

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 10 Issue 1

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Points of Interest

- Some facts about our Amish friends across the river.
- Their PA German language is a dialect similar to that of the Donauschwaben.
- The Amish children learn PA German before they learn English.
- The Old Order Amish can not own cars & use horse and buggies.
- They can accept rides from their "Englischer" neighbors.
- They can not use electric supplied by the outside world, but can generate their own, usually for their barn.
- Their day begins at 4:30am, bed at 8:30pm.
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A Trip to the Catskills

One degree Fahrenheit... one degree! There is something oddly tantalizing about seeing such a low temperature. One almost expects to see polar bears, Eskimos or sled dogs to appear at any minute. Actually, we had arrived at a place far below the Arctic Circle near a hamlet called Round Top located in the Catskill Mountains of New York, just 3 hours and change from the fair city of Trenton. Those of you who've never seen them, the Catskills rise to well over 3500 feet above sea level as one drives north on the New York Thruway (I-87). It's just a spectacular area in every way.

Our destination was the same as it has been for many years now. Owned and operated by a family of native Donauschwaben, "Crystal Brook Resort" is a clean and comfortable older mountain retreat with a decidedly German flavor. German food, live German music, German beverages.... Uhhh, you get the picture. Needless to say, it's our kind of place. Heck, they even have one of our club's 1980s era dance group portraits hanging on their wall!

Speaking of dance groups, this year was extra special as the Philadelphia/Trenton dance group was on hand. This was the first appearance by a Donauschwaben dance group at Crystal Brook Resort in quite some time and we were glad to be back. The dancers whirled and twirled their way through six exciting

dances on Saturday evening, including the always-popular "Schau Zu" polka that featured audience participation. The crowd really enjoyed the show and we congratulate all of our dancers for a job well done.

We were very pleased that a number of members from our sister organization, the Philadelphia Donauschwaben, joined us for the weekend. Together our two clubs numbered over 40 folks and we all had a great time together. Despite the cold, many of us ended up at nearby Hunter Mountain on Saturday for great skiing, tubing, or just plain lounging about. Others did sightseeing and hiking in the nearby area. Everyone returned to the resort later on for some great tasting food and fine German music sung by a young man with an accordion accompanied by a saxophonist. He knew all the old favorites!

Sunday morning found many of our group hiking to the local water falls. What normally is a cascading torrent of water was now just a giant sculpture of fabulous ice formations. The ice was just beautiful and our large group of hikers really enjoyed the scenery.

All in all, the weekend was a great success. Thanks to the Hasenkopf family for having our dancers perform and for being such fine hosts. Thanks to Fred Gauss and our friends in Philly and to Joe Brandecker and all of our own club members for making this one of the best Catskills weekends we've had in a very long time. Don't miss the fun next year!



(see more pictures on page 10)

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Club Matters & Members—1

New Web Master – Update Underway for Web Site

Tom Rubino has offered his services as our new Web Master. Tom has already evaluated the current web site and our web hosting firm and has made several recommendations to the club in order to improve our well visited site. Our web site has served us well since it's creation under Dana Miles in 1998 and migration to a new host under Ed Soden in 2003. We were one of the first Donauschwaben clubs to put up a site and most all have followed.

Tom has already started the project. The new design is now up for your viewing (www.trentondonauschwabens.com). Our newly formed web committee (Rubino, Bauer, Martini, Tindall & Penrith) will meet in March in order to "fine tune" the site.

Ann Morrison, producer of the Forgotten Genocide documentary, hosts WWII ethnic cleansing of the Germans outside Germany, an International Seminar in St. Louis, MO.

This update has been posted at:

<http://www.molidorf.com/>

A variety of international speakers, will be present at a three day seminar starting Thursday, February 25, 2010. Among the speakers are; Elizabeth Walter-author of *Barefoot in the Rubble*, Joseph Simon-Donauschwabens History Librarian/ Historian, EB Fuhr -American Internment Facilities Retired Marketing, Tom Sunic-The Fate of the Danube Germans in Yugoslavia in the Wake of WWII Former U. S. Professor, Author Ph. D. Political Science, Published Author on Cultural Pessimism, Heritage and Meta-Politics, Writer and Translator of French, English and Croatian, Croatian Diplomat, Dr Andreas Wesslerer-History of the Ethnic Germans Professor of History and Political Science College of Political Science, Univ. of Munich and Wisconsin, Dr. Rudolph Poeschel- Author of *The Czechoslovakian Nation*, Lt. Col. Brian Landry-Psychological aspects of camp survivors Assistant Professor of Leadership and Ethics Air Command and Staff College, Dr. Kearn Schemm-World Wide War against the Germans Lawyer, U.S. Diplomat, Human Rights Activist Vice President German World Alliance, **Mr. Adam Martini—Surviving a Death Camp Survivor, Speaker of The Ethnic German Cleansing**, Dr. Karen Karbiener-Psychological and Emotional Complexity of a Descendant, Ph. D. Columbia University Professor New York University 2009-2010, University of Novi Sad, Serbia.

A panel discussion will follow where the speakers will present a variety of viewpoints regarding the lectures given throughout the conference. This will be followed by a reception and then the first public viewing of Ann Morrison's *-The Forgotten Genocide*



Schlachtfest means great Donauschwaben foods

The club's "Bratwurst Boys" (along with the rest of our dedicated kitchen volunteers) will be at hard work again on February 24th making Bratwurst and Leberwurst sausages for the Sunday dinner the next day.

Held annually in November and February, the dinner (two seatings) attracts the biggest crowd of diners of any month. In addition to wurst, the meal also includes sarma (stuffed cabbage), roast pork and all the side dishes.

The Schlachtfest is a tradition among the Donauschwaben, past and present. The meats prepared provided our ancestral Donauschwaben farmers with a high source of protein (forget about the fat, calories, cholesterol, triglycerides, etc.) not only in the Winter, but also in the Spring for their annual planting season. Little goes to waste when making wurst. Naturally our "homemade" wursts have a Hungarian influence due to the area our folks came from including that taste of paprika, white and black pepper and certainly garlic. No vampires here.

As we all know Germans are famous for their varieties of wursts. German sausages are classified in several ways according to Sharon Hudgins of the *German Life* magazine (Feb-Mar 2010). Those named from their ingredients; blutwurst (blood sausage), Leberwurst (liver sausage), Milzwurst (spleen), Zungenwurst (tongue), Zwiebelwurst (onion), Kartoffelwurst (potato) and Schinkenwurst (ham). Some are named for their method of preparation; Rohwurst (raw), Kochwurst (cooked), Dampfwurst (steamed), Buehwurst (simmered) and Rostwurst (grilled).

Any way you name it "Wurst ist sehr gut!" "

Member Stories to be Posted Online

Our state of the art website will soon have a special section devoted to articles written by club members. Some of these may first be published in this newsletter, while others may not due to space limitations. Right now two fine pieces are scheduled for posting online in the very near future.

They are, **Frau Käthe Marx's** account of what it was like to revisit her native town of Palanka in what is now Serbia. Hers is a vivid description of what it's like to return to home after being forced out so many years ago. The story is written in German but we do plan to translate the work in the future.

The other piece is an English language adventure story was submitted by **Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hepp**. It tells of their trek around Mother Russia. What a wonderful experience they had!

These and other works are part of the many features of the club's new website. Stay tuned, more good things are on the way at the Donauschwaben!

Club Matters & Members—2

Club on the Move – the 2010 Generalversammlung (General Business Meeting)

Never let it be said that the Trenton Donauschwaben is content to “just get by.” No, dear readers, we are not satisfied with doing just enough to keep the doors open. Most realize such an approach would only lead to our speedy demise anyway and the downward slide wouldn’t be that much fun either. Our members know we need to keep moving forward to insure the club’s future.

It’s no surprise therefore that this past January’s elections/general annual meeting saw a number of moves in the right direction. Most important was the placement of some of our younger members on the club’s governing committee. Christa Tindall, Anna Martini and Brittany Brandecker are at the leading edge of the upcoming generation of fine club members and represent the future of the Trenton Donauschwaben. Christa is a junior high school German teacher at Pennsbury, while Brittany and Anna are in their second year of undergraduate studies at LaSalle and Rosemont, respectively. “Herzlich Willkommen!” to all three.

Another move in the right direction was the decision to create a new club website. Some of our readers may recall that we were in the vanguard of Donauschwaben/German clubs with an Internet presence dating back to the 1990’s. Much has changed since then and it’s clear our club now needs to take advantage of the latest technologies and opportunities on the web. The club is pleased to have club member Tom Rubino leading the effort to make this a reality in his new role as webmaster. Tom is an executive at Computer Associates Corporation and knows his way around the keyboard like nobody’s business. He will be assisted by a committee of website helpers lead by Dennis J. Bauer. We’ll be posting more information as this project begins to take shape.

Another somewhat related issue we discussed was the need to improve our visibility and connection to the surrounding community. This is important for a number of compelling reasons, not the least of which is the ever present need to attract new members. Enhancing and expanding our charitable, cultural and educational activities are vital in this regard. This includes the very successful scholarship fund program directed at the learning of German in the three area high schools. Readers of this newsletter can expect to hear more about these efforts as the year goes on.

We’re delighted to report some other superb committee additions for the 2010 – 2012 term. Among them, Mike Lenyo, who takes on the job of vice-treasurer. He’ll work with treasury stalwart Ludwig Jakober to make sure the club’s finances are always in good order. In “real life”, Mike is the Ohio Valley Region Sales Director for Bristol Meyers Squibb Corporation. In a related position, Andrew LaRue joins the team of financial trustees whose job it is to certify the club’s financial records every year. Andrew, a former dance group member from the 1980s, is a law enforcement officer here in the Garden State.

Our latest venture is our adult or senior dance group.

The club asked Mr. Ron Kernast to lead the group and chair its management team. Ron is an accomplished artist who manages the display and presentation department at an area Wegmans. He’s also a veteran of our previous dance group dating back to the 1980s.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to welcome Mr. Joe Vecchione as the House Committee Chair. Joe will bring his considerable talents to bear on efforts to maintain and improve our clubhouse and property. Some of our readers will recall that the Donauschwaben clubhouse was built before 1876. It’s ancient! While all of us love this little factoid it does mean that maintenance and repair issues do tend to crop up on occasion. We wish Mr. Vecchione and all of our newly appointed committee members all the best in their new positions.

It almost goes without saying that many of our committee members are returnees. Continuity, especially when things are going well, is very important to any institution. Foremost among the returnees is our club president, Joe Brandecker. Joe has been an excellent steward of the club and its best interests. His devotion and commitment have served the Donauschwaben very well and we know the club remains in good hands. The same can be said for all of our officers, of course, and so this organization of ours can feel confident and optimistic about the future. Not content to “just get by” our officers will continue to push forward with energy and dedication. Thanks to all who served on the last committee and to all who will serve on the 2010 – 2012 committee. It is because of them that we can say...

“Long Live the Donauschwaben!”



Some of the members that attended the 2010 Annual Business Meeting

Genealogy, Culture & History Section

Jacob Steigerwald



**Profile of an
Americanized
Danube Swabian
Ethnically Cleansed
Under Tito**

A Book Review by Jody McKim Pharr, 2010 - *Profile of an Americanized Danube Swabian Ethnically Cleansed under Tito*, by Jacob Steigerwald, 2001

"Story of a Danube Swabian immigrant to Chicago and his quest for self-improvement upon having been denied educational and vocational opportunities as a member of Yugoslavia's disenfranchised German minority and as a refugee in Romania, Hungary and Austria, from 1944 until he came to America in 1951. His advancement to a career as a university professor in the Midwest contrasts sharply with former exposure as a teenager to Nazi and Communist thinking. Proverbial tenets regarding traditional perceptions in his native environment are fittingly re-examined. By means of a historic group overview, the book contributes toward filling a gap in pertinent English coverage."

The above condensed review is modestly stated compared to the vast information contained in this book. Jacob takes you on a journey starting with his childhood days in 1944 in Yugoslavia Banat; and describes in great detail his most intimate thoughts and concerns. His courage and determination to reach his goals whether it be escaping across a border to freedom or achieving academic success, is astounding. Winona State College was a big part of Jacob's life and he shares events surrounding his years employed there as assistant professor of foreign languages. He completed require-

ments for the doctor of philosophy degree in German languages and literature at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. After extensive studies both in the United States and in Europe, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College, Chicago, and bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from Columbia College, Chicago, and a bachelor and Master of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana. His dissertation, "The Bremer Beiträger: Their relationship with Gottsched and Their Position in the History of German Literature," is concerned with the contribution of this group of eighteenth century poets toward promoting the use of standard German. Recently I found a newspaper article dated 03 Feb 1975 from Winona Daily News "Jacob Steigerwald earns doctorate" you can read this at:

http://www.dvhh.org/banat/biographies/steigerwald_jacob.htm

Born in Banat-Topola, at age 14, Jacob was orphaned and uprooted on 18 Apr 1945, as the process of ethnic cleansing was underway, involving executions, starvation, and other methods of genocide, carried out by Tito's partisans, he was in the midst of it all. All remaining ethnic Germans at Banat-Topola were to be evicted, and sent to a makeshift local concentration camp. May 1945 Jacob was among those in forced labor in the fields of St. Hubert; later sent to Kikinda. There was nothing easy about being separated from your family at age 14; and especially learning at an early age to make the right decisions in order to stay alive. Along the way Jacob never compromises his immense moral values, of which he retains throughout his life.

At age 16, Jacob's escape to Austria began 18 Mar 1947 from Triebswetter in Banat. In Bad Ischl, Austria he worked as a house painter from Oct 1948 to Sep 1948 and attended evening classes. Jacob saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time 13 Oct 1951. The story of his voyage to America would be a welcomed contribution to the DVHH immigration section! He is so descriptive in details that I felt as if I were onboard observing Jacob.

Jacob entered the U.S. Army on Apr 1953 and became a naturalized America citizen Dec 1953. He shares his experiences and perceptions of other ethnic groups; as well as the prejudices shown toward him, being German; and further how he dealt with the various situations. Jacob never leaves you hanging as to what happens.

Jacob married Marie HOLECSEK 08 Sep 1956. His very candid quest for the right woman to love is shared throughout this story, and once he had discovered her, there was no doubt they would be together. He shares intimate life details, including the birth of their 3 children, and the untimely death of their daughter Ellen, an accomplished young woman who died too young.

For the ethnic Germans who lived in Chicago, this book would definitely be a walk back in time for you. He provides great details of the economy at different times and provides examples of cost of living factors, like inflation rates chart from 1951 to 1992. We get a glimpse into his family life that brings the historical references to life. This provides the reader with a framework that promotes understanding of the family and their struggles.

(continued on page 12)

Membership News

2010 Newsletter Staff



**Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor.
Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor. Kim Walter, Vice President/Club Photographer.**

Ludwig Jakober, Treasurer.

Hans Martini, Secretary.

Staff Writers: Adam Martini, Andy Franz, Brittaney Brandecker & Michael Lenyo

AutoKlub Leader: Terry Huff

Website Master: Tom Rubino

Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer

Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini



Volunteerism – It's What We're All About.

We noted with interest that one of our sister club's in Pennsylvania, the UGH, has now gone to an all-volunteer format. The 100 year old club has decided to staff all of its activities with member volunteers. For an active club like theirs, with a very demanding schedule of events and numerous catering commitments, it's a big challenge for all concerned and we wish them well. One has to ask why UGH club members would devote so much time and effort to keep the doors open?

That question, dear readers, can be asked of our own club members as well. Every year, dozens of folks contribute hundreds of hours to make our club's existence possible. Our monthly dinners are surely the most labor intensive but there's so much more going on too. Things like school activities, dance group activities, website and newsletter related activities, club maintenance and property management activities, bureaucratic and "paper work" activities, scholarship fund activities, car show activities, among *many* others. All of these undertakings are staffed and made possible by volunteers.

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

Congratulations Happy 90th Birthday – **Käthe Pfann**..... A private party will be held at the club for Käthe on Saturday, February 13th. Also a Happy 70th birthday to member **Nick Pfann**.

Jim and Kathleen Lieblang's son and daughter-in-law (Matt and Stephanie Lieblang) announced the birth of their second daughter, Kimberly Morgan, born on 15 Dec 09 at 10:30 PM in Mercer Hospital. Baby was 8 lbs 13 ounces and 21" long. Mother and daughter are doing fine. Kimberly follows her older sister Jillian by 16 months. Matt works for Fed Ex and Stephanie is a operating room trauma nurse at Helen Fuld. Both live in Birch Hollow in Florence Township. Matt is the great grandson of Jakob and Katharina Lieblang of Trenton (They were Donauschwaben from Wekerledorf and Palanka respectively).

Condolences—The Trenton Donauschwaben extends its condolences to the family and friends of the following:

Maria Dickmann. Maria was the wife of former Philadelphia Donauschwaben president Adam Dickmann.

Elisabeth Griesbach-Loik (geb. Karl). She was the sister of club member Frau Käthe Marx of Philadelphia. Elisabeth was born in 1917 in Batschka Palanka.

"Lege alles still in Gottes Haende, das Glueck, das Leid, den Anfang und das Ende"

Get Well to **JoAnn Martini, Uli Haller, Marlene Novosel, Pat Huff, Colin Huff, Gerry Thompson, Kevin Nakashima & Dayna Galati.** Also to **Tom Rubino** on his up coming surgery.

Congratulations to Josef and Josefa Brandecker on their 60th wedding anniversary. They were treated to an anniversary dinner on 7 February 2010 by their children & grandchildren. The club members wish them many more.



Wilkommen New members; **Peter, Ann, Rebecca & Elizabeth Arato,** Turnersville, NJ ***

Go USA! — The club (large number of our members are skiers) wishes the USA Olympic Team a "Good Luck" at the 2010 Winter Games in Canada this February. Next good luck to Germany, Austria & Hungary.



Stay informed!

The Donauschwaben supports...

TED HIERL'S GERMAN-AMERICAN RADIO PROGRAM

Sundays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on WNWR 1540 AM Radio.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



Reminiscences of Austria, Part Three

By Adam Martini

(translation by Hans Martini)

The long, cold winter that served as a quiet “down” time for local farmers was now at an end. In 1948, I was eleven years old and enrolled in the Haigermoos (Austria) primary school. Since my formal education had stopped during my captivity in Yugoslavia, I was definitely too old to be attending the second grade. It turns out that the many hours of practicing my reading with my *Grossmutter* during my “stay” in the camps paid off however and I was in very good shape to move ahead. So with the help of my teacher, Mr. Egon Kreuzbauer, and his colleagues, I was able to skip through the second, third and fourth classes all in just one year.

In any case, reading now became my salvation in the long weeks and months spent in that little hut of ours. I fondly remember the books written by Karl May whose novels were set in the American West - cowboys and Indians! These were popular in every German speaking area of Europe. I read these page-turners with a voracious appetite. Indeed, the endless Austrian winter was ideal for such a welcome distraction.

My grandmother put up with my reading habit at first, but as spring approached her patience waned. She had other plans for my free time. We had to build a pigpen and a vegetable garden. She also wanted to construct a chicken enclosure since we had some extra space. She said she needed no less than ten hens and a rooster for this new undertaking.

Our farmer/landlord, Herr Neissl, wasn't really pleased with this news and he warned of the foxes and hawks that preyed on such creatures. Grossmutter had her own ideas about such predators and said that should they endanger our chickens they would be in for a big surprise. It slowly occurred to me that my grandmother could not be scared by the well intentioned farmer into believing this plan

of hers wasn't a good idea. One morning I heard the voices of my Grossmutter and the farmer having a heated discussion. Finally, Herr Neissl said in an exasperated manner, “Go ahead, Susi (my Oma's name was Susanna), do what you want so I can have some peace and quiet. No more than ten hens and one rooster however.”

This of course meant that I would be very busy constructing the chicken enclosure, further reducing my already precious free time. The plan was carried out rather quickly and soon we had a fenced in area with nest-beds for egg laying. The idea was to keep them inside at night and let them loose in a fenced-in section of the yard during the day.

Of course my grandmother had more than ten hens! She reasoned that some might die or that there might be more than one rooster so the number of hens had to keep pace. The poor farmer looked on in dismay but said nothing.

Slowly the months passed and our chickens grew in size. Some spent the night in the trees while others stayed inside the stall. Our small home became livelier and livelier. The pigs, chickens and rooster gave our tiny patch of land a unique and interesting quality all its own. Things were happening and none of our relatives had anything comparable. They lived too close to the farm so it just wasn't possible for them to do what we did.

And so my grandmother's goal was realized and we now had our own little enterprise. We had valuable fresh eggs and we had two pigs, one for us and one to be sold to a relative in nearby Salzburg. Things were looking up!

My uncle Toni Mack and a bunch of other relatives helped butcher the pig late in the year. Uncle Toni knew all the ins and outs of sausage making and meat cutting. He set the tone and everyone in the group followed his instructions. Even my sister and I were expected to help along. It was a real Donauschwaben undertaking: there was drinking of fruit wine, occasional swearing in Croatian or Hungarian, and later, when the men

had a enough wine (called *Most*), there was the singing of melodious Croatian songs. It was just like at home in Bukin, Yugoslavia, and I loved it.

It was, however, quite different from what the local farmers in Austria did. They didn't spend nearly as much time doing the work and the event was far less festive. For instance, when our farmer/landlord Mr. Neissl slaughtered a pig he sent for Mr. Pfaffinger from the village of Haigermoos. Mr. Pfaffinger was the village barber, the church administrator, the priest's assistant and acolyte, as well as a small-scale farmer. He also had a store that served as a gathering place for the entire area.

Anyway, Mr. Pfaffinger had his own system when it came to slaughtering pigs. Unlike the Donauschwaben, no sausages or head cheese (Schwartenmagen) would be produced. Even the killing of the pig was done differently. The Austrian would first stun the pig with a heavy hammer blow before “bleeding” the animal with a knife and killing it. Uncle Toni, on the other hand, would simply use a sharp knife to take the life of the hapless pig, bleeding it at the same time. This difference in dispatching the animal and a few other disparities in handling the meat convinced both my grandmother and uncle Toni that the Donauschwaben way was a far better way. Naturally opinions varied but my Grossmutter told everyone the Austrians didn't know what they were doing. It sure didn't make her many friends among our hosts!

As the excitement of the Schlachtfest subsided, winter was once again upon us. Falling snow signaled the beginning of a period of rest for the farmers. Card games would be played and we would all listen to radio broadcasts in the farmer's parlor. It was a time of relaxation ahead of the busy spring season just a few months away.



(To be continued)

A Club Treasure Turns 90



A CLUB TREASURE TURNS 90
Frau Käthe Pfann in the Spotlight!

Family and friends packed the Donauschwaben clubhouse to surprise Käthe Pfann at a party to mark her 90th birthday this past week. The cold and snowy winter weather outside contrasted sharply with the glow of affection that warmed our *Vereinsheim* on this very special occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a momentous milestone in the life of someone who means so much to so many.

Given by longtime club member and son, Nick Pfann, and daughter, Irmgard Brand, the party was attended by a large number of the extended Pfann clan. Among them, grandchildren Linda Benedetti (geb. Pfann), and her brothers Steven and Michael Pfann; Ron Brand and his sister Renate James (geb. Brand); great grandchildren Michael, Dan, Gabrielle, Robbie, Jeffrey, Jessica and McKensy; as well as spouses, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Käthe Pfann (geb. Michel) hails from a small town in the former Yugoslavia called "Neudorf." Like most of our Donauschwaben, the Michel family enjoyed a prosperous existence in that thriving German village before WWII. Frau Pfann's father was a town official who served his constituents in a variety of capacities. Life was good and the future looked bright.

As fate would have it, war intervened. The withdrawal of Germany's armed forces from that area meant that no German was safe any longer. The family managed to flee ahead of the communist/partisan onslaught in the waning days of

that terrible conflict, leaving their home, friends and livelihood for an uncertain and frightening future. They made their way to eastern Germany at war's end before ending up in western Germany. Like many of our native Donauschwaben club members, the family then immigrated to the United States and a better life in 1955.

The Pfann family's involvement in our club began decades ago and their participation has been absolutely critical to the club's success. Käthe's late husband, Heinrich, was very active in a variety of ways too numerous to mention. Daughter Irmgard served as a German School teacher for many years and helped in the kitchen as well. Her son Nikolaus was active in many different ways too including serving as the club's vice president in the 1970s, helping with the construction of our clubhouse and serving as caretaker/tenant for many years thereafter. Frau Pfann's late brother, Willie Michel, was president of the Trenton Donauschwaben in the early 1970's and played a key role in the purchase of the current property. We should also mention that Willie's daughter Olga was one of our early German School teachers too. All of Frau Pfann's grandchildren mentioned above were students of the German School during the 1970's, including her late grandson, Robbie Brand. They all participated in many of the club's Christmas plays at St. Stephan's Hall and elsewhere.

Frau Pfann herself continues to play a vital role in our club. She not only served as an officer in our "ladies' auxiliary" in the past but has remained an essential figure in our kitchen to this day. It's not just the tasty potato salad she makes, for example, but more importantly it's the generous and friendly attitude she brings each and every time to our crowded little kitchen. That cooperative spirit is a highly prized commodity in any organization, ours included. It will also surprise no one to know that Frau Pfann brought her work apron to the surprise party!

And so, dear readers, we wish Frau Käthe Pfann a very happy birthday. May the years ahead be blessed with happiness and good health. In fact, you

may want to stop by the club's Schlachtfest this week and tell her yourself as she'll be helping in the kitchen just as she always does. That's the way it's always been with Frau Pfann. It's why we consider her to be one of the club's true treasures.

Alles gute zum Geburtstag!

(See more photos of the party on page 11)

Volunteerism – It's What We're All About.

(continued from page 5)

The answer as to "why we do it" can perhaps be distilled down to two reasons: we believe in what our club stands for and we care about each other. The first one is pretty easy to understand as it has to do with the promotion and perpetuation of our cultural heritage. The second reason might not be so obvious but is actually far more important. Simply put, it's all about friendship, good feelings and positive interactions.

Our club is the focal point and gathering place for a community of like-minded and not-so-like-minded people who enjoy each other's company. We volunteer in order to keep this wonderful organization of ours alive and well, so that good things can continue to happen in our lives. The club, then, is a great way for us to find fulfillment and happiness, meaning and purpose. It's not that we have nothing better to do. Quite the contrary, many of our active members are some of the busiest people on planet earth. No, we volunteer because the Donauschwaben, and all it stands for, is important to what matters most to us.

Like our friends across the river at the United German Hungarians and elsewhere, the call to volunteerism is as strong as ever. The need to "make it work" and "make it happen" is what hundreds of fine folks have done at the Donauschwaben for over 53 years now. It is because of them that we have a clubhouse to call our own; it is because of you that the Donauschwaben will continue to be a place where good friends and good times are there for all to enjoy.



Our AutoKlub Travels



VOLKSWAGEN MAPS OUT PORSCHE'S FUTURE

The battle over who will buy whom is over and Volkswagen now has a 49.9% controlling interest in Porsche. The two companies are set to merge in 2011 at which point Porsche will officially become part of Volkswagen Group. VW Chairman, Ferdinand Piech (grandson of Professor Ferdinand Porsche) and Martin Winterkorn, CEO, have plans to increase the production of certain Porsche models and increase sales from 75,000 units to 150,000 units per year.

They plan to increase production by sharing Volkswagen platforms with Porsche models as it did between Volkswagen and Audi models. In addition, look for several new Porsche models including a 2013 Porsche Carrera GT (composite car with 650 hp.), a 2013 Porsche Panamera Coupe and a 2012 Porsche Roxster (small SUV). Source: Car & Driver 1/20010 issue.*

VW of America sales are up 1.5% in 2009 over 2008 with the sporty CC leading the way in sales, followed by the Jetta sedan and SportWagen.

Source: VW Club of America "Autoist" Nov/Dec 2009 issue. **

Washing, Polishing and Waxing 101 (from the VW of Langhorne, U.S. Business Rt.#1, Langhorne, PA - January 2010 web site)

Proper paint maintenance can dramatically extend the life – and looks – of your car's paint.

Don't be alarmed, but the environment has declared war on your car – more specifically, on your car's paint. If you live near a major city, then the finish on your vehicle is coming under constant attack from atmospheric pollutants, whether they are from tailpipe emissions, factory smokestacks or even oil-burning stoves in your neighborhood. If you live out in the country, then you have to deal with acid rain, tree sap, pollen and most likely rocks and gravel kicked up on the road.

It's clear that as the first line of defense when it comes to protecting your car's bodywork from rust, corrosion and wear, any steps you can take to protect your paint will not only add years to the lifespan of your vehicle, they will add to your vehicle's value as well. Well-maintained paint can often be the difference between a vehicle's condition being appraised as "excellent," or as merely average" or "fair" – a difference that can mean thousands of dollars when trading in or selling your car in the future.

The first step when it comes to protecting your paint is to adopt proper and regular washing habits; frequent cleaning gives contaminants less time to sit there and work on degrading your paint. Ideally, hand washing is the best way to keep your vehicle spotless, but, in a pinch, a touchless carwash will also do. Above all else, make sure to avoid touch car washes, as the bristles and foam strips used in these contraptions are capable of leaving thousands of tiny scratches on your paint, scratches that are especially visible on dark colored cars in the sunlight.

If you choose to hand wash your car, you should make

sure to take the appropriate steps to maintain your paint's shine. Ignore the old wife's tale telling you to use dish soap as a car cleaner, as the harsh detergents found in these products can gradually wear away at your paint. Instead, buy an inexpensive soap at your local big box store that is specifically formulated for use on vehicles. It's also important to make sure that you use a soft wash mitt – not a sponge, which can collect small rocks that can scratch your paint – and frequently rinse it off in between soapings to make sure it is free from dirt. Another tip is to avoid using a swirling motion when washing or drying, and to dry using only a microfiber cloth and not a standard house or beach towel, which contain harsh synthetic fibers. This will help you to avoid creating "spider web"-type scratches that can be so frustrating on an otherwise clean car.

After washing, there are two additional steps you can take to make sure your paint looks its best and stays that way for as long as possible. The first is to use automotive paint polish, which can not only bring out the brightness and richness of the vehicle's original showroom sheen, but can also take care of scratches both large and small. A good rule of thumb is that if you can catch your fingernail when running it across the scratch, it is probably too deep to polish out; if you can pass over it, then it can most likely be removed with a little bit of elbow grease. Polish is generally best applied with a random-orbit buffer, an inexpensive piece of equipment that isn't powerful enough to damage your paint but can save you a lot of time when working out paint issues. If you are nervous about using this type of equipment, then hand polishing is still a viable option.

Waxing is the final stage in the cleaning and protecting process. When properly applied, wax forms a physical barrier between your paint and the outside world, which means that contaminants like sap and acid rain never make it through to the finish itself. Wax can even offer a degree of protection from rock chips. There are two main types of wax available on the market. Carnauba-based waxes are derived from special palm tree leaves, and they provide a deep, "wet" look. Polymer waxes or sealants use a different mechanism to bond to paint, and while they do not usually provide as impressive a gloss as carnauba products, they do last a lot longer before they need to be reapplied.

Washing, polishing and waxing your car not only helps it to look its absolute best, it also offers you the chance to lock in a beautiful paint shine no matter what the world might throw at your car. (Permission granted to re-print. They are also a sponsor of our Auto Show).

Audi A3 TDI is "Green Car of the Year"

Dec 16, 2009 – German Info.com

Los Angeles (dpa) - The Audi A3 TDI has been chosen as the "Green" car of the year at the Los Angeles Motor Show with consumption listed at 5.6 litres per 100 kilometers while making no sacrifices to comfort and other features. It is the second year in which a diesel car has been chosen for the award after last year's prize went to the VW Jetta. The other finalists chosen by the jury of car and environmental experts were the Toyota Prius, Honda Insight, VW Golf TDI and Ford's Mercury Milan hybrid.

The editor of Green Car Journal, Ron Cogan, said the jurors were impressed by the "50 percent better fuel efficiency" compared to the similar petrol-engine A3.

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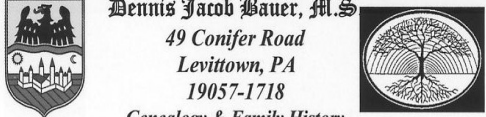
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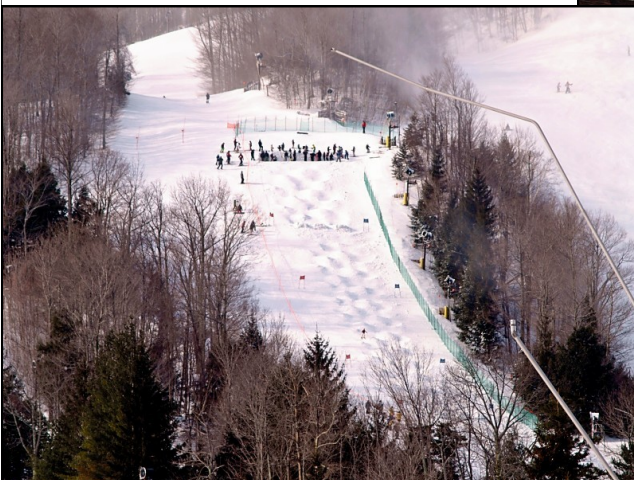
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Happy B'day—Käthe

Club Pictures Winter 2009-10 - Skiing





Deutsche Sprach Schule & Tanze Gruppe

Seite (Youth & Adult)

GERMAN SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Guten Abend—Our adult language teacher, Andy Franz, is soliciting students for his Spring class set to start at the beginning of April. Classes are held each Wednesday night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We have a number of adults enrolled already. Do not be shy, drop by and try it out! Contact any officer if you are interested in attending. Auf Wiedersehn.

GERMAN SCHOOL

Our German School for young folks continues to meet each Friday night from 6:30 to 7:30. Schulleiterin Eva Martini uses arts and crafts, singing, reading and writing to help her students get to know the language of our ancestors. The atmosphere is friendly and the emphasis is on making learning fun. Enrollment is open throughout the school year and all youngsters, Kindergarten through high school, are welcome to attend. Tuition is free for members in good standing. Please contact woodworks5@AOL.com or 609-586-6109 if you would like your child or grandchild to give it a try.

CLUB TO ATTEND SEMINAR

The Club has been asked by the World Language Department of the Hamilton High School North in Nottingham, NJ to participate in a daylong seminar March 18, 2010 on immigration and diversity in New Jersey. We plan to have a couple club members present.

Adult Dance Group Forming

Our club's very own adult dance group – Kulturgruppe - got off to a rousing start in January. Despite a bit of a slow beginning, the enthusiastic participants were on their way to dancing glory by the end of the night! Those who witnessed the 1970s and 1980s version of the group will recognize the first dance called the Johannesberger. It's a snappy number that sent a couple of our less well-conditioned folks – this writer among them! - scrambling for a place to sit down before long.

Kulturgruppelleiter Ron Kernast is managing the group's activities and seems very pleased with how things are going. He invites all club members, college age and up, who are interested in having a good time while upholding their cultural heritage to stop by the clubhouse next Wednesday, February 24th at 7:30 PM. For more information please contact DSATrenton@AOL.com. Be part of the fun!

Right now our group comprises the following members...

Herr Ron Kernast, group leader

Melanie, Steve, Brittaney & Joe Brandecker

Denese & Mike Lenyo

Monika Yob (Kusenko)

Katie Tindall

Christa Tindall and fiancé Chris

Kim & Bob Walter

Sue & Carl Conrad

Marita Magee (Fisher)

JoAnn, Anna & Hans Martini

We hope you'll choose to be part of the action!



**DO NOT FORGET THE
TREFFEN AT THE GERMAN-
HUNGARIAN CLUB IN PA**

AUGUST 6th-8th !



Club Events for the Winter 2010

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Winteressen - Sunday, 10 January, 1:00pm

- ◆ Annual Meeting & Elections — Sunday, 24 January, 1pm.

- ◆ Annual Family Ski Weekend—Friday-Sunday, Crystal Brook in the Catskills, NY

- ◆ Schlachtfest - 21 February, 12:30 & 3:00pm

- ◆ Spring Dinner— 21 March, 1pm

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!**

BOOK REVIEW (continued from page 4)

Chapter 8: Reviewing the Impact of Americanization upon Conventional Danube Swabian Norms. Jacob compares Danube Swabian precepts with related truisms in the US. One example is point 14: Crime and punishment - As firm believers in law and order, Danube Swabians traditionally favored fitting punishment of criminals over more lenient treatment that law-breaker are generally accorded in America." Jacob provides 84 points to ponder. These would also be a welcomed contribution to the DVHH site. An entire section is dedicated to the Danube Swabians in the U.S.A.: A History Overview. I appreciated Jacob providing sources for statistics, as some writers don't.

This book is a survivor story, a love story, a Donauschwaben history and reference book, and LOADED with information. Why, his References / Annotated Bibliography alone is 20 pages long! It provides an extensive library of information, which is enjoyable to read.

Reading this book, was like living next door to Jacob and every evening sitting on the porch with him as he shared the most intimate details of his life. Some very sad and difficult for him to recall, while other stories keep you on the edge of your seat waiting to hear what happens next. His travels to various countries in Europe, and South America are exciting and learning that each venture was a contributing factor towards Jacob obtaining his goals.

Thank you Jacob, for sharing your multi-faceted life, and in my opinion you are truly the Ernest Hemingway among the twentieth-century Donauschwaben!

A quote from Hemingway that best describes the Jacob I came to know . . . "Courage is grace under pressure"

The story in part is heart-breaking and other parts uplifting. It is one of triumph and tragedy. It is one that follows a family through the depths of devastation and sees them out the other side. Though some sections will overwhelm the reader with its vast historical tidbits, it is a well-written story and one that I would highly recommend to all, especially new Donauschwaben researchers.

Warm regards,
Jody McKim Pharr, Canton, GA (Note: Jody is the founder of the DVHH.
(Permission given to re-print).

Banat Biographies: Jacob Steigerwald

http://www.dvhh.org/banat/biographies/steigerwald_jacob.htm

Banat Topola Village Coordinator: Jacob Steigerwald

<http://www.dvhh.org/banat/village/banat-topola.htm>

Profile of an Americanized Danube Swabian Ethnically Cleansed under Tito by Jacob Steigerwald. Littleton, Colorado: Translation & Interpretation Service, Littleton, CO, 2001. ISBN 0-9615505-4-6