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Dear *Waldsee* community,

Waldsee German Language Village is celebrating its 65th summer this year. We are inviting all former *Waldsee* staff, villagers and parents to join us at the village on August 2 as we celebrate our community. More here, including RSVP information: [Waldsee Fest 2025](#)

As many of you know, we have been engaged in a broad-based effort to address our discovery that during World War II the Nazis told prisoners that they were heading to an idyllic (and fake) place called *Waldsee* (Forest Lake) when they were really heading to Auschwitz.

Since our discovery, we have [grappled with](#) the many issues and questions associated with this period of German history and its implications for our Village name and the community it has represented for 65 years. We engaged in several rounds of public consultations and formed an advisory committee to help guide our efforts. We plan to make good on those recommendations also on August 2 as part of a commemorative event.

We want to thank you for your suggestions and comments as we have gone through this process. As part of our commitment to engagement, transparency and outreach to our community, we invite you to join a public conversation we will be hosting this month:

- Wednesday, July 23: 7 p.m. US Central/8 p.m. US Eastern/6 p.m. Mountain/5 p.m. Pacific: <https://cord.zoom.us/j/91931920592>

We will present our evolving concept and how we and our staff are addressing these issues within the frame of *Waldsee's* mission of inspiring courageous global citizens.

We welcome your participation!

Best regards,

Jon *Berndt* Olsen

Angela *Johanna* Schneider

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