

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

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Points of Interest



- The German Biergarten has been around since the 19th century.
- Bavarian King Ludwig I was a factor in its birth & popularity.
- One of the oldest food safety laws was that of the German beer purity law of 1539. It regulated when and what ingredients had to be used in beer production.
- The shade of trees in the biergarten provided a cool atmosphere to drink ones beer in and later enjoy a light meal "Brotzeit" with ones brew—Prost!
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Greetings Members and Friends!

Welcome to our club's 55th anniversary dinner. Today we celebrate an organization deeply devoted to the promotion and perpetuation of German cultural heritage. Indeed, we are very happy with the successes enjoyed over these many years, whether through our education and scholarship programs, the dance groups, AutoKlub, outdoors group, memorial committee, newsletter/website, monthly dinners by our wonderful kitchen staff, etc.

Of course, nothing would be possible without the hard work and dedication of so many wonderful members, past and present.

With your support, dear members and friends, this organization will continue to honor and preserve the culture of our ancestors for many years to come in an atmosphere where family, friends and members all feel welcome.

To everyone here with us today and to our group of hardworking volunteers who made this event possible, we say a heartfelt "danke".

Again, thank you for joining us today.
We hope you have a most enjoyable time.

Prosit! Der Vorstand

*And many more to
come.....*

Club Celebrates 55 years at our October 16th Dinner

Programm

Vorspeise
Tischgebet
Mahlzeit!
Nationalhymne
Einleitung
Gedicht
Vorstellung der Gäste
Gedicht
Ansprache des Vereinspräsidenten
Präsentation
Gedicht
Volkslied: "Kein schöner Land"
Vorführung der Kulturgruppe

Musik von Franz Herdt

Speisekarte

Hors D'oeuvres
Hühnersuppe
Kraut Salat
Schwein oder Huhn Schnitzel
Gemuese
Hausgemachte Torte
Kaffee oder Tee

Getränke sind in der Vereinsbar erhältlich.

Club Matters & Members

2011 Christmas Greeting from the President

On behalf of the Trenton Donauschwaben organization, I would like to wish all of our members and friends a blessed and enjoyably Merry Christmas as well as a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012. May your holidays be filled with good tidings and cheer in the company of family and friends. This past year has been another good one for the Trenton Donauschwaben. Let me briefly mention some of the highlights.

Clearly youth participation remains a big part of club life at the Donauschwaben. Our young people are making a difference! Up to a dozen of them are part of the Philadelphia/Trenton Folks Dance Group that has performed in places as impressive as the Trenton Thunder and Philadelphia Phillies Stadiums, as far away as the Catskill Mountains of New York and the Mansfield, Ohio Donauschwabentreffen and many places in between. All the while they have represented the very best our club has to offer with enthusiasm and style. Of course, they're also an important part of staffing and organizing our club's regular activities too. Thank you one and all.

Speaking of our regular activities: Our monthly dinners remain the life-blood of the organization and we are very grateful for the talented and dedicated volunteers who make them possible. They are the finest club members anyone could ask for! The dinners are the only way we are able to keep the doors open after all. More importantly, these undertakings bring together our members and friends in a way that strengthens the bond that holds our club together. We encourage everyone to join us for dinner at least once in 2012... but do call/e-mail ahead for reservations to insure seating!

Our language and cultural education program over the past year has enjoyed some big successes even while challenges remain. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our membership, the scholarship program has been able to award thousands of dollars to deserving high school students for German language excellence. This is not just a tangible way for us to give back to the community but it also affirms the very reason our club exists in the first place. There are other initiatives related to this outreach including welcoming dozens of German language high school students and their families to our *Schlachtfeste* and ongoing efforts to build a museum. We will be addressing the challenge of restarting our own language school over the coming year and welcome any suggestions you may have.

Let's not forget to mention the wonderful crew staging our Euro-American Auto Show; our adult folks dance group; this fine newsletter; our super website; our memorial services; special programs for Mother's Day, *Stiftungsfest* and *St. Nikolausfeier*; outdoors activities and more. Wow!

While the successes over the past year were many, let us remember the members, family and friends who are no longer with us. It is because of them that our club is where it is today and it is in their memory that we continue to do the good work that lies ahead tomorrow. May they rest in Peace, Amen. Let us also keep our members and friends who are suffering from illness or injury in our thoughts and prayers. Best wishes one and all.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to an-

other successful year. Please make every effort to support your club wherever and whenever possible. We need you! With your continued help there is no doubt 2012 will be a good year for the Donauschwaben. *Prosit. Frohe Weihnachten und alles Gute im neuen Jahr.*

SPORTS CAR MUSEUM & BEER GARDEN TRIP

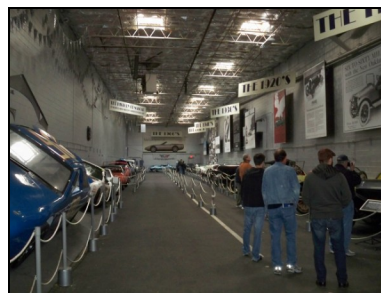


On the spur of the moment Saturday, 26 November 2011, AutoKlub members, Terry Huff, Dennis Bauer, Pat Huff & Colin Huff decided to check out the *Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum* off I-95 near the Philly airport. (www.SimeoneMusuem.org). The plan was, if it was worth the time, that we would schedule an AutoKlub road trip for the Spring. Well it was really

worth the \$12 admission fee for sure.

The museum is located in a converted warehouse and is the private collection of Dr. Fred Simeone. The collection includes about 75 racing sports cars from all over the world, dating back to 1909. Each car is displayed with a back drop and its own personal history. We were fortunate that day in that Fred brought out the 1963 Corvette Grand Sport and the 1964 Cobra Daytona Coupe for a test ride/display out back in the parking lot for all to see and HEAR. It is open everyday, 10am-4pm except Mondays.

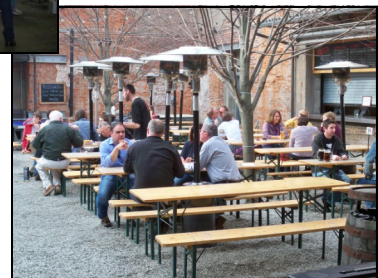
For a late lunch on the way home we stopped at the newly opened *Frankford Hall Beer Garden* (www.frankfordhall.com) at 1210 Frankford Ave. Another great place. We sampled the Spicy Bauerwurst, the Kaesekrainer, the red cabbage and the Spaetzle dishes and washed it down with Spater Oktoberfest and Sprecher Black Bavarian beers (on-tap). What a great day, sports cars and German food/drink. Life is good.



Car Museum

We will setup another event in the Spring!
Note: all the sausages are made by Ernest A. Illg Meats in Chalfont, PA.

Frankford Hall—Biergarten



Genealogy, Culture & History Section



Totengedenkfeier Reflection

By Christa Tindall Pullion

Die Heimat. In the German culture, this term is usually attached to fond memories of a family's hometown. For over 200 years, since the Hapsburgs establishment of the Donauschwaben settlements in Yugoslavia, the German people peacefully coexisted with their Slavic neighbors. While the main battles of WWII took place in other parts of the European continent, other people endured suffering that was generally overlooked. Few people know of the events that changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Donauschwaben families as well as their perspective and memories of this beloved "Heimat."

As the granddaughter and grandniece of Neusatz and Jarek concentration camp survivors, I will never fully understand the pain and suffering that several survivors here with us today endured. I never had to live in fear of murder, torture or starvation as a child. I never had to live under Tito's cruel regime and cannot even imagine putting myself in your shoes. My perspectives are from the outside looking in.

While war times are never pleasant, the genocide of the Donauschwaben was a wartime event that did not need to happen. As WWII came to an end, the Russian troops entered Yugoslavia and the Serbian Partisans quickly installed their Military Government. This was not good news for the German population who had lived in peace and harmony with their Slavic neighbors for over two hundred years. Many did not foresee the atrocities that were to come and found it difficult to leave their beloved "Heimat."

The Donauschwaben who stayed home soon learned that life would not be easy under Tito's Partisans. Effective almost immediately after the transition of power took place, Germans were no longer considered to be citizens and anything that happened to them was outside the law. Everything belonged to the state, including their lives and bodies. A classic example of Communism, the Partisans took it to the extreme. Many Donauschwaben, living without rights and possessions, were, in effect, reduced to slavery.

The next three years proved to be difficult for our Donauschwaben. From hard labor in the camps and little food or water, to orphaned children and rampant disease, nothing was easy. In some cases, like my grandfathers, the contraction of typhoid fever proved to be lifesaving, as he was too ill to go to Siberia. Who knows what his fate would have been.

I have read many firsthand experiences published in books and have listened to countless stories from family who survived the camps. The detailed descriptions of the inhumane treatment by the guards on our people were appalling. The Donauschwaben fate might have been worse, had locals not stepped in to help. Luckily, many of the Slavic folk assisted the surviving Donauschwaben in escaping the brutal camps. After several years of living in constant fear, they had taken risks to escape in order to start new lives in other countries. While it is comforting to know that we were aided by many caring people, it is difficult to forget how many of our family members are still unaccounted for.

The main issue behind the liquidation was racism. Had this happened in the world today, we would hope and expect that other countries would have come to the aid of our people. I often wonder how different the world would be, had 32% or 175,000 Donauschwaben not lost their lives as victims of mass shootings, starvation, diseases and work camps. Imagine if the young victims had survived and raised their own families in the world today. Imagine how many more good Donauschwaben families would be living among us. It is tragic that this population was persecuted and lives and families were destroyed for no reason other than barbaric desires.

I feel very fortunate that my immediate family survived and fled to Austria. It is sad to think that not everyone in the family shared the same fate as several never returned home to the town of Palanka. I am sure this is true for every family here today. After all the families had to live through, I would be wrong not to educate myself on the plight of our Donauschwaben. I still listen to the many stories shared at the Sunday dinner table about how things were and how lucky we are that we are all together as a family today. Family. This is something that the Partisans took from many of our parents and grandparents. It reminds me of how important family is- how many of the people living peacefully in Yugoslavia would have loved to see their parents or siblings or children one last time. Never being able to say good bye, never giving one last hug... I couldn't imagine this.

In closing, I am thankful that we keep our traditions strong and stick together as a club. While many people worldwide may not be familiar with the stories of our people, it is good to know that the connections we, and Donauschwaben worldwide, have to the club are still strong. The annual Landestreffen demonstrates that the surviving people who have immigrated to America and Canada are still proud of their Donauschwaben roots—the atrocity in the mid 1940's has not affected their pride and has not caused a loss of identity, one that started in the Heimat and grew through Europe, North America and South America. This subject is very important to me and I feel that it is essential to keep the memory alive. I hope we can continue to remember those who are not with us today and never forget the atrocities that they had to endure. They are no longer able to have a voice, so it is up to us, the children and grandchildren, to keep their stories alive.

Note: the above was delivered by Christa at our Memorial Service at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Hamilton, NJ on 30 October 2011. (See page 14 for related article)

Membership News



2011 Club Officers & Newsletter Staff

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

Hans Martini, Secretary.

Staff Writers: Hans & Adam Martini, Andy Franz, Brittaney Brandecker, Christa Tindall Pullion & Michael Lenyo

AutoKlub Leader: Terry Huff

Website Committee: Tom Rubino, Dennis J. Bauer & Terri Penrith

Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer

Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome new members;

Paul, Janet, Paul Jr. & Kimberly Hartz of Mercerville, NJ,
Gerry & Patricia Goodwin of Davie, FL,
Phylis Setz of Mercerville, NJ,
Joseph & Barbara Demyon of Yardville, NJ,
Mark, Maximilian & Dane Aguilar-Aasted of Pennington, NJ and
Bill, Joann, William, Cody & Jeremy Ward of Tabernacle, NJ.

Willkommen!

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

Get Well to members, **Jim Brunner, Joe Vecchione, Maggi Elz, Carol Bauer, Maria Prummer, Joanne Kleer, Katherina Schen, Evi Schmidt & Andy Franz.**

Gute Besserung!
Nun muß sich alles, alles wenden.
Die Welt wird schöner mit jedem Tag;
Man weiß nicht, was noch werden mag.
Ludwig Uhland "Frühlingstote"



Congratulations to member **Kelli Mayer** on passing the NJ CPA exam. She is now a licensed public accountant in NJ. Kudos Kelli!

Also congrats to member **Liz Tindall** who was just recently appointed to the St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center Foundation Board of directors in Lawrenceville, NJ. She also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Hamilton Area YMCA.



Our World Travelers, Kurt Müller & wife, Liz, report that after his deployment to Afghanistan they spent their anniversary in Italy. They then visited Greece, Crete & Santorini. Kurt made stops in Dubai and Istanbul to and from Afghanistan. He and Liz are now home in Maryland safe and sound and making plans for Holiday trips to visit family members here in the States. Kurt also hopes to make a ski trip to Snowshoe, WV this winter. Welcome home Müllers & remember the door is always open here at the club for a visit!



Condolences— member, **John J. Klauser**, 89, of Hamilton, NJ, passed away at home Sunday, Sept. 18, surrounded by family. John was born in Trenton to John (Johann) and Regina Klauser who were from Vienna-Neustadt, Austria. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mae. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.



Congrats—After many, many years of deer hunting trips to western PA, member, **Steve Brandecker**, finally got his first buck. Steve bagged this large seven point buck here in Mercer County, NJ. I think it was Papa J (his hunting partner this time) that brought him the good luck! Venison anyone?

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1



Remembrances of Austria, part 5

By Adam Martini - Translation from the April-June 2011 issue

So in the late 1940s and early 1950s we lived in the village of Haigermoos in Pfaffing. Looking back, these were among the best years of my early life and I still feel the pull to go back to this part of Austria to this day.

But life goes on. I was now done with my fourth year in "Volksschule" and needed to decide my future. Would I continue on with this type of schooling for another four years or would I try to enter the more academically rigorous "Hauptschule"? This was not an easy question since Haigermoos and the surrounding area didn't have a Hauptschule and the community would have to pay extra to send me to one. What's more, the village secretary didn't like the idea of sending a refugee boy like me to the Oberndorf Hauptschule, the closest such school, especially since none of my native born classmates wanted to go.

This question of finances was a particularly prickly one and it had the secretary up in arms. He came to our humble hut but wouldn't enter. He called out in a loud voice that it wasn't right that the village had to pay for a non-native born student. "You're just poor refugees" he said using a slang term given to folks like us. He came up with a plan whereby my mom would pay the tuition amount to the village of Haigermoos and the village would, in turn, forward the money to the Oberndorf school. This would allow the village to keep up the appearance that it was fulfilling its obligation while not having to actually pay to do so.

My mother would have none of it and told him she would pay the school directly. This didn't sit well with the secretary but there was little he could do except get on his bicycle and leave. That's how I ended up in the Oberndorf school.

Oberndorf in the province of

Salzburg, Austria, lies on the Salsach river and is a very much larger community than Haigermoos. One could in fact almost call it a small city. Directly across the winding Salzach is Bavaria, Germany, and the town of Laufen. This Bavarian gem is very old with narrow streets, beautiful buildings and a magnificent cathedral. But back to Oberndorf...

Oberndorf's chief claim to fame has to be that it is the birthplace of the beloved Christmas song, "Silent Night, Holy Night". Folks come from near and far to enjoy the sweet melodies of this wonderful song during the Christmas season. The small chapel where it was first played is still there for all to see.

The landscape in this area is flat near the river and hilly further back. The tiny villages and very old farmsteads in the vicinity of Oberndorf create an almost idyllic setting. The people, the fields, houses and daily activities – it all fits just right. There's a pleasing rhythm to the way of life that's hard to describe.

My schoolmates would often come from well-to-do families with businesses and I was invited to spend the weekends with them on a regular basis. I was thus able to observe the qualities and character of Austrians from many walks of life. The positive impressions I had from so many different folks remain with me to this day. I firmly believe it has helped give my life direction and an inner strength.

Oberndorf was an entirely new life for me, and it definitely wasn't easy at first. I was an outsider from a small village while most of my classmates already knew each other. I was also a refugee with a strange last name! It took a while before this situation improved. In the mean time, I set about to learn as much as I could as quickly as possible. I wanted to excel in everything I did in part to show the others that this fellow with the funny last name and no home to return to could run with the best of them.

My time in the Oberndorf Hauptschule was filled with interesting field trips and educational activities. We would go hiking in the Alps or in nearby fields and forests, visiting his-

toric structures or making observations of the local flora and fauna. Wherever we went songs would be sung all along the way. These melodies remain fresh in my mind to this day.

Our instructor, Mr. Hoefelmayer, arranged for us to be able to visit the Salzburg Theater in the standing room section. There we saw many classical plays without having to pay anything. We also attended many musical performances in Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. Slowly but surely, my view of the world became broader and broader.

Those four years in Oberndorf went by quite quickly. At the end of it all, we could all be proud of having a thorough education that included an appreciation for the natural world around us. Back then, one could demonstrate his or her educational background just by the way one carried oneself or spoke. Today, it seems it's often not so easy to tell. Sometimes the only way to know if a person attended an institution of higher learning is if he or she is wearing a t-shirt that says so!

I don't know how it is in Austria today but back then we had very good teachers. They knew what was important and why. They were very well respected and took great pride in knowing the subject matter inside and out. They knew how to motivate and seemed to understand the value of a good teacher-student relationship.

Much has changed since the 1950s, so many advances and so many unbelievable achievements. Yet, it seems we've lost a lot too. Family life has fallen victim to the pursuit of the almighty dollar, sometimes out of necessity but often for reasons less convincing. Even what is considered "necessary" today is questionable since folks could do with far less just as well.

It seems the consequence of all this is that the modern man is not so sure about himself or his capabilities. He is often less serious, less considerate and more superficial. Of course, there are also those who haven't fallen victim to the pitfalls of contemporary society. They have found ways to live a positive and fulfilling life despite the distractions.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

„Land der Berge, Land am Strome,“

Es ist höchste Zeit mal auf eine Lücke hinzuweisen über die ich mir immer Gedanken mache und zwar ist es die Österreichische Bundeshymne.

An unserem letzten Stiftungsfest am 16. Oktober, 2011, das übrigens sehr gut besucht war und mit einem gelungenen Programm aufwartete und bei der wir immer die Nationalhymne der USA, sowie die Deutsche und unser Lied der Donauschwaben, singen, erinnerte mich Frau Erika Majer, sie ist Mitglied unserer Vereinigung, was der Grund wäre, warum wir die Österreichische Hymne nie singen.

Das liebe Landsleute, ist eine berechnete Frage. Obwohl der Grossteil unserer Volksgruppe aus dem deutschen Gebiet Mitteleuropas stammen, so war es doch Österreich, sowie Österreich-Ungarn, die zur Ansiedlung, den von den Türken verwüsteten Donauraumes im Südosten Europas, aufrufen lies und die Zuwanderung damals unterstützte und förderte.

Die grossen Ansiedlerwellen um die Zeit der Kaiserin Maria Theresia, die sechzehn Kinder hatte, zeigen zu einer Verbundenheit mit Österreich, dass bis heute noch besteht.

Auch während des 2. Weltkrieges und besonders in den Nachkriegsjahren, spielte Österreich eine geradezu lebensrettende Rolle für viele Volksdeutsche aus der vorhergehende Österreich-Ungarischen Monarchie des Donauraumes im Südosten Europas.

Ja, viele Donauschwaben, unter ihnen auch der Schreiber dieses Aufsatzes, lebten in Österreich, besuchten die Schulen, erlernten ein Beruf und verbrachten die besten Jahre ihres Lebens in dem wunderschönen Land der Berge und Landschaften, der Traditionen und Hilfsbereitschaft. Viele meiner Verwandten, sowie Donauschwaben überhaupt, wurden österreichische Staatsbürger und machten es zu ihrer neuen Heimat.

Ich hoffe und wünsche, dass unsere Vereinsleitung, sowie die Direktoren unseres Vereines, über die berechnete Frage von Frau Erika Majer eine zufrieden-stellende Antwort geben. Strophen der Österreichischen Bundeshymne:

Land der Berge, Land am Strome,

Land der Äcker, Land der Dome,
Land der Hämmer, zukunftsreich.
Heimat bist du grosser Söhne,
Volk begnadet für das Schöne.
Vielgerühmtes Österreich,
Vielgerühmtes Österreich !

Heiss umfehdet, wild umstritten,
liegst dem Erdteil du inmitten,
einem starken Herzen gleich.
Hast seit frühen Ahnentagen
hoher Sendung Last getragen,
Vielgeprüftes Österreich,
Vielgeprüftes Österreich.

Mutig in die neuen Zeiten,
frei und gläubig sieh uns schreiten,
arbeitsfroh und hoffnungsreich.

Einig lass in Brüderchören,
Vaterland, dir Treue schwören,
Vielgeliebtes Österreich,
Vielgeliebtes Österreich.

Der Text wurde von Frau Paula Von Preradović gedichtet, sie ist die Enkelin eines Kroatischen National Dichters. Der Text wurde zum ersten mal in der Zeitung „Die Presse“, am 22. März, 1947, veröffentlicht.

Viele glauben, dass Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart die Melodie komponierte, die man dann dem neuzeitlichen Text anpasste, und zwar aus Mozarts „Freimaurer Kantate“, komponiert in 1791.

Doch nach gründlicher Untersuchung ist man auf Johann Holzer gestossen, der auch zur Zeit Mozarts lebte, und scheinbar war er der Komponist, zumindest viele sind dieser Ansicht

Jedenfalls, diese Hymne der Republik Österreich ist sehr schön, wenn auch etwas kompliziert und es würde unserer Ahnenkultur ergänzen und bereichern. **Servus, Adam Martini**



WORLD WAR II APOLOGY

A retired US army officer, Major Merrit P. Drucker will present an apology to a retired German officer Lt Col Max Klaar (Bundeswehr), head of the Verband deutscher Soldaten (German Veterans' Association) for the mistreatment of Ger-

man prisoners after World War II and a new edition of Other Losses by James Bacque about those prisoners will be launched at a public meeting on October 31, 2011 at 2:00pm in the Congressional and Monument Rooms of the Courtyard Capitol Marriott Hotel, 1325 2nd St NE, Washington DC 202 898 4000. The author will speak. Max Klaar will present a 14 point proposal for a peace treaty between the USA and Germany. Films and refreshments will be available. Source: email post from Ann Morrison of St. Louis, MO (Ann's Films) *****

Club Officer Elections at the January 2012 General Membership meeting (Present slate of Officers below)

Committee for 2010-2012

President	Joseph Brandecker
Vice Presidents	Dennis J. Bauer Robert Walter Kim Walter
Treasurer	Ludwig Jakober
Vice Treasurer	Mike Lenyo
Secretary	Hans Martini
Financial Trustee	Al Tindall
Financial Trustee	Rick Jakober
Financial Trustee	Andrew LaRue
Frauenschaftspräsidentin	Eva Martini
Vice Presidents	Helga Kusenko Caroline Brandecker Denese Lenyo
Ehrenfrauenschaftspräsidentin	Josefa Brandecker
Teaching Staff	Eva Martini Andy Franz Christa Pullion Ryan Kraemer
Scholarship Program Director	Liz Tindall
Newsletter Chairman/Editor	Dennis J. Bauer
AutoKlub Chairman	Terry Huff
Wirtschaftsmeister	Robert Walter
House Committee Chairman	Joe Vecchione
Kulturreferentin	Christa Tindall-Pullion
Jugendreferentin	Brittaney Brandecker
Jugendreferentin	Anna Martini
Kulturgruppeleiter	Ron Kernast
Webmaster	Tom Rubino
Memorial Committee Chairman	Hans Martini
Direktoren	Harold Parr Harold Million Mark "G" Gruzlovic Eva Martini Ulrich Haller Josefa Brandecker Liz Tindall

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 3



Gathering of the Donauschwaben from USA and Canada, 2011

By Adam Martini, translation from past newsletter

If it's Labor Day Weekend it must be Treffen time! The colorful German dresses, black vests and gear that make the well-dressed Donauschwaben member are packed and ready to go. It's then off to Mansfield, Ohio, for the annual gathering of the Donauschwaben from all over the North American continent. Our Donauschwabentreffen is at hand!

The folks at the Mansfield Liederkrantz (Donauschwabern) organization know how to stage such an event. The big facilities include a sizable 700 person capacity indoor hall with a stage, side rooms and different areas where food and drinks can be purchased. Outside, there's the big covered pavilion with a huge dance floor and more food and drink areas. All of this plus a big parking lot, a soccer field, a memorial garden, a playground, and some open space thrown in there too. What more could one ask for?

So how did we get there? Many of our group drove the distance but eight of our mostly older members from Trenton were in a bind because driving wasn't a realistic option and previously made arrangements had fallen through. Suddenly, a solution appeared as if sent by God himself. Our good friends at the United German Hungarians in Oakford, PA, had reserved a big bus and there was still room for Trenton. The trip was on!

We arrived at the hotel around 6 in the evening and then at the Mansfield clubhouse a short time later. This was the usual Friday evening gathering of Donauschwaben as they arrived from out of town, 20 dance groups and 16 clubs from across the continent among them. This is a meet and greet type gathering where you can get a decent meal, a cold drink and can forget about the long drive just ended in the company of friends and countrymen not seen for quite some time.

That wasn't the only positive

thing that happened on Friday however. We were very pleasantly surprised by the club from Hungary which performed that evening. They brought a dance group and a band from their small town just south of the capital city of Budapest. Their program lasted almost two hours and reminded all of us older folks of wonderful times past. Original folks dances and songs from back home meant there wasn't many dry eyes among us. Many can't forget such things from the old country.

Yes, that's what being back home means to me at this point. It's hard to describe really since everyone sees it slightly differently. One thing is for certain however, our hometowns live on in us and being at the Treffen reinforces this feeling each and every time. Those wonderful Donauschwaben villages and towns of the Batschka and Banat, as well as in Hungary and elsewhere in southeastern Europe can't easily be forgotten. The feeling of being back home was particularly strong on Saturday when we saw the scores of young ladies and women with the colorful ethnic costumes and the men with their traditional black vests and pants.

Saturday afternoon featured the big parade of clubs. It was an endless line of people, beautifully dressed, making their way to the soccer field where the ceremonies would be held. How colorful! You really had to see it to believe it.

The day itself was a hot one, 90 degrees and humid. After the national anthems there would be a few short speeches and a moment of silence for those who died in the aftermath of WWII. Once these ceremonies were concluded the many dance groups began performing both inside the big hall and outside in the pavilion. Bands would play between performances so there was never really any "down time" as they say. Of course our Philadelphia/Trenton dance group was also on hand, dancing three numbers for which they received rousing applause. My wife and I had five grandchildren participating with the dance group, something that made us very happy and just a little bit sentimental.

Sunday began with the traditional and always anticipated field mass held in the outdoor pavilion. The chief celebrant was Father Nikolaus Weibl who hails from Tovoarischevo in Yugoslavia –

a Donauschwabe no less. In his German language sermon he beautifully summarized the 200 year history of our people, from its beginnings in the 1700s to its end in 1945. After mass, we gathered at the outdoor memorial garden and prayed for the relatives and countrymen killed during the Donauschwaben genocide, wherever they may lie buried.

Afterwards, there would be more dance performances, eating, drinking and listening to the fine music of one of many different bands on hand that weekend. It was also time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It was a most enjoyable! That's how the Treffen ended, with some merry-making going on until late that night.

Looking back, one can only be amazed that something like this brings so many folks together. I think it has a lot to do with the love of the many wonderful villages and towns on the Donauschwaben areas now lost to us forever.

Despite it all, we have upheld our traditions and hope to continue them with each succeeding generation. Our countrymen are well regarded for their dedication, hard work, and fear of God. These characteristics are not what's currently in vogue in today's society unfortunately and one hopes that the noise of the modern world doesn't affect this undertaking any time soon. For now there's no sign of this as the number of attendees seems to be growing.

Now the Treffen is over and we're back home again reflecting on what we just experienced. What a wonderful time it was! But time goes by fast and soon the 2012 Treffen will be upon us, this time in Kitchener, Ontario.

I hope to see everyone again next time, where we can talk a while, have a meal and something to drink, dance a bit and pray together. Stay healthy, my friends, we'll see you in Kitchener.

Here's part of a Treffen appropriate poem written by poet Jakob Wolf and loosely translated from the German:

"He who remembers his hometown, like I remember my hometown, will never forget the memory. It's etched deep in the heart, like a piercingly soulful melody."



Our AutoKlub Travels



Gas Prices Got You Down? Tips for saving at the pump.

With fuel prices hovering near all-time highs throughout much of this year and everyone looking for ways to save money in their budgets, there are some simple and low-cost ways to make trips to the pump less frequent. Whether your car has 20,000 or 200,000 miles behind it, keeping it properly maintained will always help it perform better and use less fuel.

The heart of any car is the engine, and if it doesn't pump effectively, it will have to work harder and be thirstier. The sophisticated computer control systems on newer engines are able to automatically compensate for current conditions by blending the ideal amount of gasoline or diesel with the incoming air and firing sparkplugs at the best time for clean, efficient operation. Unlike older vehicles with carburetors and distributor ignition systems, modern engines don't need frequent timing adjustments or sparkplug replacement, but they only work properly when all of the sensors work properly. Fortunately, the electronic systems are smart enough to detect failed sensors and let the driver know through the "Check Engine" warning lamp.

When a failure has been detected, the control system switches over to default settings, which can lead to increased fuel consumption of up to 40 percent. Drivers should get any problems fixed as soon as possible; that warning light you've been ignoring for three months might not mean disaster, but it could be costing you quite a bit of money.

With all of the moving parts in an engine, proper lubrication is critical for both efficiency and durability. Oil and filters should be replaced regularly according to the manufacturer's recommendations in the owner's manual or the oil life monitor, if the car or truck has one. It's also important to use the grade of oil recommended by the maker of the vehicle. Using oil with too high or low a viscosity can lead to increased friction, lower mileage and premature wear.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's FuelEconomy.gov website (<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>), "You can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil." The EPA site also recommends using "motor oil that says 'Energy Conserving' on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives."

Another easy and inexpensive way to improve mileage is to replace clogged air filters. The EPA says that swapping out a clogged filter may "improve fuel economy 2 to 6 percent under normal replacement conditions or up to 14 percent if the filter is so clogged that it significantly affects drivability." Drivers that live in dusty environments should have their filters checked more frequently and replaced as needed.

Many cars and trucks today are equipped with lower rolling resistance tires to help fuel economy. Unfortunately, these are only beneficial when the tires are properly inflated. Many new cars and trucks sold today are equipped with tire pressure

monitoring systems that warn the driver if a tire is getting low, and all drivers should carry a pressure gauge in the glovebox along with registration and insurance. Every vehicle has a recommended tire pressure on a sticker that can usually be found on the driver's doorjamb, and drivers should check their pressures at least once a month.

All tires leak some amount of air over time, and cold temperatures can cause the pressure to drop even more. From www.FuelEconomy.gov, "Underinflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires," and a tire that is more than 10 psi lower than normal can cut mileage by three percent. Low-pressure tires also wear out faster and degrade vehicle handling, leading to safety problems.

The designers of modern cars and trucks spend thousands of hours tweaking the shape of those vehicles in wind tunnels so they slip through the air with less resistance. While sports fans often love to show support for their teams by adding flags to their windows and roofs, these ornaments work against the aerodynamic shape, especially at highway speeds where up to one-third of fuel is used just to overcome wind resistance. Replacing those flags with magnets or stickers inside the windows can save you money at the pump.

Finally, few things affect fuel economy as much as driver behavior. Avoiding jackrabbit starts and excessive highway speeds can help to save money. When combined with proper maintenance, these measures can keep your ride running reliably for many years to come.

Permission granted, VW of Langhorne, August 2011 newsletter.



MARTINI BUG on the ROAD

Look for Hans Martini's restored beetle to join the light of day and join the AutoKlub pack this Spring! Congrats Hans!

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VISIT WWW.GAKLUB.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Missed the 2011 German-American Chili Cook-Off and Car Cruise? Mark your Calendar for Next Year's Fall Event—exact date to follow. Our AutoKlub plans to show up in support in 2012.

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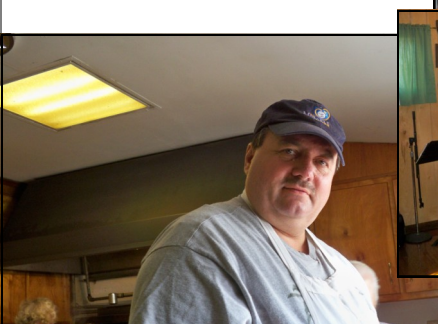
GERMAN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

Christa Tindall Pullion recently participated in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) convention and annual meeting which took place in Denver, Colorado. She was one of eleven participants to receive a stipend, which was organized by the AATG Deutsch an Schulen steering committee through the generosity of the Federal Republic of Germany. This three day conference was attended by over 6,000 foreign language teachers from around the world.

Christa took part in German language, culture, and education seminars led by professors from universities in Germany and Austria. She also enjoyed collaborating with other German teachers from around the world. She brought back many new ideas and products to use in her classroom in an effort to maintain a high level of enthusiasm for learning German. This was a great experience and she looks forward to next years conference in Philadelphia.

Kudos to Christa!

Club Pictures-Fall 2011 (Philly Tag der Donauschwaben, Anniversary, Schlachtfest, Christmas Party)



Deutsche Sprach Schule & Tanze Gruppe Seite (Youth & Adult) & Other Items

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Sadly our teacher, Christa Tindall Pullion is not be able to teach this Fall due to her extremely busy schedule and Ryan Kramer, our alternate, is away at college at University of Penn. The club wishes to thank both of these young adults for their time and efforts this past year. We hope to resume the class in the 2012. *****

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Look for our children's school to start up again under the direction of Eva Martini. Contact Eva if you have any Kinder that you wish to enroll in the school this January 2012. *****

AUTOKLUB DONATION TO STUDENT SCHOLASHIP FUND

During our Club's 55th Anniversary Dinner held on October 16, Dennis Bauer, on behalf of Terry Huff (AutoKlubLeiter), and the rest of the AutoKlub members, presented Liz Tindall (Chair of the fund) with a check for \$750. The monies come from proceeds raised by the AutoKlub during our 2011 Euro-American Auto Show held this past July at the German-American (our partners) picnic grove.

Mark your calendars for next year's show and think about sponsoring an award or door prize for this great fund raising event. *****

GENEROUS DONATION TO OUR CULTURAL MUSEUM & UPDATE



The Club would like to publicly thank Paul Stagl, of Toronto, Canada, for his generous donation to our museum. Paul's donated two Donauschwaben dolls dressed in full tracht. His grandparent's hailed from Brestowatz in the Batschka (his grandfather owned a textile store—see picture to right). He also included several photographs from Brestowatz and a brief history of the dolls.

We are in the designing phases of the museum project. Our storyboards are almost ready to be printed. The information will focus on the start of the Donauschwaben settlements through present day. We welcome any artifacts that we can borrow for the display cases. Danke!



Greetings Good People of the Kulturgruppe (adult dance group)

The crowd enjoyed the performance of the adult dancers at the October 55th Anniversary Dinner. They performed in front of a sold out audience of over 80 folks plus all the volunteers which pushed the number to over 100. That's a lot for a small place like ours! Our own Franz Herdt did a great job providing music for the event and our kitchen staff did a delicious job as always too. Danke!

Special thanks go to our group; Ron and JoAnn, Carl and Sue, Bob and Kim, and Steve and Melanie.... and of course, Tina! We're grateful for their participation. A big "shout out" and kudos to Carl and Sue for making the drive up from the Cape May area.

So, our main man, Ron Kernast, would like to continue practices starting December 7, January 11, February 1 and every other Wednesday night of the month at 7:30pm. The goal is to perform two new dances for Mother's Day 2012. Consider joining the group by contacting Ron.

RUSSIAN MILITARY ARCHIVES RECORDS RELEASED

By Dennis J. Bauer



I had written to the German Red Cross some time ago inquiring about information on my cousin, Anna Eisele of Batsch, who was sent to a Russian work camp (coal mine in the Ukraine) Christmas 1944 and never returned. I just received a packet from the German Red Cross indicating that some of the Russian Military Archive records have been opened to the public.

In the packet was her *NKVD* interrogation record and death report (in Russian). What a find. I am lucky that a co-worker of mine is from the Ukraine and translated the documents for me. Perhaps others can be as lucky as me and find out this type information. Anna died of typhus in the camp on 14 November 1945. I will now write again to inquire if there are similar records for my cousin Josef's wife, Katharina Brandt Eisele (Anna's sister-in-law) who also was with her but did survive the camp (died in Munich in the 1970s). Here is the translated info provided:

People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD - НКВД)
Camp__ 1201 Battalion, File # 46811 of 32519
(Initial Interrogation of 19 March 1945)

Name: *Izene, Anna Josephna (sic, Eisele, Anna, father's given name - Josef)*

Gender: *Female*

Born: *1918, Batsch, Batschka, Yugoslavia*

Father: *Izene, Josef – born 1890*

Mother: *Izene, Maria – born 1892*

Possessions: *None*

Nationality: *German*

Religion: *Catholic*

Member of any Party: *None*

Language spoken: *German* **Other languages spoken:** *Yugoslavian*

Profession: *?*

Education: *General*

Ever lived or been to USSR: *No*

Relatives in USSR: *No*

Criminal record and in what countries: *None*

Arrest date: *11 January 1945 in Yugoslavia*

Height: *160 cm*

Build: *Average*

Hair: *Black*

Eyes: *Brown*

Other notes: *Passed away 14 November 1945*

Details of death/burial: *Typhus - Buried: at camp - Signed: -----Doctor Novachek, Soviet Red Army, 14 November 1945*

Personal Note: Documents supplied by the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross), Munich, Germany to Dennis J. Bauer (cousin of Anna Eisele) of Levittown, PA, USA, on 10 October 2011. Obtained from the Russian State Military Archives, Moskau (RGWA). Original in Russian, translation by Asya Galperin on 2 November 2011. Previous information from German Red Cross; Antrazit (Camp Krassnyji#7256/1201 in Lutsch, Woroschilowgradskaja) Ukraine. This Soviet work camp was located in the anthracite coal region of the Donet basin.

Schedule of Events for 2012
VEREINIGUNG DER DONAUSCHWABEN
 127 Route 156 Hamilton, NJ 08620 609 585 1932

DECEMBER 31 st , 2011	NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION - Music and Merriment food available join us as we bring in the best year yet!	8:00 PM until 1 AM
JANUARY 8 th , 2012	WINTERESSEN – SUPPE, SAUERBRATEN & SPÄTZLE - Plan to be with us for this, our first event of the New Year. Roast Chicken available upon request.	1:00 PM
JANUARY	GERMAN LANGUAGE CLASSES RESUME - For information call 609-586-6109 or via e-mail at DSATrenton@AOL.com	
JANUARY 22 nd	ANNUAL MEETING - Members are welcome and expected - complimentary lunch	1:00 PM
JANUARY 27 th – 29 th	DONAUSCHWABEN FOLKS DANCE WEEKEND - Fabulous German Ski Lodge located in the Catskills - Our dance group will perform	
FEBRUARY 12 th	SCHLACHTFEST! - All the good stuff and in large quantities... Mahlzeit, meine Damen und Herren!	12:30 & 3:00 PM
MARCH 11 th	FRÜHLINGSESSEN (Spring Dinner)	1:00 PM
APRIL 1 st	OSTERESSEN (Easter Dinner)	1:00 PM
MAY 6 th	MUTTERTAGESSEN - Schnitzel & Mother's Day Program	1:00 PM
JUNE 3 rd	WALLFAHRT NACH PHILADELPHIA	8:00AM
JUNE 10 th	SPIESSBRATENESSEN - Pig Roast and Father's Day Celebration with live music.	1:00 PM
JULY 4 th Weekend	CANOE & CAMPING TRIP to the Upper Delaware River	
JULY 14 th	8 TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW at the German American Society	9 AM TO 3 PM
JULY 22 nd	SPIESSBRATENESSEN – Pig Roast Picnic	1:00 PM
AUG 31 st – SEPT 2 nd	DONAUSCHWABENLANDESTREFFEN - North American Donauschwaben Convention - In Kitchener, Canada this year so don't miss out!	
SEPTEMBER 16 th	ERNTE DANKFESTESSEN	1:00 PM
OCTOBER 14 th	56. STIFTUNGSFEST – CLUB ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	12:30 PM
OCTOBER 28 th	33. TOTENGEDENKFEIER	1:00 PM
NOVEMBER 18 th	SCHLACHTFESTESSEN	12:30 & 3:00 PM
DECEMBER 2 nd	ST. NIKOLAUSFEIER	1:00 PM
DECEMBER 31 st	SILVESTERFEIER – NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION	8:00 PM until 1:00 AM

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR ALL DINNERS. CALL EVA 609-586-6109, KIM 609-585-8752 or DSATRENTON@AOL.com

Club Events for the Winter 2012

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Winteressen—Sunday, 1pm, 8 January
- ◆ General Membership Meeting - Sunday, 1pm, 22 January
- ◆ Family Winter Weekend at Crystal Brook, Catskills, NY, weekend of 27-29 January
- ◆ Schlachtfest—Sunday, 12:30 & 3:00pm, 12 February. Please register ahead of time, seats are limited for this grand event
- ◆ Spring Dinner - Sunday, 1pm, 11 March◆

Please call Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 or Frau Kim Walter (609) 585-8752 for all 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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Trenton Donauschwaben

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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!**

TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK -Attention All Cooks



We invite you to submit recipes for our all-new Donauschwaben Cookbook! Recipes from our old cookbooks will be combined with your new submissions and sold at our club events! All recipes (breakfast, main dishes, appetizers, sides, desserts, etc) are welcome but we especially appreciate any German/Danube Swabian recipes! Please write or type the recipe and include all steps, including ingredients and temperature. Then, be sure to include the name of the recipe and your name and submit them to Christa Tindall Pullion at any of our events. We look forward to adding your recipe to our collection! Vielen Dank!

DONAUSCHWABEN HISTORY

Susan Clarkson's history of the Donauschwaben was featured in the November 2011—Issue 156 of *Der Ahnenforscher* (German Genealogy Group newsletter).

UPDATE GENOCIDE MEMORIAL NAMES



It has been several decades since the club erected the memorial stones at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery under the direction of the late Peter Kiss (see related article on page 3). As such, we have gained additional club members and some past members who have expressed the desire to add the names of their loved ones who perished in the 1944-48 Donauschwaben genocide to the site.

We are gathering a list of those who are interested in this update project, so contact either Eva/Hans Martini or Dennis Bauer so we can determine the number and the cost for an update.