

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 4 Issue 1



January-March 2004

Points of Interest

- Johannes Kepler of Swabia designed the first telescope.
- Graf von Zeppelin of Swabia invented the first steerable airship.
- Philipp Hahn of Swabia invented the first calculator.
- Konrad Zuse of Swabia invented the first programmable computer in 1938.
- Universal Studios of LA was founded by Carl Lammie of Laupheim in 1912.
- Ernest Heinkel of Grunbach designed the first rocket powered and jet powered aircraft, both in 1938.
- The first motorboat and motor-cycle were designed by Gottlieb Daimler in the late 1800s.
- Source: Thomas Kemmer@schwaebisch-englisch.de. 2 April 2002

IN SEARCH OF GOOD BEER

by Stefan Brandecker



Back in October, I had the opportunity to travel to Germany for the first time since 1995. The club *United German Hungarians* (UGH) of Oakford, PA along with the *Bayern Verein* of Newark, DE were invited to dance at the Schuhplattler competition. Since I am friends with a few of the members, they graciously invited me along. Hearing a rumor of some good beer in the region, I gladly accepted. So, on October 1st, I joined 29 members of the UGH and boarded a plane for Munich.

The first two days were spent sight-seeing, which included several castles (Neuschwanstein and others nearby) on Friday. This is where we lost two of our fellow travelers. It seems Adam Dickmann, Jr. and a female companion did not know how to tell time. Six o'clock came and went so our bus left without them. Since Adam is definitely his father's son, no one was too concerned.

The next day Adam called and said "they were fine" and to bring his Lederhosen to Greding where the dance group was to perform. There we hung Adam's Lederhosen in effigy and toasted to König Adam! He showed up later no worse for wear.

The UGH Schuhplattlers danced flawlessly. At the end of the voting, with 16 groups competing, the UGH placed fifth and the Bayern Verein group forth. They did an excellent job of competing on someone else's home turf. Congratulations to both organizations!

Sunday, the group attended the last day of Oktoberfest in Munich. All had a great time, I am told. I was off to meet with one of our past club vice presidents, Gary Bartmann, his wife, Lisa, and their three children: Andrew, Gabie and Julia. (The Bartmann's have been living in Germany for a number of years now.) Later that night we all went to the Hippodrome tent at the Oktoberfest. Words cannot describe the scene. It is something one must experience to appreciate. Beer flowed from morning 'til night and the music and food continued nonstop. People were crammed in the tent shoulder to shoulder.

Just one conundrum I encountered while there. You see, beer is served in a one liter glass mug which is very heavy when full. So, one had to drink the beer to make the mug lighter... which makes it empty.... so then you have to start all over again! What a dilemma to be in!



I spent two more days visiting with Gary and seeing the sights of Munich - the Glockenspiel, Rathaus, and the Spatten restaurant (good food and beer) among them. My thanks go to Gary and his family for being such gracious hosts. It was great seeing them again!

Next, I was off to meet up with some of my group in Bad Tölz. There we spent a day and half just relaxing and doing tourism type stuff. That completed my trip to Germany. However, I plan on making a return visit this July with my niece, Brittany, nephew, Joe and my sister, Klare. As hard as we tried, Germany still has beer left over for my next visit this summer. Until then, "Auf Wiedersehen!" **Editor's Note: Can you find Steve in the Beer Hall? Good Luck! ? Prost!**

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Club Matters & Members

HOW THE PALANKA WEB SITE CAME ABOUT

The creation of the Palanka website (<http://www.feldenzer.com>) was first considered while trying to find ancestors on the "Banat" list. As many of the "Batschka" researchers know, most of the people on the internet *Banat list* were looking for ancestors primarily in the Banat and not the Batschka.

My first research connection when researching the Feldenzer line from Palanka, Batschka was with Dennis J. Bauer. Dennis photocopied and sent me copies of all the Feldenzer pages from Anton Reimann's Palanka Ortssippenbuch (OSB) . This intrigued me so much that I tried to find my own copy of the Palanka OSB, and through the efforts of Dr. Günter Junkers of Germany, he found me a copy of the three volume set.

Then later, after I had exhausted all my efforts to trace my Feldenzer line beyond Palanka, Günter told me that maybe Oskar Feldtanzer in Ansfelden, Austria, could help. After all, Oscar had helped to write and publish the Palanka OSB. I wrote to Oskar and found out that he was a distant cousin. Oskar then gave me enough information that I traced my family line to Nussbaum and Veldenz, Germany.

Later my wife, Myrtle, and I spent a three week vacation with Oskar sight-seeing and researching that area of Germany. While there we discovered and visited with two "new cousins" in Nussbaum who were also doing research.

After returning home to Montana I began to gather more information and finally found an OSB and a CD for Nussbaum where our Feldenzer line had come from. (Almost all Feldenzer's in the U.S. came from Palanka and all the Feldenzer's can be tied to Veldenz, Nussbaum and Monzingen, Germany.)

I had seen many email requests on the web regarding the need for a "Batschka" site of some kind. I had always wondered if I might be able to help people by building such a site. I felt a strong desire to help people because of all the help I received from Donauschwaben researchers like Dennis and Günter.

Two years ago I contacted a friend here in Libby, Montana and he helped me set up the Palanka website. We were only concerned at that time about building one for Palanka and this is why the site is called "PALANKA". But after a short while we had visits from so many enthusiastic people doing research in other Batschka towns, that we started to purchase other "Batschka" Ortssippenbücher which caused the site to really take off! We now have in our library 11 Batschka area OSBs and all the current "Stader" books (see related article on page 3).

At our local LDS Family History Center we have several films on permanent loan where we will do look-ups for people upon request. There are other Batschka town researchers that have now taken on the responsibility of helping us by doing "lookups" using their own Batschka town OSB'S as well.

This has truly been a rewarding task and I have found and still find new cousins all over the world due to the creation of my *Palanka* website. I recently received correspondence from two more new "Veldenz" cousins in Trier, Germany and Switzerland. This lead me to create a Feldenzer cousins "picture page" on the site so we can see whom we are writing.

Through a grant we plan on leaving this website and related works to one of the researchers so that the work can continue after I no longer can carry on this labor of love. There will always be Batschka researchers looking for help. Hopefully this website can continue to grow and be a useful tool in the years to come. Anyone with Batschka Ortssippenbücher that would like to take part in the website can contact me at Feldenzer@feldenzer.com. John Feldenzer

(Note: John is our Montana club member)

WE ARE GRATEFUL

The Donauschwaben would like to thank member Tony Walter for his work on the club's sound system and for making us an equipment cabinet.

We would also like to thank Hans and Adam Martini and Martini's Woodwork for donating three new pastry cabinets and a new memorial plaque.

Both Tony and Adam are from the Donauschwaben town of Bukin in the former Yugoslavia. Coincidentally, they attended the same Kindergarten class.

NEW OFFICERS & STAFF FOR 2004-06

We will have Club officer and staff elections at our 25 January 2004 General Business Meeting. Look for the results in the next newsletter. Also, time to re-new your membership!

2004 DONAUSCHWABENTREFFEN

President Joe Brandecker has been informed that reservations for this year's Treffen in Windsor, Canada are needed as soon as possible. Soooooo, if you plan on going, let him know. Come join us in Canada.

MID YEAR DONAUSCHWABEN MEETING

President Joe Brandecker and Secretary Hans Martini will represent the Club at this years meeting in Chicago, IL from 23-25 April 2004. Take good notes!

PHILLY KOLPING SOCIETY ARTICLE

Our Hans Martini and Dennis Bauer were mentioned in the Society's January/February 2004 newsletter for their Donauschwaben History presentation that they gave on 4 May 2003 at the Society's communion breakfast meeting. Danke.

Genealogy & History Section

PASSING OF A GREAT DONAUSCHWABEN RESEARCHER & AUTHOR

It is with great sadness that I must note the recent passing (10 December 2003) of Stefan Stader of Germany. He was buried at the Bischofsheimer Cemetery. A member of the Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer Familienforscher since 1975, he was a well known researcher and author of several Donauschwaben genealogy books. He is best known for his *Sammelwerk donauschwäbischer Kolonisten* series that listed the original Donauschwaben settlers and their families. The series of six books were organized by alphabetical Surnames into volumes (A-D, E-G, H-Kap, Kar-L, M-O and P-Scha) and were published from 1997 to 2003. Unfortunately, he died before the remaining Surnames from S-Z were compiled and published. One can only hope that someone in the organization can complete this invaluable Donauschwaben family history resource. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends. If any of our members need a "lookup" of their ancestors in the series I have the set. Dennis J. Bauer

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

The late club member, Peter Kiss, had told me that I was probably related to our club member Eva Mayer Martini some how since I also had MAYER ancestors from the Batschka. I finally got around to looking into this recently. Peter was right! Eva and I are fifth cousins, twice removed with our common ancestor being Johann Michael Mayer born about 1741 in Freiburg, Baden, Germany. How about that! It just goes to show that you never know who you are related to. So, my children, Jason and Melanie and I now have several "new" cousins in the Club including Eva and her children (Hans, Ray and Monica and their children), Steve Mayer and his children and any other Club members with our common MAYER roots. WOW! It is truly a small world.
Dennis J. Bauer

STUDENT DONAUSCHWABEN RESEARCHER

My grandfather and grandmother (Georg and Matilda Horvath) lived in Bukin in the Batschka, leaving their home in 1963. It is through my grandparents and my mother that my interest in Bukin, Serbia, and Yugoslavia was sparked. I am currently working on my Bachelors degree at Saint Edward's University - New College Program in Austin, Texas. The program at St. Edward's has allowed me to develop my interest in Eastern European cultures from an anthropological perspective. The University has also allowed me to conduct a small study on the experiences of Bukiners and their emigration to Germany. With the support of the university, I have been able to research my interest and prepare myself for a graduate program that would allow me to focus on the complexities of a society, including religion, language, cultural customs, and political and economical events and issues.

At first my interest was in researching the history of Bukiners before and after the war. While I will always hold Bukin close to my personal interests, I have expanded my research goals to include the Donauschwaben/Bayern people who lived in the Batschka pre and post war. What makes the Donauschwaben so fascinating to study is the fact that, in my opinion, this is a unique group of individuals who have maintained their cultural customs while adapting to numerous societies without losing their identity, especially in an era when being German or from a German heritage was not always popular. The fact that there is an intricate group of people from around the globe, who, through newsletters and genealogical resources, continue to grasp their identity and share their history is worthy of further research. It is intriguing that Donauschwaben and their children continue to hold so closely their sense of belonging to their culture and to the Batschka.

The story of Germans in Eastern Europe is complex and requires much more research. I believe that studying the Donauschwaben will allow a better understanding of the affects of political and economical events on societies. We can demonstrate the perseverance of people to maintain their culture and how some societies will do anything to tear cultures apart. In April I will present a paper at the conference for the Society for Applied Anthropology, in Dallas, Texas regarding my project of collected oral histories from Donauschwaben who emigrated to Germany and some of the challenges they experienced.

5 January 2004

Michelle Criddle Lamb

Note: Dennis Bauer contacted Michelle after she left an inquiry on our Club web site. She agreed to write the above article of interest and has enjoyed reading our past Club newsletters.

Genealogy & History Section (Continued)

The German-Hungarian Family Calendar Magazine

Subscriber List for Mercer County, NJ 1951-54 (*Deutsch-Ungarischer Familien Kalender*, National Weeklies, Inc., Winona, MN, 1951, 1953 & 1954 Issues) . This is a list of P-R surnames from the Trenton area only. Additional surnames will follow in future issues.

Transcribed by Dennis J. Bauer, 17 December 2002. Surnames appear exactly as spelled in the original text and may not be the actual spelling. The list shows the individual's place of origin and their address in the Trenton area at the time of subscription to the magazine. Some translations of town, county and country names were done. As with any secondary source, you may wish to consult the original magazine. This complete list can also be found on the Club web site under genealogy.

The magazine, written in German, was published in the U.S. from 1932-1954. They contained stories from the German-Hungarian regions of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania, pictures of "home", jokes, poems and best of all a list of American and Canadian subscribers, their spouses, their place of origin and their present addresses in the U.S. and Canada. During its publication, the magazines listed between 10-15 thousand North American Donauschwaben.

Trenton, NJ

PATARCSTY, Josef, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Maria BOROSCH, from Erdevik, Srem, Yugoslavia, 33 Churchill Ave.

PAUL, Karl, from Verbas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, and Theresa HERING, from Landshut, Bavaria, Germany, 123 Second St.

PAUTZ, Johann, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, and Mary SCHLAFHÄUSER, from Bogdanovzi, Srem, Yugoslavia, 668 Washington St.

PENTZ, Jakob, and Anna FRITZ, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 524 Columbus Ave.

PFUFF, Georg and Theresia SCHENDLINGER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 347 Hewitt St.

PIFFATH, Frank, from Dunacseb, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Lina SCHLÄCHTER, from Nemet-Zak, Hungary, 1105 Genesee St.

PIFFATH, Frank J., and Mary OSWALD, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 120 Redfern St.

PIFFATH, Josef, from Dunacseb and Katharina TAKACS, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 137 LaFayette Ave.

PIFFATH, Nikolaus, from Dunacseb and Theresia WAGNER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 59 LaFayette Ave.

PILGER, Jakob, from Mutnikul Mari, Banat, Romania, and Eva ZENTNER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 253 Ashmore Ave.

PILICAN, Widow Francis, born WILWOL, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 123 Dayton St.

POLLICH, Georg, from Batsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, and Maria LANG, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 303 Cummings Ave.

POLLICH, Josef, and Annemarie HÄSILI, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1046 Chambers St.

POSSERT, Widow Theresa, 702 Cedar Lane.

PURR, Adam, and Katharina SCHMIDT, from Parabutsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 202 Franklin St.

PULYER, Mathias, from Gross Jecsa, Banat, Romania and Rosalia HASER, from Gajdobra, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 743 William Ave.

RADLER, Johann and Theresa BAUMGARTNER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 355 Morris Ave.

RAIBLE, widow, Katharina SIKINGER, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 810 Liberty Street.

REDLICH, Fritz, from Borken, Westfalen, Germany and Lena HASLER, from Trenton, NJ, 101 West Street.

REGER, Michael, from Weprowatz, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Elisabeth MATTES, from Filipowa, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 211 Hewitt Street.

REGER, Stefan, from Filipowa, Batschka, Yugoslavia and Katharina WIENER, Tschalma, Srem, Yugoslavia, 241 Hewitt Street.

REICHARDT, Adam, from Wiesenheid and Maria LORENZ, from Kreuzstätten, Banat, Romania, 340 Rusling St.

REIN, Andreas, from Gorjan, Slavonia and Eva FLESCHE, from Paripas, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 658 Beatty St.

REIN, Georg, from Gorjan, Slavonia and Katharina BLECHL, from Palanka, 709 Woodland Street.

REIN, Tobias and Sabina WILDMANN, from Gorjan, Slavonia, 231 Morris Ave.

REIN, Wendelin, from Indija, Slavonia and Maria ALBERT, from Kacsmar, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 1911 S. Clinton Ave.



RELINGER, Peter and Maria JURISCH, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 225 Cummings Ave.

RENTZ, Jakob and Anna FRITZ, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 524 Columbus Ave.

RISCHAR, Martin and Katharina PEAF, from Palanka, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 205 Ashmore Ave.

ROLLER, Martin, from Barcs, Kom. Somogy and Rosa WEBER, from Csajkovce, Slavonia, 729 William St.

ROLLER, Mathias, from Barcs, Kom. Somogy and Katharina LIEBLANG, from Wekerle falva, Batschka, Yugoslavia, 231 Ashmore Ave.

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Membership News

2003 Club Officers & Staff

Joseph Brandecker— President

Robert Walter— V.P. for Facilities

Kim Walter— V.P. for Human Resources

Hans Martini— Corresponding Secretary

Eva Martini— Recording Secretary

Ludwig Jakober— Treasurer

Josefa Brandecker— President Ladies' Auxilliary

Harold Parr— President of German Language School

Dennis J. Bauer— V.P. for Cultural Affairs, Genealogist, Newsletter Editor

Dana Miles/Edward Soden— Web Masters

Adam Martini— Newsletter Staff Writer



CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

Jackets (green with club logo) - \$25

Shirts (black, white or green with club logo) - \$20

Ball Caps (black or tan with club logo) - \$16

Club Patches—\$3

Club Pins—\$3

Books (*Genocide of the Ethnic Germans of Yugoslavia*) —\$20, includes S/H

See any officers to place your order. We have some in stock presently.

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

“Over There”: Best Wishes and “God Speed” to one of our long-time members, **Markus Novosel**. Markus, a major in the Michigan National Guard, will be deployed to Bosnia as part of our military’s peace keeping force. He’ll be there for a nine month stint, serving as an artillery officer.

For those of our readers who don’t know him, Markus was very active in our club in the 1970s and 80s. Among other things, he was a dance group president, a German school instructor and is an all around good guy. He now works and makes his home in Indiana. Good Luck, Markus!!

Congratulations Mira! Club member **Mira Nakashima-Yarnall** has received widespread acclaim for her recently published book about her father, *Nature, Form and Spirit: the Life and Legacy of George Nakashima*. The name “Nakashima” has become synonymous with very fine solid wood furniture and has a worldwide reputation. Mira, a regular attendee at our club’s dinners, has been the creative head of the firm since her father’s death over a dozen years ago. She, her brother, Kevin (also a club member), her mother Marion, her son, Ru, and a talented group of artisans (including club member, Jonathan Yarnall) are all involved in the business of furniture making at their New Hope, PA, location.

Geburt: We always enjoy announcing births and this time around we have three to tell you about! From our youth German school comes news that **Mrs. Monica Cicotta** gave birth to a baby boy. Also former **Johanna Wesley**, daughter of members,

Pat and Bob Wesley, just had a baby boy. Many will remember that Johanna was an important part of our dance group for many years. We wish Johanna, her new son, Nicholas, and her entire family all the very best. Also **Summi and Saturu “Ru” Amagasu**, son of member Mira Nakashima-Yarnall mentioned above, just had a baby boy named Toshi. All are said to be doing splendidly. The club sends its best wishes to the family.

Gute Besserung: We wish Frau **Pat Huff** & Frau **Mary Beth Huff** a speedy and complete recover from their recent surgeries. Also **Josefa Brandecker** a speedy recovery from her kitchen accident. We wish a speedy recovery to all of our members and friends who may not be feeling well or are recovering from illness, surgery or injury.

Wilkommen: Welcome to new member **Jim Brunner** of Levittown, PA! Jim has been a member of our AutoKlub with his beautiful Porsche 914/6. If you remember, Jim took 2nd place at the August Cannstatter Car Show.

Kolping Names New President: Congratulations to our friend & Donauschwaben club member, **Jimmy Hamilton**, the new president of the Catholic Kolping Society in Philadelphia. We wish him and the organization every success in the future.

Please let us know if there are any other such announcements to make, dear members!

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

Notizen über Deutsch als Weltsprache (article in English on pages 8-9) - Dr. Kurt E. Müller

Die Schätzung der Reichweite einer Sprache unterliegt oft der Perspektive, aus der man die Sache betrachtet. Wenn es zur Förderung einer Sprache kommt, kann man ähnlicherweise aus unterschiedlicher Sicht argumentieren. Chinesisch, z.B., wird von über einer Milliarde Menschen gesprochen und hat die privilegierte Stellung, offizielle Sprache der UNO zu sein. Bis neulich gab es aber nur eine Delegation in der UNO, die Gebrauch davon gemacht hat. (Jetzt verwendet sie auch Singapur neben der VR China.) Wie Chinesisch wird Hindi von mehr Menschen gesprochen als Englisch, fast ausschließlich aber in Asien. In den Schulen der USA dominiert Spanisch sosehr mit 70% des Marktanteils unter den Fremdsprachen, dass manche glauben, Spanisch sei sehr verbreitet und daher sehr nützlich. Solche Statistiken sind aber verführerisch und haben selbst Deutsch-amerikaner dazu geleitet, dass sie sich fragen, wie es beim Deutschen stehe. Ist Deutsch so nützlich wie es war, oder wollen wir einfach (!) ein Stück unserer Kultur behalten, indem wir etwas von der Sprache verstehen (wenn nicht verwenden)? Um die Nützlichkeit einer Sprache zu bewerten muss man solche Fragen aus verschiedenen Gesichtspunkten betrachten. In diesem Artikel (samt Fortsetzung) versuchen wir, kurz das Thema zu besprechen.

Deutsch als Muttersprache

Soziolinguisten, die sich mit der Frage von Sprachgebrauch beschäftigen, unterscheiden unter Sprachen von regionalem, verbreitetem, und Weltgebrauch. Bei einem solchen Schema, wie ist Deutsch einzustufen? Als deutsches Sprachgebiet denkt man gleich an Europa, aber viele denken nicht weiter als die Länder, die Deutsch als Staatssprache benutzen, und erfassen dann nicht die wirkliche Reichweite der Sprache. Selbst bei der Aufzählung der Länder mit deutschen Muttersprachlern, gerät man oft in Schwierigkeiten, und aus außenpolitischen Gründen hilft uns die Bundesrepublik überhaupt nicht, die Sache zu klären. Man denke an die erste Strophe der deutschen Nationalhymne, die man heute nicht mehr singen darf. Als Gegenstück zur napoleonischen Katastrophe nennt Fallersleben da das deutsche Sprachgebiet: von der Maas bis an die Memel, von der Etsch bis an den Belt. Diese geographischen Namen stehen aber alle in Ländern, die eine andere Staatssprache verwenden. Die Maas in Belgien, Memel in Russland, die Etsch in Italien, und der Belt in Dänemark. Selbst Deutschlehrer können von ihren Unterrichtsmaterialien verführt werden, indem oft eine Landkarte gegeben wird, die nur Deutschland, Österreich, und die Schweiz (vielleicht Liechtenstein) als deutschsprachige Länder bezeichnen. Solche politische Korrektheit lässt nicht nur die Länder aus, in denen deutsch regionale Amtssprache ist, sondern auch solche, in denen man nicht leicht schätzen kann, welche Sprachen verwendet werden.

Ein Beispiel des letzteren reicht, um deutlich zu machen, wie schwierig es sein kann, einen Sprachzensus zu unternehmen. In einem Buch (sonst) über die Lage des Deutschen in Südtirol bietet Peter Nelde einen Beitrag über die Hemmungen der Belgier, Fragen über Sprachloyalität zu beantworten. Deshalb sei keine Zählung seit den vierziger Jahren unternommen.



In Belgien gibt es offiziell zwei deutschsprachige Provinzen. Hier eine Merkwürdigkeit: in einer sprechen viele Französisch, gilt aber als deutsch, wobei in einer dritten Provinz viele deutsche Muttersprachler sind, gelten aber als Französischsprechende. Trotz des offiziellen Wirrwarrs erkennt man an der Stelle, welcher Sprache man sich bedienen will. Verkehrsschilder stehen oft in zwei Sprachen (meistens Französisch und Flämisch [Niederländisch]), manchmal in drei. Liège heißt flämisch Luik und deutsch Lüttich, also sieht man alle drei Namen auf einigen Autobahnschildern. Innerhalb der deutschsprachigen Gemeinde (wie das Sprachgebiet offiziell heißt) sieht man aber Straßenschilder, von denen die französischen Namen oder Unterweisungen ausstrahlt sind (s. Abb. 1, 2). Solche Sprachstreitigkeiten spielen sich oft auf Straßenschildern aus, und ähnliche Bilder sind aus Großbritannien (bei Walisern) und Israel bekannt.



Ähnlich steht die Sprachsituation in Norditalien, wo Deutsch im Nordwesten und Nordosten gesprochen wird. Deutsche Minderheiten in Italien haben lange gekämpft um das Recht gewährt zu haben, auf Deutsch geschult zu werden und politische Rechte ausüben zu dürfen. Als ich einst für ein Komitee der Westeuropäischen Union als Dolmetscher tätig war, war ich überrascht, als ein Mitglied der italienischen Delegation mit mir Deutsch schwatzte. Dann teilte er mir zu, er sei aus Südtirol.

Die Provinzen Elsaß und Lothringen, diese 1766 durch Erbschaft, jene während des Dreißigjährigen Krieges von Frankreich vom hl. röm. Reich genommen, haben heute immer noch einen deutschstämmigen Bevölkerungsteil, dessen Sprachkenntnisse schwer zu bewerten sind (nach manchen Forschern werde die Sprache eher unterdrückt als gefördert). Auch meines Erfahrens ist es leichter, Deutsch von Staatsbürgern in Italien als in Frankreich zu hören. Dem Ausland wird in beiden Ländern ein kulturelles Bild des Landes projiziert, als wäre das Land einsprachig, italienisch bzw. französisch. Innerhalb des Landes sieht es etwas anders aus. Bei Abb. 3 u. 4 (Seite 7) sieht man Etiketten von in Norditalien zu kaufende Weine, und Informationen sind deutsch und italienisch gegeben. Bemerkenswert ist, wie wenig auf Italienisch steht. Hätte ich diese Flaschen im internationalen Handel gekauft, glaube ich kaum, dass die Etiketten deutsch gedruckt worden wären.

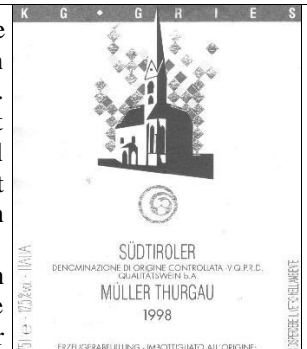
(Continued on next page)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2



Luxemburg projiziert auch eine französisch gefärbte Identität, die ein reicheres Bild verbirgt. Luxemburger sprechen von Haus aus einen deutschen Dialekt, Lëtzebuergisch, der als offizielle Sprache gilt. Luxemburger werden aber deutsch und französisch geschult und gehen oft entweder nach Deutschland oder Frankreich auf die Universität. Obwohl manche diesen Dialekt als Sprache bezeichnen würden, ist er natürlich mit dem benachbarten Dialekt in Deutschland so ähnlich, dass man sich gegenseitig verstehen kann.

Seit Jahrhunderten gibt es deutsche Auswanderer in alle Welt. An vielen Orten wird diese Erbsprache noch erhalten und gepflegt. Einige Gruppen, z.B. die Russlanddeutschen, sind bekannt für die Erhaltung der



Sprache. Russlanddeutsche gibt es sogar in den USA seit dem 19. Jht. In seinem hervorragenden Band,

Die internationale Stellung der deutschen Sprache, behandelt Ulrich Ammon (Universität Duisburg) solche Fragen wie Zahl der Deutschsprechende, Deutsch als Amtssprache, deutsche Minderheiten, die Sprache weltweit, Sprachwahl bei Wissenschaftlern, usw. Wenn es zu Minderheiten kommt, lehnt er sich an eine mir bislang unaufspürbare Arbeit von Joachim Born u Sylvia Dickgießer, *Deutschsprachige Minderheiten. Ein Überblick über den Stand der Forschung für 27 Länder. Diese zählen Länder auf allen Kontinenten*, in denen es solche Minderheiten gibt. Außerhalb der schon erwähnten europäischen Länder sind darunter Dänemark, Polen, Russland, Rumänien, die tschechische Republik, und Ungarn. Da Born u. Dickgießer von der damaligen Sowjetunion handelten, sollte man heute noch neun weitere Staaten hinzufügen: Kasachstan, Kirgisien, Moldawien, Tadschikistan, Ukraine, Usbekistan, u. alle drei baltischen Republiken. In Nordamerika nicht nur die USA u. Kanada, sondern auch Belize u. Mexiko. In Südamerika: Argentinien, Bolivien, Brasilien, Chile, Ecuador, Kolumbien, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, u. Venezuela. In Afrika: Namibia und Süd Afrika. In Asien: Israel u. der ehemaligen Sowjetunion. Auch in Australien. Da diese Aufzählung nicht durch einen Zensus gebaut worden ist, muss man einige Bedenken in Sicht halten: es gibt auch Gemeinde, in denen Deutsche vorübergehend, wengleich in ziemlicher Stärke, arbeiten. Dies ist aber kein dauernder Einfluss, wie es bei größeren Gruppen in Brasilien, Chile, oder Russland ist.

Deutsch als Lingua Franca und als Fremdsprache

Sprachen, die als *lingua franca* fungieren, werden oft als Zweitsprache adoptiert. In einem 1999 veröffentlichten Artikel zitierte ich Statistiken vom 1997 *World Almanac* über die Zahl der Sprecher verschiedener Sprachen im Vergleich zur Zahl der Muttersprachler. Solche Vergleiche zeigen, inwieweit eine Sprache als *lingua franca* angenommen wird. Sprachen wie Indonesisch-Malaysisch, mit nur einem Drittel der gesamten Sprecherzahl als Muttersprachler, werden von Gemeinden angenommen, deren Sprachen nur kurze Reichweiten haben. Sprachen wie Französisch (60% Muttersprachler), die mit einer kolonialen Geschichte rechnen können, sind deswegen auch begünstigt, in dieser Rolle zu fungieren. Mit 67% Muttersprachler wird Englisch oft gebraucht (oder misbraucht) als Maßstab für internationale Kommunikation. Mit 78% Muttersprachler weist Deutsch eine imposante Bewertung als Weltsprache auf im Vergleich zu Spanisch (mit 86% Muttersprachler adoptieren nur 14% die Sprache) oder Japanisch (mit 99% Muttersprachler). Kurz zusammengefasst: je niedriger der Prozentsatz der Muttersprachler, desto größer die Rolle als *Lingua franca*.

Besonders wenn es zum Rang einer Weltsprache kommt, hängt die Reichweite einer Sprache auch mit wirtschaftlichem Einfluss zusammen. Daher sieht man nicht nur den Erwerb einer Sprache, um Touristen zu locken, sondern auch die Ausdehnung kulturellen Einflusses durch industrielle und diplomatische Überlegenheit. Unter Diplomatie könnte man schon Entwicklungshilfe einstufen, aber wohlhabende Gesellschaften wie die USA u. Deutschland ermöglichen auch private Spenden für Entwicklungs-, Disaster- u. Flüchtlingshilfe durch kirchliche Programmen usw. Durch solche spürt man auch einen kulturellen Einfluss. Aus eigener Erfahrung habe ich mit meinem Fahrer in Somalia eine Unterhaltung deutsch führen können, da er in einer deutschen Missionärsschule in Äthiopien erzogen wurde. Mit Ärzten deutscher Erziehung habe ich über öffentliche Gesundheitswesen in Haïti sprechen können, und auf Deutsch habe ich während des ersten Golfkrieges mit Türken in der Ost-Türkei über US-Außenpolitik sprechen können. Eine Kollegin erzählt mir über ihre Erfahrung, dass man in Mongolien sogar mit Gelehrten Deutsch sprechen kann, da die Sprache dort als Prestigesprache anerkannt wird. Und ein Militärkollege, der bei den Daytoner Verhandlungen über das Friedensabkommen für Bosnien anwesend war, teilte mir zu, die drei Parteien hätten informelle Gespräche unter sich deutsch geführt, da sie nicht haben zugeben wollen, sie sprächen eine gegenseitig verständliche Sprache (früher Serbokroatisch genannt).

Die Schlussfolgerung ist klar, dass Deutsch wirklich eine Weltsprache ist. **In der Fortsetzung kommt als Thema der Bedarf an Amerikaner mit Deutschkenntnissen.**

Für weitere Hinweise:

Ammon, Ulrich. *Die internationale Stellung der deutschen Sprache*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1991.

Clyne, Michael. *The German Language in a Changing Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995.

Müller, Kurt E. "Of Language Utility, Status, and Enrollments." *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German* 32.1 (1999): 11–21.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3

Notes on German as a World Language (Article in German on pages 6-7) - Kurt E. Müller, Ph.D.

Attempts to determine the extent to which a language is used are often influenced by one's perspective. Similarly, in promoting a language one can argue from different viewpoints. Chinese, for example, is spoken by over a billion persons and has the privileged position of being an official language of the UN. Until recently, however, only one delegation made use of it. (Besides the Peoples' Republic of China, now Singapore uses it.) As with Chinese, Hindi is spoken by more people than is English, but they are almost exclusively in Asia. In US schools Spanish so dominates with 70% of the market share in language study that some believe Spanish is widespread and therefore very useful. Such deceptive statistics have even brought German-Americans to the point of doubting the utility of German. Is German as useful as it was, or are we simply (!) trying to preserve a piece of our culture by understanding some of the language (if not using it)? To evaluate the utility of a language, we must look at these questions from multiple perspectives.

German as Mother Tongue

Sociolinguists who deal with questions of language use distinguish among languages of regional use, wide use, and world languages. Using such categories, where do we place German? In considering where German is spoken natively, we think immediately of Europe, but many don't think beyond those countries that use German as their official language. In doing so, they cannot appreciate the geographic spread of the language. We are even stymied in considering states in which there are native speakers, and here — for foreign policy reasons — the Federal Republic is no help in enlightening our inquiry. Just consider the first stanza of the German national anthem, the singing of which is suppressed. In reaction to the Napoleonic era, the nationalist poet Fallersleben consolidates the German-speaking area: "von der Maas bis an die Memel, von der Etsch bis an den Belt." The problem is that these geographic names are all in countries that use other official languages: the Maas/Meuse is in Belgium and the Netherlands, Memel in Russia, the Etsch (Adige) in Italy, and the Belt (Bælt) in Denmark. Teaching materials for the German language present a false picture inasmuch as maps usually picture only Austria, Germany, and Switzerland (perhaps Liechtenstein) as German-speaking countries. But such political correctness not only ignores states in which German has regional recognition (as a minority language), but also those in which it is difficult to assess which languages are used or to what extent they are used.

An example of this category highlights the difficulty of undertaking a language census. In a book otherwise dealing with the status of German in the South Tirol, Peter Nelde comments on the hesitance of Belgians toward answering questions about language loyalty (i.e., which language they use at home). For this reason, a language census has not been conducted there since the 1940s. Belgium has two officially German-speaking provinces. Note this curiosity however: in one many speak French though they are considered German, while in a third province there are many whose native language is German, but they are officially considered French speakers. Despite this bureaucratic confusion, observers can tell locally what language residents want to use. Traffic signs are often posted in two languages (French and Flemish [Dutch]), sometimes in three. Liège is known in Dutch as Luik and in German as Lüttich. Thus, on some highway signs all three names are posted. But in the German-speaking community (officially called the "deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft"), you can see street signs from which French names or instructions are obliterated (see Figs. 1-Directional signs in eastern Belgium, 2-Traffic sign in the Ardennes). Such language conflicts are often evident in street signs, and similar pictures are known from Wales (with English crossed out, leaving just Welsh) and Israel.



The language situation is similar in northern Italy, where German is spoken in the northwest and northeast. German-speaking minorities have struggled long in Italy for the right to receive schooling in German and to exercise political freedoms in German. While serving as interpreter for the Western European Union, I was surprised when an Italian delegate spoke to me in German. Then he told me he was from South Tirol.

The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, the latter acquired by succession, the former when France took it from the Holy Roman Empire during the 30 Years War, have a significant German-speaking populace, whose language facility is difficult to assess. According to some, the language is suppressed rather than encouraged. (French policy long ignored it, on the interpretation that Elsässisch was not a language.) And in my experience it has been easier to hear German among Italian citizens than French ones. Both countries project an image abroad of being monolingual. Locally the picture differs. Figures 3 (Red Wine from S. Tirol) and Figure 4 (White wine from N. Italy) on the next page depict labels of wines purchased in northern Italy showing information in both German and Italian. Had I bought these on the international market, I suspect the labels would not have been in German.

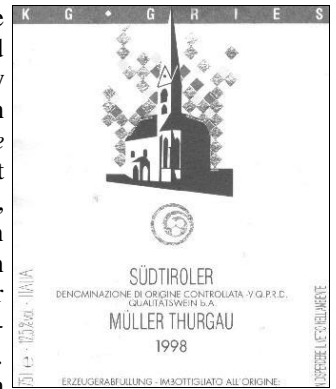
Luxemburg also projects a francophone identity that disguises a richer reality. Natively, Luxemburgers speak a German dialect, Lëtzebuergesch, that has official-language status. But they are schooled in French and German and often go to French or German universities. Some classify the dialect as a separate language, but it's about as understandable to us as is its neighboring dialect in Germany.

(Continued on next page)

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 4



For centuries Germans have emigrated to all parts of the world. In many places this heritage language has been preserved and cultivated. Some groups, e.g., Germans from Russia, are particularly known for maintaining the language. *Russlanddeutsche* have been in the US since the 19th C. In his excellent volume, *Die internationale Stellung der deutschen Sprache*, Ulrich Ammon (of the Universität Duisburg) examines such issues as the number of German speakers, German as official language, German minorities, use of German worldwide, language choice among scientists, etc. In a section on minorities he relies on work by Joachim Born and Sylvia Dickgießer that I have not yet been able to consult, *Deutschsprachige Minderheiten. Ein Überblick über den Stand der Forschung für 27 Länder*. These researchers tally countries *on all continents* that have German



minorities. Aside from the European countries already mentioned, these include the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Russia. Since Born and Dickgießer wrote of the Soviet Union, today we would have to add another nine states to their tally: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and all three Baltic republics. In N. America, not only Canada and the US, but also Belize and Mexico. In S. America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In Africa: Namibia and S. Africa. In Asia: Israel and the former Soviet Union. Even Australia. This tally is not based on census data, so there are some caveats in interpreting the information. There are, for example, German expatriate communities expected to be temporary, even though they involve substantial numbers. These enclaves may not exercise a persistent cultural influence such as the substantial groups in Brazil, Chile, or Russia.

German as Lingua Franca and as Foreign Language

Languages that function as a *lingua franca* are often (almost by definition) adopted as a second language. In an article published in 1999, I cited language statistics from the 1997 *World Almanac* that compared the number of speakers of several languages with the number that speak the language natively. Such comparisons demonstrate the degree to which a language is used as a common language across nationalities. Languages such as Malay-Indonesian, with only a third of its speakers using it as mother tongue, are adopted by communities whose native languages do not extend over a broad area. Languages such as French (60% native speakers) that can capitalize on a colonial history, have an advantage in assuming such a role. English, with 67% native speakers, is generally (mis)used as a yardstick in international communications. With 78% native speakers, German compares very favorably to Spanish — with 86% natives, only 14% adopt Spanish as a second language — and Japanese (99% native). In short, the lower the percentage of native speakers, the greater the adoption as *lingua franca*.

In considering the status of world language, the geographic spread of the language is particularly influenced by the economic strength of cultures that use the language. Not only do we see business sectors adopting a language to attract tourists, but commercial and diplomatic dominance contribute to the spread of cultural influence. Development aid could be subsumed under diplomacy, but affluent societies such as Germany and the US also provide considerable aid for development, disaster response, and refugee relief through church-based and private, secular programs. Such programs also expand cultural influence, whether by design or inadvertently. In my experience, I have been able to converse in German with my driver in Somalia (it's foolish not to use a local chauffeur in Somali traffic) because he attended a German missionary school in Ethiopia. I have discussed public health in Haïti with German-educated health professionals, and during the first Gulf War, I discussed in German US foreign policy with Turks in eastern Turkey. A teaching colleague tells me of her experience using German in Mongolia, where academics study it as a high-prestige language. A military colleague, who was present at the negotiations that produced the peace accord for Bosnia, related an observation that the three belligerents used German as a *lingua franca* in informal negotiations because they would not admit that they speak mutually intelligible dialects that used to be considered one language: Serbo-Croatian.

The obvious conclusion is that German is indeed a world language.

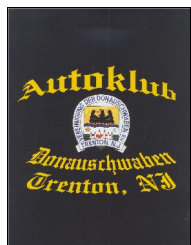
The continuation of this article will address the need for Americans with facility in German.

For additional information, see:

Ammon, Ulrich. *Die internationale Stellung der deutschen Sprache*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1991.

Clyne, Michael. *The German Language in a Changing Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995.

Müller, Kurt E. "Of Language Utility, Status, and Enrollments." *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German* 32.1 (1999): 11–21.



Our Autoklub Travels



PRESENTATION OF THE CAR CLUB TROPHY

The club participation trophy that the AutoKlub won at the August Cannstatter Car Show was officially presented to Club President, Joe Brandecker at the annual Club Dinner on 18 October 2003 (see photo on page11). Members Hans Martini, Dennis Bauer, Melanie Bauer, Mike Lenyo and Harold Huff (representing his family members Terry, Collin, Patrick & Mary Beth Huff) presented Joe with the four feet high trophy and a plaque of appreciation for the Club's sponsorship. The plaque was immediately hung up in the main hall at the Clubhouse. Will we have to put on an addition to house the large trophy?!

MEMBERS ENTER FALL CAR SHOWS

Dennis Bauer, Melanie Bauer and Mike Colacello were entries at the ABC Discount Auto Parts Fall Car Show at the Pathmark Shopping Center in Bristol, PA on 11 October 2003. Mike entered 12 shows and took 8 trophies in 2003 with his 1951 Plymouth!

Terry and Collin Huff were entries at the Raceway Park VW Show & Go Car Show in Englishtown, NJ on 12 October 2003. Terry took a 2nd place trophy for his VW Dune Buggy and Collin took a 1st place trophy for his VW Bug.

Dennis and Melanie Bauer were also entries at the Northeast Muscle Car Show on 19 October 2003 at United Refrigeration, in Northeast Philly. Kurt Müller & Steve Brandecker stopped by to show their support.

We hope to see others of our "motor head" group continue to join us at similar activities. Our merry band of car enthusiasts continues to grow. Welcome Andy Franz, Harold Parr and Kurt Müller to the group.

MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT DRIVING A DRAGSTER

Dennis, Donna and Melanie Bauer were at the Fall Classic Gamblers Drag Racing Meet at Atco Raceway on 25 October 2003. A friend of Dennis', Ed Begley, Jr. from Levittown, PA, was running his Chevy rail dragster for the \$5,000 first place cash prize.

In between runs, the Bauers visited Ed in the pits and learned about the details of racing an alcohol powered big block Chevy dragster (see photo of Melanie in the dragster below). Ed did well, making it to the semi-final round, only to "Red Light" and be disqualified.

He constantly ran a 8.61 seconds in the 1/4 mile and 179+ miles per hour. Drag racing cars are alot more technical, with an on board computer, than when Dennis raced his 1961

Chevy Impala in the late 60s & early 70s. Melanie was in heaven having had the opportunity to be in the pits and to sit in Ed's dragster.

What a great day!



PASSING OF AN ORIGINAL (VW BUG)

The summer of 2003 saw the end of of an era, the last classic VW Bug rolled off the Mexican assembly line in Puebla. Ferdinand Porsche's "People's Car" would be no more. Over the cars 68 year history 21,529,464 Beetles were produced worldwide. The very last VW to come off the production line was shipped to the VW Automuseum in Wolfsburg, Germany. Some Beetle facts include:

- Prototype built in 1935
- Convertible built in 1936
- First import to the U.S. From Netherlands in 1949
- The Bug was produced in 20 countries, from Australia to Yugoslavia
- Production of the Bug in Mexico lasted 39 years
- The name "Beetle" coined in a 1968 ad
- Beetle became the most produced car in 1972, surpassing the Ford Model T
- The convertible last produced in 1980
- 1971 was the best sales year, 1,291,612 sold worldwide
- U.S. Sales of the Bug 4,988,400, second to only Germany

Source: Road & Track Magazine, October 2003, courtesy of Hans Martini.

ARRIVAL OF A NEW VW



Volkswagen just introduced a new model, the 2004 Phaeton. Introduced to compete with the BMW and Mercedes, the Phaeton price tag will be around \$75,000! Quite a difference from our old VW bugs of years ago at \$2,500.

It can be ordered with either a V-8 or a W12 engine. Top speed? How about 130 mph for the V-8 and 150 mph for the W12! A diesel will be available later in the year. It will be hand built in the new VW plant in Dresden, Germany. NEAT. Now, if I could only afford one.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PORSCHE



The *Porsche 911* will celebrate it's 40 birthday this year. My have the years sped by! It was unveiled at the September 1963 Frankfurt Motor Show and was designed by Dr. Ferdinand Porsche's son, Ferdinand Alexander. The Porsche itself is just 55 years old, unveiled in Gmünd, Austria in 1948. ☺

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Snow can't stop the St. Nikolausfeier!

An unusual week's delay and then a messy Sunday afternoon seemed to throw into doubt one of our club's most popular cultural undertakings of the year. Yet, despite the poor weather, the saintly, bearded one and his nefarious counterpart, St. Nick and Krampus, showed up as did a nice crowd of members and friends. Together, they made St. Nikolausfeier, 2003, a most enjoyable event.

The feast of St. Nikolaus is celebrated each year on December 6th. This is especially true in the German speaking areas. Don't forget, over there it's Father Christmas or the Christkindl who brings gifts at Christmas, not St. Nick/Santa Claus. "Good ol' St. Nick" in Europe actually refers to a bishop from Ur (in present day Turkey) from around 400 A.D. who is revered in the Christian world for his charitable acts and efforts to seek justice for the oppressed. One of the traditions is for children to set out their shoes at night to be filled with goodies by St. Nick. It is a decidedly festive and uplifting time.

In Austria primarily, a rather scary looking Krampus joins the St. Nikolaus celebration as a reminder to all that we are accountable for our actions. He is said to represent the wrath of God while St. Nick represents God's mercy. Some of our older members recall being terrified at the prospect of receiving the attention of Krampus – a sure sign of misbehavior on their part. One club member remembers being at a school assembly as Krampus walked about looking for the few troublemakers selected by the teachers ahead of time. He describes the entire process as truly frightening and highly effective, but not something you would ever find in today's "civilized" society.

Of course, the Trenton Donauschwaben Krampus is a far less menacing character partly because he has proven far too frightening in the past! Nonetheless, this year he did wander about looking for someone to whom he could give black coal. The eventual recipient played along very well with the always enjoyable theatrics associated with the process (thanks Al!). Shortly thereafter, St. Nick entered the scene, sent away Krampus, and passed out authentic St. Nikolaus treats. The entire episode was well received by all in attendance. Thanks go to Joe and Steve Brandecker for playing the parts so convincingly.

The club's St. Nikolausfeier always includes a wonderful sing-along of beloved Christmas carols. Well read poems and even a fine violin performance also helped make this a most delightful occasion. Thanks to Christina, Joe, Luisa, Anna, Brittaney, Katie, Christa, and Lyla for their participation, as well as Frau Eva Martini. The club is grateful to Liz Tindall for her involvement, especially for playing the organ to accompany the singing. Of course, thanks to everyone else who helped with the food and refreshments, it was a wonderful event!

Club Activity Pictures this Past Fall



2003 German Heritage Fest



2003 Annual Dinner—AutoKlub Trophy Presentation



2003 Memorial Service

Club Events for the Winter 2004

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- Winteressen (Sauerbraten) Sunday, 18 January 2004, 1pm.
- Annual Meeting (Club elections & food), Sunday, 25 January 2004, 1pm.
- Schlachtfest, Sunday, 8 February 2004, 1 & 3pm.
- Donauschwabenessen, Sunday, 14 March 2004, 1pm.
- Osteressen (Menu TBA), Sunday, 4 April 2004, 1pm.

Please call Frau Josefa Brandecker (609) 585-8460 or Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 for meal reservations.

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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!

ARNOLD!!

Say what you will about Austrian born Governor Schwarzenegger's politics, but this writer was thrilled that a German speaking immigrant was elected to head our biggest state. Sure, there are other reasons to be for or against his election, but Arnold's ethnic background alone should be of some significance to our German community. Is there a changing wind in our country with regard to things German (or Austrian, as it were)? There may be.

Witness the ease with which Germany was forgiven for not backing the US on the Iraq war. Most Americans now consider Germans as good people of conscience who have been a great help elsewhere, including Afghanistan. We all saw the early Iraq war pictures of wounded soldiers landing in Germany to be treated. The upshot: Germany is viewed by the media at least as "okay". And when the media speaks, Joe and Mary Public usually listen.

Let's look at another possible reason. Perhaps the current Iraq crisis and, most especially, the ongoing tragedy in the Middle East have altered the way people feel about Germany as "monster". For way too long, the image of Germany was tied up in knots around Nazism and all of that the word implies in the modern lexicon. Now, we see clearly that there's enough of "man's inhumanity to man" to go around and suddenly what might have happened 60 years ago begins to be less important. We seem to have far too many new things to worry about nowadays.

As Bob Dylan wails, "These times they are a-changing" and now we have a governor with a heavy German accent. Will Arnold's ascendancy spur people to learn the German language? Maybe. Will more and more people feel being or talking German is okay? One can only hope!

Hans Martini