

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 26 Issue 2



April-June 2026

Points of Interest—German settlers established over 1,000 unique agricultural villages in the lowlands of Hungary between 1683-1790. After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire it freed up this land for these new settlers from Western Europe.

- The Danube River served as the main avenue for their migration.
- They developed the lands to become the “Bread basket of Europe”.
- This area became the Austria-Hungarian Empire in 1867 until 1918 after it lost World War I.
- During this time, Hungarian became the main language of the area, with German still spoke at home and in some regional German schools.
- After WWI, the southern part of Hungary became Yugoslavia, Romania and Croatia.
- The allies of Germany and Hungary occupied the area during WWII. The area returned to being Yugoslavia after WWII. The Donauschwaben fled or were evicted from their homeland afterward forever.
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A Wonderful Seventy Years—2026

Our **Trenton Donauschwaben** was established in 1956 as a “Hilfsverein” (Help Society) in order to assist newly arrived German American immigrants from Europe. Prior to 1956, the newly arrived Donauschwaben to Trenton would gather at the Arbeiter, the Liederkrantz, the Banater and the Aurora clubs. The founding Donauschwaben fathers were; Jakob Fleith of Chalma, Josef Bohn of Palanka, Jakob Eppli of Bukin, Stefan Reger of Filipowa, Stefan Mattes of Filipowa, Franz Klespies of Palanka, Sebastian Gauss of Filipowa, Josef Schmidt of Palanka, Johann Bretträger of Ilok, Josef Wolf of Palanka, Wilhelm Schmidt of Palanka, Josef Spildener of Palanka, Franz Herdt of Palanka, Karl Paul of Werbach, Josef Stiller of Obrowatz and Josef Relinger of Palanka. Sadly, all have since passed away. The club’s first meetings were held in St. Stephen’s Hall in Trenton and at several members’ homes/farms. Our past Presidents include: Jakob Fleith (from Chalma), Lester Lindenmeyer, Jakob Eppli (from Bukin), Willie Michel (from Neudorf), Adam Martini (from Bukin), Ludwig Jakober (from Neudorf), Franz Herdt (from Trenton), Harold Parr (from Trenton) and Joseph Brandecker, Sr. (from Trenton). In 1957 the Fräuienschaft (ladies auxiliary) was begun under the leadership of Helene Lindenmayer, Hilda Schintzler, Rosa Wildmann, Josefa Metternek Brandecker and Eva Mayer Martini. They were famous for their schnitzel, sauerbraten, sarma (stuffed cabbage) and many other ethnic dishes and dessert. Ulli Haller and Helga Kusenko lead the bakery team over the ages, now Kim Walter. The home-made bratwurst preparation for the two annual Schlachtfest dinners and two pig roasts were left up to the men of the club. The “Bratwurst Boys” were lead by Heinrich Pfann back in the day, then Ludwig Jakober, followed by Chris Carson, Al Tindall, Steve Brandecker, Chuck Pinkerton and additional helpers over the years. The sarma and pork roast prep was carried out by a host of fine club ladies, too numerous to count over the years. Some of the pig roast crew over time included; Ludwig Jakob, the late Jim Brunner, Rick Jakober, Mark Gruzlovic, Harold Parr, Andrew LaRue, Chuck Pinkerton, Hubert Pinkerton and others. Our German ethnic meals were offered to members and friends monthly and for special catered events. The dinners remain the main fund raiser for the club under the present direction of Hubert Pinkerton, Chuck Pinkerton, Joe Brandecker Sr., Kim, Sofi and Emma Walter and others.

In 1959 the club members, Helene Lindenmayer and Jakob Eppli started our children’s German language school at the Aurora and then at the St. Stephen’s Parish Center, Genesee Street in Trenton and Red Man’s Hall in Clinton Street. Monica Stern also helped out for a bit. By 1970, its heyday, there were over 75 children enrolled in the school with children ranging from 8th grade to high school ages. The club had four classrooms full of young students. Leaders at that time included Margit Bischof and Ingeborg Wolf with help from Mark Novosel, Sylvia Magnus, Ruth Saik, Emmi Hartmann and Uta Langon in 1976. Christmas plays were on the agenda including those held at Arbeiter Hall. In the 1990s the children’s school was reborn under the direction of Liz Tindall, Kathy Herdt Tozzi, Monica Martini Gottfried, and then Brigitte Kleinmann and finally Eva Martini and Brittany Brandecker lead the children’s school until the Covid19 Pandemic hit in 2020. The group performed at our annual Mother’s Day dinner Anniversary Dinner and the St. Nikolausfeier event each December. Singing at our events is usually lead by the Martini sisters, Anna, Luisa and Christina and also dad, Hans Martini, long-time secretary of the club.

In the Fall of 1960, the club held its 4th Donauschwaben song and dance fest. Over 1,200 people attended the Saturday event held at the Polish-American Club in Yardville, NJ. The event celebrated the Donauschwabens escape from the Yugoslav communist and the freedom they found in America. Ethnic German Songs and dances were performed by club member youth and adults dressed in their native costumes. German club groups from Elizabeth, New Brunswick and Newark, NJ also attended. Commissioner Donal Connelly and Helen Lindenmayer opened the event. The event committee included; Jakob Eppli, Sebastian Gauss, Ludwig Jakober, Nick Schmidt, Lester Lindenmayer, Joseph Brandecker, H. Weinburger, Jacob Fleith, Joseph Bohn, Joseph Bretträger, Jacob Pilger, Stephan Mathias, Joseph Spildener, John Baumgartner, Joseph Schlaff, Helen Lindenmayer, Mrs. Jakob Eppli, Mrs. Nick Schmidt, Mrs. Joseph Brandecker, Mrs. Joseph Bretträger, Mrs. Joseph Pilger, Mrs. Catherine Mueller, Mrs. Catherine Schlaff, Mrs. Sebastian Gauss, Mrs. Jacob Fleith, Mrs. H. Neuburger and Mrs. Ann Spildener. In the 1960s the club children were organized into a Tanz Gruppe (dance group). The group grew in the 70s, its heyday, under the direction of Marlene Novosel and Ludwig Jakober.

(Continued on page 13).

Club Matters, Members, Friends & Stuff



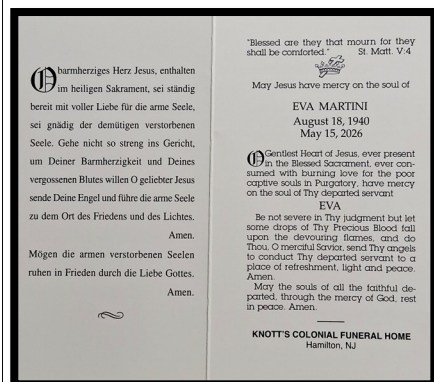
Sad Sad News!

We are deeply heartbroken by the loss of **Frau Eva Martini (Palankaer)** on 15 May 2026. Before her tragic accident, Eva was the glue of our Club. She gave her entire heart and soul to our mission. Her unwavering passion, tireless dedication, have left an indelible mark on everything we do. Eva always worked behind the scenes, pulling everything together for our monthly dinners, and did it quietly....never seeking praise. Her legacy will guide our volunteers for years to come and we are all so grateful for her profound impact. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. We will especially miss her friendly disposition, always positive attitude and we can never forget the beautiful poems she always recited at our special events. She is now reunited with her beloved husband, Adam, who passed away in 2020. Rest in Peace Eva! We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to her entire family!

Her funeral was under the direction of Knott Funeral Home. For complete obituary and details see below.

Eva Martini Obituary

Eva Martini ,85, of Hamilton , NJ, passed away May 15, 2026. Mrs. Martini was born in Palanka, Yugoslavia. She grew up in Salzburg, Austria. She came to America in 1956. She graduated from Cathedral High School in Trenton. Eva was a very active member of the Donauschwaben Club of Yardville, NJ. She was a German language teacher at the Danube Swabian Association. She was the face of the kitchen at club affairs for many years of dedicated service. A member of the singing choir and a cultural attache for the club. Daughter of the late Markus and Eva (Wagner) Mayer. Sister of the late Stefan Mayer. Wife of the late Adam Martini. Surviving are her daughter and son in law, Monica M. and Jeff Gottfried of West Trenton NJ. 2 sons and daughters in law, Hans M. and JoAnn Martini of Hamilton, NJ Raymond Adam and Marie Rose Martini of Suwanee, GA. Her grandchildren, Anna M. Walls, Luise E. Scheidler, Kathleen Anne Martini, Adam H. Martini, Maria E. Gottfried and Christina R. Malofiy. Three great grandchildren, Gemma Scheidler, Grant Scheidler and Leo Malofiy. Many nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass will be Celebrated 11:00am Thursday May 21, 2026 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 3800 East State St. Ext. Mercerville. Interment will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hamilton. Relatives and friends may call Wednesday 5:00 – 7:00PM at Knott's Colonial Funeral Home, 2946 South Broad St. Hamilton. Memorial donations may be made to the Donauschwaben Club of Trenton, 127 Route #156, Yardville NJ 08620



ment will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hamilton. Relatives and friends may call Wednesday 5:00 – 7:00PM at Knott's Colonial Funeral Home, 2946 South Broad St. Hamilton. Memorial donations may be made to the Donauschwaben Club of Trenton, 127 Route #156, Yardville NJ 08620

Member Spotlight....

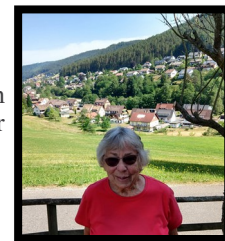
We want to take a moment to shine the spotlight on one of our long-time members...namely Bob Knott of Knott's Colonial Funeral Home. Bob not only supports every dinner, but he quietly supports the Club behind the scenes as well! He repeatedly tells us how important the Club is to him! A third generation business owner, his father and grandfather were also active supporters of our Club! Bob...from the bottom of our hearts we sincerely thank you for your generous and continued support over the years.

A Very Happy Birthday!



To Club member Peppy Bath, who will celebrate her 95th birthday on July 2. You can find Peppy at every event and dinner! A true supporter of our Club! Wishing Peppy a very happy and healthy year ahead!

**



CONGRATS—2026 GRADS

Dennis J. & Donna Bauer congratulate their grandchildren as 2026 Grads; Evan from the Penn College of Technology, Alex from the Bucks County Technical High School and Tina from Rancocas Valley Regional High School (Tina's parents are members Steve & Melanie Bauer Brandecker) . Kudos!!!!!!



Donauschwaben History, Culture & News

Spend a Day with me on the Expulsion Boxcar Train - 1944

Franz Bohn. May 5, 2026

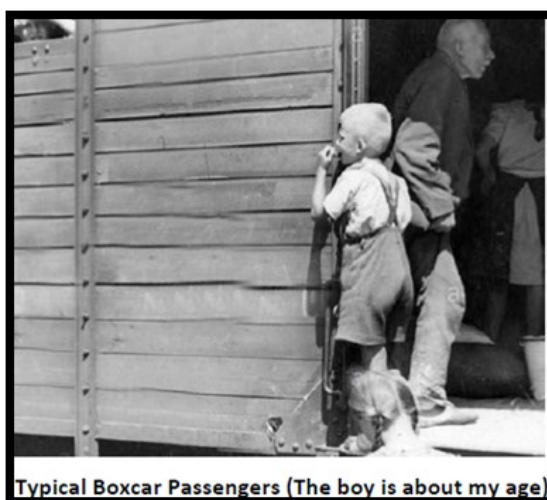
In today's world, with the availability of modern train travel, including air conditioning, WIFI, dining and sleeper cars and 24 hour porter service, I thought it might be interesting to compare it to my first 'train ride' from Yugoslavia, at age 3½, during World War II.

Back in October 1944, for us Donauschwaben that were lucky enough to have escaped the pillaging, murdering and brutalizing by the marauding drunken Partisans and the rapidly advancing Russian army from the East, there were only two ways to escape from our homeland. For those that had horses and wagons, they packed as much as possible and left hurriedly on a horrendous months-long journey to the West. For most of us, those who were without horse and wagon, the only way was via a risky and dangerous train-ride, hopefully to the West (towards Austria), but that was never certain for many trains were forcibly re-directed East, towards Russia. Those that would not or could not leave, who decided to stay in their homes were subsequently either marched off into the woods and executed and buried in mass graves, or they were imprisoned in grueling work-camps, or worse yet, they were shipped off to Siberia where they were cruelly mistreated, starved and worked to death in dangerous coalmines or slave-labor camps.

All of us left our homes in a hurry, under the threats and harassment of the uncontrolled Partisans, who were actually encouraged by Tito, to take revenge and inflict as much harm as possible. We took what we considered were necessary papers and a few meager possessions, and through the cold October night we walked through frozen and muddy fields and dark forests, sometimes under fire, until we arrived at the Jankovci train station, which heartbreakingly had been set on fire by the Partisans before we arrived.

It took over a day for the fire to burn out and for the train tracks to be cleared and for train traffic to flow again. The train that we were able to board was made up of boxcars which had been used to transport all types of goods, and at times animals.

Our 'train car' was a boxcar about 50 feet long, 10 feet wide and 10 feet high. Each car was crammed with about 30 to 40 people and all their possessions. The men population was all elderly, with women of all ages, some with children, others quite old. About one third of the group were children, like me (age 4), mostly ranging in age between babies and teenagers.



Our car had a strong, pungent smell of previous animal presence. Of course were no seats, no lights, no restroom facilities and no windows, and the roof leaked in many places. The entrance to the car was through a heavy sliding steel door that took several men to maneuver. There were very high steps, which were extremely difficult for the women and elderly men to climb. Once that heavy door was closed, we were in almost complete darkness, even in the daytime, except for the few cracks in the boxcar walls where slits of light were cut through the dusty interior.

In our car, several of the old men had used their crude tools to cut a hole in the floor (hard work!), in the back corner for 'emergency' relief, since the train moved on an unpredictable schedule and one could not always count on the next 'outdoor relief' opportunity. To provide some modicum of privacy, some of the belongings were piled up near that 'relief corner', but the sounds and scents permeated throughout the boxcar. In those cases, even though cold, the air rushing in through the cracks in the boxcar walls were a welcome source of 'Frische Luft'! (German for 'Fresh Air').

While the train was moving, gusts of cold air would also rush in through that floor opening making everyone very uncomfortable with the cold air and deafening whooshing sound. The men partially solved these problems by picking up large flat rocks at one of the stops, and placing it over the hole.

One of the unavoidable properties of the train was the constant and pungent odor of creosote. Almost everything, including the railroad ties, the boxcar floor, any wooden surface was coated with creosote to retard the effects of weather. Once touched by hand, the stain and odor remained and it took a long time to either wear off or be scrubbed off during stops. That odor eventually seeped into everything, clothes and belongings and just became 'part of the experience'.

Continued on page 12

2026-2028 Club Officers & Staff

Club Officers:

President: Joseph Brandecker, Jr.
 Vice Presidents: Luisa Scheidler & Christa Pullion
 Treasurer: Al Tindall
 Assistant Treasurers: Joe Brandecker, Sr. & Dennis Bauer
 Financial Trustees: Chris Carson, Sasha Malofiy & Katie James
 Membership Secretary: Anna Walls
 Recording Secretary: Brittaney Protonentis
 Secretary: Hans Martini
 Executive Chef: Hubert Pinkerton
 Wirtschaftsmeister: Robert Walter
 Publicity Chair & eNews Editor: Liz Tindall
 Newsletter Editor and Club Genealogist: Dennis Bauer
 Assistant Newsletter Editor: Melanie Brandecker
 Webmaster: Christina Malofiy
 Scholarship Program Chair: Liz Tindall
 Scholarship Program Committee: Emma Walter & Ernie Schirmer
 Memorial Observance Team Lead: Christa Pullion
 Auto Klub Co-Chairs: Joseph Brandecker, Sr. & Dennis Bauer
 Hausmeister: Ernie Schirmer
 Club Decoration & Artwork Team: Ron Kernast & Sofi Walter

Board of Directors:

Chair: Liz Tindall 2021 – 2027
 Mark Gruzlovic 2021 – 2027
 Joseph Brandecker, Sr. 2025 – 2031
 Sasha Malofiy 2025 – 2031
 Kim Walter 2025 – 2031
 Anna Walls 2023 – 2029
 Secretary: Katie James 2023 – 2029

Dachverband der Donauschwaben USA Officers:

Ray Martini, Landesverbandspräsident
 Joseph Brandecker, Sr, Schatzmeister, Stiftung
 Kathleen Martini, Landesjugendleiterin
 Stefan Brandecker, Verträter, Stiftung
 Hans Martini, Verträter, Verband

**Honorary Club President: Joseph Brandecker, Sr.

Membership News



Club Officers & Staff (see page 4 for more staff listing)

Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Luisa Scheidler & Christa Pullion, VPs
Dennis J. Bauer, Quarterly Newsletter Editor. Liz Tindall, E-Newsletter Editor

Kitchen Leader/Chef: Hubert Pinkerton

Kim Walter, Club Photographer/Baker

Al Tindall, Treasurer, Asst. Tres. Dennis J. Bauer & Joseph Brandecker, Sr.

Secretary: Hans Martini, and Recording Secretary: Brittaney Protonentis

Membership Secretary, Anna Walls

Melanie Brandecker, Quarterly Newsletter Copy Editor

AutoKlub Leaders: Dennis J. Bauer & Joseph Brandecker, Sr. Support staff, Steve & Melanie Brandecker, Terry Huff

Web Master and Facebook Editor: Christina Malofiy

Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer

Mail Room Coordinator: Hans Martini



Get Well/Thinking of you to members: Lea (nee Bauer) Hepler, Ludwig Jakober, Maria Kuhn, Marlene Novosel, Hilde Schintzler, Richard West, Leslie Potts and Erika Volltrauer and those members that we were not aware of.

Welcome new members; Gerda Somers of Hamilton, NJ and Al Tilger of Medford, NJ.

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



Congrats—Member **Alex Hepp** celebrated his 97th birthday in May. Born in Backa Palanka, Yugoslavia in 1929. His family moved from Austria in 1956 and settled in Trenton, NJ. He has been a member of our Club since it's inception. Father of Liz (Al) Hepp Tindall. He has two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren. We wish you many more!



A Double Celebration!

Happy 65th birthday to Club member **Michael Galati**! Not only did he celebrate this wonderful occasion, but he and his wife **Barbara (Herdt) Galati** also just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary! Happy birthday, happy anniversary and we wish you many more joyous celebrations; good healthy above all!



Happy 45th Wedding Anniversary to members, **Chris and Karen Carson** of Long Beach Island, NJ.



Wedding Congratulations.... To the **Bartmann family** on the recent marriage of Julia in Wellington, Colorado! A number of our Trenton Donauschwaben Club members hopped on a plane to participate in this happy occasion! We send our sincere congratulations to the newlyweds for a lifetime of love, good health and good fortune!



Baby on the way.... Congratulations to soon-to-be mom **Anna (Martini) Walls**, who was celebrated yesterday at a baby shower given in her honor in Radnor, PA. Anna, an active member and volunteer in our Club, is the daughter of **Hans and JoAnn Martini**, who will become "Oma und Opa" for the 4th time in August! We congratulate the future parents and grandparents and look forward to meeting the newest member of the "Schwob" community. Pictured are Anna's sisters, **Luisa and Christina**, and mom **JoAnn**!

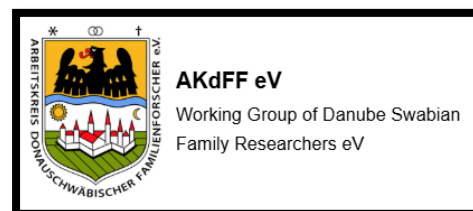
Condolences—**Mrs. Mark Gruzlovic**, passed away **24 June 2026**. Donna Gruzlovic, 67, passed away peacefully on June 25, 2026, at Serenity Hospice in Hamilton Township, NJ. Born in Trenton, she was a lifelong resident of Hamilton Township. She was a graduate of Steinert High School and had worked as a teller for Yardville National Bank/PNC for more than 30 years. Predeceased by her parents, Kenneth and Rosina Boyle, she is survived by her beloved husband of more than 43 years, Club member, Mark Gruzlovic, and her son, Stephen Gruzlovic of Philadelphia. She also is survived by her sisters and brothers-in-law Carol Anne Mortellito (Ronald) of Somerset and Karen Chebra (Donald) of Hamilton Township; her brother and sister-in-law Kenneth Boyle (Patricia) of Tuckerton; sister-in-law Hope Gruzlovic (Joseph Donohue) of Allentown, NJ; brother-in-law Paul Gruzlovic of Tallahassee, FL, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Deutsche Ecke



AKdFF e.V.
Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer
Familienforscher e.V.

Happy 50th Anniversay
Donauschwäbische Familienkundliche
Forschungsblätter (AKdFF)
Goldmühlestraße 30,
71065 Sindelfingen, Germany



AKdFF eV
Working Group of Danube Swabian
Family Researchers eV

“The Working Group of Danube Swabian Family Researchers was founded on October 18, 1975, in Schriesheim. Its approximately 530 members (as of April 2018) come primarily from Germany, but also from Austria, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, as well as from the USA, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

A large proportion of the members still belong to the generation that experienced the expulsion or flight from the Danube Swabian settlement areas in the successor states of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy – Hungary, Romania, Serbia, and Croatia. Their ancestors migrated to Hungary from southwestern Germany, Hesse, and the Palatinate in the 18th century after the Ottomans were pushed back.

Our association lays the foundations upon which our descendants can build if they are interested in their origins. Our main focuses are acquiring and developing sources for Danube Swabian family research, advising members, and publishing family and local lineage books.

The main areas of activity are:

- Acquisition and development of sources for Danube Swabian family research.
- Promotion of family history publications and the publication of family and local lineage books.
- Providing advice to members and interested family researchers outside the association.

Contact

Telephone: 07031-7937637

Email: info@akdff.de

Opening hours

Thu & Fri: 10am – 4pm

Appointment required

Obtaining microfilmed church registers is one of the association's most pressing tasks. Without church records, there is no genealogical research. The church records of our region retain their value beyond our time. They are our most important sources for Danube Swabian history.

The aim of our work is to learn as much as possible about our ancestors and their origins. We belong to the generation that experienced these events firsthand; many of us still know the language and culture of our former home villages. We are laying the foundations upon which our descendants, who are interested in their heritage, can build.

Therefore, everyone should try to find out the birth, marriage, and death dates of their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. This information should go back at least to 1895. From this point, we can trace the data back to the first entries in the church records of your home parish, using microfilmed church registers that we already possess or that are available for purchase. To date, we have over 3,000 rolls of these church registers, the majority of which come from Hungarian parishes.”

From their web site...English translation by “Google”.

The Trenton Donauschwaben wishes the AKdFF (<https://akdff.de/>) a Happy 50th Birthday and Continued Success.

Club Genealogist, Dennis J. Bauer is a longtime member of the AKdFF. He has donated his Palankaers to America book to the organization for their library in Germany and has purchased many of their books/CDs for his own personal library.

Photos (right) from the June 2026 "Wurst und Bier Fest, held at the beautiful grounds of the German-American Society in Yardville! Prost!

70th Year Anniversary for Our Club—A REASON TO CELEBRATE.....

Please Join Us!!

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Time: 3 - 7 p.m.

Location: German-American Society Ballroom, Yardville, NJ

Music by "Die Heimatklaenge" and Entertainment by the UGH Dance Group



CLUB ITEMS and OTHER NEWS UPDATES

Get Your Trenton Treffen Commemorative (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!



New—Club Stickers: \$2.00 each

Large stickers \$3.. each

Donated by Member Dennis J. Bauer

Produced by member Erich Lobecker



More Donauschwaben News



German-American Police hold 50th Anniversary Banquet

Excerpt from the *United German-Hungarians* Web site by Michael N. Fricker, Permission granted.
April 22, 2026



In April of 1976 Bob Bauer, Earl Asimos Jr., Jim Weisback Sr., Les Milby, Walt Handel, and Fred Smith founded the German-American Police Association (GAPA) in Philadelphia. 50 years later on April 18, 2026 the organization celebrated it's 50th Anniversary with a banquet held at the Cannstatter V.V.

Attending from the United German Hungarians was a group consisting of: Marlene Fricker, Werner Fricker Jr., Lisa Fricker, Michael Fricker, Susi Hartmann, and Connie Reiter. Of course the entertainment for the evening was Die Heimatklänge so Bill Galgon, Fred Galgon, Joe Hartmann, John Reiter, Wayne Lepp, and Dino Jakovasic were also in attendance.



Photo to left—Jim Schwartz, Frank Dufner & Chuck Pinkerton (also a Trenton Donauschwaben member).

Photo to right—**Standing (L to R)** - John Aceto Jr, Adam Tilger (Trenton Donauschwaben member also), James Snyder, Gregory Speck, Ray V Rhine, Frank Mack, William Buttenbusch (GAPA DIRECTORS).

Photo to right—**Seated (L to R)** - Ron Russell (FINANCIAL SECRETARY), Ian Lichterman (RECORDING SECRETARY), Jay Shensky (VICE PRESIDENT), Jim Schwartz (PRESIDENT), Mike Woolley (SGT.. AT ARMS), Jaime Schaible (TREASURER)



Jim Schwartz has been the President of the German-American Police Association for 26 years. At the banquet fellow members of the GAPA presented Jim with a large plaque thanking him for and commemorating his service to the organization. A well deserved honor.

"I call now on all my fellow members of the German Hungarians, and of our fellow clubs, dance groups and societies: Attend when you can these kinds of special functions for special anniversaries or causes when they come up on the calendar. They are important traditions in our greater community and you won't regret participating."

Michael Fricker, United German Hungarian Editor

Editors Note: The Trenton Donauschwaben also offer their congratulations to the German-American Police on this great occasion. Hope you can attend our 70th Club Anniversary in October at the German-American Society in Yardville, NJ.



Our Donauschwaben AutoKlub and the Old School Euros Car Club News

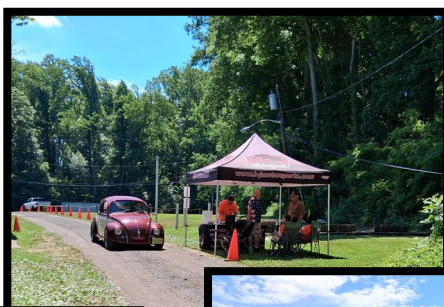


June 13 & 14, 2026

Was 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
It was a great VW, Audi & Porsche car show. There was a DJ, food, a campout and swap meet.



Proceeds helped fund the St. Jukes Children's Research Hospital. Our club was a sponsor. *Trenton DSA* members, Dennis Bauer, Paul Lobecker, Hans Martini, Erich Lobecker, Frank Herdt and Terry Huff are also OSECC members. ****

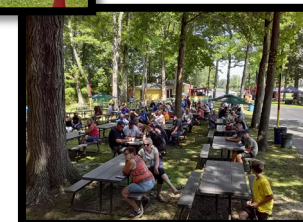




**Coming July 11th-Our 21st Annual
"Euro-American Auto &
Cycle Show"**

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. The *Old School Euros Car Club* is also a sponsor., and helper at the show.



Newsletter Sponsors and Advertisers

Our Printed Quarterly Newsletter Sponsors 2026:

- * 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)*
- * 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 2026:

- Peter Kernast
 - Ilhan & Isabelle Aksay
 - Roswitha Hoenisch
 - Karin & Rich Laning
 - Eva Martini
 - Ernie and Cynthia Schirmer
 - Joyce & Elmer Carson
 - Chris and Karen Carson
 - Sue Conrad (in memory of Carl)
 - Mary and Frank Varone
 - Hermann & Erika Volltrauer
 - Robert Knott
 - Sean and Marie Gorman
 - Erich Kraus (in memory of Otto & Edith Kraus)
 - Al & Liz Tindall
 - Alexander Hepp (in memory of Elfriede Hepp)
 - Peppy Bath
 - Harold and Marie Parr
 - The Shaffer Family
 - James Potts
 - Klara Andrichuk (in honor of Joseph and Josefa Brandecker)
- VIELEN DANK!**

Robert V. Knott
MANAGER

KNOTT'S
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

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CLUB EVENTS FOR 2026***Calendar of Events 2026 Donauschwaben of Trenton***

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

January 25th , Sunday at 1pm—Annual Business Meeting

February 22nd, Sunday at 1pm—Winter Dinner

March 29th, Sunday at 1pm—Easter Luncheon Dinner

April 24-25th, Sunday—National Donauschwaben Meeting - Chicago

May 3rd , Sunday at 1pm—Mother's Day Dinner

June 14th, Sunday at 1pm—Father's Day Picnic/Pig Roast

3rd through the 5th of July—Canoe & Camping Trip (reserve soon) in N.E. PA

**July 11th, Saturday (rain date July 12th), 9am-3pm—21st Annual Car Show at the German
American
Society**

September 5-7th, Chicago, IL— Annual North American Treffen

September 20th at 1pm, Sunday Harvest Festival Dinner

**October 24th, Saturday at 3pm—Club's 70th Anniversary Banquet at the German-American
Society Hall, Yardville, NJ**

November 1st, Sunday at 1pm—Memorial Service at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hamilton, NJ

November 15th, Sunday SCHLACHTFEST (2 seatings, 12:30pm & 3pm)

December 6th, 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

Train ride—Continued from page 3



Typical Escape Boxcar



Typical sleeping conditions

During transit, most people sat with their backs against the wall, or they would lean against the stacked pile of belongings. There was not much people movement since the car was very crowded and in the darkness, and the shaking wagon movement, made every step tricky and quite dangerous. Sitting or lying on the cold hard floor, for long stretches of time, was very uncomfortable with lots of cramps and stiff joints. Sleeping was even more difficult with the limited and cramped 'personal space', and the hard floor that provided lots of splinters, not to mention the constant loud clanking of the train hardware, especially the very heavy sliding door, and the very loud and high-pitch screeching from the boxcar wheels on rail-track turns.

What about food and water? This is one of the most-asked questions. Almost all train refugees brought some type of food with them from their homes, despite the hurried departure into the unknown. Mostly, breads, smoked sausages and fruits which provided sustenance for the first few days of the journey. Without refrigeration, the food lifespan was short, and after the initial days, food became the most-urgent issue for the entire train population. There were occasional stops where locals offered small quantities of food, mostly bread and milk. I remember one stop where the locals actually had a large kettle with hot soup which was a welcome treat for our hungry bellies. That stop was not typical, and we were not always welcomed, in fact there were many stops where we were cursed and threatened by the locals.

The majority of our time we had to forage for food, whenever and wherever the train stopped. Mostly, we scavenged, mostly with bare hands, for 'leftovers' from various harvested farmer's fields for scraps of potatoes, corn, kernels of wheat and oats. When forests were near, mushrooms, nuts and berries were sought, although the pickings were slim because of the late time of year. Other than collection from the boxcar roof drippings, water was usually collected from streams or rivers, when near the train tracks. Although this was not always the cleanest, that didn't matter to us while dealing with the entire scope of the hardship. Since water is the basic requirement for survival, there was no alternative! Cooking inside the boxcar was not only dangerous, it was impossible because of the crowded conditions. Whenever the chance arose during our stops, men would build fires right by the railroad tracks and the women would cook up meals, as best as they could, resulting in mostly thin soups consisting of various unknown, and oftentimes mysterious, ingredients.

One danger was always present, which was the unpredictability of train movement. There was no set schedule! The people running the trains were not our friends, and they seemed to derive immense enjoyment from keeping us in the dark and on-edge, as to when the train would get moving again. Oftentimes, there were only minutes from the train's two short whistle bursts to the actual train movement, so we never ventured too far from the train. The fear of being 'left behind' was constant, and it was real! On occasions when the train stopped at night, no-one ventured outside, other than maybe a short bathroom break right next to the boxcar, for the risk of being left behind was just too great.

The above briefly describes our daily 'life on the train', according to my childhood memory and my mother's and grandfather's recollections. The journey West normally would take less than a day. However, due to wartime uncertainties such as local and national political struggles, railway bombings and equipment breakdowns, our journey lasted several weeks. After the long journey, we arrived in Austria, where we were shuttled by flatbed trucks to several temporary accommodations until we finally settled in the Salzburg, Austria area in a camp called 'Schwabenlager Grödig', an old and former WWI Russian POW camp. Although very austere and dilapidated, it provided a roof, a place that provided an 'anchor', with a sense of security and normalcy, a place where we were able to recover and reconstitute our life, and where we dared to think about a future.

Please note, photographs included in this article are NOT of our experience. They are publicly available and do portray, very accurately, the described conditions and experiences. Franz Bohn (friend of the Trenton Donauschwaben and article contributor over the years).

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 2026 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 2025 Euro-American Auto and Cycle Show.



A Scholarship Update!

The deserving students from all three local high schools have been selected and we are prepared to present them with Scholarship dollars at their awards ceremonies, to be held on various dates in June. Since this is a surprise to these students, we will announce further details following these ceremonies.

Thank you all for your continued support and participation in our scholarship program! And a special **THANK YOU** to Club member Ernie Schirmer who is most supportive in many ways of this program. Vielen Dank Ernie! ***

70 Years (Continued from page 1)

In 1973 under Club President Willie Michel leadership the club members self-financed (between \$500-1000 each) the purchased a 100 year old farmhouse at Broad Street and Rt. 156 in Yardville, NJ (outside Trenton) and renovated it into the present day clubhouse. They were paid back by the mid-1990s for their "loan". It was down the street from St. Elizabeth's Home (1944) for unwed mothers, run by Catholic German- American sisters and regular attendees at the club's monthly dinners. Today the tradition (prep, cooking, baking, serving and bar service) continue by both our lady, men and youth members.

In the 1980s, the youth dance group performed in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Washington, DC, New York, and at the German Heritage Festival in Holmdel, NJ. The group re-organized in the 1990s and joined with the Philadelphia Donauschwaben dance group have performed at numerous Donauschwaben Fest all over North America.

An adult German language school was added in the 1980s with teachers over the years including; Lore Hanks, Silva Magnus, Louis Romolo, Dr. Kurt Müller, Ryan Kramer, Andy Franz and Christa Tindall Pullion. Unfortunately, the classes stopped in the early 2000s. However, in 2021 the club went virtual and students are now enrolled at the Bucks County Community College under Christa Tindall Pullion's instruction. Club news was spread by word of mouth back in the day. Our late Jacob Eppli even spread the news when selling his eggs in the club member neighborhoods of Trenton. In the 1970s, Adam and Eva Mayer Martini spread the club news by publishing it in the "Der Heimatbote" newspaper out of Toronto, Canada. This was followed by news announcements published by Monica Martini Gottfried, Kathy Herdt Tozzi and Monica Kusenko Yob in the "Junge Menschen" in the 1970s. The late Otto and Edith Kraus kept the members updated of events throughout the 1980s. In the 1980s the club, under Hans Martini editorship, created its own newsletter called the "Wir Donauschwaben" In the 1990s the newsletter changed its name to the *Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten* and is published quarterly by Editor, Dennis J. Bauer with help from late Adam/Eva and Hans Martini, Liz Tindall and Stefan and Melanie Bauer Brandecker and others. The newsletter contains club news, announcements, events, Over the past several years member Liz Tindall started a weekly club e-newsletter which goes out on-line to hundreds of subscribers. The club news is spread worldwide, not bad from the old fashion "word of mouth" that only reached a dozen or so individuals to now reaching hundreds of individuals via the Internet. Club news was also announced Sundays on the radio out of Trenton on the "Ted and Rudy" German radio Show (Ted Hierl and Rudy Stumpf). In 1999 the club went joined the World Wide Web under Dana Miles with the creation of our own web page (was www.trentondonauschwaben.com, now in 2024 www.trentondonau.com). The club now has a Facebook page for the club and one for the *Euro-American Auto Show* The club started hosting an annual Euro-American Auto and Cycle Show with the German-American Society at their picnic grove in 2004 with great success. Proceeds support the Club's student scholarship fund.

The club held its 25th (1981) and 50th (2006) Anniversaries off site at the Arbeiter Hall in Trenton. Our 60th Anniversary was held at the German-American Aurora Hall in Yardville, NJ in 2016. Members continue to attend the annual Donauschwabentreffens held throughout North American each summer and support/hold cultural events in the East with sister clubs; the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and the United German-Hungarians. "Finding our Past" under the direction of member and Genealogist, Dennis J. Bauer began in the 1990s. The club has held a number genealogy courses/seminars over the years on the history of the Donauschwaben and their roots at several public events and at the club for its members. In 2003 the club joined the newly formed Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands organization (www.dvhh.org) and its web site. This organization's goal is to be a resource for those researching their Donauschwaben roots.

The **Trenton Donauschwaben Society**, in conjunction with the **German-American Society**, the **Philadelphia Donauschwaben** and the **United German Hungarian Society** (Region Ost/East of the Donauschwaben Verband of U.S.A. and Canada) held the annual North American Donauschwaben Treffen at the German-American Society grounds in Yardville, NJ over the Labor Day weekend in 2022. Over 2,000 visitors attended the 3-day gathering. It was a great success and was the first Treffen held in New Jersey since the mid 1950s. The club will celebrate its 70th Anniversary in the Fall of 2026 at the German-American Aurora Hall in Yardville, NJ. This also marks our country's 250th Anniversary as we welcome club's 4th generation members now under the new President Joseph Brandecker, Jr..***



**2026 Spring— DATES
& TIMES—Come out and
join us for our events!**

♦April 24-25—Annual National Business Meeting, Chicago, IL.

♦May 3— Mother's Day Dinner, 1pm.

♦June 14— Father's Day Pig Roast, 1pm.

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

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Hans Martini, Club Secretary
Email: 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
Donauschwabern!*



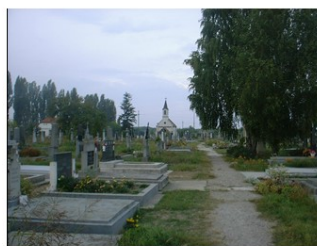
THE NEW TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK IS AVAILABLE NOW!

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 dinners. 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 also 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 also.