



# *Germans from Russia Heritage Society* *55th Annual International Convention*

**July 16 - July 18, 2026**

Ramada by Wyndham, Fargo, ND

## **“Embracing Our German from Russia Heritage”**

Please check the GRHS Website at [grhs.org](http://grhs.org) for any changes/updates

**Please reserve your hotel accommodations before registering, as another event in town will limit room availability.**

**GRHS cannot guarantee accommodations.**

### **Wednesday – July 15, 2026**

12:00 p.m. - 04:00 p.m.	Registration and Endowment Silent Auction drop off	Woodland South
2:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Germans from Russia Heritage Collection - open house Hosted by GRHS and Sponsored by the NDSU Libraries & Germans from Russia Heritage Collection	NDSU Library 1201 Albrecht Blvd Fargo, ND

**GRHS is not responsible for any accidents**

Directions from Ramada by Wyndham to NDSU:

Head south from the Ramada, turn right onto 13 Ave SW.

Turn right onto 36<sup>th</sup> St. S, merge onto I-29N/US-81N

Take ramp onto I-29 toward Grand Forks, ND

Take exit 66 on the right turn right on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N

Turn left onto Albrecht Blvd, (Free parking is in the T Lot)

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### **Pre-Orders for Kuchen**

There will be no pre-ordered kuchen this year due to transportation issues of the freezers.

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### **Vegan, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free Dietary Meals**


**Information on Vegan, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free Diets:** The hotel offers a combined meal option that accommodates vegan, vegetarian and gluten free diets. Please indicate your need for an alternative meal on the pre-registration form by listing the number of individuals requiring this option for each meal. Once your request is received, the menu will be emailed to you. At that time, you may choose to remain with the alternative meal or switch to the standard meal by notifying headquarters.

**Please note:** Once you confirm the alternative meal, it will be specially prepared for you. To avoid unnecessary costs, changes cannot be made at the convention, and you will not be able to switch to a standard meal onsite. You will receive a tripod marker in your registration packet to place on your table during meals. This helps staff identify and deliver your alternative meal. If you do not have your tripod with you, please inform the wait staff that you have a pre-requested alternative meal.

***The schedule of presentations and titles are tentative and may change.*** Times and places for all presentations will be published in the convention booklet, which you will receive in your registration packet at the convention.

# GRHS Convention

## Thursday – July 16, 2026

08:00 a.m. – 04:00 p.m.	Convention Registration, Bookstore .....	Woodland South
08:00 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Heritage Hall: Chapter Banners & Pull-up Displays .....	Redwood Courtyard
08:00 a.m. – 04:00 p.m.	Youth Booth.....	Woodland South
09:45 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Silent Auction - Hunter Heinrich (viewing & bidding) .....	Chestnut
		
08:30 a.m. – 09:45 a.m.	Official Convention Opening Ceremony .....	Woodland South
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentations & RIG Meetings .....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	President's Lunch .....	Woodland South
	Life Membership Certificate Presentations	
	Board Candidate Speeches	
12:45 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.	Presentations & RIG Meetings .....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
03:15 p.m. – 03:45 p.m.	Kuchen & Coffee Break .....	Corridor east side Cedar Room
04:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Presentations & RIG Meetings .....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
05:15 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.	Sing-a-long (songbooks provided) .....	Walnut
05:15 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.	GRHS Board of Directors Meeting .....	Woodland North
06:30 p.m. – 07:30 p.m.	Dinner: Board Candidate Speeches .....	Woodland South
	Speaker	

## Thursday Regional Interest Group (RIG) Meetings & Presentations (See presentations below)

- Beresan RIG – Valerie Stewart
- Bessarabia RIG – Lonny Brakel
- Grossliebental RIG – Valerie Stewart
- Crimea RIG – Matt Klee
- Kutschurgan RIG – Dennis Roth
- Hoffnungstal RIG – Harry Harsch

**Remember: Friday is Chapter Day, so wear your chapter vest. Bring your chapter banner for the opening ceremony.**

**As presentations get scheduled and updated, the schedule will be put on the GRHS website.**

## Presentations (to be scheduled throughout Thursday- Saturday)

- The Accomplishments of Maria Magdalena Schlee, Public Health Doctor – Matt Klee
- Ahnentafel Chart: The German Version of a Pedigree Chart – Scott Ludwig
- Blending Cultures: A Journey of Identity in Lakota Country – Tracy Hauff
- Einwandererzentralstelle (EWZ) Applications – Valerie Stewart
- From the Volga to the Pampas of South America: Exploring the German Colonies of Entre Ríos, Argentina – Dr. Tanja Schell (once)
- Germans from Russia for Beginners – Bro Placid Gross
- The German Russian Garden – Daniel Flyger
- German Goulash – Shirone Spolar (Friday)
- In the Crucible of History: The Journal of Rev. Jacob H Janzen – Bernard Janzen
- It All Happened Here: Early Evangelical, Mennonite, and Hutterite Settlements of Southeastern South Dakota – Daniel Flyger
- Knoephla Soup – Ken Voegel (Saturday)
- Letters from the Homeland: Analyzing Personal Letters to German Russian Families in the United States – Dr. Tanja Schell (once)
- Lost Souls: The Story of Displaced Germans from Russia after World War II – Wayne Garman
- The Lucky Search: How a Moment of Inspiration Ended a Century of Silence – Andrea Blessum
- My Family's Life in Siberia: Germans in the Soviet Union, 1940s–1960s – Dr. Tanja Schell (once)
- My Lost Tribe: True and Actual Stories – Ron Vossler
- On the Prairie, an Hour with Poetry – Sharon Chmielarz
- Soddy — Its Construction and Features – Ken Voegel
- Word, Gesture, and Breath: *Braucherei* (Faith Healing) Folk Traditions in German from Russia Catholic and Protestant Worlds – Eric Schmaltz

**Friday: July 17, 2026**

08:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Convention Registration, Bookstore .....	Woodland South
01:00 p.m. – 04:00 p.m.	Convention Registration, Bookstore .....	Woodland South
08:00 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Heritage Hall: Chapter Banners & Pull-up's .....	Redwood Court Yard
08:00 a.m. – 04:00 p.m.	Youth Booth.....	Woodland South
09:45 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Viewing & Bidding – Hunter Heinrich.....	Chestnut



08:30 a.m. – 09:45 a.m.	GRHS Annual Business Meeting & Election of Board of Directors ....	Woodland South
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentations.....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Office Staff Lunch: Youth Essay Awards.....	Woodland South
12:45 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.	Presentations.....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
03:15 p.m. – 03:45 p.m.	Kuchen & Coffee Break .....	Hallway by Cedar
04:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Presentations.....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
05:15 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.	Sing-a-long (songbooks provided) .....	Walnut
05:15 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.	GRHS Board of Directors Meeting .....	Woodland North
05:15 p.m. – 06:15 p.m.	NDSU Library Homeland Tour Reunion - Michael Miller .....	Birch
06:30 p.m. – 07:30 p.m.	Dinner: Joseph Height Literary Awards .....	Woodland South
07:30 p.m. – 08:30 p.m.	TBD .....	Woodland South

**Saturday, July 18, 2026**

**Note: Memorial Service will be held Saturday afternoon at 04:00 p.m.**

08:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Convention Registration, Bookstore .....	Woodland South
08:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Youth Booth (Closes 11:30 a.m.) .....	Woodland South
08:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Silent Auction – Hunter Heinrich (Auction ends 10:00 a.m.) .....	Chestnut
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Pickup & Pay for Silent Auction Items .....	Chestnut
12:30 p.m. – 01:30 p.m.	Pickup & Pay for Silent Auction Items .....	Chestnut
01:00 a.m. – 03:30 p.m.	Pickup Banners at Registration booth .....	Woodland South



8:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentations .....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Chapter President's Lunch .....	Woodland South
	Family History, Lane Alton Nusz, James Allen Renz Award, & Other Awards	
12:45 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.	Presentations .....	Woodland North, Woodland East, Walnut, Birch
01:00 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.	Pick-up Chapter Banners .....	Woodland South
03:15 p.m. – 03:45 p.m.	Kuchen & Coffee Break .....	Hallway by Cedar
04:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.	Memorial Service – Alice Delzer.....	Woodland South
	Celebration of Life – Valerie Stewart	
05:15 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.	Town Hall Meeting – Valerie Stewart .....	Woodland North
06:30 p.m. – 07:45 p.m.	Dinner – Passing of Torch, Closing .....	Woodland North
	Installation of Officers	
08:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Dance .....	Woodland East, Woodland South
	Hugo and Julie Lee Ternes and the White Rose Band, Fargo, ND	



**Menu of Meals during the Convention**

**We need to turn our meal count in to the hotel, so please register early.**

**Thursday Lunch:** Sandwich (Turkey on Whole Wheat), Knoephla Soup, Garden Salad with House Dressing. (Coffee & Water on Table, Refills on Coffee Table)

**Thursday Dinner:** Beef Pot Roast with Hard Rolls/Butter, Roasted Red Potatoes, Garden Salad with House Dressing, Green Beans, Strawberry Shortcake. (Coffee & Water on Table, Refills on Coffee Table)

**Friday Lunch:** German Bratz or Sausage, Cheese Button Casserole, Crisped Tossed Salad with House Dressing, & Cucumber Salad. (Coffee & Water on Table, Refills on Coffee Table)

**Friday Dinner:** Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Garden Salad With House Dressing, Glazed Carrots, German Chocolate Cake. (Coffee & Water on Table, refills on Coffee table)

**Saturday Lunch:** Beef Stew (with Potatoes and Carrots), Spaetzle, Crisp Tossed Salad with House Dressing, Hard Rolls and Butter. (Coffee & Water on Table, Refills on Coffee Table)

**Saturday Dinner:** Chicken and Dumplings, Popover, Garden Salad With House Dressing, Country Trio (corn, carrots, green beans), Apple Crisp. (Coffee & Water on Table, Refills on Coffee Table)

**Please indicate on the registration form if you have special dietary needs.  
If you order a special meal, please take it.**

**No meal changes after June 26, 2026  
Lunches have a title but are open to anyone who purchases a ticket.**

**Hotel Information  
Ramada by Wyndham Fargo  
3333 13th Ave S., Fargo, ND  
1-701-235-3333**

A block of rooms has been set aside with special rates at the **Ramada by Wyndham**, Fargo, ND until **June 30, 2026**. Room block is full, but you can ask to be on a waiting list for any cancellations. Please contact the hotel directly at **(701) 235-3333** and ask for the **Germans from Russia Heritage Society block** or **GRHS Convention**, when making your reservations.

**Room Rates:** Single/Double **\$119.00/night (taxes not included)**. **ELEVATORS** are near exit **2 & 3** for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor rooms. Check-in time is 03:00 p.m. and check-out is 11:00 a.m.

**Hotel:** The hotel rooms have mini fridges, microwaves, and in-room coffee makers. The rooms include free complimentary breakfast, wireless internet service (Wi-Fi), and parking. Due to our hotel contract, normally no other hotel accommodations will be advertised. Because the Ramada is full we have put together some hotels you could contact to check on availability and price. The price listed for each is since 4/22.

- Fargo Inn & Suites (\$75), 1025 38th St S, Fargo, ND (701) 282-6300 (1 mile to the Ramada)
- Americas Best Value Inn Fargo (\$137), 1401 35th St S, Fargo, ND 58103 (701) 212-1443 (0.4 mile to the Ramada)
- Park Inn By Radisson, Fargo West Acres (\$128) 1202 36th St S, Fargo, ND 58103 (701) 353-1150 (0.4 mile to the Ramada)

**Camper Parking:** Parking campers overnight is available at the convention site, if you are staying in the hotel.

Campsites in the area:

- Lynnwood Park, 1905 Roger Mayer Drive, Fargo North Dakota 58103, 47 Sites May – October, 701-232-3987, (Part of park System of Fargo city)
- Red River Valley Fair Campground, 1805 Main Ave West, West Fargo North Dakota, 701-282-2200 [Info@redrivervalleyfair.com](mailto:Info@redrivervalleyfair.com) (117 sites)

#### **Transportation:**

Dr. Frederick Isaak has offered to pick-up people at the airport. Check the box on the registration form and a phone no. will be emailed to you to work directly with him. If he is not available, try Taxi/Uber/Lyft services as they are available in the area.

**Airport Pickup:** Uber provides 24/7 airport Hector International Airport (FAR) pickups with on-demand rides (UberX, XL) or options to schedule rides up to 90 days in advance.

**MATBUS**, operates buses throughout Fargo on designated routes with pickup at designated bus stops Monday – Saturday.

## **Kuchen Breaks**

**Thanks to a generous donor, kuchen and coffee will be provided at no cost during each break—please enjoy as much as you'd like.**

**To ensure adequate quantities are available and to minimize waste, please indicate the number of tickets needed for each break. This helps us order, plan, store, and prepare accordingly.**

55th Annual Germans from Russia Heritage Society Convention

**July 16 – July 18, 2026**

*Registration Form*

Please **reserve your hotel accommodations before registering**, as another event in town will limit room availability. GRHS cannot guarantee accommodations.

Please complete and mail the registration form with your check or credit card information for registration and meals to:

GRHS 2026 Convention  
1125 West Turnpike Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58501-8115

Make checks payable to: **GRHS (US funds only, please)**

- You may also save the form to your computer, then email it to [kristi.grhs@gmail.com](mailto:kristi.grhs@gmail.com) and pay through PayPal or by credit card over the phone.

**Meals must be selected with the registration form and cannot be selected by late registrants at the registration desk.**

Pre-registration deadline is **June 12, 2026** and all registrations must be received at GRHS Headquarters no later than **June 26, 2026**. No refunds will be given after **June 26, 2026**.

**No registration fee is required for youth under the age 18 accompanied by a registered participant**

Meals for youths are the same prices as adults

Spouse of members pay member prices

Please list each person separately. All children attending must also be listed.

This information is needed for name badges.

**Please Print Clearly**

(1) Member \_\_\_\_\_ Life member paid in full \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestral Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Member \_\_\_\_\_ Life member paid in full \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestral Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to coordinate an airport ride or attend the NDSU open house with Dr. Isaak, please check the box. His phone no. will be emailed to you.**

**No Motel Shuttle to Airport. Try Uber, Lyft or Taxi Service.**

**Note:** All pre-registered attendees will have their first & last name, maiden name, city, state, and email published in the annual convention report booklet. The Annual Convention Report Booklet is copyrighted.

**Volunteers:** Please indicate activity, date and time(s) you want to volunteer:

(Registration, cutting, serving coffee/kuchen, taking tickets: Meals, Kuchen breaks, Dance)

Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

	Per Person		Number	=	Total Amount
Pre-registration (3 day) by June 12 (GRHS Members)*	\$65.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Late Registration (3 day) (GRHS Members)* .....	\$80.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Pre-registration (3 day) by June 12 (Non-members)*	\$75.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Late Registration (3 day) (Non-members)* .....	\$90.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
One Day Registration (Thursday)* .....	\$40.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
One Day Registration (Friday)* .....	\$40.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
One Day Registration (Saturday)* .....	\$40.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<b>* meals &amp; kuchen breaks are not included</b>					
Thursday Luncheon .....	\$24.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Thursday Kuchen and Coffee (No. of slices) .....			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Thursday Evening Dinner .....	\$32.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon .....	\$24.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Friday Kuchen and Coffee (No. of slices) .....			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Friday Evening Dinner .....	\$32.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon.....	\$24.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Saturday Kuchen and Coffee (No. of slices).....			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Saturday Evening Dinner.....	\$32.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Cooking Demo–German Goulash.....	\$5.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Cooking Demo–Knoephla Soup .....	\$5.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Dance (free to registrants with name badge).....	\$5.00	x	_____	=	\$ _____

**(Dance is open to the public, purchase tickets for non-registered guests)**

**Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment Method**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (U.S. Funds only)      \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (Master Card or Visa only)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Card Account Number)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Exp. Date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Card verification number)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name as it appears on the card)

\_\_\_\_\_ Billing address (if different than address given on registration)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Authorized signature)

Receipt will be in your registration packet.

Special dietary needs: In the box to the right of each meal, indicate the number of people who need the Vegan, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free meal. No meal changes may be made after June 26.

**If signing up for special dietary needs, you must put your tripod out, and take the special meal. No changes to take the standard meal after ordering.**

Thurs. Lunch       Fri. Lunch       Sat. Lunch   
 Thurs. Dinner       Fri. Dinner       Sat. Dinner

**Please check your completed registration form for accuracy, make a copy for your own records, and mail your registration with payment to the address at the top of this form. If you have questions contact GRHS HQ at 701-223-6167.**