



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 \$25.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Alexander Weidle presents to the Bukowina Institut in Augsburg November 14, 2023 on the Bukovina Germans in America.
- Welcome life member # 299 Danny Higgins, # 300 Carol Bessey, #301 Maryellen Pienta
- Our condolences to Van Massirer whose wife Mary died December 18, 2022. Her services were held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Crawford, TX. Mary was in attendance at many Bukovinafests with Van, a long time BSA board member. She enjoyed a 38 year teaching career and received numerous University degrees and honors.
- Ana Maitre (nee Reitmeyer), from the Bukovina German community in Brazil, who was introduced to members in the last Newsletter, has finalized her plan to visit the US from her present family home in Lisbon. If anyone with Reitmayer heritage from Bukovina is near her itinerary, please contact her at: ana.maitre@gmail.com The cities of her stops beginning July 7, 2023 are: Portland, Maine, Boston, Portland OR, New York and Sarasota, Florida.

BRAZIL NEWS

Our good friend, Professor Ayrton Celesatino, heritage contributor, visitor to Bukovinafests and organizer of the Bukovinians in Brazil sends greetings. Arthur Leite Binder reported: On the 25th of February, 2023, the Bukovineans went to a TV station, Globo - RPC in the Estúdio C Program, to talk a little about Bucovina Culture in historical, culinary, geographical aspects, some jokes, Bucovino dialect and several other related topics. There was a brief talk about the Bukovineans of the city of Rio Negro and the city of Lapa. A 100-year-old Bucovina house was shown, inside and out, built by Josef Meidl married to Maria Seidl. We also had an exclusive interview with Professor Ayrton giving a better explanation about Bucovina.



02/25/2023, 16:03

Arthur Binder and Professor Celestino

Link with video about Bukovineans in Rio Negro and Lapa
<https://redeglobo.globo.com/rpc/estudio-c/noticia/estudio-c-te-leva-a-rio-negro-para-conhecer-mais-sobre-a-cultura-alema-bucovina-no-parana.ghml>

Link with all the parts of TV Show
<https://redeglobo.globo.com/rpc/estudio-c/episodio/2023/02/25/assista-ao-estudio-c-de-25-de-fevereiro>.

Link with interview of Professor Ayrton

<https://redeglobo.globo.com/rpc/estudio-c/noticia/entrevista-exclusiva-com-ayrton-goncalves-celestino-idealizador-da-associacao-alema-bucovina-de-cultura.ghtml>



Andrea Zinkowicz Reimão de Mello, Neuza Maidl da Silveira, Arthur Leite Bender, Célia Schafaschek, Ariete Terezinha Bueno Murbach, Fábio Reimão de Mello(historian, folklorist, reserve soldier) husband of Andrea.

BUCOVINA INSTITUTE OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY

By: Douglas Reckmann

Last winter, I discovered an interesting paper on the web while searching for Bukovina content. The particular paper was about Cholera in Bukovina in the 1800's, entitled *Bukovina and the "Humdinger Plague"* of the 19th Century: Cholera. The author, Harieta Sabol, is an Associate Professor at the "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava. I emailed her about the possibility of posting the article at the BSA website, along with the possibility of editing/serializing the article for inclusion in the BSA Newsletter. Shortly thereafter, I received a positive response. Harieta explained that besides being an Associate Professor at the University of Suceava, she is also a researcher at the "Bucovina" Institute of the Romanian Academy (BIRA). Would we be interested in creating a connection between their Institute and our Society? When posed with this question, the BSA Board responded with an emphatic "YES!"

BIRA created a cooperation agreement and emailed it to me in February. As President of the BSA, I signed two copies of the document and have sent them via Post to Romania to be signed. The BSA duplicate copy will be returned to the BSA headquarters in Ellis.

Harieta has also emailed me that "this fall, at the beginning of

October, the Institute will organize an international conference. We would be happy and honored if someone from your board or members would participate (it is also possible online)."



GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION between „Bucovina” Institute of the Romanian Academy and Bukovina Society of the Americas

Hereinafter jointly referred to as Parties, and individually – Party, establish this General Agreement to foster cooperation in common research and valorisation of history and culture of Bukovina.

1. Both Parties agree to encourage the following activities, in particular, to promote cooperation:
 - a. Exchanging information about workshops, seminars or conferences organized by both Parties;
 - b. Sharing information and documentation about Bukovina, including methodical recommendations, scientific publications and research results;
 - c. Reviewing scientific publications and other research papers;
 - d. Developing and supporting any other research activity related to history and culture of Bukovina.

Each Part shall designate a person or office to serve as a liaison to implement this Agreement.

RESEARCH AT THE BUKOVINA SOCIETY

By: Alexander Weidle, PhD student from Germany



"And this is where we keep old Bukovina publications", Guy Windholz told me in early December 2022 as he showed me around the headquarters of the Bukovina Society of the Americas in Ellis, Kansas. It was a freezing cold yet brilliantly sunny winter day, and colourful light fell through the painted glass panes of the former church windows into the room filled with dozens of unique sources, where swirling dust particles danced in the bright rays of light. I was absolutely thrilled.

Despite intensive research over the past few years, I had never seen many of the books and manuscripts on the subject before. At that time, I had been in the United States for a good six weeks to work on my dissertation project. In it, I deal with the question of how the German association “Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen” managed to become the most important association of the “German Resettlers from Bukovina”. The Landsmannschaft existed from 1949 to 2019 and was originally founded to give a voice to the “Christian Germans of Bukovina” after the end of World War II. After the “Heim-ins-Reich-Aktion” of 1940, during which they voluntarily resettled in the hope of a better life in the direction of what they thought was Germany; after settling mostly in areas that had been occupied by the German Reich; and after the experiences of “flight and expulsion” towards the end of the war, in the context of which they fled these areas towards Germany, many of the homeless “resettlers” felt a great need for such representation. In the 1980s, the Landsmannschaft then succeeded in founding a scientific institute for research into Bukovina set up by the district of Swabia in Augsburg. It has been affiliated with the University of Augsburg since 2003 and continues to exist as a lively research institution to this day, even though the Landsmannschaft had to dissolve a few years ago, primarily due to its members’ aging. With tens of thousands of books and countless sources, the institute holds what is probably the largest collection of Bukovina outside of Romania and Ukraine. There are also numerous events that highlight the history and culture of Eastern Europe. And my project is also connected to the institute: It arose from a large oral history project, carried out between 2018 and 2021 with people who, either had come from Bukovina themselves or were descendants, so as to find out which stories were transmitted across generations.

The United States, particularly the Bukovina Society in Ellis, Kansas, has long interested me as a subject of research. I was aware of the Society’s very attractive homepage and I had read several articles about it in the “Südostdeutsche”, the German-language newspaper of the Landsmannschaft (which is still published to this day). After several months of preparation (to finance the stay, applications had to be written and I had to organize which of the numerous relevant archives and libraries I could visit), in fall of 2022, the time had finally come: At the end of October I boarded the plane in Berlin that brought me first to New York. I spent almost four weeks there, focusing on the history of Jewish Bukovina in the USA and being able to find exciting sources. In particular, I used material from the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Fortunately, in addition to doing research and writing, I also had time to explore the unique metropolis.

At the beginning of December I turned my attention to the Christian Germans of Bukovina. To do this, I left New York and travelled to Kansas. In Lawrence I met Dr Bill Keel and Dr Gabriele Lunte, who told me all about their research. As linguists, both had studied the dialects of Bohemian Germans in Ellis County, and their knowledge was not only fascinating, but also gave me important pointers for my own project.

After a few days in Lawrence, where I worked in the beautiful university library and was also able to visit the map archive, I finally travelled on to Ellis and Hays. The two cities were the aim of my stay, because as is well known, it is not only the Society has its Headquarters there. Above all, as I was able to read in numerous articles, many people still live there today, whose families came from the Bukovina and had emigrated to the USA. I hoped for two things during my stay there: Firstly, to be able to do research in the Headquarters and secondly, to be able to talk about Bukovina and its legacy in the USA. Months earlier, I had therefore been in contact with Oren and Guy Windholz, who had immediately promised me their friendly support. Once I arrived in Ellis, both wishes came true, because Guy and Oren had put together an extensive program for me. Not only could I work for several days at the headquarters, where I was given a tour and allowed to rummage through books and photographs, manuscripts, objects. In addition, several “Bukovina-Germans” told me their exciting stories: Joe Erbert, for example, remembered many German proverbs and spoke to Norma Lang in German-Bohemian; Norma commented for me on the photo collection at the Headquarters, brought me into contact with many “Bukovina Germans” and also invited me to her home, where she served me an excellent meal and presented me with other fascinating materials. Oren Windholz gave me a detailed account of the history of the Bukovina Society, which naturally interested me very much. And Guy Windholz looked after me during all this time, showed me around the headquarters, put me in contact with the people I could speak to, reported on the work of the Society, took me to the Center for Ethnic Studies at Fort Hays University and the Hays Public Library, where I thanks to the help of historian Brian Gribben found exciting books and unique audio recordings. In mid-December I travelled back from Kansas City to New York before returning to Germany. My head was full of impressions, and I almost had to pay for excess baggage: my suitcase was so full of books and copies I got at the Bukovina Society.

A good two months after my return, an episode kept popping into my mind: Together with Guy Windholz I once visited Arthur’s Pizza in Ellis to have lunch there. When Guy introduced me to some of the other guests, almost everyone told me they had family roots in Bukovina or Eastern Europe. The stories about Bukovina’s legacy, which interest me so burningly, are in every corner in Ellis, and there are only a few places in the world where the Bukovina quota is so high. There is no doubt that another visit would be very worthwhile – especially with such an excellent welcome. Therefore: Thank you to all at the Bukovina Society!

BUKOVINA SOCIETY
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MICHAEL AND ANNA AUGUSTINE FAMILY REUNION

Contact: Daryl Augustine at 785-623-0249 or
augustinedaryl@yahoo.com

We invite all family, relatives and guests to attend the Reunion on July 15-16, 2023 at St. Mary's Grade School, 605 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637.

On Friday, July 14, 2023, Golf Tournament will take place at the Ellis Country Club. If interested contact Daryl as soon as possible, so he can make the arrangements for a four-person scramble format. He will notify all players with final details and cost. You can form your own team or be assigned to one. Registration will begin on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Grade School gym. Lunch will be at 11:00 a.m. and snacks will be provided throughout the afternoon and evening. There will be an open bar where refreshments will be served all day and evening. There will also be a raffle.

Mass will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Dinner immediately following by the Daughters of Isabella at the school gym. The menu will be Smothered Steak, Galushkies, Chicken and Noodles, all the trimmings, and dessert is included. Entertainment will be provided by F.A.T.E. (Frank's

Attribute to Elvis) with Elvis songs and oldies from 8-11:00 p.m. Playground equipment, softball field, basketball court and corn hole will be available for entertaining the adults and children. Please make all checks payable to Augustine Reunion and send payment in advance with R.S.V.P. Name tags will be made up for each person attending. Adult tickets are \$30.00 and \$15.00 for children (age 6-12), children under age 6 are free. On Sunday, July 16, 2023, a morning brunch will be served at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Mary's School gym. If you plan to attend the brunch, please give the number planning to attend. We hope to see you all at the reunion. For more information, please contact Daryl or Sandy Augustine at:

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