

# Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 23 Issue 4



Oct-Dec 2023

## Points of Interest

- The National Football League held two games this year in Germany (Frankfurt). Miami vs. Kansas City on November 5th and Indianapolis vs. New England on November 12th. Tickets for the two NFL games sold out in minutes this year.
- Although not as popular as traditional football/soccer, American football is catching on. Patrick Esume and ex-players, Björn Werner and Sebastian Vollmer have been the face of the NFL broadcasts here.
- Esume is also Commissioner of the European League of Football, with 17 teams across nine countries. This league plays from June to September and this year attracted 35,000 fans for its championship game in September.
- Our newsletters are copyrighted © 2023. All rights reserved. Source: *Phillyburbs.com* — "German announcer spreads word about football", 11/12/2023.

## Inside this issue:

<b>Club Matters</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DS Culture</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Membership News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Deutsche Ecke</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Blast from the Past</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Newsletter Sponsors</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Club Events</b>	<b>13</b>

## A Great Start to the Christmas Season....

Our Club finished out the year with song, good food and cheer! Thank you to all who attended our St. Nikolausfeier yesterday. As we look back over this past year, it is clear that 2023 was a success for our organization. We appreciate the continued support of so many wonderful members and friends as we strive to keep our traditions alive and strong. Your hard work and continued support make it possible! Vielen Dank! We wish you all Frohe Weihnachten and look forward to a great year 2024!

First, a special thank you to all our volunteers who made it happen, getting the Club ready for this event and for preparing such a wonderful meal! Thank you also to all our cookie baking volunteers. We can all agree that there was a tremendous variety of baked goods! Our celebration began with a delicious buffet lunch and great camaraderie! After a great meal, our MC Hans Martini, together with his daughter Luisa Scheideler began the program by welcoming everyone and Luisa, with her beautiful voice, then led the audience in singing Christmas Carols both in German and English! Our poetry readers, Christa Pullion and Katie James, as well as Anna Martini, who did a Bible reading, greatly added to the spirit of the Christmas season. Even our youngest members, Gabriella and Michael Pullion, entertained the audience with a short St. Nikolaus poem.

A raffle also took place supporting our Scholarship fund....thank you all for your generosity. Of course the long anticipated visit of "You Know Who" frightened the audience, but we always know that St. Nick is not far behind to save the day with goodies for the children! Krampus was a bit upset because there were no bad children in the audience; (well....maybe one)! And a few of our older members received a lump of coal. Krampus had his eye on them all year long! This was our last event of 2023! We look forward to welcoming you all again in 2024!

*More pictures on page 5*



## *Club Matters, Members, Friends & Stuff*

**September 14, 2023**

**Escape From WWII Ethnic Cleansing to Refugee Life to NADC Career**

**Franz Bohn**



**Live at the Fuge and on Zoom!**

Schwabenlager Groedig, an abandoned WWII Russian POW camp of 7 barracks outside the town of Groedig, on the outskirts of Salzburg, Austria, served as a refugee camp for approximately 500+ individuals fleeing Yugoslavia at the end of WWII. This is the story of one of those refugees, who eventually immigrated to the United States with his mother in the early 1950s.

Franz Bohn went on to a successful career with the US Navy, including 37 as a Civil Servant, in various R&D, Engineering and Program Management positions at the Naval Air Development Center, in Warminster, PA. He was Program Manager for several major NADC R&D programs, including P-3C Update III, TACAMO and JTIDS.

### *A Donauschwaben "YouTube" Lecture* By Franz Bohn

Our friend, Franz Bohn, recently presented a lecture at "The Fuge", the old Johnsville Naval Air and Development Center, in Warminster, PA about his experience as a Donauschwaben refugee and his immigration to the Philadelphia area. It is now on *Youtube.com* (address below) . Please tune in and watch this informative lecture. Great job Franz.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAKVSxQze8c>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Finally Done!**

Member, Hans Martini, celebrates the wedding of his last daughter, Anna Martini! Hans and Joanne have THREE daughters, all whom have gotten married over the last several years! God Bless them.



\*\*\*\*\*

### *Attention Members and Friends:*

Do you have exciting news you'd like to share.....i.e., weddings, births, milestone birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, etc? We'd love to share it with our newsletter readers (weekly e-news and quarterly newsletter). Send us your announcements by simply replying to this email!

## *The German Hungarians Invite You to* **Dances by the Danube**

A cultural workshop hosted together with the Landesverband der Donauschwaben, U.S.A. for dancers ages 12 & up with previous dance experience

**November 7 & 8**  
at the Cannstatter U.V.

Hansi Mueller & three assistants are traveling to the United States from Timisoara, Romania. Mueller is a certified folk dance instructor teaching zeppolka, & traditional & choreographed folk dances. He is FUN, ENERGETIC, and you will have a BLAST Learning!

**Supper—5pm**

(a meal will be served at 5pm in order to allow participants to attend directly from work)

**Dancing Begins at 6pm**

There is NO CHARGE for the Workshop, however a \$10 donation is requested to cover your meal. Please wear comfortable, breathable clothing and dance shoes. You may attend 1 or both days for a full experience

RSUP to Marlene Fricker—me.fricker@hotmail.com—215.275.4991

Hosted by the

**UNITED GERMAN HUNGARIANS**

at the Cannstatter U.V.—9130 Academy Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19114

## Donauschwaben History & Culture



### History Remembered — Memorial to the Palanka's Benefactor Karl Mezey (Mezey)

By Nikola Milivojevia  
Belgrade, Serbia  
Edited by Dennis J. Bauer

On the occasion of the 126th anniversary of the death of Karl Mezey (1837-1897) at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Bačka Palanka on October 28th 2023 a memorial service was held. Karl was a major benefactor of Palanka, Batschka, Austria-Hungary (now Serbia) and a lawyer in Sombor.

This year's event was initiated on the initiative of Zoltan Farago, President of the Hungarian Cultural and Artistic Association, Vecsera Sándor, and Nikola Milivojević, master historian. The memorial service for the benefactor was held by the local parish priest František Gašparovski.

The main motive for the re-marking this important date for this place is to break the previous discontinuity and the hope that this event will be celebrated at a higher level in the coming years with the patronage of all important cultural and educational institutions, as well as representatives of the local government.

In the period from the beginning of the 20th century until the end of the Second World War, the celebration of Mezey's birthday was organized by the members of the Palanka Fire Brigade. The ceremonial program, which ended with the laying of wreaths in front of the patron's monument, was held every July 7th. On the other hand, on the occasion of the centenary of Mezey's birth in 1837, the amateur historian Nikolaus Hepp immortalized his biography with a 1937 book "Gedankbaltt zu ehren und zur erinnerung an Karl Mezey, Dem Förderer und Wohltäter Palankas".

In the period between 1945 and the first years of the 21st Century, Mezey's name fell into oblivion. His name was omitted from all important publications about Bačka Palanka, while his bust (monument) disappeared after the Second World War. The first initiative to mark the anniversary of Karl Mezey's death was launched in 2017 in the organization of the Roman Catholic Parish of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Society of Collectors Panonnia and the Society of Vecsera Sándor, with the presence of local media and representatives of the municipality.

This year's event was better covered by Serbian and Hungarian language media. On the other side, it was unfortunately attended by only several members of the Cultural and Artistic Society and a few citizens of Bačka Palanka.

**Editor's Note:** Karl was born 7 July 1837 in Palanka of Eduard Mezey and Anna Bauernschmidt. He married Adelheid Zdrahal, daughter of Alois & Anna H. Horwalt Zdrahal on 12 November 1866 in Palanka. Karl died in 1897. Source: the *Palanka Ortssippenbuch in der Batschka* by Anton Reimann, 1981. A large number of our past and present members have roots in Palanka, as Trenton was the largest settling location for these Donaschwaben. Also, Palanka historian, Nikolaus Hepp (above), was the grandfather of our club member, Alex Hepp and the great-grandfather of club member, Liz Tindall.

We want to thank friend of the Club, Nikola Milivojevia, for again submitting articles for our quarterly newsletter.

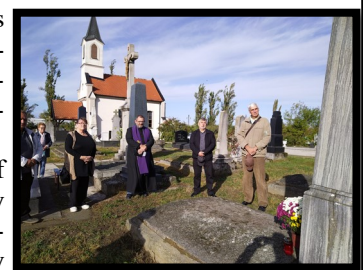
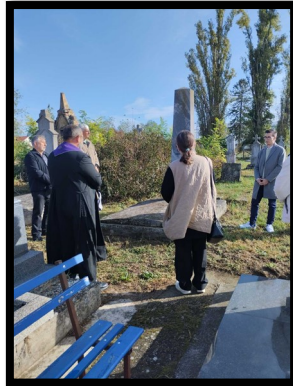
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### How people used to celebrate Christmas in Bačka Palanka

By Nikola Milivojevia

Christmas, as one of the most joyous Christian holidays, occupied an important place in the lives of the inhabitants of Bačka Palanka. With the holiday, they erased all the differences, encouraged the unity, peace and joy that the day of the birth of Jesus Christ brought with it. In the days leading up to it, the inhabitants of Palanka hastily completed their current obligations, so that they could spend the holiday with their loved ones. At the end of November and the beginning of December, which brought with it the first frosts and snow, pig slaughters were organized and suitable meat was chosen for the Christmas table. During the first half of the 20th century, an increasing number of Catholic and Evangelical families introduced Christmas trees into their homes. This custom was established under the influence of Germany and customs from Austria, which the native Palanka Germans brought with them through their cultural, commercial and other ties. The children together with their parents decorated the first Christmas trees with handmade ornaments, apples, candles on clothespins and *Krischkingl* sugar candies. During Advent, children learned appropriate songs and customs from their grandparents, parents and at school to brighten up the upcoming holiday.

Despite the private part of the celebration and rich meals prepared by every household in Palanka, Christmas in Palanka was still a holiday of sharing and giving, dedicated to those who could not afford gifts and a warm meal. Every year during December, the collection of money, clothing, food and other necessities for the most vulnerable fellow citizens was organized. We find traces of these humanitarian actions in the local press. All donations should have been submitted by December 23rd at the latest. For Christmas Eve and the days preceding it, festive events were organized in the *Casino* and in Catholic churches, where gifts were distributed to the most vulnerable. Special emphasis was placed during those events on poor Palanka children. (Continued on page 11)



# Membership News



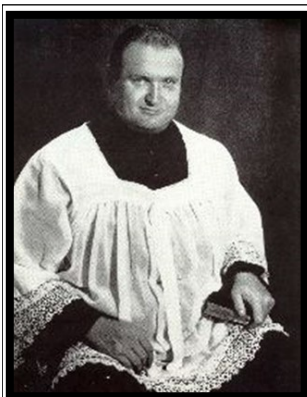
## Club Officers & Staff

**Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor**  
**Bob Walter, Vice President. Kim Walter, Club Photographer/Kitchen Leader**  
**Alfred Tindall, Treasurer & Mike Lenyo, Vice-Treasurer**  
**Secretary: Hans Martini, and Recording Secretary: Brittany Brandecker**  
**Staff Writers: Dennis J. Bauer, Liz Tindall, Hans Martini, Christa Tindall Pullion & others**  
**Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor**  
**AutoKlub Leader and staff: Terry Huff, Pat Huff & Colin Huff**  
**Website Committee: Tom Rubino—Web Master, Christina Martini, & Joe Brandecker, Jr., Support staff**  
**Geneological & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer**  
**Mail Room Coordinator: Hans Martini & Eva Martini**  
**Facebook: Dennis J. Bauer**



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

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



Founding Pastor of St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Los Angeles, California, where he served for 24 years, from 1930 until his death 19 November 1954.

**Rev. Father Mathias** (born Matija) Lani, of Hungarian descent, was born in the Banat region of what is now Serbia. After ordination in 1921, he came to America in 1927, and first served in Bridgeport, Connecticut, before coming to Los Angeles, California, the following year.

St. Stephen's parish served as a safe haven for many Germans and Hungarians fleeing persecution and the instability in Europe following the Second World War. Fr. Lani founded the St. Emmerich Society in Los Angeles to help these people relocate to America.

He was also a skilled vocalist and musician, and he served as choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Vibiana in Downtown Los Angeles. He died at the age of 55, and his funeral procession to Calvary Cemetery was one of the largest in the history of Los Angeles.



Photos from *FindAGrave.com*



### Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Walls!

Members, **Anna Martini and Patrick Walls** tied the knot this past Saturday at St. Gregory the Great RC Church. The beautiful Church wedding was followed by a fun-filled reception, with music by the Heimatklaenge, at the German-American Club in Yardville, NJ. Anna is the Daughter of Hans and JoAnn Martini, and granddaughter of Eva Martini and the late Adam Martini and club members Tony and Nancy Galati. What a year it has been for the Martini Family...two weddings (Chrissy Martini and Sasha Malofiy in June) and a new baby (Gemma) born to Luisa (Martini) and Glenn Scheideler in July. 2023 will surely be a year to remember!

Congratulations to Anna and Pat for a lifetime of love, good health and happiness! Wir gratulieren! \*\*\*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAROLD HUFF!!!!

We send our very best wishes to Club member Harold Huff, who turned 94 last week!. Harold is heavily involved in our annual Euro-American Auto and Motorcycle Show, proceeds of which benefit our Scholarship Fund. He is the father of member Terry Huff and grandfather of members Patrick and Colin Huff who are also active volunteers, not only at our Auto Show, but also our Schlachtfest! **Alles Gute zum 94 Geburtstag Harold! Prosit!**



# Deutsche Ecke & Genealogy

## Cowchips in an Austrian DP Camp After WWII

By Franz Bohn

Hello Everyone, since it's the holiday season and understandably slow, let me tell you a little story:

In one of my previous Schwabenlager stories, I mentioned that we had to use dry cowchips for heating during the Winter in the first few years in our Schwabenlager. Many of you probably thought I was kidding...I was not! I was reminded of those days when I recently saw this image on Facebook, where it shows a pile of dried cowchips (including bullchips ...you can't tell the difference... LoL), stored in Nebraska, as people were getting ready for the harsh Winters ahead. For many, cowchips were their primary heating resource.

I remember during September and October going into the surrounding pastures' looking for and picking up cowchips and bringing them back to our camp. They weren't always totally dry, some were quite fresh, so it was not a very pleasant task. But...it meant Winter survival! We stored the collected chips and stacked them strategically in the back of the barracks, so that the sun and wind would dry them out. When using them during the cold times, it's quite surprising that they burnt very efficiently, and contrary to popular belief, the aroma was not all that bad, not even as bad as some of us smelled because we had no bathing facilities. Later on, as things improved, we were able to supplement with peat bricks and coals, which helped assure a full Winter's warmth.

Now, during the Spring and Summer, we kids found innovative ways to use the cowchips in our games. With our Ulacker pocket-knives, we shaped the dry cowchips (they had to be dry! LoL) into perfect circles and used them as early versions of frisbees. We got quite good at that game and kept improving our throwing techniques, wind calculations and firing accuracy. One of our members, our Schwabenlager cowchip champ, was so good, he was able to catch the chips with his teeth while running backwards at full speed. LoL.

So you see, without TV and Internet, we were still able to not only invent means of cold weather survival, but even entertain ourselves as best as we could. Kids of today are missing out on so much !

Editors note: Franz is a friend of our club and a Donauschwab. He survived WWII and was relocated to a Displaced Person camp in Austria after the War. He eventually immigrated and settled in the Philadelphia area. Franz has written several articles for our Club Newsletter in the past. Vielen dank!

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### Christmas Party Photos (continued from page 1)



## TREFFEN 2022—LABOR DAY WEEKEND-YARDVILLE, NJ

### **Get Your Trenton Treffen Commemoratives (still available)**

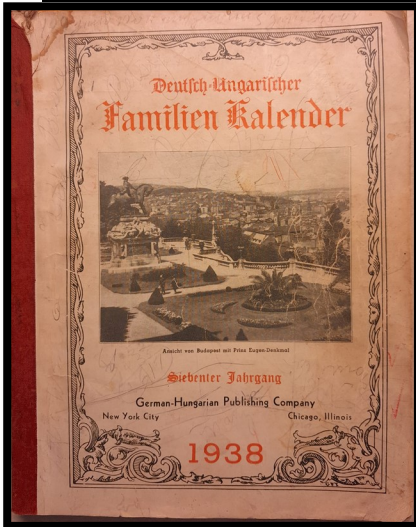
Trenton Treffen Commemoratives still available for purchase. Please reply to this email if interested!

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

Photos below. (Tee-shirt shows front and back). Designed by our own Sofi Walter!



**Blast From the Past—Schwab Advertisers 1938—Trenton**



<p><b>PETER BOHN</b> Aus Gajdobra, Bacska Schneidermeister Cleaning &amp; Pressing 1218 S. Broad Street</p>	<p><b>ANDREAS REIN</b> Aus Gorjan, Slav. First Class <b>BARBER SHOP</b> 658 Beatty Street</p>	<p><b>KARL BAUER</b> Aus Palanka, Bacska <b>GROCERIES and DELICATESSEN</b> Liberty and Franklin Sts.</p>	<p><b>JOHN JAEGER</b> Aus Paripas, Bacska <b>MEAT MARKET and Groceries</b> Woodland &amp; Remsen Sts.</p>
<p><b>ADAM BLECHL</b> Aus Palanka, Bacska <b>DEPARTMENT STORE</b> Alle Schnittwaren S. Broad and Liberty Sts.</p>	<p><b>F. Weisgaerber</b> Aus Kreuzstätten, B. R. Erstklassiger Huf- und Wagenschmied 1334 S. Olden Avenue</p>	<p><b>ANTON GUSZ</b> Aus Kreuzstätten, B. R. <b>BAR &amp; CAFE</b> Alle Sorten Getränke 1849 S. Clinton Avenue</p>	<p><b>JOSEPH JERGER</b> Aus Deronja, Bacska Erstklassiger <b>BARBER SHOP</b> 1234 S. Clinton Avenue</p>
<p><b>JOHN KOPF</b> Aus Segenthau, B. R. First Class <b>BARBER SHOP</b> 154 S. Olden Avenue</p>	<p><b>Joseph Doerner</b> Aus Obrovac, Bacska <b>MILLWORK and STORE FRONTS</b> 44 Emmett Avenue</p>	<p><b>LORENZ KLEIN</b> Aus Paripas, Bacska First Class <b>BARBER SHOP</b> 10 West Street</p>	<p><b>CONRAD KUNDL</b> Aus Lilomos, Bacska <b>MEAT MARKET and Groceries</b> 415 Cummings Avenue</p>

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**Palanka-Unterstützungs-Verein**  
von Trenton, N. J.

Beamte: Paul Hahn, *Präs.*, Pongratz Flesch, *Vize-Präs.*, Martin Lepold, *Schatzm.*, Mathias Kamrad, *Fin.-Schr.*, John Flesch, 1282 S. Olden Ave., *Prot.-Sekretär.*

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Versammlungen Jeden 1. Montag Abend im Monat in der

Seit 17 Jahren liefern wir stets frische  
**Milch, Rahm, Butter und Kaese**  
in Ihrer Nachbarschaft

Warum nicht auch bei Ihnen?

Telefonieren Sie 8923



**Erster Paripaser Einjähriger Kranken-Unterstützungs-Verein**  
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Trustees: Joseph Merger, Sebastian Tiefenbach und John Gusz.

Versammlungen Jeden 1. Montag Abend im Monat in der  
**„Hiel's Halle“ 701 Whitaker Ave.**

Mitgliederzahl 245. Gegründet am 1. Jan. 1914

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Seit 17 Jahren liefern wir stets frische  
**Milch, Rahm, Butter und Kaese**  
in Ihrer Nachbarschaft

Warum nicht auch bei Ihnen?

Telefonieren Sie 8923

**Jacob Lieblang**  
151 ASHMORE AVE. TRENTON, N. J.






# Our AutoKlub News





Big Congratulations to Club member Terry Huff. He is celebrating 45 years in business in Fallsington, PA. Terry specializes in German car repairs. He is a major sponsor of the annual Old School Euros Car Club - "Dubs in the Shrubs Campout & Car Show" and our annual German-American/Trenton Donauschwaben - "Euro-American Auto & Motorcycle Show".


Terry's sons Colin and Pat (Club members also) threw Terry a small surprise party at the shop on December 10th. Club members in attendance presented him with a certificate of congratulations. Philly's own radio station *WMMR*, the *Pierre Robert Show*, even aired a segment on December 11th on congratulating Terry on his 45 years of business after Pat sent them a note..very, very cool....



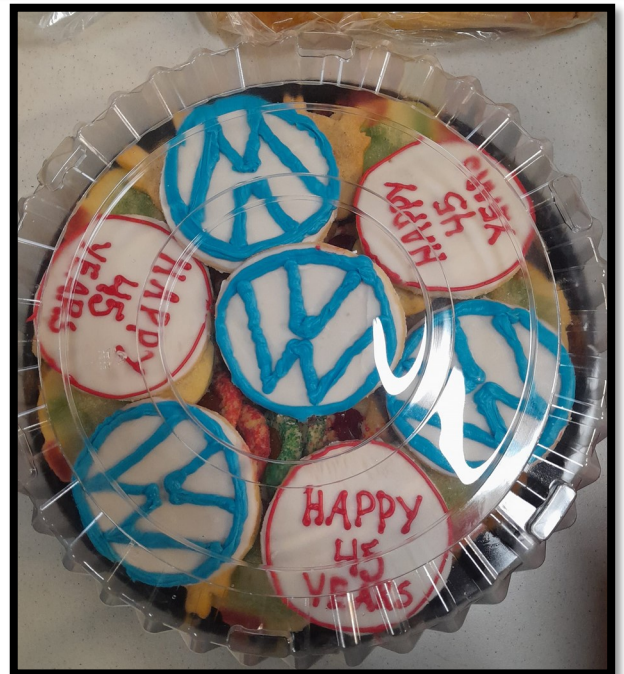


We wish Terry Huff of Terry's Service Center  
Fallsington, PA  
A Happy 45th Anniversary in Business



On Behalf of the Members of the  
Trenton Donauschwaben, Yardville, NJ  
this 10th of December 2023  
*(Thanks for your Annual sponsorship of our Euro-American Auto Show)*





# Newsletter Sponsors and Advertisers

**Printed Quarterly Newsletter Sponsors :**

- \* Frau Marlene Novosel & Familie \*
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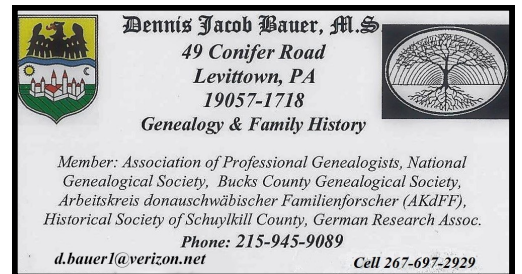
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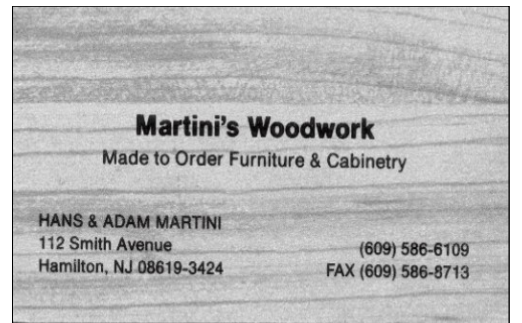
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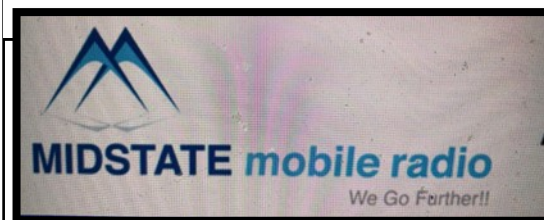
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**CLUB EVENTS FOR 2023**

*2023 Calendar of Events of the Donauschwaben of Trenton  
Please note that reservations should be made at least one week in advance if at all possible. Thank you!*



**January 8th, Sunday First Dinner of the New Year!**

**January 22nd , Sunday Annual Business Meeting**

**February 12th, Sunday SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings)**

**March 5th, Sunday Back to the Old Country Dinner**

**April 2nd, Sunday Easter Luncheon**

**April 29th and 30th National Donauschwaben Meeting in Cincinnati**

**May 7th , Sunday Mother's Day Dinner**

**May 27th - 28 th, Donauschwaben Soccer Festival Milwaukee Donauschwaben**

**June 11th, Sunday Father's Day Picnic**

**July 1st through the 4 th of July Canoe & Camping Trip (reserve soon)**

**July 15th, Saturday (rain date July 16th) 18th Car Show at the German American Club**

**July 23rd, Sunday Summer Picnic**

**September 1st – 3 rd Mansfield Treffen**

**September 17th, Sunday Harvest Festival Dinner**

**October 15th, Sunday Club's 67 th Anniversary Banquet**

**October 29th, Sunday Memorial Service at Our Lady of Lourdes**

**November 19th, Sunday SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings)**

**December 3rd, Sunday St. Nikolaus/Christmas Party**

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

# Treffen 2023

## Mansfield Treffen 2023

By Hans Martini

A spirited group of Trenton club members made the 8-hour drive to central Ohio this past Labor Day Weekend to take part in the annual gathering of the Donauschwaben of North America known simply as “the Treffen”. It was exactly one year after Trenton had its own Treffen and, truth be told, most of us wanted to see how Mansfield would compare to ours. As it turned out there were some similarities but there were noticeable differences too. In the end, it didn’t really matter since we had lots of fun... and this time we didn’t have to do or worry about anything!

Mansfield Liederkranz, as it’s officially called, is a large club in terms of membership and in terms of clubhouse and property size. They have the distinction of being the only club in North America that has state licensed gambling on site. That’s right, there was a backroom with flashing lights and ding, ding, ding throughout the weekend! They also have a range of other more traditional club activities including dance groups, soccer and more.

Many of us stopped at the clubhouse for the Friday night welcome social. This is always a good way to kick-start the weekend as you mingle your way around the room saying hello wherever you go while trying not to spill beer on anyone. The highlight that evening was the special performance by a dance group from Hungary that all enjoyed.

The meat and potatoes of the weekend however were the activities on Saturday. Things kicked off at 11 AM with the parade of clubs - always a crowd favorite. No crazy long speeches followed “thank goodness “ and then it was time for... a beer. Indeed, there is never a wrong time for your first beer and Mansfield had lots to choose from. The food was good too so kudos to the Mansfield organization for doing well with arguably the most important part of any German event!

At 2:00 PM the much-anticipated dance and culture competition roared to life. Seven clubs participated and every single one of them did well. These are youth dance groups that sing, recite and dance in beautiful German attire according to a strict set of rules. Amazing. There were only a few degrees of separation between the clubs so it’s hard to say any club dominated. The takeaway from the competition was that we can all be proud of our young people who took the feature event of the weekend very seriously, worked very hard, and performed very well. Wunderbar!

Our Eastern Region’s representative dance group from the UGH did not take part in the competition but they did perform on both Saturday and Sunday as did many others. Let’s note here that there were seven UGH dancers who are also Trenton members. Nonetheless, full credit goes to our sister club the United German Hungarians (UGH) who are always ready to perform wherever they go with panache and professionalism. The enthusiastic applause they received after each performance says it all.

Activities went on late into the night on Saturday and it was midnight before we got back to our hotels. It was therefore somewhat difficult for those of us who had meetings early Sunday morning to get moving. But, as the old Schwobs used to say, “grosser Bu Abends, grosser Bu in der Früh” or “big boy at night, big boy in the morning”. So, we gathered our wits about us, put on our Donauschwaben finery and made our way back to the clubhouse as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as we could manage.

Meetings, Mass and mead, then followed. (Actually, mead isn’t technically beer but it does start with an “m” so there you have it.) The rest of Sunday was an enjoyable mix of dance group performances, good food and lots of comradery. As we headed back to the hotels one last time it was clear that while the Mansfield Treffen wasn’t the Trenton Treffen or any other Treffen, it still had that important blend of fellowship, “Gemütlichkeit” and cultural elements



every one of these gatherings has always had. It’s why we go.

**The St. Louis Treffen is slated for Labor Day Weekend, 2024. Come see for yourself.**

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### **A Palanka Christmas (continued from page 3)**

A Christmas fair was organized around the *Immaculate Conception of Mary* church in the center of town, where Christmas carols were sung, homemade cakes and specialties were eaten, and mulled wine was drunk. On these occasions, a part of the Orthodox population who celebrated Christmas two weeks later also join those gathered in their celebration. During Christmas Eve, children would go from house to house and sing Christmas carols. In exchange for them they would receive rich prizes from the host in the form of money, sweets, school supplies, toys, clothes and dried meat products. The crown of the Christmas celebration was the midnight mass organized in three Catholic and one Protestant church, where several generations of families welcomed the birth of the Savior together. The same people gathered the next day after the festive breakfast for the Christmas Mass where they received Holy Communion.

Source: *Die Wacht*. Backa Palanka, Yugoslavia. Sonntag, 25 Dez 1932 issue. \*\*\*

## Scholarships & Culture & Food



### Second Floor of our Clubhouse!

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

In 2022 we awarded three student scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. Thank you to those that donated to the fund and to our AutoKlub for their donation from the 2022 Euro-American Auto Show. We awarded three more this Spring of 2023.

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### Fall - November Schlachtfest 2023 A Success as Always

What a feast it was! Thank you good people for your excellent support yesterday, whether dine in or takeout! We certainly hope you enjoyed the meal and did not leave hungry!

We were also delighted to welcome Frau Smith's Steinert High School German students and their families! It was a way of giving them a first-hand cultural experience! We thank them for joining and supporting us!

As always, our volunteers did an outstanding job....putting in countless hours in meal preparation. The process begins at the beginning of the week with all the shopping; pots are cleaned and spices measured/weighed the Thursday before; cabbage is cleaned, cooked, de-spined, and meat is cut and prepared on Friday; Saturday begins the Bratwurst and Leberwurst process, as well as stuffing the cabbage, etc. Then early Sunday morning everything is cooked/finalized; donuts are made and ready for our first 12:30 seating. A HUGE HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS! Below are photos for you to enjoy! Article from Club's Weekly e-News. Thanks Liz.



# Club Events for the Fall 2023



**2023 Fall— DATES  
& TIMES—Come out  
and join us!**

◆October 15th, Sunday  
Club's 67th Anniversary  
Party. 1pm.

◆October 29th, Sunday,  
Memorial Service at Our  
Lady of Lourdes Cemetery. 1pm.

◆November 19, Sunday, Schlachtfest dinner,  
two seating (noon and 3pm).

◆December 3, Sunday, Annual Christmas  
Party. 1pm.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New  
Year to All!*

Please call (609) 585-1932 for all meal  
reservations (advisable and required for both  
Schlachtfests) or email at  
[dsatrenton@aol.com](mailto:dsatrenton@aol.com).



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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 sponsor our newsletters. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.



**Auf Wiedersehen bei den  
Donauschwaben!**

## TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK IS SOLD OUT

Attention All Cooks/Bakers— The cook books have been sold out! The book contained over 95 recipes (breakfast, main dishes, appetizers, sides, desserts, etc.). A big thanks to all of the many members and friends who contributed their treasured recipes for this past edition. Also a special thanks to Christa Tindall Pullion & Kim Walter and their helpers for all their hard work putting this book together. Vielen Dank!

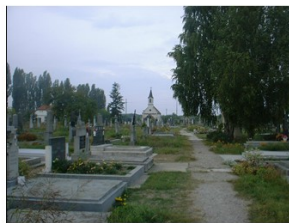
However, we are now collecting additional recipes to include in a new edition. So get those recipes to Liz Tindall.

\*\*\*\*



Please consider sponsoring our quarterly printed newsletter. Cost is \$35 annually. Have any news or milestone events to share? Please send them to Dennis Bauer, our newsletter publisher at [donauschwaben5@gmail.com](mailto:donauschwaben5@gmail.com). He has been our Club Newsletter Editor for over 24 years, Wow! \*\*\*

*A Collection of Genealogical Information  
of Palankaer-Americans and Related  
Family Members - 1895 to 2008  
(Includes a history of the Donauschwaben in Palanka,  
Batschka, Austria-Hungary and the Trenton, NJ Area)*



The Roman Catholic cemetery and chapel in German Palanka taken in the 1990s.

Compiled by Dennis J. Bauer and the late Peter Kiss  
Genealogical Information abstracted by Dennis J. Bauer

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

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

He is now working on Volume 2 for printing in 2024.