

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten



Volume 25 Issue 4

October-December 2025

Points of Interest

- The **Danube River** (aka the Doana, Donau, Duna, Dunare, Donava) is the 2nd longest river in Europe, 1,700 miles.
- It flows from the Black Forest in Germany, through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Moldavia & Ukraine.
- It is a major European trade and migration route and a source of fishing, commerce, recreation, drinking water and hydropower.
- It flows through the Capital cities of; Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.
- It was a long standing frontier area of the Roman Empire.
- It was the main route of migration for our Donauschwaben ancestors to the towns in the south, then Austria and Hungary during the 17 and 18 hundreds.
- It served as an escape route for the Donauschwaben from the Partisan and Russia advance during WWII.
- Source: *Wikipedia.com*. Newsletters are copyrighted © 2025. All rights reserved.



Our Club President's Message for 2026

Dear Members and Friends, On behalf of the officers and directors of the Trenton Donauschwaben organization allow me to wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas in the company of family and friends and are looking ahead with optimism and good cheer to the year ahead.

I would first like to say a word about the fine volunteers whose best efforts throughout the year have kept our clubhouse doors open and the good times rolling. They are amazing! They give their time, energy, and commitment to do what needs to be done without fail. Indeed, their selflessness inspires the best in all of us and their dedication builds that sense of fellowship we all cherish. Thank you one and all.

If our volunteers are one side of the coin, then those members and friends who attend and support club events year-round is the other. Together, volunteers and supporters form the foundation upon which our beloved organization has stood tall for almost seven decades. Again, our heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm happy to say we held our own this past year. We had delicious and varied dinners throughout 2025 including the ever-popular Schlachtfeste and the more recently inaugurated Strudelbakes. As always, we also had our canoe and camping trip, our 20th Annual Euro-American Auto Show, scholarship awards night, the memorial service at Our Lady of Lourdes, and trips to Cleveland and Mansfield at the national level, as well as five club members who attended the world Donauschwaben gathering in Hungary among other things. I would be remiss if I didn't also single out our club's car show that celebrated its 20th year this past July. Well done everyone!

Of course, nothing ever stays the same especially in this day and age and you may have noticed differences in our 2026 schedule of events. Simply put, we've dropped a couple of the less well-attended events in order to strengthen those that remain. The days when a large group of the immigrant generation would just show up and do everything are long gone. Today, we have an equally hard-working and devoted multigenerational team who often juggle a variety of other weekend commitments and sometimes travel long distances to volunteer at the club. These are clearly different times and we'll make adjustments where we can to ensure that our club survives and thrives in the years ahead.

Speaking of our club's 2026 schedule: This year we'll celebrate our 70th anniversary! This is a big deal, to be sure, and we want to mark the occasion accordingly so please reserve Saturday October 24th (time to be determined) at the German American Society to join the celebration. We will have live music provided by the Heimatklänge as well as dance performances, delicious food, and so much more. Those of you who attended the 60th at the same location know what a great time it was so please mark your calendars right now. More information to follow.

Let us also pause for a moment to remember all those who have gone to their Eternal Reward this past year and in all the years' past. These include members, Maria Mayer Vas and Elmer Carson who passed in 2025. May God have mercy on their souls. Lastly, please don't forget to send in your membership dues!

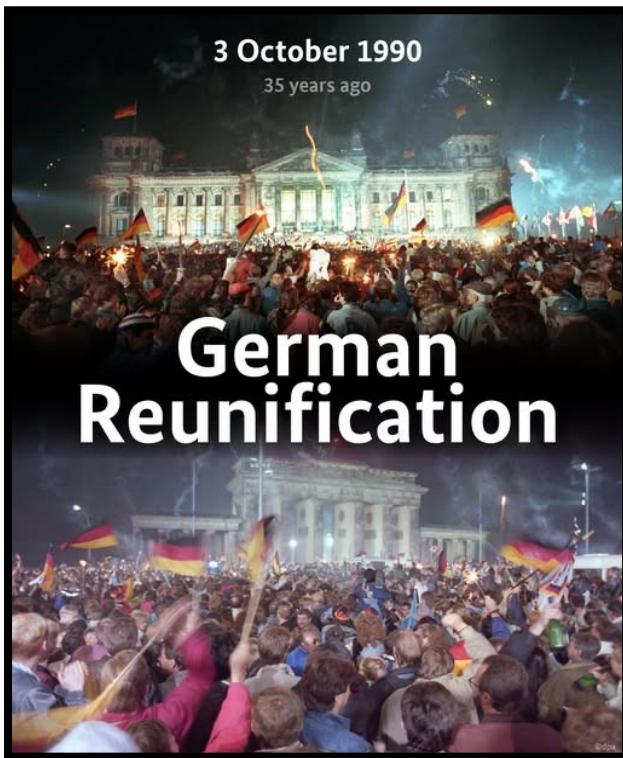
Respectfully, Joseph Brandercker

Editor's Thanks— I would like to thank all those individuals that have contributed to the Club newsletter near and far these past 25 years. Vielen dank to my Copy Editor, Melanie Brandercker, for her valuable proof reading these many years, Dennis J. Bauer

Inside this issue:

Club Matters	2
DS History/Culture	3
Membership News	5
Club Items	7
More DS News	8
Newsletter Sponsors	10
Club Events	14

Club Matters, Members, Friends & Stuff



A SPECIAL DAY to REMEMBER

A Joyous Occasion....

The James Family enjoyed another joyous occasion during this holiday season. Their second child, Colin Alfred James, was baptized in December at St James RC Church in Pennington, NJ. Colin is the son of Club members Katherine (Tindall) and Grant James, brother of big sister Vivienne James, the grandson of Alfred and Elizabeth (Hepp) Tindall, and Cindy Warren James, and the great grandson of 96-year old



Palanker Alexander Hepp. His Godparents are Christopher and Christa (Tindall) Pullion. God bless baby Colin! ***

Deepest Condolences....

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Leo Mayer**, former President of the Los Angeles, California Donauschwaben, Honorary President of the Verband and a great friend to our Club. The Trenton Donauschwaben sends sincere condolences to his family and friends and to everyone at the Los Angeles Club. May He Rest in Peace!

Leo included a letter in a timecapsule which he wrote in the year 2000. The capsule was opened in 2025 and the last line of this letter reads....

"To the youth and future generations....Are we going to be able to rely on the coming generations to continue with our traditions once the present generations are no more? I don't have a crystal ball!"



Group Photo of the Philly Donauschwaben, the Trenton Donauschwaben and the United German Hungarian folks at the North American Landestreffen in Mansfield, Ohio in September 2025

Oma Abt Award 2025



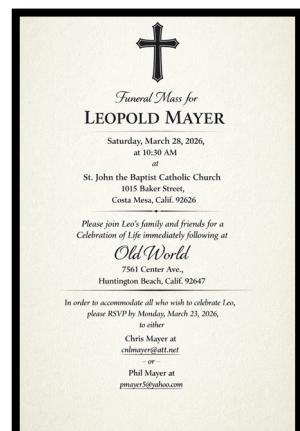
In 2013, the Oma Abt youth heritage award was created in memory of Maria Abt. Each year the youth are given a prompt for their entry. This year's prompt was: "We all have heard stories the Alte Schobwe have shared from

the old country, what will be your story that you will pass down?"

The winners: 1st Prize – Tommy Herion (Chicago Donau), 2nd Prize – Lanie Welker (Cleveland), 3rd Prize – Kaitlyn Burns (Cleveland) .



**Leopold Mayer
passes...**



Our Club Condolences and prayers to family and friends.

Donauschwaben History & Culture



Good news from Obrovac and Backa Palanka, Serbia

By M.A. Nikola Milivojević

Reporting from Belgrade, Serbia



Two years have passed since the terrible storm that caused enormous damage in the greater part of southern Backa and Srem. Religious buildings in Backa Palanka and Obrovac were particularly affected. The restoration of the temple of the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception of Mary began last year. The roof was repaired, thus preventing further damage to the interior of the building. The chapel at the Roman Catholic cemetery dedicated to Saint Roch was renovated during 2024. This year, the building of the Church of Saint Ferdinand in Obrovac was put into operation.

At the church in Obrovac, it is planned to remove parts of the facade and the church tower that are prone to falling. Since the 46-meter-high tower has lost its eaves, a new one should be installed in the framework of the original works on the reconstruction of the church. The churches in Backa Palanka and Obrovac are surrounded by a fence, which gives hope for an early continuation and successful completion of the works. All those who want to get better acquainted with the progress of the works or help their realization can contact the official email of the Roman Catholic parish in Backa Palanka.

**

German language in Vojvodina Today

By M.A. Nikola Milivojević..... Reporting from Belgrade, Serbia

Although Serbian, Croatian, Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Romanian are in official use in Vojvodina, the daily speech of the population of the Province is unthinkable without German words. Almost all Vojvodina residence use the German term *früstück* for breakfast instead of their native language term, while the terms *dunkel*, *grau* or *licht* are still used for colors. The same is the case with terms of time or measures of time or amount where the German term *viertel* would be used. The language remained in the official reading used by children in schools, such as Stevan Sremac's novel "Priest Ćira and Priest Špira", which is full of dialogue with local Danube Swabian terms and expressions. German literary language remained compulsory in many schools throughout Serbia as part of the first or second foreign language education. In addition to regular classes in primary and secondary schools, German is one of the foreign languages offered at the facilities. The increasing need for organized teaching of the German language in the area of Vojvodina led in 1954 to the establishment of a special Chair for the German language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. In 1993, it changed its name to the Department of German Studies. Today, the Department of German Language and Literature, the Lecturer's Office, the Department for Scientific Research and the Seminar Library operate within this department.

There is a great interest in the German language outside of regular classes in schools and colleges. Participants of all ages attend courses of different levels in private educational centers. A significant part of the new teaching activity was organized by the German national community and German associations in Vojvodina. Education is realized through seminars, courses and other educational content. It is important here to mention the magazine "Guck mal" of the German "Maria Theresiopolis" from Subotica. The magazine contains texts in German, and shortened versions of the text are printed in Hungarian and Serbian.

Since the fall of 2016 Radio Television of Vojvodina has introduced shows in the German language into its program schedule. The programs were initially broadcast once a week on radio and television. They were prepared in cooperation with the National Council of German National Minorities. German language and literature students from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad also participated in the realization of the program. Today, the show in German is realized as part of the regular program in the language of national minorities in the show called "Paleta". In addition, there is a show called "Deutschen Minuten". Their program chronologically follows the events related to the German national minority, the activities of German language teachers in many schools in Vojvodina, as well as the life stories of local Germans. You can follow the programs in German through the regular program schedule on television screens or through the official application of RT Vojvodina.

The passage of time, wars and negligence have caused the original German language of the Danube Germans from Backa, Srem and Banat to slowly disappear. Those who still use it at home are rare. Its native speakers are slowly dying out, giving way to the German literary language. The language of the Danube Swabians is permanently preserved in published literature and newspapers from the Vojvodina region. Its copies can be found in all the local departments of regional libraries, as well as in the library of Matica Srpska and the National Library of Serbia.



Karl Mezey's Day
 By MA Nikola Milivojević
 (He is far left the in picture)

On October 31, 2025, the 128th anniversary of the death of Karl Mezai was marked. At 3p.m., Mr. František Gašparovski held a memorial service at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Backa Palanka. After a short address to those present, the president of the Hungarian Cultural and Artistic Society "Šandor Večera" ("Vecera Sándor") and MA Nikola Milivojević laid a wreath on Mezey's grave.

The second part of the program, a lecture by MA Nikola Milivojević 's "Charity of Karl Mezey" was held at the Hungarian House at 4 p.m. The lecture was preceded by the presentation of the certificate of appreciation to Milan Maksić on behalf of HCAS for his donations in the form of mosaics by Karl Mezey and Franz Eisenhut, while Milivojević donated his co-authored book "Printing Activities in Three Palanka Municipalities" to the Hungarian Societies library.

The program in Serbian language was preceded by a short program in Hungarian language in which Julia Meszaros presented the most important biographical information about the benefactor from Palanka. In his part of the presentation, Milivojević, guided by the news recorded in the work *Gedankbaltt zu ehren und zur erinnerung an Karl Mezey, Dem Förderer und Wohltäter Palankas* by Nikolas Hepp*, introduced the attendees to Mezey's contributions to the introduction of the then three Palanka municipalities into the modern era. Mezey paid special attention to his charity by providing financial and material assistance to the residents of Palanka, Ilok, Plavna and Bački Novo Selo (Neudorf an der Donau) and organizing humanitarian events. Aware that education is the key to further progress, Karl devoted special attention to the education of children. In addition to contributing to the better organization of all levels of education in Palanka, he provided a large number of scholarships for the most talented students. Among his most famous scholarship recipients is the famous orientalist painter Franz Eisenhut.

After the lecture, a short discussion was held between the gathered audience and the organizers of the program, in which further ideas for the continuity of the anniversary celebration in the coming years were presented. The organizers expressed their hope for the inclusion of as many citizens as possible in the anniversary celebration program, announcing the possibility of erecting a memorial plaque, a documentary film, publications, and organizing an exhibition about Karl Mezey.

*Editor's Note: Nikolas Hepp was our member Alex Hepp's grandfather. We want to thank Nikola again for submitting articles and news for our Club newsletter from Serbia. ***

2025 Weltreffen Reflection—By Nichole Blank Deely of the United German Hungarians



This past August, I had the privilege—along with Sofi and Emma Walter—to participate in the Weltreffen trip to Hungary and Serbia. Our Weltreffen group included about 50 Danube Swabian people from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Austria, and Serbia.

We visited towns and cities that still have German-speaking communities, cultural exhibits, museums, churches, and memorials. We learned about the history of when and how German people migrated to the Danube Swabian region, settling the land around the Danube River Valley in Batschka and Banat—where most of our grandparents and great-grandparents lived before emigrating to the United States. During the 10-day trip, we had so many culturally rich experiences, including dance instruction, singing workshops, shawl knotting, embroidery, basket weaving, carpet looming, wine making, bread baking—and of course, obstler and palinka drinking.

Some especially meaningful moments included visiting Feked, where we attended Sunday Mass said in German by the Bishop; touring multiple Donauschwaben homes set up to show how the Danube Swabian people lived when they first settled the region; and visiting memorial sites in Gakowa and Fillipowa. For me—and I believe for Sofi and Emma as well—this trip was not a vacation. It was an educational journey that deepened my love for my German heritage and re-energized my desire to continue practicing and participating in our culture.

Singing songs, enjoying traditional meals, remembering the struggles of our families, and strengthening relationships with other Donauschwaben friends from around the world are vital to keeping our traditions alive. I will never forget the overwhelming feelings I had during our trip—the love for our culture, the pride in the strength of our people, and the gratitude that our families had the bravery to start over and continue their traditions here in America.

I am privileged and proud to help keep our heritage alive. Thank you to everyone who made this unique experience possible, and thank you to all who continue to support events like the Kirchweih we are celebrating tonight.

Michael N. Fricker, UGH Newsletter Editor's Note: Nichole delivered the above reflection on the 2025 Weltreffen at our Kirchweihfest that was held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge. The text has minor edits for print distribution. Note: Emma and Sofi Walter are members of the Trenton Donauschwaben also. Trenton Club members, Ray, Marie and Kathleen Martini also attended the trip.

Membership News



Club Officers & Staff

Joseph Brandecker, President. **Dennis J. Bauer**, Vice President/Newsletter Editor

Bob Walter, Vice President. **Kim Walter**, Club Photographer

Kitchen Leader/Chef: Hubert Pinkerton

Alfred Tindall, Treasurer, Asst. **Chris Pullion**

Secretary: Hans Martini, and **Recording Secretary: Brittaney Protonentis**

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, Joe Brandecker, Steve Brandecker & Dennis Bauer

Web Master and Facebook Editor: Christina Malofiy

Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer

Mail Room Coordinator: Hans Martini

Facebook Support: Dennis J. Bauer & Joe Brandecker, Jr.



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

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



Condolences—To members **Tom and Lea (nee Bauer) Hepler** on the passing to Tom's mother, Phyllis Hepler of Morrisville, PA. on Sept.5, 2025, at her home surrounded by family. She is predeceased in death by her Husband, Eugene; her parents; Verna Shucker and Daniel Miller; Brother; John Miller, Sisters; June Hein, Eleanor Klinger, Evelyn Smith, Mary Diebert, and her son; Michael. Phyllis is survived by four Sons: Steven (Kathy), Thomas (Lea), Jack (Min), and Dave (Linda). She was the grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 13. Phyllis grew up in Valley View, Schuylkill County, Pa, where she met and married Eugene Hepler, before moving to Morrisville, Pa. Phyllis and Eugene were married for over 50 years. She worked as a Cafeteria Worker for the Pennsbury School District. A church service was held November 1st, at St. Johns Evangelic Church, 1203 Pinegrove Road in Morrisville, PA.

Note-Phyllis is of a proud PA German Family. ***

Condolences— Club member, Elmer Carson, 91, of Beach Haven Gardens, NJ, passed away on December 12, 2025. Elmer was born in Trenton, NJ and resided most of his life in Hamilton Square, NJ. He summered since the 1950's on Long Beach Island, NJ moving to Beach Haven Gardens in 1998. Elmer served in the US Navy from 1956-1958. He worked most of his life as a car salesman retiring as a Leasing Manager for Nassau Conover. He was a member of the Nottingham Fire Company serving on their Color Guard and as their Recording Secretary. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton Square and the First United Methodist Church of Beach Haven Terrace. Elmer enjoyed golfing, listening to Irish music, enjoying the LBI sunsets, and riding his bike daily. Along with spending time with family. Elmer was predeceased by his son, Keith Carson. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Joyce Carson (nee Hamann), son Christopher and his wife Karen, granddaughter Heather Carson, great-grandchildren Tegan and Adriana Maffei, sisters Elma Scott and Susan Fanella along with many nieces and nephews. ***



Condolences—Club supporter, **Patricia Ann Drobnek**, 74, of Fairfax, VA, passed away on December 20, 2025 in Fairfax, VA. Burial was at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, 400 Woolsey St, Hamilton, NJ. Knott's Colonial Funeral Home, 2946 S Broad St, Hamilton, NJ handled the funeral arrangements. Pat attended Steinert High School graduating in 1969. She went on to earn a BA degree in Political Science from Bucknell University and an MBA from George Washington University. She spent her career with the IRS primarily as a budget analyst. She was active in BPW, NARFE, a mystery book club, the Democratic Party, and enjoyed festivities at the Trenton Donauschwaben Club. She also enjoyed following Washington, DC and Bucknell University sports, teaching ESL, preparing immigrants for their citizenship tests, going to the theater, traveling abroad, and acting as the family historian and genealogist. Patricia is survived by several cousins including Mary Ann York of Hamilton, NJ, Michael and Mary Woodrow of Manasquan, NJ, and Thomas Woodrow of Morrisville, PA. She is preceded in death by her father Michael A. Drobnek, her mother Thelma C. Drobnek (nee Stannard), and an infant brother Patrick. She was a beloved niece of her aunt and uncle, Madeline and Edward Woodrow, Jr who also preceded her in death. ***



Sad News..... Many of you may remember long time members **George and Emma Hartmann**. They were active members in our Club many years ago before moving to Virginia. We are sad to announce that George Hartmann passed away peacefully at his home on December 14th, 2025 in Waynesboro, Virginia at the age of 92. Our deepest condolences to his entire family! Funeral arrangements were in care of Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes & Crematory, Waynesboro, VA..May He Rest in Peace! ***

Deutsche Ecke

In German we hear "Prosit Neujahr" as a New Year's Wish! So what's the difference between "Prosit" and "Prost"?

Prost and *Prosit* are German toasts meaning "cheers," both derived from the Latin *prosit* ("may it be beneficial"), but *Prost* is the common, informal German form (like a simple "Cheers!"), while *Prosit* (the full Latin word) is used more formally, often for wine or in songs like the Oktoberfest anthem "Ein Prosit". Think of *Prost* as your everyday "Cheers!" and *Prosit* as a slightly more elegant or traditional "To your health!". 

Prost

- **Meaning:** The common German word for "cheers," short for *prosit*.
- **Usage:** Everyday drinking, beer halls, informal settings.
- **Origin:** A contraction from the Latin *prosit*. 

Prosit

- **Meaning:** "May it be beneficial" or "To your health" (from Latin *prodesse*).
- **Usage:** More formal toasts, especially with wine or champagne, and in traditional songs like "Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit".
- **Origin:** The full Latin word from which *prost* is derived. 

CLUB ITEMS and OTHER NEWS UPDATES



Get Your Trenton Treffen Commemoratives (still available) - Great Christmas Gifts

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 above. (Tee-shirt shows front and back).

Designed by our own Sofi Walter!

Donauschwaben



New—Club Stickers: \$2.00 each

Large stickers \$3.. each

Donated by Member Dennis J. Bauer

Produced by member Erich Lobecker

More Donauschwaben News



A Christmas Gift.....

Congratulations to **Dayna and Charles Brown** on the birth of their first child, a daughter named Noelle Marie Brown. Noelle entered the world December 16, weighing 5 lbs. 7 oz. She is the first grandchild of **Barby (Herdt) and Michael Galati**. She is also the great-granddaughter of **Api Herdt**, who recently broke her hip. So glad she's on the mend! We wish them all the best on this beautiful new addition to their family!



Our Annual Club St. Nikolaus Partyeveryone was good this year...



CLUB MEMORIES.....PAST *PIG ROAST* and *SCHLACHTFEST*





Our Donauschwaben AutoKlub and the Old School Euros Car Club News



Save these dates



June 13 & 14—the Old School Euros Car Club's 11th Annual "Dubs in the Shrubs" Campout, Car Show & Swap Meet at Tall Cedars Picnic Grove, Yardville, NJ
 Enjoy the great VW, Audi & Porsche show cars, DJ, food and swap meet.
 Proceeds help fund St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. ***



July 11—Our 21st Annual "Euro-American Auto & Cycle Show", at our partner's the German-American Picnic Grove, 215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville, NJ.

Enjoy the variety of great cars, cycles, DJ, food and drink
 Proceeds help fund our student scholarships



Newsletter Sponsors and Advertisers

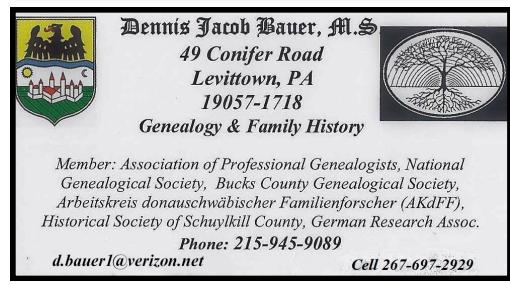
Our Printed Quarterly Newsletter Sponsors 2025:

- * Frau Marlene Novosel & Familie *
- * Familie Bauer & Penrith (in memory of Jacob & Theresa Helleis Bauer, Jacob & Carol Bauer and Frank & Katie Maas Helleis) *
- * Herr Scott Balyer*
- * Herr Peter Kernast, Jr. *
- * Herr James Potts*
- * Familie Herrmann Volltrauer *
- *Frau Priscilla Perkins Bath *
- *Frau Klara Andrichuk (in memory of Joseph & Josefa Brandecker)*
- *Eva Martini (in memory of husband Adam Martini)*
- *Familie Carl & Sue Conrad*
- * Herr Frank Varone*
- *Familie Chris & Karen Carson*
- *Familie Elmer & Joyce Carson*
- *Herr Ernest Schirmer*
- *Herr Robert Knott*
- *Familie Terry Huff (in memory of wife Mary Beth Huff and parents Harold & Patricia Huff)*
- *Dave's Jewelers*
- *Jutta Holzhaus Stengel *

Our Weekly E-News Sponsors 2025:

- *Peter Kernast*
- *Eva Martini*
- *Ernie and Cynthia Schirmer*
- *Joyce & Elmer Carson*
- *Chris and Karen Carson*
- *Sue Conrad (in memory of her husband Carl)*
- *Mary and Frank Varone*
- *Hermann & Erika Volltrauer*
- *Robert Knott*
- *Al & Liz Tindall*
- *Alexander Hepp (in memory of his wife Elfriede)*
- *Peppy Bath*
- *Harold & Marie Parr*
- *James Potts*
- *Klara Andrichuk (in memory of her parents Joseph & Josefa Brandecker)*
- *Katharina Stampfer*

VIELEN DANK!



CLUB EVENTS FOR 2025 (2026 new Club Staff & Event dates forth coming)***Calendar of Events 2025 Donauschwaben of Trenton***

**Please note that reservations should be made at least one week in advance.
Thank you!**

January 12th, Sunday—First Taste of the New Year Dinner!

January 26th , Sunday—Annual Business Meeting

February 16th, Sunday—SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings)

March 16th, Sunday—Back to the Old Country Dinner

April 13th, Sunday—Easter Luncheon Dinner

April 26th and 27th—National Donauschwaben Meeting - Chicago

May 4th , Sunday—Mother's Day Dinner

June 8th, Sunday—Father's Day Picnic

4th through the 6th of July—Canoe & Camping Trip (reserve soon) in N.E. PA

July 12th, Saturday (rain date July 13th)—19th Annual Car Show at the German American Society

July 20th , Sunday—Summer Picnic

Aug 30th & 31st, Mansfield, OH— North American Treffen

September 14th, Sunday Harvest Festival Dinner

October 19th, Sunday—Club's 69th Anniversary Banquet

November 2nd, Sunday—Memorial Service at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hamilton, NJ

November 16th, Sunday SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings)

December 7th, 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

Donauschwaben Remembrance



Totengedenkfeier (Memorial Service)

Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery

We marked the 81st anniversary of the expulsion of Donauschwaben from their ancestral homes through prayer, ritual and song. "Die Vertreibung" as we call it in German caused not just the loss of untold lives but also an entire way of life in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Following the service, as is tradition that we returned to our Clubhouse for refreshments. Cake and coffee was served at no charge.

Last years photo to the left.

In Remembrance, not forgotten....Anna J. Eisele (1918-1945)

Picture to the left—Josef and Maria Helleis Eisele with children, Josef and Anna, at their home in Batsch/Bacs, Yugoslavia, circa 1920s. Anna was born there on 15 September 1918 and was active in the town's Donauschwaben events. Her grandparents, Lorenz & Barbara Blank Helleis and her aunts and uncles, Barbara, Lorenz, Theresa & Franz immigrated to Trenton in 1913. Anna, her parents, brother, Josef and uncle, Adam, remained in Batsch.

Anna died 14 November 1945 in a labor camp in the Ukraine. She was sent there in January 1945. Her parents, Josef, Maria and brother, Josef Jr. survived WWII and re-settled in Munich, Germany after the war.

May she **Rest in Peace** in her unmarked grave in the Ukraine, but not forgotten. Note: Anna was a cousin of club members, **Dennis Bauer, Melanie** (Bauer) Brandecker, Lea (Bauer) Hepler and Daniel Penrith. See her Interrogation record below.



People's Commissariat of Internal

Affairs (NKVD - НКВД)

Camp 1201 Battalion, File # 46811 of 32519
(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 Novacheck, Soviet Red Army, 14 November 1945.*

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 Krassnyj #7256/1201 in Lutsch, Woroschilowgradskaja) Ukraine. This Soviet work camp was located in the anthracite coal region of the Donet basin.

Scholarships & Culture & Staff



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 2025 we awarded several more 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 2024 Euro-American Auto and Cycle Show.

Danube- Swabian Association of the USA, Inc. Landesverband der Donauschwaben USA, Inc <https://donauschwabenua.org> Liebe Landesleute

What a year it has been for the Danube Swabian Foundation! It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as CEO this year, especially with all of the good work being done by our member organizations with the Stiftung's funds. Our dance groups are thriving, as can be seen on a myriad of social media channels, and our soccer teams are booming. Our language schools are welcoming more people into the German language, and our brass bands sound fantastic!

This year, we sent Chicago Donauschwaben Jugendgruppe on a two-week European tour, where they represented our organization beautifully while abroad and made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. All of this was made possible by your donations to our Foundation! This year, your funds also helped more than 30 participants from the United States attend the fifth Welttreffen hosted by the Weltdachverband. This trip is different from our annual Europe trips that our dance groups go on, which is focused primarily on our dancers performing. The Welttreffen was two weeks of "cultural bootcamp" for us, where we engaged with our Donauschwaben heritage in a way that can only be experienced in the alte Heimatland. We spent time in both Hungary and Serbia, visiting various museums, cultural sites, and memorials. We made friends with our fellow Schwobs from Brazil, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia and strengthened the bonds of unity that are uniquely shared between our Donauschwaben family. The Stiftung gave each participant a stipend to help fund their trip, made possible by members like you!

We have much planned for the coming year. In addition to our annual financial assistance of the subgroups of our American clubs, we are welcoming Banater Esslingen from Germany to our shores, whose two-week trip will culminate in their participation in our Landestreffen der Donauschwaben in Chicago. This is also a competition year, and our Jugendgruppen will soon start preparing their programs of dancing, singing, and speaking to take part in this triennial tradition. Our groups will keep dancing, playing, kicking, and speaking, and all of this is made possible by your donation to the Danube Swabian Foundation. Please, consider donating to our Foundation during this holiday season to keep our traditions alive.

Thank you for your continued support and have a very happy holiday season!

Mit herzlichen Weihnachtsgrüsse,

Raymond Martini

CEO, Danube Swabian Foundation President, Landesverband der Donauschwaben USA .Source: *DONAUSCHWÄBISCHE STIFTUNG* 2025.

A Message from our Club Genealogist Dennis Bauer....

Folks, a new friend of mine just completed a book about his Backa Palanka grandfather, Josef Haas (1922-2003), entitled "*Josef Haas – Biography of a Danube Swabian from Palanka (Batschka)* ". I was glad that I was able to help him out with some family information about those family members that came to Trenton (Haas & Hiel).

Here is a note from his new web page in Finland:

"Josef Haas (1922–2003) grew up as an ethnic German in the Batschka region of the former Kingdom of Yugoslavia and experienced firsthand the suffering of the Danube Swabians during the Second World War. In his autobiography, he recounts his life between 1933 and 1946—a story of courage, resourcefulness, love, loss of homeland, and the beginning of a career in crime-solving that continues to this day. His biography is a historical document of Danube Swabian history. Edited by his grandson, Alessandro Haas, with careful revisions, commentary, and historical notes." Further information can be found at:

<https://www.alessandrohaas.de/josef-haas/en/>



2025 Fall/Winter— DATES & TIMES—Come out and join us!

- ♦October 19—69th Annual Club Anniversary Dinner, 1pm.
- ♦November 2—Annual Genocide Memorial Service, Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Hamilton, NJ, 1pm.
- ♦November 16—Annual Schlachtfest Dinner, 12:30 and 3:00pm.
- ♦December 7—Annual St. Nikolaus Party, 1pm.

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

Trenton Donauschwaben on



Our Web Site:

www.Trentondonau.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!*

THE NEW TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK IS COMING OUT

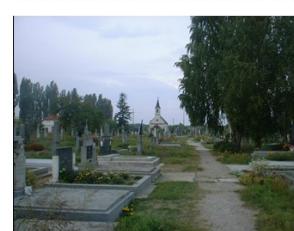
A new cookbook featuring recipes from past and present Trenton Donauschwaben Club members, along with recipes shared from Donauschwaben members from around the United States! You don't want to miss some of these delicious recipes that carry on the traditions from the "Heimat". Be sure to keep an eye out for the official order page. The recipe book will be sold as a fundraiser for the Club and sells for only \$15. They will make a great addition to any cookbook collection. We will also be selling them at our February dinner. We can't wait to share this with you! We thank Christa Pullion for coordinating this project!



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. He has been our Club Newsletter Editor for over 26 years now, 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. A copy is also on file at the NJ State Library.

He is now working on Volume 2 for printing in 2026. This issue will include information on Palankaer-Canadians too.