Vereinigung der Donauschwaben
127 Route 156, Yardville, NJ 08620

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 26 Issue 3

July-Sept 2026

***Points of Interest*—Ellis Island.**

- Most of immigrants to the U.S. (40%) arrived by ship through Ellis Island, over 12 million. Some did come through Philadelphia and else where.
- Ellis Island is mostly in New Jersey, not New York.
- It operated from 1892–1954. Prior immigrants to NY came through Castle Garden, on the tip of Manhattan.
- A fire destroyed it in 1897 & was rebuilt and it reopened in 1900.
- In 1907, at it's peak, 11,000 immigrants were processed per day.
- Contrary to rumors, immigrant last names were NOT changed by immigration officials, but by the person him or herself. Officials abroad and in the U.S. had staff that spoke over 30 languages for communications.
- During WWII, it was used as a Coast Guard base and a "enemies" detainee camp. It closed in 1954.
- It was restored and reopened in 1976 for $170 million from private donations. The museum opened in 1990.

Newsletter Copyright 2026. Contact the Club for permission to copy. Source: *Family Tree Magazine*, "Ellis Island". 2025.

Inside this issue:

Club Matters	2
DS History/Culture	3
Membership News	5
Club Items	7
More DS News	8
Newsletter Sponsors	10
Club Events	14



"Presidential " DANUBE CRUISE

Club President Joe Brandecker and "First Lady" Emma enjoyed a wonderful Danube River Cruise this summer up the river. They took in the River sites (and bier) in Hungary through Germany. Retracing the route Joes' ancestors followed (in reverse).

They invite all to attend our 70th Club Anniversary Party and grab a dedicated space in our commemorative program book to share a vintage photo, your favorite Club memory or dedicate a page to the next generation of members.



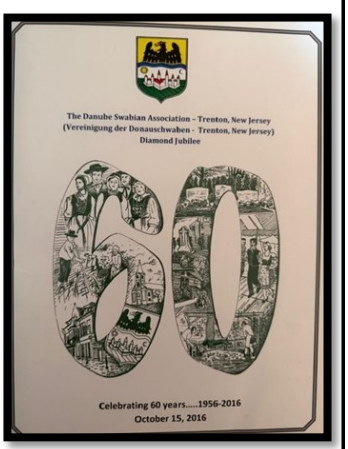
Everyone in attendance at our 70th anniversary celebration receives a book, as do our sponsors. We thank you in advance for your support!



****

Memories from our 60th Anniversary Celebration!

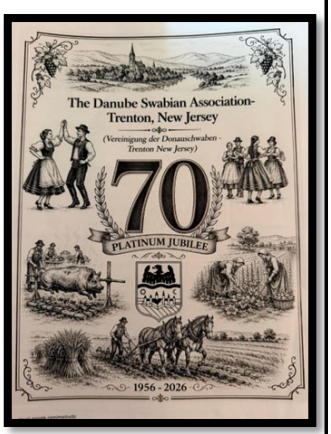
Artwork by member, Ron Kernast.





70 Years of celebrating our culture, making memories, building friendships.

Artwork by member, Sofi Walter.



Club Matters, Members, Friends & Stuff



Happy 4th of July—Car Cruise

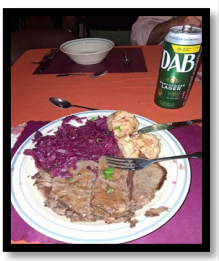
Club Members, the Lobecker and Bauer families, participated in a celebration car cruise on the 4th of July through the Levittown, PA sections in Middletown Township. Over 100 vehicles participated. It was a very hot day, over 100 degrees…..but a fun ride to celebrate our countries **250th** birthday.





*****





September's Harvest Fest.....

After a three-month hiatus, we could once again feel the energy and enthusiasm in the room. It was great to see so many of you join us to celebrate our return for another season of great food/libations and most of all camaraderie! We appreciate everyone who supported this event! A special thanks to our outstanding Chef Hubert and his team, and baker Kim and her team and all our wonderful volunteers....our many young folks! And a shout out to Ron Kernast for the beautiful floral centerpieces and mums.

Also, we always like to hear from you....please send us your comments! We hope you'll join us at our other upcoming events! Additional photos of the Fest can be found on our website at *TrentonDonau.com*

***



A Visit to the "Heimatland!"

By Liz (Hepp) Tindall



The Tindall Family (12 of us) traveled to the "Heimatland" in August. It was a great experience for all....especially for the 5 grandchildren who got a good dose of their heritage and culture.

It began with a flight to Munich, Germany which already gave a level of excitement to everyone. The trip then took us to the breathtaking mountain regions of Austria, with stops in Kufstein, Salzburgerland, Kitzbuehl, and Achensee before heading back to Munich for the return trip home.Â

Lots of hiking, castles, great food, enjoying the culture, visiting with relatives and making plenty of memorable moments.. Looking forward to our return!

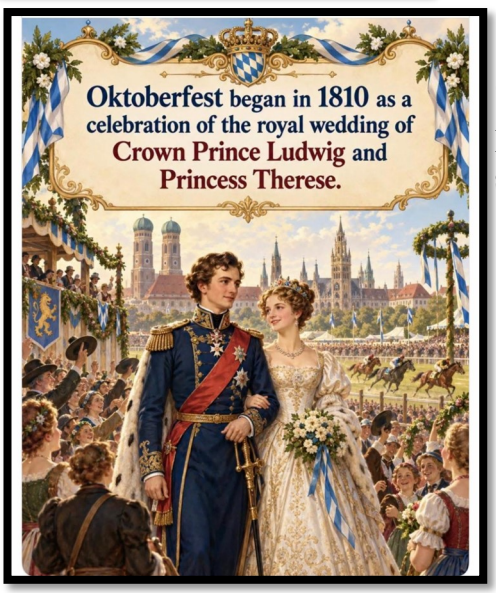
***

Donauschwaben-German History, Culture & News









***OKTOBERFEST* runs from Mid-September to the first Sunday in October.**

Many of our Donauschwaben ancestors came from Bavaria and the surrounding German states and also the Alsace-Lorraine region.





2026-2028 Club Officers & Staff

Club Officers:

President: Joseph Brandecker, Jr.
Vice Presidents: Luisa Scheidler & Christa Pullion
Treasurer: Al Tindall
Assistant Treasurers: Joe Brandecker, Sr. & Dennis Bauer
Financial Trustees: Chris Carson, Sasha Malofiy & Katie James
Membership Secretary: Anna Walls
Recording Secretary: Brittaney Protonentis
Secretary: Hans Martini
Executive Chef: Hubert Pinkerton
Wirtschaftsmeister: Robert Walter
Publicity Chair & eNews Editor: Liz Tindall
Newsletter Editor and Club Genealogist: Dennis Bauer
Assistant Newsletter Editor: Melanie Brandecker
Webmaster: Christina Malofiy
Scholarship Program Chair: Liz Tindall
Scholarship Program Committee: Emma Walter & Ernie Schirmer
Memorial Observance Team Lead: Christa Pullion
Auto Klub Co-Chairs: Joseph Brandecker, Sr. & Dennis Bauer
Hausmeister: Ernie Schirmer
Club Decoration & Artwork Team: Ron Kernast & Sofi Walter

Board of Directors:

Chair: Liz Tindall 2021 – 2027
Mark Gruzlovic 2021 – 2027
Joseph Brandecker, Sr. 2025 – 2031
Sasha Malofiy 2025 - 2031
Kim Walter 2025 – 2031
Anna Walls 2023 – 2029
Secretary: Katie James 2023 – 2029

Dachverband der Donauschwaben USA Officers:

Ray Martini, Landesverbandspräsident
Joseph Brandecker, Sr, Schatzmeister, Stiftung
Kathleen Martini, Landesjugendleiterin
Stefan Brandecker, Verträter, Stiftung
Hans Martini, Verträter, Verband

**Honorary Club President: Joseph Brandecker, Sr.

Membership News

Club Officers & Staff (see page 4 for more staff listing)

Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Luisa Scheidler & Christa Pullion, VPs
Dennis J. Bauer, Quarterly Newsletter Editor. Liz Tindall, E-Newsletter Editor
Kitchen Leader/Chef: Hubert Pinkerton
Kim Walter, Club Photographer/Baker
Al Tindall, Treasurer, Asst. Tres. Dennis J. Bauer & Joseph Brandecker, Sr.
Secretary: Hans Martini, and Recording Secretary: Brittaney Protonentis
Membership Secretary, Anna Walls
Melanie Brandecker, Quarterly Newsletter Copy Editor
AutoKlub Leaders: Dennis J. Bauer & Joseph Brandecker, Sr. Support staff, Steve & Melanie Brandecker, Terry Huff
Web Master and Facebook Editor: Christina Malofiy
Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer
Mail Room Coordinator: Hans Martini



Get Well/Thinking of you to members: **Ludwig Jakober**, **Maria Kuhn**, **Marlene Novosel, Hilde Schintzler, Richard West, Leslie Potts** and **Erika Volltrauer** and those members that we were not aware of.

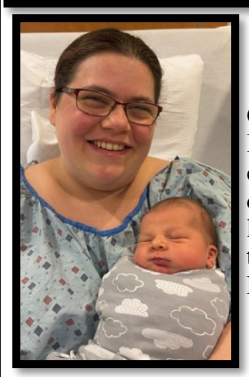
Welcome new members; **Gerda Somers** of Hamilton, NJ and **Adam Tilger** of Medford, NJ. And of course our new baby members (see below)!

Membership Happenings (births, engagements, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, graduations)



New Arrivals!

An amazing announcement of the newest members of the Donauschwaben Family! **Brittaney (Brandecker) Protonentis, and Anna (Martini) Walls,** best friends since birth, both welcomed their first child on August 4, 2026, just 10 minutes apart!.



Congratulations to **Anna (Martini) and Patrick Walls**, who are the proud parents of Theodore Augustus Walls. Theodore weighed in at 8 lbs. and 19.5 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well! This is the fourth grandchild of Hans and JoAnn Martini.



And congratulations to **Brittaney (Brandecker) and Shayne Protonentis**, who are the proud parents of Katarina Elowyn Protonentis. Katarina weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz, and 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well! This is the first grandchild of our Past President, Joseph Brandecker and his wife Caroline.



Condolences: Peter S. Heberling, 88, (Grandson of Palankaers, Peter & Marianna Heberling) of Columbus, NJ, died at Cooper University Hospital on 28 August 2026. Born in Trenton, he graduated from Trenton High School in 1955 and served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Pete is predeceased by Carol, his beloved wife of 62 yrs, who passed away in 2020. He is also predeceased by his father, Stephen P. Heberling and his sister, Stephanie Baxter.

He is survived by his daughters; Patricia Stanley (and Gary) of Bordentown, Bonnie Heberling of Bordentown, Kathleen Kibler (and Gary) of Holly Ridge, NC and his son, Stephen Heberling (and Darcy) of Bordentown. Along with his grandchildren, Aaron (and Julie), Brandon (and Ariel), Courtney (and Jeffrey), Samantha (and Andrew), Jenna, Marissa (and Ben), Hannah, and Peter. His great-grandchildren, Olivia, Anthony, Adalynn and Derek. He is also survived by his beloved sister, Ruthie Bagley of Groveland, MA. Source: *www.knottscolonialfuneralhome.com*. Ancestral note by Dennis J. Bauer.

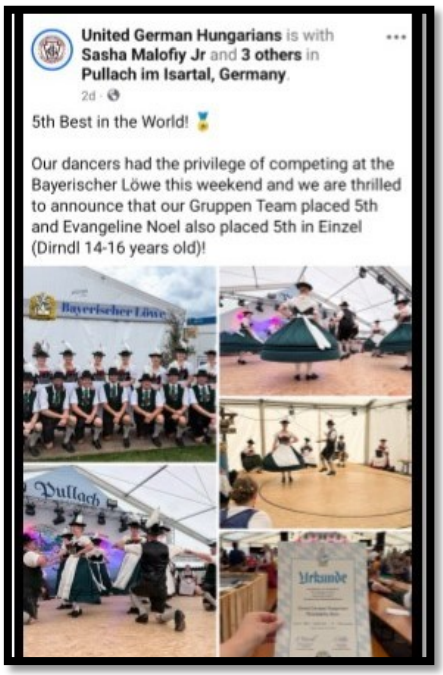


Another New Arrival.....

Congratulations to Club member **Lori (Kornfeld) Kramer** on the birth of her 7th grandchild, born September 24, 2026. Stella would have been the great-great granddaughter of one of our Founders Franz Klespies. And so the lineage continues! Stella was welcomed into the world by her loving family....mom Kristen, dad Justin, brother Jack, sisters Ava and Nina, grandmom Lori, great Aunt Heidi Kornfeld, and many other aunts, uncles, cousins and family members. Congratulations to all!

Deutsche Ecke

United German Hungarians and Trenton Donauschwaben in Germany and Austria







The Clubs at the Donauschwaben Museum in Haar, outside Munich. Model of a DS home.

****





2026 Donauschwaben Treffen.....

The *2026 Landestrachtenfest* (Donauschwaben Treffen) was held this Labor Day Weekend in Chicago, Illinois. A great time was had by all!

Here are a few photos of the festivities!



Trenton DS in the house…..

CLUB ITEMS and OTHER NEWS UPDATES



Get Your Trenton Treffen Commemoratives (still available) - Great Christmas Gifts

Trenton Treffen Commemoratives still available for purchase. Please reply to this email if interested!

Pins: $5.00 each
Tee-Shirts: sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL : $10 each
Flags: $25.00 each

Photos above. (Tee-shirt shows front and back).

Designed by our own Sofi Walter!

New—Club Stickers: $2.00 each

Large stickers $3.. each

Donated by Member Dennis J. Bauer

Produced by Member Erich Lobecker

******



More Club News - 2026 Auto Show Pictures





















Our Donauschwaben AutoKlub and the Old School Euros Car Club News

July 11th-Our 21st Annual "*Euro-American Auto & Cycle Show*"

At our partner's the *German-American* Picnic Grove, 215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville, NJ.

As in the past couple years, rain was a threat but held off until after the show. We are sure it kept some car buffs away, but the show went on. We had about 80 cars, trucks and cycles in attendance.

We had a good time and those present enjoyed the vehicles, DJ, raffle, and of course the food and drinks at the Biergarten. Proceeds help fund our student scholarships. The *Old School Euros Car Club* again helped out with sponsorship, registration, staging and judging, Vielen dank to the OSECC gang. ***



Newsletter Sponsors and Advertisers

Our Printed Quarterly Newsletter Sponsors 2026:

*** Frau Marlene Novosel & Familie ***
*** Familie Bauer & Penrith (in memory of Jacob & Theresa Helleis Bauer, Jacob & Carol Bauer and Frank & Katie Maas Helleis)***
*** Herr Scott Balyer***
*** Herr Peter Kernast, Jr. ***
*** Herr James Potts***
*** Familie Herrmann Volltrauer ***
***Frau Priscilla Perkins Bath ***
Frau Klara Andrichuk (in memory of Joseph & Josefa Brandecker)
Familie Carl & Sue Conrad
*** Herr Frank Varone***
Familie Chris & Karen Carson
Familie Elmer & Joyce Carson
Herr Ernest Schirmer
Herr Robert Knott
Familie Terry Huff (in memory of wife Mary Beth Huff and parents Harold & Patricia Huff)
Dave's Jewelers
***Jutta Holzhaus Stengel ***

Our Weekly E-News Sponsors 2026:

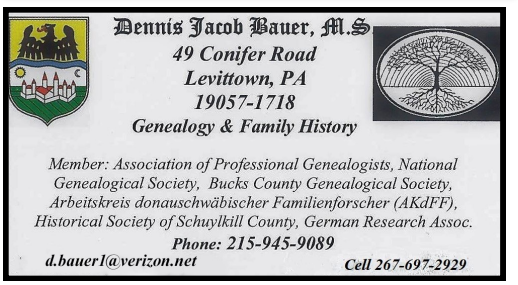
- **Peter Kernast**
- **Ilhan & Isabelle Aksay**
- **Roswitha Hoenisch**
- **Karin & Rich Laning**
- **Eva Martini**
- **Ernie and Cynthia Schirmer**
- **Joyce & Elmer Carson**
- **Chris and Karen Carson**
- **Sue Conrad (in memory of Carl)**
- **Mary and Frank Varone**
- **Hermann & Erika Volltrauer**
- **Robert Knott**
- **Sean and Marie Gorman**
- **Erich Kraus (in memory of Otto & Edith Kraus)**
- **Al & Liz Tindall**
- **Alexander Hepp (in memory of Elfriede Hepp)**
- **Peppy Bath**
- **Harold and Marie Parr**
- **The Shaffer Family**
- **James Potts**
- **Klara Andrichuk (in honor of Joseph and Josefa Brandecker)**

VIELEN DANK!



















Please consider advertising here….contact Liz Tindall

at 609-273-7502

CLUB EVENTS FOR 2026

Calendar of Events 2026 Donauschwaben of Trenton

Please note that reservations should be made at least one week in advance. Thank you!

January 25th , Sunday at 1pm—Annual Business Meeting

February 22nd, Sunday at 1pm—Winter Dinner

March 29th, Sunday at 1pm—Easter Luncheon Dinner

April 24-25th, Sunday—National Donauschwaben Meeting - Chicago

May 3rd , Sunday at 1pm—Mother's Day Dinner

June 14th, Sunday at 1pm—Father's Day Picnic/Pig Roast

3rd through the 5th of July—Canoe & Camping Trip (reserve soon) in N.E. PA

July 11th, Saturday (rain date July 12th), 9am-3pm—21st Annual Car Show at the German American Society

September 5-7th, Chicago, IL— Annual North American Treffen

September 20th at 1pm, Sunday Harvest Festival Dinner

October 24th, Saturady at 3pm—Club's 70th Anniversary Banquet at the German-American Society Hall, Yardville, NJ

November 1st, Sunday at 1pm—Memorial Service at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hamilton, NJ

November 15th, Sunday SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings, 12:30pm & 3pm)

December 6th, Sunday St. Nikolaus/Christmas Party

Please make reservations at least a week in advance for every event if at all possible. Thanks!
Reservations/Information:
Liz Tindall at *ltindall.llc@gmail.com*

Donauschwaben Remembrance

The Roman Catholic Church in Apatin, Batschka, Serbia. Gateway to our homeland.





****





Totengedenkfeier
(Memorial Service)

Date: Sunday, November 1, 2026
Time: 1 p.m. sharp
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery

We will mark the 82nd Anniversary of the expulsion of Donauschwaben from their ancestral homes through prayer, ritual and song. "Die Vertreibung" as we call it in German caused not just the loss of untold lives but also an entire way of life in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Make plans now to join us at the cemetery for what is always a moving and emotional event. Everyone is invited and make sure to dress weather-appropriate as this will be outdoors ! We look forward to seeing you there.

Following the service, it is tradition that we will return to our Clubhouse for refreshments. Cake and coffee will be served at no charge.

Scholarships & Culture & Staff



Second Floor of our Clubhouse— When attending one of our many wonderful dinners, take a moment to stop by the second floor of our Clubhouse to tour our museum. Donations were given by many of our members from the "old country"..... original "Tracht", among other things, and a history board detailing the plight of the Donauschwaben people and the founding of our beloved Club back in 1956 (See photo above).

In 2026 we awarded several more student scholarships in the amount of $500 each. Thank you to those that donated to the fund and to our *AutoKlub* for their donation from the 2025 Euro-American Auto and Cycle Show.

***



A Scholarship Update!

The deserving students from all three local high schools have been selected and we are prepared to present them with Scholarship dollars at their awards ceremonies, to be held on various dates in June. Since this is a surprise to these students, we will announce further details following these ceremonies.

Thank you all for your continued support and participation in our scholarship program! And a special THANK YOU to Club member Ernie Schirmer who is most supportive in many ways of this program. Vielen Dank Ernie!

***



Many a fond memory and meal at the "Old Heidelberg" Restaurant. Several of our members worked there, many enjoyed the meals there! Sad that it closed…….

Source: 1964 Trenton Times.

*****

The ***Trenton Donauschwaben*** was founded in 1956. A committee was formed to help newly arriving Post-WWII immigrants in 1956. There was already a large Donauschwaben community in Trenton, Pre-WWII.

The Trenton Donauschwaben quickly evolved into a social and cultural institution. The very first Trachtenfest was held in January of 1957. By the end of that year, the club became a member of the Dachverband der Donauschwaben.

Since then, it has served as both a gathering place for friends, family und "Landsleute" as well as an organization that seeks to promote and preserve our cherished heritage. In the early years, we conducted our meetings and events in a variety of places ranging from a church hall in the city of Trenton to a member's farm many miles away.

In 1973 our members self-financed the purchase, renovation and expansion of a 100+ year old farmhouse that came with a ¾ acre sized picnic area and a caretaker's house. Though modest in size, the facilities have served our needs very well over the years - though we always seem to be remodeling or improving something!

Today, in 2026, our 70th Anniversary, we continue to have monthly dinners that feature authentic German cuisine including soups, entrees, and dessert! We are very active in the Donauschwaben U.S.A. Verband and have just had our 21st Auto and Cycle Show that helps support our local German Language Schlorship Fund. So, Come and find out what we are all about at one of our dinners!

We now have forth generation members!

Who are the Trenton Donauschwaben?



Club Events for the Summer 2026



2026 Summer— DATES & TIMES-Come out and join us for our events!

♦ June 14, 1pm—Father's Day Pig Roast.

♦July 3—Annual Club Canoe/ Camping Trip, Upper Delaware River, PA.

♦ July 11, 9am-2pm—21st Annual Auto & Cycle Show, German-American Society, 215, Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville, NJ

♦ No activities in August. See you in September.

♦ September 20—Harvest Dinner, 1pm.

Please call (609) 585-1932 for all meal reservations (advisable and <u>required</u> for both Schlachtfests) or email at *dsatrenton@aol.com*.

Trenton Donauschwaben on facebook

PROUD TO BE GERMAN AMERICAN

Our Web Site:

Www.Trentondonau.com

VEREINIGUNG DER DONAUSCHWABEN
127 ROUTE 156, YARDVILLE, NJ 08620
DSATRENTON@YAHOO.COM
609-585-1932
PRESIDENT— JOSEPH BRANDECKER, JR.
PRESIDENT@TRENTONDONAU.COM

Dennis J. Bauer, Editor & Club Genealogist
Email: donauschwaben5@gmail.com

Hans Martini, Club Secretary
Email: dsatrenton@aol.com

www.Trentondonau.com

Vielen Dank !



To all of our members who do the work that always needs doing, THANKS!!

Whether it's in the kitchen or out by the tables; serving refreshments or baking pastries; selling tickets or cleaning up; it takes many fine people a good many hours to make dinner events a success. We truly have some of the finest club members anywhere. Danke Schön!!

A great big THANKS!! also goes to all of our members and friends who attend the club's activities and sponsor our newsletters. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwaben!

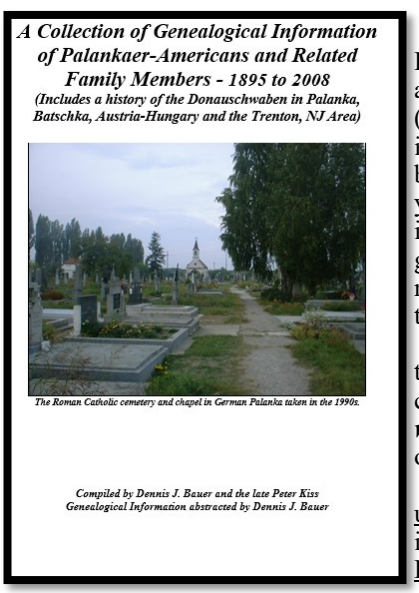
THE NEW TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK IS AVAILABLE NOW!

A new cookbook featuring recipes from past and present Trenton Donauschwaben Club members, along with recipes shared from Donauschwaben members from around the United States! You don't want to miss some of these delicious recipes that carry on the traditions from the "Heimat". Be sure to keep an eye out for the official order page. The recipe book will be sold as a fundraiser for the Club and sells for only $15. They will make a great addition to any cookbook collection. We will also be selling them at our dinners. We can't wait to share this with you! We thank Christa Pullion for coordinating this project!

****

Please consider sponsoring our <u>quarterly printed newsletter</u>. Cost is $35 annually. Have any news or milestone events to share? Please send them to Dennis Bauer, our newsletter publisher at *donauschwaben5@gmail.com*. He has been our Club Newsletter Editor for over 26 years now, Wow! *





In 2008, Club member, Dennis J. Bauer published a book about the Palankaer-Americans. (Volume 1) . He also incorporated information that our late Club member Peter Kiss had collected over the years. Dennis distributed his book to interested Palankaers around the globe and libraries in the U.S., Germany, Canada and Serbia following the completion of the book.

If you would like a copy of the book in pdf digital format, please contact him. at ***donauschwaben5@gmail.com.*** A copy is also on file at the NJ State Library.

He is **now** working on <u>Volume 2</u> for printing in late 2026. This issue will include information on <u>Palankaer-Canadians also.</u>