

# Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 8 Issue 2

April-June 2008



## Points of Interest

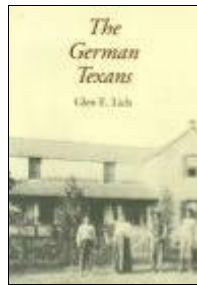
- German Cabinet gives the ok for a new Center of Expellees.
- It will be built in Berlin.
- It will cost 46 million dollars.
- It will document the expulsion of millions of Germans from Eastern Europe after WW II.
- It will also include info on the expulsion of 1.5 million Poles from Soviet-annexed eastern Poland.
- It will not leave out documentation of Nazi crimes committed in both Poland and the Czech Republic.
- Source: *The Week in Germany*, 20 March 2008.

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## THE GERMANS of TEXAS By Ray Martini



In case some of you may not be aware, the roving Martini clan has uprooted their home yet again. This time it is to the great state of Texas (it is great just ask anyone here), more specifically south Texas to the city of San Antonio. To dispel the rumors that Ray moved from Atlanta because of the blue laws forbidding alcohol sales on Sunday, well that's just only partially true. San Antonio requires that I wait until 1 pm on Sunday, so I am still not able to get my six-pack after morning mass, but I digress. The real story is his lovely wife, Marie, was recruited out of Coca Cola to USAA, to head up their executive recruiting department. The Sunday alcohol thing was just a rumor, really!

A wonderful side benefit of moving from Atlanta to Texas is the sizable community of German immigrants that moved into the area around 1860. Having always believed that Germans truly loved to live in cold and frozen environments exclusively, I was quite surprised by the abundance of Germans here in this warm and desert like climate. I imagine that most of us are unaware of this off-shoot from the German Folk, so I will begin my story with a concise introduction of how the Germans ended up in the Lone Star state of Texas.

Originally, there were a few Germans in Texas when the area was under Spanish and Mexican rule; the first permanent settlement of Germans was at Industry, in Austin County, established by Friedrich Ernst and Charles Fordtran in the early 1830s. Ernst wrote a letter to a friend in his native Oldenburg which was published in the newspaper there. His description of Texas was so influential in attracting German immigrants to that area that he is remembered as "The Father of German Immigration to Texas."

These first immigrants settled in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, and Washington counties. (South Central Texas, between San Antonio and Austin). Among the communities in that area considered German towns were: Mill Creek, Biegel, La Grange, Fayetteville, Cat Spring, Bellville, Frelsburg, New Ulm, Bernardo, Shelby, Ross Prairie, Millheim, and Berlin. Some of the names are German and some are English because some of these were places originally settled and named by Anglo-Americans from the United States, but later settled by German immigrants and some of them were founded by Germans.

In the 1840s, the social, economic, and technological conditions in Germany, coupled with the availability of lands in frontier Texas, created an ideal climate for an influx of immigrants. In 1842, a group of German noblemen formed the *Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas*, called the *Verein* or the *Adelsverein*, to secure land in Texas for immigrants. The *Verein* obtained a grant of 3,800,000 acres in west-central Texas from Henry Fisher and Burchard Miller, thus known as the Fisher-Miller Grant. Prospective settlers were promised 320 acres of land for a married man or 160 acres for a single man, plus transportation across the ocean and to that land, a house, household furnishings, utensils, and farming equipment, churches, hospitals, roads and general provisions for their welfare.

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels preceded the group to prepare for the arrival of the colonists. He realized that the huge land grant could not be settled immediately because it was too far from the coast and from existing settlements for transportation and supply, and so he established the town of New Braunfels as a way station to the Fisher-Miller lands. Prince Carl returned to his homeland and was succeeded by Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach, who discarded his title upon arrival in Texas and became known as John O. Meusebach. When it became evident that large numbers of expected settlers could not be located at New Braunfels, Meusebach laid out another settlement and named it Fredericksburg.

(Continued on last page)

# Club Matters & Members



## WAITING FOR THE SPRING THAW

Member John Feldenzer from Libby, Montana is an avid fly fisherman. John is just waiting for that spring thaw so he can launch his boat and start fishing those Montana back waters. They have had a lot of snow in Montana this year. John says stop by if any of the members get out to Libby. We're sure you will get a hearty "Willkommen".

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## MEMBERSHIP RE-NEWAL REMINDER

Members, please keep our club's treasurer happy 😊 . We ask those that have not yet paid their 2008 dues to do so as soon as possible. Danke!

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## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES PLEASE



We have a fine group of regular newsletter writers on board. We believe everyone enjoys the variety of topics/articles included in each issue. However, we are always looking for new submitters and new articles/news.

Please do not be afraid to give it a try. The newsletter staff will gladly give you a hand. So we encourage all of our members consider submitting an article or at least club member news. IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.

In closing, a heartfelt thanks from Dennis J. Bauer, our Editor (and all the club members), to ALL those that have submitted news and articles over these past years. Keep them coming.

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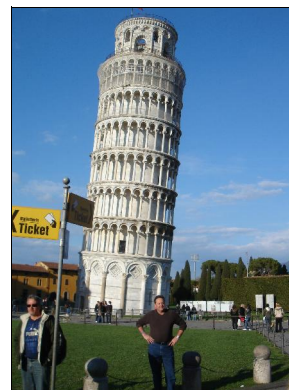
## GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL—NO MORE

After an amazing 34 years, the time has come that the German Heritage Festival is no more. It has been announced that the State of New Jersey will no longer permit the Committee to have a stage show. That decision affected our festival directly. So the committee, as a whole, voted to have no more future festivals. It was fitting that the final performance was "Die Stimme der Heimat" by Heino.

As you know our club has participated in the event from the start, selling our German pastries and joining the Philadelphia Donauschwaben in having our youth dance group perform at the fest over the years. More on this in the next newsletter. *Stefan Brandecker*

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## Another Business Trip??



Member, Frank Herdt, sends his regards from Italy while on a recent business trip. The newsletter staff wonders if drinking that great Italian vino would make that Leaning Tower of Pisa seem straighter?

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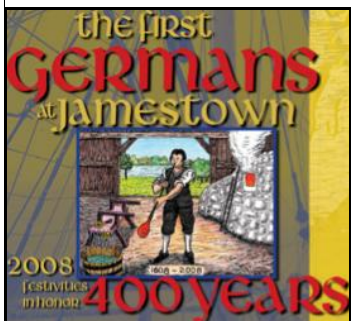
## MIKE LENYO STILL ROCKS



Our own Mike Lenyo continues to "rock on" as a member of Contrarian. The group plays classic and original rock around the Trenton and Philly area. Check out their web site at [www.contrariantheband.com](http://www.contrariantheband.com).

## Genealogy, Culture & History Section

### Germans 400 Years in America



“Jamestown was the site of the first permanent English settlement in America and is generally considered "the birthplace of the United States." A series of events on April 18 to 20 at Jamestown and Williamsburg, VA, will highlight the important presence of Germans at the birth of the American Nation.

Guided tours of newly discovered James Fort, the unveiling of new National Park Service historic marker at the Jamestown Glasshouse by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Klaus Scharioth, lectures, a German banquet, a concert with German early music and a commemorative church service will mark the weekend.

The German physician and botanist Johannes Fleischer, who arrived at Jamestown with the first ship in 1607, was the only non-British individual among the initial group of settlers. German glassmakers, who arrived a year later, erected the first glass furnaces at Jamestown and made the first "industrial type" product in English America. Other Germans conducted metallurgical experiments. Three German wainscot sawyers helped build a European-style house for Paramount Chief Powhatan and lived in the same village as Pocahontas. German copper coins traded with the natives kept the settlers alive in the crucial first years.

Scholars will discuss the contributions Germans made to America on Friday, April 18, and Saturday, April 19, at the Colonial Williamsburg Conference Center.

Guided tours will leave the National Park Service Visitors Center on Jamestown Island in the afternoon of April 19; they will emphasize sites where Germans made contributions.

Ambassador Scharioth will unveil a permanent historical display at the Jamestown Glasshouse at 4 p.m. on April 19, while glassblowers will demonstrate the actual making of glass similar to the glass made by the first German glassblowers.

A banquet featuring German dishes will be held at the Colonial Williamsburg Conference Center on April 19 beginning with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. and followed by a welcome by Williamsburg Mayor Jeanne Zeidler, a keynote address by Ambassador Scharioth, and a lecture by historian John Humphrey on the topic "400 Years of Germans in America and Their Contributions to American Culture."

The evening will conclude with a concert by the Countertop Quartet, a vocal ensemble, which will be joined by a period instrument ensemble. The performance will present a slice of the German vocal music history around the time of the Jamestown landing.

The weekend of celebrations will close with a German-English service at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg on Sunday, April 20, at 9:30 a.m. It will in particular commemorate Dr. Johannes Fleischer, Jr., the first Lutheran in English America.”

Source: *The Week in Germany*, 14 March 2008

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### Ancestry.com now has immigration records on-line



*Ancestry.com* now has an extensive collection of immigration records on-line, however, you must be a paid subscriber. These records are indexed and easily searchable and are from the U.S. National Archives and the Hamburg Archives. Some of these records are more detailed than others and include the exact name and location of the U.S. sponsor they came to America to see. Some Donauschwaben here in Trenton sponsored numerous *Landsleute*, such as the Pillers in the early 1900s. Most Donauschwaben came to the States in the early 1900s or between 1948-1960.

Dennis Bauer, our club genealogist, has a full subscription to *Ancestry.com* and is presently collecting immigration records of Palankaers for his up coming book. He has also found the records of many of our past and present members, whether from Palanka or other Donauschwaben towns (i.e. the Bauers, Helleis', Feldenzers, Brandeckers, Martinis, Jakobers, Franz, Mayers, Herdts, Schöns, Kernasts, Hepps, Müllers, Novosels, etc.). These include records from those leaving from German or Austrian displaced person camps. Most of these members came via ship, but some arrived via airplane after WW II.

In addition, they also have early 1900s passport applications on-line. It is interesting to see that a number of U.S. Donauschwaben obtained passports to return to Europe to visit family “back home” or bring additional family members to the U.S. A.

Dennis has offered to do a “lookup” for any club member, so drop him a line at [genealogy@trentondonauschwabens.com](mailto:genealogy@trentondonauschwabens.com) or see him at the club.

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# Membership News



**Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President**  
**Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor**  
**Ludwig Jakober, Treasurer**

## 2008 Newsletter Staff

**Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor**  
**Kim Walter, Vice President/Club Photographer**  
**Hans Martini, Secretary**

**Staff Writers: Adam Martini, Andy Franz, Jacob Bauer and Michael Lenyo**  
**AutoKlub Leader & Contributing Writer: Terry Huff**  
**Website Committee: Dennis J. Bauer & Terry Penrith**  
**Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer**  
**Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini**

## Gearing up for the Tag der Donauschwaben in Cleveland!

The preparations are already under way and, yes, Trenton is going to the Donauschwabentreffen in Cleveland, OH, on Labor Day weekend with just as many members as we can possibly assemble. The last few "treffens" have seen up to 36 club members from "mighty" Trenton and we hope even more will be a part of this year's cultural extravaganza. Right now we're hopeful a bus can be arranged in cooperation with another club so that every member will have at least the opportunity to attend. PLEASE plan to join us for this upcoming fest. It promises to be the very best event of its type held ever. More information to follow in future newsletters.

Membership Happenings (births, engagements, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, vacation trips, graduations, etc.)

**Congratulations** to **Katie Tindall**, daughter of **Liz and Al Tindall**. She is graduating from Steinert High School this June and heading to Drexel University in Philadelphia in the Fall, enrolled in their 5-year Co-op Master's Program in Nursing.

To members **John and Myrtle Feldenzer** of Libby, Montana on their 50th wedding anniversary this April. In addition, John's Palanka web site is going well also ([www.feldenzer.com](http://www.feldenzer.com)). Stop by and visit it!

Also to members, **Adam and Marie Mattes** of Philadelphia on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Friends and family joined them at the Philly Donauschwaben on Saturday 12 April 2008 to help them celebrate this special event.

Congratulations also to Club member **Anna Martini** was recently named president of the German National Honor Society at Hamilton High West. Wir gratulieren, Anna! As president she inducted Luisa, her loving sister, into the same Honor Society this past April 16<sup>th</sup>. Congrats, Luisa!

Also to **Christina Martini** won an "Honorable Mention" in the junior division at this year's Mercer County Science Fair held at Rider University. Kudos, Chrissy!

A big Grüss Gott! to our hard working college students out there in the academic world. They include **Erich Jakober** at Loyola University in Maryland; his brother **Alex Jakober**, at Norwich University in Vermont; and **Lyla Lenyo** at Montclair State College in North Jersey. Keep up the good work!



**Condolences** to member **Helmut Lingohr** on the passing of his wife, **Erika**, in February 2008.

To member **Maria Wiegand** on the passing of her husband, member **Johann Wiegand**, in March of this year.

Also to member **Rosa Wildmann** of North Carolina and the passing of long time member and husband **Joseph Wildmann**, 82. Joseph was born in Yugoslavia and died 17 March 2008. Joe and Rosa lived in the Trenton area for many years until moving to North Carolina several years ago.

All families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.



**Get Well** to club members; **Harold Huff**, **Lydia Haller**, **Marion Dlubak** on their recent surgeries and hospital stays.

Also to **Irmgard Brandt**, daughter of Kathe Pfann and **Dennis Bauer** (neck & back injury).

Also to Texas Schwob **Kathleen Martini** on her Karate-related leg injury. You'll be up and kicking in no time, Kathleen!

And **George Majer** and **Mitzi Fisher** on their recent illnesses and speedy recoveries.

# Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



## *Erinnerung an Österreich* *By Adam Martini*

### 1. Fortsetzung

Im vorigen Aufsatz versuchte ich über die Haigermooser Gegend, sowie ein wenig über die Bauern und Bürger die diese schöne Gegend Heimat nennen, zu schreiben.

Der Grund, dass wir gerade in Haigermoos landeten, war der Bruder meiner Grossmutter, der Tonivetter. Ja, der Tonivetter, er heisst Anton Helmlinger, er war der älteste Bruder meiner Grossmutter. Da waren achtzehn Geschwister in der Helmlinger Familie, von den achtzehn, lebten aber nur dreizehn, die anderen starben nach der Geburt oder ein wenig später. Jedenfalls Tonivetter war daheim in Lovas, Srem, ein angesehener Bürger und Mühleninhaber, damals in Lovas. Jetzt aber, also bei unerer Ankunft in Haigermoos, es war im Spätsommer im Jahre 1947, war er ein alter Mann, der mit seinen drei Töchtern und ihren Familien, die auf zwei Bauernhöfen sowie einem verlassenen alten Haus auf einem kleinen Hügel, nicht weit von den Bauernhöfen wohnten, war froh uns zu sehen, aber konnte uns beim besten Willen nicht helfen.

So standen wir mit nur unserem Bündel in der Hand, im Kreise unserer Verwandten und suchten einen Unterschlupf, eine Herberge.

Alle Wohnungen und extra Zimmer waren voll. Niemand konnte uns aufnehmen. Die Situation war hoffnungslos, den überall waren Flüchtlinge, ja die ganze Gegend war besetzt mit Volksdeutschen.

Der Herrgott wird uns schon helfen, diese Worte waren das stete Mantra meiner sehr religiösen Grossmutter. Und siehe da, wie schon in so manchen anderen hoffungslosen Situationen, Hilfe kam und zwar in der Person von Herrn Franz Neissl,

Grossbauer von Pfaffing. Alle seine extra Zimmer sowie das Auszugshaus und auch der Raum neben der grossen elektrischen Wasserpumpe waren voll besetzt, meist mit unseren Verwandten. Er hatte eine Hütte, sie war so drei hundert Meter vom Bauernhof, an einem Fahrweg zu den Feldern und Wiesen und auch zum Höllerer See. Er hatte sie, die Hütte, auch Boothütte genannt, uns angeboten und wir, Grossmutter und ich, sollten dafür im Sommer bei der Heuernte sowie bei der täglichen Grasfutterbeschaffung für seine vierzig Kühe mithelfen. Auch versprach er täglich freie Milch und Kartoffel fürs ganze Jahr.

Die Hütte hatte ein gutes Dach und wurde als Abstellager benützt. Sie stand nahe des Feldweges und fast ganz im Wald. Sie war vorne offen und hatte einen Raum mit vier festen Mauern und einer starken Decke. Zwei kleine Öffnungen für Fenster, eines an der Rückwand und das andere an der Seitenwand. Vorne war ein Türeingang mit einer rauhen Holztür. Der Raum wurde früher für das trocknen und lagern von Flax benützt.

Meine Mutter war sofort begeistert von dieser Möglichkeit. Das Herrichten dieses Raumes musste schnell gehen, denn der Winter war nicht mehr weit. Da gab es viel zu tun, der Fussboden war nur Erde so mussten die Männer unserer Verwandten dicke Bretter nebeneinander auf den Boden legen, ein Landsmann mauerte uns einen Sparherd, sodass wir kochen konnten und im Winter nicht verfrieren. Das alles wurde auch mit ach und krach kurz vor den wirklich kalten Tagen fertig.

Ich, unter Anweisungen meiner Grossmutter, musste täglich die Wälder um uns herum abstreifen und dürre Äste sammeln und dann zu unsere Hütte ziehen und auf kurze Stücke für den Sparherd verarbeiten. Das war eine meiner endlosen Arbeiten. Die andere Serienarbeit für mich war das Wasser holen vom Bauernhof. Die Strecke zwischen dem Hof und unserem Wigwam war zirka drei hundert Meter, was im Winter kein Spass war.

Oh ja, jemand gab uns zwei alte Betten, meine Mutter und Schwester hatten ein Bett, Grossmutter das andere, und ich schlief auf einem Strohlager, es war mein Bett in der Nacht und eine Sitzbank am Tag. Der Tisch, ein zusammengezimmertes Rohholz Erzeugnis, war immer neben meiner Schlafstätte, damit ich nicht runterfalle in der Nacht.

Da gab es auch keine Elektrizität in dieser Hütte. Es war ja nur ein Abstellager für alte Geräte und Heuträgerstangen. Unser Verwandter, Hans, der Zimmermann war, baute uns ein Plums klo, aussen am hinteren Teil der Hütte, also im Wald.

In der Zeit in der dieser Raum hergerichtet wurde, wohnten wir bei unseren Verwandten, in der Nacht verteilten sie uns innerhalb der Familien, die in Pfaffing wohnten, und bei Tag waren wir alle beim Tonivetter.

Im späten Herbst, zogen wir in unsere neue Herberge ein und versuchten uns den neuen Umständen anzupassen. Es war der Anfang eines total freien Lebens, weg von den Bauernhöfen, Verwandten und Landsleuten. Ja, im Winter wurde es sehr einsam in unserer Hütte, der Schnee war damals oft hoch, was das Wasserholen und Klogehen oft zu einem ernsten Unternehmen machte.

Jetzt denke ich oft an diese Zeit die wir am Waldeck in dieser Hütte verbrachten. Damals schämte ich mich und wollte keinem meiner Schulfreunde zeigen wo ich wohnte, aber jetzt rühren sich Erinnerungen die sich in mein Bewusstsein drängen, von dieser Zeit die wir in dieser Hütte verbrachten. Es war für mich zumindest, eine aussergewöhnlich glückliche Zeit in der ich vieles lernte, erlebte und einer Art totaler Freiheit ausgesetzt war. Es ist mir jetzt klar geworden, dass das naturnahe Leben sowie die tägliche Herausforderungen einem die innerliche Freiheit gibt um die echten Lebenswerte zu erkennen, zu geniessen.

Fortsetzung folgt.

**To be continued.**

**English translation on the next page.**

## Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2



### Memories of My Time in Austria

By Adam Martini

(Translation by Newsletter Staff)

In my last essay, I tried to describe the town of my youth - "Haigermoos" - as well as a bit about the farmers and citizens in that area. We actually ended up there because of the brother of my grandmother, der Tonivetter. Known more formally as Anton Helmlinger, he was the oldest of eighteen siblings in this particular Helmlinger family. 18 siblings! Of these, however, just 13 survived past early childhood. This high rate of infant mortality was not uncommon in t h o s e d a y s .

Tonivetter was a pretty successful fellow back in his Donauschwaben hometown of Lowas in Srem. He was an up-standing citizen and did pretty well for himself as the owner of a grain-milling company. Now however, "shipwrecked" as a refugee in a place far from home, things were quite different. He was old, tired and had few resources at his disposal. His three daughters and their families fully occupied the few rooms and a run down bungalow that were available so my granduncle could do little to help us no matter how much he wanted to. So, my mother, sister, grandmother and I were right in the midst of many of our relatives, but had nowhere to stay! Every single apartment and spare room in the area was occupied by refugee Donauschwaben just like ourselves. The situation did not look good.

My super religious grandmother kept repeating: "God will help us, God will look after us." And as it happened so often before to us, help did indeed come. This time from a man named Franz Neissl, a big time farmer from the nearby village of Pfaffing. Franz had a lot of living space at his disposal... but every square meter was packed, and mostly with our own relatives. There was, however, a small build-

ing nearby that was until now assumed to be uninhabitable. He promised to let us stay in this place as long as my grandmother and I helped gather hay during the harvest and assist with the feeding of his herd of forty cows. He also promised milk and potatoes throughout the year.

The building was something like a storage shed with an overhanging roof. It was here that flax was processed and dried some time before. While it was probably okay for flax, it was by no means a home for a family of four. No matter how sad the place looked however, my mom wanted us to get the storage shed in the worst way. She saw an opportunity where no other existed and jumped at the chance. Remodeling the place had to be done quickly as the onset of winter was close at hand. There was much to do: a good floor had to be built along with a stove to both heat the place and cook food. Our relatives threw themselves into the task and completed the work just as Father Winter came knocking at the door. We had a home at last!

Every single day, every SINGLE day, I had to roam the woods looking for fuel for that stove. I came to loath this endless task. Another never-ending job was getting drinking water. The distance was some 300 meters to the source but it seemed like 3000 meters when the temperatures plunged.

Somebody gave us two old mattresses, one for my mom and sister, the other for my grandmother. I got to know the comforts of sleeping on a straw-bunk. In fact, our very roughly made dinner table was jammed up against my "bed" to prevent me from tumbling off at nights! Of course, there was no electricity or plumbing so we aren't talking about modern conveniences as we know them today. In fact, it took the best efforts of a relative named Hans to construct an outhouse outside the back part of the building.

In late fall we moved into our "chalet" and quickly came to terms with our new living arrangements. No more dealing with overcrowded farmhouses, stuffed full with noisy and nosey relatives and countrymen. Admittedly, it was a bit lonesome during snowy win-

ters. It was also quite a hassle when you had to go the bathroom or get water when freezing was the only way to describe conditions outside. Still, it was a place of our own. We were living large!

You know, I often think back on those days. I remember how ashamed I was of our primitive living conditions. So embarrassed was I that I never brought my school friends home with me. But now I also recall the many good things that came with living in that little hut. It was a time of total freedom and self-discovery. My living so close to nature gave me an opportunity to experience things I had never experienced before. It was a wonderfully liberating time, one I will never forget.



To be continued.



## Our Autoklub Travels



### New AutoKlub Car

Our AutoKlub Leiter, Terry Huff, just purchased a brand new 2008 VW Jetta GLI for wife, Mary Beth. What a great looking auto!

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### 2008 Euro-American Auto Show Set to Go

Please reserve Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July (rain date: July 13<sup>th</sup>) for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Euro-American Auto Show at the German American Society's picnic grove on Uncle Pete's Road in Yardville. Planning is already well underway in cooperation with our partners at the German Americans.



We would appreciate trophy sponsorships (business or personal) or donated items that can be used as door prizes. Also, please let us know if you know someone or know of a company that might consider helping us out. Note that sponsor companies and door prizes

do not have to be car-related. Of course, we do want to thank all those who made donations in years' past.

Our own Gary McGhee will return in his role as DJ this year. Gary's talents have helped make our car show a success - and we're just plain glad to have him around! We are even attempting to get one or more dance groups to perform at the show, but nothing has been finalized as of this writing. More information will follow in our next newsletter. Please contact Dennis J. Bauer at donauschwaben@mail.com or Terry Huff at 215-736-1915, if you have any questions or comments.

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### Special Thanks

A special thanks to our friends at the Philadelphia Cannstatter for advertising our Auto Show in their Spring/Summer 2008 newsletter. Danke Schön!

## NEW AUTOKLUB MEMBER

We welcome Ron Jakober to our ranks. Ron recently took possession of a 1979 silver BMW 633 CSI. Good luck on the "new" auto.

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### VW Rolling Right Along

All of us love that great looking GLI members Terry and Mary Beth Huff recently purchased. Theirs is one of about a quarter million VW's that get sold in this country each year, representing about 6% of total VW production worldwide. So who knows when VW first came to the US? Actually it was 1950 when VW sent three lonely little Beetles to our shores. These had mechanical brakes for plenty of "angst" when stopping, non-synchromesh transmissions just like John Deere, and about the same amount of horsepower as some of the riding mowers this writer saw at Sears the other day! Yet, by 1955 VW was selling 500,000 cars a year, topping out in 1970 at almost 570,000 cars sold. The shape, simplicity and economical nature of the design created legions of fans around America. The car has since become an icon and remains recognizable around the world.

We all know the story of the company's birth by now. You-know-who asked Ferdinand Porsche to come up with a "people's car" meant to be affordable to most working class Germans. Indeed, when production started in 1937, the cost was pegged at 990 Reichsmarks and the vehicle's popularity took off. The brilliant little car barely survived the collapse of Germany at the end of WWII, however. Indeed, it was the British army who resurrected the car's production at Wolfsburg, Germany, following the armistice. By 1948 the up and running company was handed over to the German state as the British army got out of the car business. By 1960 it achieved independent status and the rest, as they say, is history.

Today much has happened since the days of the original Beetle. Well over 4 million VWs of all types are made each year with China being a very big customer along with other so-called emerging markets. VW Group, with 6.19 million vehicles produced last year, is the fourth largest car company behind GM, Toyota and Ford. VW is not content to leave things at that by any means, however. The CEO recently said they aim to be the number 1 car company by 2018. With new models like the Tiguan and Routan joining the Passat, Jetta, Rabbit, New Beetle, Eos, and Toureg, it's easy to see that VW is serious about improving its position here in America and around the world. Sure is different from the three little chug-chug-chugging Beetles that rolled off the boat in 1950!

(Sources: Porsche Panorama 4/08, CNN "Motoring" 8/07, Wikipedia)

# Newsletter Advertisers and Sponsors

## Membership Sponsors:

- \* Familie Marie, Ray, Kathleen & Adam Martini from Texas \*
- \* Frau Marlene Novosel und Familie \*
- \* Frau Anna Hahn in memory of husband Anton \*
- \* In memory of Frau Katie Helleis \*
- \* Frau Käthe Marx \*
- \* In memory of Familie Otto & Edith Kraus \*
- \* Familie James & Kathleen Lieblang
- \* Herr Harold Million \*
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- \* Familie Rosa Kernast \*
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## A Mother's Day Poem (Muttertag 1991) by Luise Baumgartner (geb. Jakober)

Du liebe Mutter habe Dank  
 für deine Lieb und Treue.  
 Ich habe Dich lieb mein Leben lang  
 und dank Dir stets aufs neue !

Nun liegst Du still in meinem Zimmer  
 gezeichnet von der Krankheit schwer.  
 In den Augen keinen Hoffnungs-Schimmer,  
 Dein Blick ist fremd und lehr.

Falte zum Gebet die Hände,  
 müde von der Erdenzeit.  
 Leid, nimm doch ein Ende  
 hab Friede in der Ewigkeit !

Drum möcht ich lieber Gott Dich bitten  
 vergiss nicht unser altes Mütterlein,  
 solange hat sie schwer gelitten  
 bitte, hol sie zu Dir heim.



(Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers in the Club! We also do not want to forget our fathers, Happy Father's Day, 15 June!)



*Club Pictures - 2008 Schlachtfest* (A special thanks to our kitchen staff and servers, from the membership!)



**The "Bratwurst Boys" hard at work under the constant supervision of Herr J**

Note: We could not do it without Ludwig Jakober's guidance, Vielen Dank!



# Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)



## The adventurous life of Brittaney Brandecker continues ...

In September of last year the club, or at least some of the members met down at Wildwood, New Jersey for a car show on the boardwalk weekend. I had fun looking at all the cars, but of course you know me when there are stores, you must go and look. My family and I went down to Cape May to see the Lighthouse and walk on the beach. At night, we all sat around and watched as the "hot" cars would drive by. One of the days we went down to the beach and my brother and Uncle were daring us to go into the ocean. I tried but it was really cold water.



November was a great month. Not only was it my eighteenth birthday, but I also got to go to Aruba for the third time. Aruba is an Island twelve miles off the coast of Venezuela in the Caribbean Ocean. This time around, since we had toured the island already the first two trips, we decided to just hang around the beach and go on some day trips. First thing we did was go to Smokey Joe's, which has the best ribs on the island, if I may say so. One place we had to go was the Sunset Bistro where they have these multi-colored Adirondack beach chairs that my father loves. Trust me, when I say you could probably sit there all day long and just listen as the very minimal waves roll in. One thing that we have done every time was the Sunset Cruise. Watching the sunset while sitting in the net of the Catamaran is just a beautiful sight. Getting to swim in the ocean in the fall is a fun time because then you get to come back to New Jersey all tan and show it off. That's unfortunate for me since I am the only one in my family who doesn't tan, I burn, but I have learned to except it.



In December, I had the privilege of going to Key Largo, Florida for a Marine Biology Class I had taken during school. I had been to Florida many times, but this time was different. I had never been to the Keys and I had a lot of fun on this trip. By the time we actually arrived, we were all overly tired and just wanted to sleep, but we couldn't. We were told to find a room and then get ready for a tour and a swim test. When I first heard that we were to be tested on our swimming abilities, I thought "oh no", but when I actually saw what they wanted us to do, it was easier than I had thought. After the test, we had a chance to swim in the lagoon and check out the fish and the underwater hotel that were in there. Over the next couple of days they took us out on the boats and we got to swim in the Coral Reefs and saw all the colorful fish. I even got to see a shark, a manatee and many sting rays. But I mustn't forget all the jellyfish that I got stung by. All in all the trip seemed like the trip the sixth graders take to the Stokes Campground in Northern New Jersey. By far, this was the best school trip I have ever been on.

The biggest thing in my life right now would be deciding where the next part of "my adventurous voyage through life" will be taking me. But one thing I know for sure, I will never have to make a decision about traveling. Someday in the near future my wish is to travel the world for I have wanderlust!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### ADULT SCHOOL TO CONTINUE

Our Adult language teacher, Andy Franz will return from the Bahamas this May. This will allow for the startup of the class. It will meet Wednesday nights from 7pm — 8pm starting in May. We hope to see you there.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Congratulations!



Young members Dayna and Christopher Galati (see photo to left) recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Bordentown. Club members Barby and Mike Galati and a number of proud relatives were at the ceremony. Congratulations to the Galati's!

At the same event, Sarah DePiero, a long time member of our German school, was also confirmed. Congratulations Sarah!

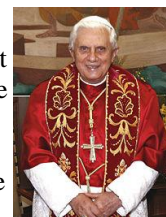
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### Willkommen to the U.S.A. - Pope Benedict XVI.

His Holiness plans to visit Washington, DC on 15 April, followed by a visit to New York City. President Bush will personally greet the Pope at Andrews Air Force Base and they will proceed to the Whitehouse in the President's vehicle. He will also celebrate his 81st birthday while at the Whitehouse.

It is his first visit to the States.

Of interest, is that a German-American from eastern PA hand crafted the chair that the German-born Pope will sit in while in Washington, DC.



# Club Events for the Winter 2008

## EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

*Come out and join us!*

- ◆ Donauschwabenessen, 13 April, Sunday, 1pm
- ◆ Muttertagessen, 4 May, Sunday
- ◆ Canoe Trip to the Pines, NJ, 18 May, Sunday, Leave club at about 8am
- ◆ Wallfahrt to Philly, 1 June, Sunday, Leave club about 8am
- ◆ Father's Day Pig Roast, 8 June, Sunday, 1pm

*Happy Springtime to ALL!*

**Please call Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 or Frau Kim Walter (609) 585-8752 for meal reservations. Chicken is always available as an alternative to the featured dish (except at the Schlachtfest). Please let us know your preference in advance.**

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## 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 purchase our Club jackets, shirts, hats, etc. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.

**Auf Wiedersehen bei den  
Donauschwaben!**

## (Continued from page one --Texas Germans)

In the meantime, thousands of immigrants were enroute to their promised lands when the war between the United States and Mexico broke out. Due to the war, all means of transportation were needed by the Army, which left thousands of German immigrants stranded on the Texas Coast. Many perished due to exposure to the elements and to disease, but some made the long overland trip--even on foot--to New Braunfels and to Fredericksburg. Some remained in the coastal towns and in the earlier-established settlements. Other German settlements in this part of the Texas Hill Country include; Boerne, Comfort, Kerrville, Castell, Hilda,--and Luckenbach.

The European revolutions of 1848 brought talented and well-educated Germans to Texas, also known as the "48ers." Some of these gathered in "Latin Settlements" to pursue common interests in music, literature, philosophy, and theoretical politics. Such settlements included: Latium, Bettina, and Sisterdale. Most of these settlements did not last long, and the 48ers moved into the larger cities, notably San Antonio, Houston, and Galveston. Each of these had a population that was about one-third German.

Today, many activities for young and old alike carry on the traditions. In addition to Wurstfest which we attended in the fall, I was able to participate in the German Cultural Festival held on the campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio and sponsored by the southwest school system. I was simply blown away by the number of kids who participated and the quality of German spoken at the high school level. Our very own club member, Kathleen Martini, established the first O'Connor High School German Dance Group. Not only did she choreograph 4 dances which were based on Trenton/Philadelphia routines that she learned at Trachtenfest, but she recruited and taught them to seven other students to perform at the event. The group placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the region qualifying them for the State level competition. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, they could not attend, however, they will be ready next year!

I have always been told that our culture and heritage has traveled far and wide; being embraced by many along the way. Who would have ever believed just how steep, steep it really is...deep in the heart of Texas.

Ray

