



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637-0081 USA

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$15.00

## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Sharon Geist was born Nov. 3, 1949, to Bill and Anna (Weber) Geist. She graduated from Ellis High School and attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, majoring in Family History Genealogy.
- While employed at the American Embassy in Bonn, West Germany, she taught Sunday school and was president of the Women's Intercollegiate Bowling Congress. Her love of genealogy earned her a write-up in Enron People during her employment at Enron Corp. She was constantly sharing her knowledge of genealogy, including conducting classes at Hill Community College in Glen Rose, Texas. Her brother Larry visited the headquarters museum recently and met with board representatives. He noted the family pride in her career and was pleased with the small memorial display featuring her award from the Bonn service.
- Visitors to the Society headquarters are usually by appointment and an occasional bus tour. We were pleased to host visitors whose interest were pure history and not related to the Bukovina German settlement. The Jialin Ding family came to Ellis on December 22, 2015 and enjoyed their time with the museum volunteers.
- The Society was asked to join a newly formed task force in an effort to market the city of Ellis to attract tourism. Art Honas and Guy Windholz volunteered to represent our museum joining the Ellis Railroad Museum who preserves the history involving our ancestors landing in Ellis. The third participating organization is the Ellis Walter P Chrysler boy-hood home and museum. Chrysler founded the automobile corporation bearing his name. We were thus featured in professional color brochure drawing attention to the community. Community events provide exposure to our museum.

The first major event is scheduled for June 4, 2016 with the theme of Planes, Trains and Automobiles. A car show featuring many antiques has grown to be an annual event we will be part of. We look forward to providing tours during Ellis High School reunions and tie into other local events.

- George Glotzbach of the German Bohemian Heritage Society sent the announcement of a video of their famous Hermann Monument in New Ulm, MN at the following URL. [https://youtu.be/peV6XMfEI\\_I](https://youtu.be/peV6XMfEI_I)

## BUKOVINA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The date of the annual meeting has been confirmed by the Board of Directors for Friday, September 30, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. The location will again be in the Stone Chapel of the Ellis County Historical Society, 7th and Main Street in Hays, KS. The Society plans to share a tent at the annual Oktoberfest that day with the Volga Germans for a heritage display at Frontier Park, 1st and Main.

## VISITORS FROM GERMANY TO THE SOCIETY

Anni and Klaus Häusler came to the States for the Bukovinafest 2013. However a health incident in Denver made it necessary to return to their home in Germany. They have kept in contact since that time and made plans for a return to Ellis County to meet Anni's long separated cousins. Anni was born in Pojana Mikuli and will enjoy meeting those with roots in that village and the area. They also have days scheduled for time in Colorado and historic sites in Kansas.

Their dates based in Ellis are June 14th to the 20th, 2016. An initial schedule has been set beginning with a welcome coffee hosted by the Board of Directors at the Society headquarters on Wednesday the 15th at 9:30 a.m. At 10:30 a DVD will be shown on a recent celebration in Bavaria of Bukovina Germans and a tour of the former Bukovina by the Häuslers. The public is invited to attend. The couple will tour local sites in the afternoon. Thursday and Friday will be spent visiting other Kansas locations. Friday and Saturday has been set for personal visits with distant cousins and those with ancestral ties to Bukovina.

Anni wrote an article for *Der Südostdeutsche*, February of 2016, following as translated by Dr. Sophie Welisch: "Three years ago we enjoyed a nice vacation in Bucharest and the former Bukovina. We wanted once again to fly over the village of Poiana Micului (Buchenhain), the village of my forebears: (Hartinger/Reitmaier/Lang).

In the meantime a nice airport has been opened between Radautz and Altfratautz. Last August my husband Klaus took a very lovely picture of the village from his light plane during our vacation. The photograph shows the center of the village where the Hoffmann family lived after the war and the place where the ethnic Germans settled.



The photo is courtesy of Klaus Häusler and printed with his permission.

Located in front of the Catholic Church with its cemetery was the parish garden/property and to the right high up the mountain lies the way to Solka. My mother told me that it was there that one went shopping and also to the doctor. Where one sees the quarry in the picture the path on the right leads over the mountain through the two towns of Maidan and Solonetz, where the faithful made their beloved pilgrimage to Cacica.

In order also to show my husband the Carpathian Mountains we rode through the city of Campulung and the community of Pojorata on Mount Rarau. Seeing the expanse of land over the Carpathians was a dreamlike experience. Our Best Western Hotel in Gura Humorului was one of a kind. Also here much has changed for the good.

The Suceava airport is now completed and one can more easily see the beauty of Bukovina's scenery and learn about it through a rented auto."

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## PASSING OF TWO BUKOVINA PERSONALITIES

It is with a deep sense of professional loss that we learned of the passing of Erich Beck, noted Bukovina bibliographer and researcher. Born on August 23, 1929 in Czernowitz, his life parallels that of Bukovina's German population in 1940, namely resettlement in territories occupied by the Reich. Continued interest in the land of his birth resulted in a 4-volume series, *Bibliographie zur Kultur und Landeskunde der Bukovina*, (Bibliography about the Culture and Territory of Bukovina), an invaluable source of information for those interested in the history, culture, economic and social life of Bukovina's multicultural population. His last volume includes some 9000 titles with numerous corrections and supplements.

As we learn from *Der Südostdeutsche*, November 2015, p. 7: "For this newspaper Beck is ranked among the most reliable and significant contributors for over a half century. His long series about Bukovina personalities certainly ranks as a reference work."

We learn of the passing of Peter Straub, husband of Marie Griesbeck, father of Peter Jr. and Gerald, and grandfather of Jennifer. Born on September 19, 1928 in Gurahumora, a village in Bukovina, Peter's war years were spent in a resettlement camp in Linz, Austria, to which some of the Bukovina Germans had been transferred in November, 1940.

After the war Peter was able to make contact with his aunt, Stephanie Haas, who in 1950 sponsored his immigration to the United States. Here he adapted quickly to his new surroundings, found suitable employment as a mechanic

in New York City, and in 1953 married Marie Griesbeck, a native of Bavaria, Germany.

Peter never forgot his German roots. For years he was an active member of the Schlrachtaler Club, which sponsors German cultural functions and promotes German customs and traditions. After retirement Peter and Marie settled in Congers, New York, where daily walks around Congers Lake and service as an usher in St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church became standard activities. His sociability and adaptability were evident at his wake and funeral in Paramus, New Jersey, attended by well over 150 people. May he rest in peace.

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JERAMIAS ARMBRÜSTER  
PFARRER ZU GRÜNBERG 1624 - 1635  
(REVEREND OF GRUNBERG)  
ZWISCHEN PEST UND  
DREISSIGJÄHRIGEM KRIEG  
(BETWEEN THE PLAGUE AND THE  
THIRTY YEAR WAR)

By: Günther Walter, December 2015, 130 pp,  
many pictures and graphs.

A compact documentation of different aspects of life in the Earldom of Hesse (Landgrafschaft Hessen) in the first half of the 17th c.

The book begins with short portraits of the four successive Armbrüster ministers Johannes (\*1543), Jeremias (\*1570), Johann Magnus (\*1604) and Philipp Christian (\* 1642, † 1711 in Framersheim).

The aspects that influenced Jeremias (1570 to 1635) and the citizens of Grünberg (50 km northeast of Frankfurt) were:

- The Lutheran Reformation
- The pastor's and his family's role in the society
- The threat and consequences of the war 1618 to 1648 for the Grünbergians
- The pestilence that hit the area in 1635 extinguishing half of Grünberg's population, Jeremias' family included
- The confessional disputes between two Earls of Hesse

In the center of the documentation: the presentation and analysis of a funeral sermon by Jeremias on the occasion of his sovereign's death, Ludwig V of Hessen-Darmstadt, in 1626. That sermon was published in a printed book, the same year. The book can be ordered at the author, Günther Walter, Freiburg, g.w.3@gmx.de

Price: 15.00 Euros (about US\$ 17.00), the shipping is extra.

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## LAST "VATICAN SPY" HAS DIED IN KACZIKA

By: Luzian Geier

Translated by: Dr. Sophie A. Welisch

On February 19 Elisabeth Kastel-Postolache passed away/ spent ten years in Communist prisons.

Beginning Monday, February 21, all the print and Internet media of the district of Suceava published the news about the passing and funeral of the last survivor of communism in Bucharest, the 87 year-old Elisabeth Antonia Kastel-Poslolache, thereby renewing the interest in the show trial against true representatives of the Catholic Church in Romania. As a student in her fifth year Elisabeth was arrested on her name's day of November 18, 1952 as she was on her way home from the university. She was 23 years old. In the group of 12 people around Reverend Dr. Hieronymus Menges (Dobrudscha German, born 1910, died in Bremen 2002) and the Greek-Catholic prelate Prince Vladimir Ghika, Elisabeth was sentenced by a military tribunal to imprisonment for a term of ten years for "high treason" involving state secrets and for espionage on behalf of the "imperialistic" Vatican foe (judgment 1234 of November 24, 1953). In the list of the condemned she ranked as No. 7 based on the severity of the crime and served half her sentence. Wishing to conceal her German identity lest she be charged with various legal infractions, she signed up and was registered in the documents under the name Elisabeth Castel. She hailed from Czernowitz, where she was born on May 4, 1929 and attended the primary and middle school (girls' high school "Elena Doamna"). After the flight of her parents from the Red army's military advance in 1940, she landed with her family in Statina, where she completed her studies thus qualifying for university admission. The family then moved to Bucharest where she studied medicine. In accordance to developments in the Bucharest Catholic Church and because of her relationship to the Bukovina priest Franz Augustin (Jesuit, died 1983) who was *Ordinarius substitutus* until Bishop Ioan Robus took office, military condemnation in the above-mentioned court procedure followed which involved a cousin of her father, Rudolf Kastel ((died 1949). She sang in the church choir and was a member of the Catholic youth group in the provincial capital.

She had to endure a full ten-year imprisonment for her loyalty to her religious beliefs and her church. Difficult and demeaning ten years of confinement were spent in the prisons of Jilava, Dumbraveni, Mislea, Miercurea Ciuc and others. On November 15, 1962 she was released. But without civil rights, persecution for another five years continued unabated. Three of the condemned priests died in prison. Father Menges, the individual with the highest charges against him, who had been secretly ordained Ordinariate for the Bucharest Catholic Archbishopric, was condemned to 20 years of hard labor

and survived, but not because of complicity in "crimes and treason." In prison Prelate Monsignor Prince Ghika died on May 17, 1954; the Vatican later raised to him to sainthood.

Several years after his release Kastel married doctor Iulius Postolache (born 1928, later department leader at the district hospital in Suceava) and took the double name of Postolache-Kastel. As a result of the years of his imprisonment, the marriage remained childless. In the seventh decade of the past century the couple relocated to Suceava, where they prospered while living quietly and modestly.

From the directors of the regional forums of Suceava, Antonia-Maria Gheorghiu we learn that Mrs. Lizi, as everyone in her social circle knew and called her, served since their beginning, not only as a simple member, but rather as a helper for those in need because of age, illness or poverty and that extended even as far away as Suceava to the encumbered and to the orphanages and childrens' homes in Sereth, who found themselves in an indescribably difficult situation. This is also recalled by Reverend Iulian Kropp, who personally knew the doctor from his earlier official duty in Sereth and from his farewell address on February 22 in the Catholic chapel "Pacea" at the cemetery of Suceava. Sixteen priests under the principal celebrant, Deacon Iosif Paulet, structured the funeral ceremony for this courageous lady, who after 1990 served as leader of the association of Catholic medical workers in the Bishopric of Iasi and its affiliations until the death of her husband in 2009. In the diocese she became involved via the spoken and written word with the role of the laity in the Catholic Church. Publications remain as witnesses. In the meantime numerous legal actions and judicial hearings were published in Romania (e.g., in the periodical "Pro Memoria"), excerpted also by Castel, as were fragments of her recollections of the hearings and legal procedures. She was able also to use her research in questions regarding the 1940 resettlement.

Sick and alone she withdrew from public life and in her last years found residence in the house of the Greek-Catholic priest Niculai Niculaiseni of Kaczika, where she spent her last two years and who, as a care patient, was attended by the priest's wife, Olga.

At the grand funeral ceremony and on her last journey the deceased was accompanied by Antonia-Maria Gheorghiu, president of the German Forum, who in the name of all its members eulogized, "God grant her eternal peace."

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## A GERMAN POLKA

By: O M Windholz

Note: This was first published January 16, 2016 in the *Ellis Review*, where a standing column is available for Bukovina and other content written by author.

From years of attending *Hochzeiten* (weddings), as well as listening and dancing to the music of the German bands in western Kansas, there is one polka imbedded in my memory. Although a musician in several dance bands, I never played the tune about which I am writing. We played many polkas, backed up by written scores, whereas most early musicians learned music "by ear" from their mentors.

In 2010 we were honored to host Volga German cousins of Windholz heritage from Herzog, Russia. Their ancestors, who had immigrated to Brazil, then Argentina, were descendants of our common ancestor, Anton, who was the sole Windholz from (Regensburg) Germany who had answered the call of empress Catherine the Great to immigrate to Russia.

When Adolfo Lohrmann and his son Carlos ended their week in Hays, we had a Windholz family dinner after which many songs and stories were shared. Adolfo is a musician and knew lots of German songs, which he plays on his accordion in Buenos Aires. Using the Lawrence Weigel/N. J. Pfannenstiel *German Folk Songs* (1956) lyrics, we enjoyed singing together on the final evening of the visit.

During the 2015 holiday party Adolfo played his accordion. Carlos sent a video of two selections to us by email. The first tune he played was the very polka I recalled over the years. It seems the polka is widely played in settlements in Argentina with Volga German heritage. YouTube sites have excellent recordings available on the Internet. Go to: youtube.com and enter some key words in the YouTube search line. Use key words such as: *Volgadeutsche* polka Argentina, *Alemanes* Volga German polka, or *Volgadeutsche* polka Argentina. I note these variations as examples; there are others, which will also work. Most searches do not require capital letters and some write *Volgadeutsche* as two words. You will have access to over a thousand videos of the accordion, dulcimer, singing and dancing delights.

I forwarded the Lohrmann videos to other family members and received a surprising response. Phyllis Windholz Hoover wrote, "Dad taught me a song on a little accordion at about age 11." She and her family knew it as *Die Hingle und der Giegle haben Federn an ihre Füsse das dis Suppe so süß macht!*" (The chicken and the rooster have feathers on their feet, which makes the soup so sweet.) With some variation due to dialectal pronunciations, this name was the consensus among the accordion players with whom I spoke, including my classmate Jon Kisner of the Eddie Basgall band. Carlos, however, said his father called it "the brush." *Mein Vater läufte meiner Mutter mit der Bürste nach.* (My father ran after my mother with the brush.) These German lyrics are included among the songs on YouTube. The numerous German musicians interviewed all recall *Die Hingle*, but no essay would be complete without the input of the venerable Herman Dinges. In our conversation he quickly sang the song, which his brother had played in the 1930s.

Gary Batt, an organizer of the Dutch Masters, recalled that of the many bands from this area and Colorado that played *Die Hingle* polka virtually all had committed it to memory from older musicians. Oral history indicates this and many other songs were brought from Russia with the settlers, some of them traceable to their roots in Germany. It is easy to suppose the polka also arrived in Argentina from Russia. Gary noted that the lead band instrument in early times was the violin. The piano accordion became popular in Kansas in the early 1900s.

Since first gathering this material, I found a new twist on the story. Thanks to Board Member Van Massirer, I made contact with accordionist A. Gene Hackemack in Texas, who provided me with video of the Frankie Jankovic band playing this tune as a Scottish.

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## AUTHENTIC BUKOVINA GERMAN LINGUISTIC PROBES

As featured in the February, 2016 issue of *Der Südostdeutsche*: two CDs may now be obtained from the Bukovina Institute, Alterpostweg 97a, 86159, Augsburg, Germany for 15 Euros.

### CD 1. Swabian

- Fratautz village chronicle (Johann Albus)
- Illischesti Christmas preparations; church dedication celebrations (Jakob Kipper)
- Church celebration in Fratautz and Illischesti
- Fratautz spring observances (various speakers of the Engel family)
- Fratautz *Stichelcher* (various speakers)
- Illischesti *Stichelcher* (Jakob Kipper)
- Fratautz, Satulmare, farm work years ago (Christian Armbrüster from Satulmare and Jakob Engel from Fratautz)
- Czernowitz suburb of Rosch, seasonal worker and orchard farmer (Mrs. Schäfer)
- Illischesti: a typical Bukovina biographie (Mock)
- Farewell from Fratautz (Johann Albus)
- Fratautz: the resettlement (a member of the Engel family)
- Fratautz: flashback and resettlement (another member of the Engel family)

### CD 2. Bohemian

1. Augustendorf: walking though the village (Siegfried Mirwald)
2. Christmas in Fürstenthal
3. Fürstenthal: customs from New Year to May. Women's farm work.
4. Buchenhain: fox hunting
5. Schwarzthal: carnival customs until May.
6. Paltinossa: hard life
7. Gurahumora. Romanian period, resettlement; return of the Zipsers

8. Jacobeny: village history (Mr. Seufert)
9. Jacobeny customs (Mrs. Seufert)
10. Luisenthal: Christmas (H. Götsch)

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## BUKOVINA SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE

The Society has published numerous books as listed along with Society memorabilia on our website: <http://bukovinasociety.org/store.html>

The following books represent the most popular and in some cases reduced in priced due to over-supply. All include postage and handling.

### ***German-Bohemian Cookery in 19th Century Bukovina***

By: Dr. Valentin Reitmajer, translated from German by Dr. Sophie Welisch. 63 recipes. (2003) **\$8.00**

***Bukovina*** Subtitled: Landscapes - Buildings – Monuments, Irma Bornemann and Paula Tiefenthaler. Published 1986 by the Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen, Munich, Germany. The book includes 70 color and 38 black and white photographs from Bukovina. Preface and captions in German, English, and French. (224 pp, Hardcover) **\$10.00**

***Bori*** The Bori Story: by Maria Becker, Larry Jensen and Sophie Welisch Genealogies of the German-Bohemian Families who in 1835 Founded Bori in Bukovina (Now in Romania) with History of the Village and Its People. Aside from the genealogies of the twenty-three founding families of Bori (including Brandl, Gerhardt, Günthner, Haas, Hartinger, Hellinger, Hilgarth, Hoffman, Hollaczek, Joachimsthaler, Klostermann, Koller, Kraus, Lang, Meidl, Pilsner, Reichhardt, Rippel, Schafaczek, Schaffhauser, Seidl, Stauber and Wellisch), this book of over 390 pages contains three article, five maps, five charts and numerous photographs. Published in Congers, NY: The Meerow Press, 1996. **\$45.00**

***The Germans of Bukovina*** by Sophie Welisch. An historic overview of the Germans of Bukovina (1775-1940) that traces the settlement of the Germans in Bukovina, their cultural life, educational institutions, political developments in the interwar period, and their transfer to Germany in 1940; maps, tables, illustrations and charts. (33 pgs) **\$7.00**

***The Bukovina Germans*** Irma Bornemann, translated by Sophie Welisch. First published in Germany under the title *Die Buchenlanddeutschen*, vol. 13 of *Kulturelle Arbeitshilfe*, ed. by Barbara Konitz (Bonn: Bund der Vertriebenen, 1986). English translation by Dr. Sophie A. Welisch © 1990 by the Bukovina Society of the Americas, Ellis, Kansas. (21 pp, Paperback) **\$5.00**

***German Emigration*** (German Emigration from Bukovina to the Americas) William Keel and Kurt Rein, Editors

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- Copyright © 1996 by the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. This is a definitive work on the German emigration from Bukovina to the New World. (300 pp, Paperback). **\$10.00**

***Maiden of the Forest*** by Stephani, Claus. The Maiden of the Forest: Legends, Tales and Local History of Bukovina. Trans. from the German by Sophie A. Welisch. Includes 106 tales of popular folklore and historic glimpses into the lives and traditions of Bukovina's multiethnic population gleaned through interviews, questionnaires and fieldwork. Some of the villages mentioned include: Althuette, Bori, Fuerstenthal, Gurahumora, Karlsberg, Lichtenberg, Pojana Mikuli, Radautz, Schwarzthal, Solka. Also includes many Bukovina family names that appear in the Bukovina Society Genealogy Database. **\$10.00**

***Bukovina Villages, Towns/Cities and their Germans***, by Sophie A. Welisch, Introduces the reader to 22 localities in Bukovina where Germans settled with emphasis on their economic activities, mainly in lumbering, farming and mining as well as to their social and cultural life; contains 6 maps, 3 tables, numerous photographs. Published 1990 by the Bukovina Society of the Americas, Ellis, Kansas. (79 pp). **\$5.00**

***The First Meeting of the BSA*** Speeches and papers from the founding meeting, July 19-22, 1989. Includes the speeches given at the convention as well as copies of newspaper articles and photographs relating to the event. (53 pp, Paperback) **\$5.00**

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**Orders by credit card: use PayPal by typing payments@bukovinasociety.org in PayPal's "Pay for Goods and Services" payee box and send total in American funds to the Bukovina Society of the Americas. PayPal will send receipts.**