the website, newsletter, forms, when final decisions have been made. We're always looking for extra help and have identified some library needs in the following article.

Submitted by Barbara Stenzel, HSGPV Website Editor



	HSGPV LIBRARY / BIBLIOTHEK OUR TREASURES! UNSERE SCHÄTZE!	
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Do you have some volunteer time to help us in the library?

Our library hours: Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

-  To carry books from the shelves to the office desk....*For Leane to barcode*. Then to carry books back to the shelves & shelve them in the correct order.
-  To provide summaries of the books, a few lines, so we can add that summary to our database. These need to be written in English. For people who are more comfortable writing in German, we can accommodate that, as well.
-  To provide in-depth summaries of some books for our website and newsletters.
-  To get to know the library, to be able to help visitors so Leane can devote more time to barcoding.

We're also looking for a secondary or tertiary librarian!

To help Leane, OUR little red hen....

To take over in times, when Leane is unavailable, or even to "job share" on Thursday's from 10 - 2.... Could you fill in during the summer, possibly?



Skillsets desired.....

Good knowledge of English language. Working knowledge of German. Very organized. Computer skills: Word, Excel ...good knowledge and willingness to learn more.

If you're interested, please drop in and talk to Leane. Or...send us an email with a contact number. Email address: hsgpv@telus.net



SNIPPETS / SCHNIPSEL

Culling books; we need ideas, as to where to donate 2 boxes of German novels! The novels are translations of well-known American authors.

	Available at our Christmas celebration at the TAKE & DONATE table.	
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Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A: So he can ho-ho-ho

Q: What do you say to Santa when he's taking attendance at school?

A: Present

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish

Q: What's as big as Santa but weighs nothing?

A: Santa's shadow!



HSGPV MEMBERSHIP FORM

How to Become a Member

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Helga Roth at (780) 464-4173, or you can mail in your membership fee of \$25 along with the Membership Form. Please make the cheque out to HSGPV.

Any member in good standing is entitled to the following rights and privileges: A member ...

- may attend and vote on any issue at any Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- may stand for election to any office of this Society.
- may sign out 10 books at a time from the Library for a period of 3 weeks each time

HSGPV Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

Date of membership submission:

Researching: Which family names?

Cultural areas of interest:

HSGPV Form revision: April 2017

For Office Use Only: Membership Approval Date:

HSGPV


WWW.HSGPV.COM

Board Members

Larry Javorsky (President) Helga Roth (Secretary)
Peter Von Lipinsky (Vice President)
Erwin Pinno (Treasurer)
Pastor Fred Tober (Past President)

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Daniel Pretzlaff Robyn Morales
Sandra Tober Barbara Stenzel
Victor Sedo Ed Retzer

Honorary Member: Maria Wuschke

Contacts:

Helga Roth (780) 464-4173
HSGPV Membership: \$25.00/person

HSGPV Library

Location: Room 11, Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014—81 Ave.
Hours: 10 a.m.—2 p.m. every Thursday
Librarian: Leane Evans

If you would like to visit the library outside of the regular hours,
please call Leane at (780) 469-6118 to arrange access.

Library Access

To access the library, please avoid walking through the daycare
in the basement. Instead, take the entrance to the basement
that is past the office and down the hallway.

**REMINDER: We are a registered non-profit organization
and can issue tax receipts for all donations.**

Donation Form

Historical Society of Germans from Poland & Volhynia

10014 – 81 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1W4

Incorporated as a non-profit association under the Societies Act of Alberta in 2002, the Historical Society of Germans from Poland & Volhynia (HSGPV) is a registered charitable organization run entirely by members who volunteer their time. Donations are appreciated, and will be acknowledged with the issue of a tax-deductible receipt.

Date: _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Amount of donation: _____ Cash ___ Cheque ___ (payable to HSGPV)

AND/ OR

Donation in kind: _____ Valued at: _____

Contribution submitted by: _____

Print Name

Signature

Thank you for your contribution!

WWW.HSGPV.ORG