



NEWSLETTER

Philadelphia, PA

Spring 2017

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A Note From the Editor

We are happy to share with you this latest issue of our newsletter! This issue contains some highlights from the beginning of 2017 and a summary of some upcoming events at the club. Specifically, look for an article about our second annual Danubia Beer Festival, news from our soccer teams and dance groups, and some personal notes from our members.

We welcome you to contribute to our future newsletter issues by sending an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com or by talking with a club representative. Enjoy reading!

Pilgrimage Mass and Luncheon

Our annual Pilgrimage Mass (Wallfahrt) will be held at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel (1663 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020) on Sunday, June 4, 2017. The Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please join us to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the expulsion and to remember all those who have gone before us.

A goulash lunch will be held at the club after the Pilgrimage Mass starting around 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$15. Please call the club for reservations.



Kindergruppe at the Mother's Day Dinner

President's Update

I'm back. No, I haven't been away, just a hiatus for the past 12 years as Vice-President. During this time, the club was in the capable hands of Rosalie Matico, who stepped down to the position of Treasurer. Now, I return again to the position of President with the same enthusiasm as I did 20 years ago when I first accepted this position.

From the time of my initial term, many things at the club have changed. If you look at the pictures of the Board found further back in the newsletter, you realize many of the people (founding members) have passed away, moved away, or are not doing well physically, yet there are still some active today 30 years later. At the time of the pictures I was a youthful mid-thirty year old with 3 children, and now I am a senior citizen grandfather of 4.

So, what's the point? Time moves on and we have to be flexible enough to stay current with the times and needs of the membership but still remember to maintain our commitment to preserve our ethnic heritage. It's a difficult thing to do considering all the things that tug at our time but the Board and I are up to the challenge. I believe we have a solid schedule of events, so come out to your club and have a good time.

Fred Gauss, President

New Board Members

At the 2017 elections, the following five members were elected to the Board of Directors: Amy and George Burbage, Christina Brenner, Linde Luczakowsky, and Barbara Parker. Thank you for your willingness to help the club!

Anniversary Celebration

Please save the date for our club's 60th anniversary celebration, which will take place the evening of Saturday, November 18, 2017. Stay tuned for more details!

Danubia Beer Festival 2017

Contributed by George Brenner

On Saturday, April 22, for the second year in a row, the Danubia Beer Festival was held outside under the tents with a wide selection of both German and domestic craft beers available. The imported beers from Germany and Austria included seasonal beers such as a maibock, regional beers such as kölsch and a north German pilsner, the popular grapefruit hefeweizen, and a beer that you do not see as often, a weizenbock. The imported selections were from breweries including Hofbräu, Steigel, Jever, and Weisses Bräuhaus G. Schneider & Sohn. The domestic varieties featured IPAs, lagers, pilsners, wits, and other styles from local breweries such as Fegley's and other favorites including Jack's Abbey, Smuttynose, and Hardywood.

With the ever-growing popularity of imports as well as domestic craft beers, making the selections for this year's beer tasting was not an easy task. We are very grateful for the individuals working on the selection committee who brought a vast amount of knowledge and an astute awareness of beer types to the challenge. Judging from the selections made and feedback from festival attendees, the tasting event had a wonderful selection of twenty beers that were interesting for both the beer connoisseurs and those who wanted to try something that they would not normally drink.

The crowd was once again entertained by the Kharmacists band, and between breaks, our master of ceremonies Al Taubenberger provided some background information on the various beers available, along with tips on

which beers to compare in order to taste the variations among similar types of beer.

New for this year's festival was a demonstration on how to brew your own beer. We thank Ross Matico and Charles Minguez for conducting the beer making demonstration and adding another dimension to the beer festival.



Homebrew demonstration by Ross Matico and Charles Minguez

No beer festival is complete without a Masskrugstemmen competition, and this year was no exception. A number of the tasters tried their best to hold a Masskrug (one liter mug) of beer with one outstretched arm longer than anyone else in the first qualification round of the official Masskrugstemmen Competition sponsored by Hofbräu. The crowd cheered on as the competitors lined up on stage in an attempt to outlast the others holding the Masskrug for as long as they could. Congratulations to Scott Blanche our club winner! Scott will represent the Donauschwaben at German Day on June 24 and compete against winners from the other German clubs in the Philadelphia area. The winner on June 24 will be the Philadelphia German community's representative in the National Championship held in Central Park on the third Saturday in September following the New York Steuben Parade. Scott, best of luck in the next round of the competition!

Overall, the Beer Festival was a lot of fun for all those who attended. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate this year but with

multiple large tents, the crowd was under cover and judging from all the bratwurst that were eaten and the party continuing at the bar inside after the event, everyone had a fun time. We hope to see you again next year!



Tasting some German and domestic beers at Danubia Beer Festival



Enjoying the afternoon at Danubia Beer Festival



The rain did not dampen their spirits!



Masskrugstemmen Competition sponsored by Hofbräu



Participants celebrating after the Masskrugstemmen Competition

A Blast from the Past

We thank board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these photos!



1986 Donauschwaben Board

Front Row (left to right): Michael Leisch, Fred Masur, Adam Dickmann Sr., Kathe Marx, Adam Mattes, Theresia Masur, Karl Schweda, Victor Hoffmann, Ewald Kraus

Middle Row (left to right): Oskar Pohl, Anton Dickmann, Barbara Kulp, Ronnie Pohl, Erich Pohl, Helen Thiel, Hans Thiel, Franz Herdt, Gerlinde Maitz, Joesef Wittner, Witold Wenzel, Jacob Teppert, Rosalie (Mattes) Matico, Monica (Heck) Verdi, Phillip Holinger

Back Row (left to right): Steve Jaros, Steve Brenner, Jack Mattes, Theo Gauss, Paul Hoenisch, Mr. Petschi, George Burbage, Joe Miller, Mr. Birgel, Anton Pittman, Mr. Keil, Martin Urich, Kurt Krestel, Adam Dickmann Jr.



Some of the 1986 Board Members with their Spouses at the Yearly Banquet

Front Row (left to right): Steve Jaros, Rosina Jaros, Elisabeth Pohl, Heidi (Pohl) Ibarra, Kathe Marx, Maria Mattes, Adam Mattes, Theresia Masur, Karl Schweda, Mrs. Thiel, Maria Dickmann, Elisabeth Hering

Middle Row (left to right): Toni Dickmann, Jack Mattes, Rosalie (Mattes) Matico, Oskar Pohl, Witold Wenzel, Mr. Thiel, Fred Masur, Gerlinde Maiz, Katharina Wittner, Joe Wittener, Erich Pohl, Ronnie Pohl, Rose Urich, Katharina Pittmann, Michael Leisch

Back Row (left to right): Theo Gauss, Paul Hoenisch, Erich Hering, Joe Miller, Anton Pittmann, Steve Brenner, Martin Urich, Victor Hoffmann



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Danubia-L Mailing List

We welcome you to subscribe to our "Danubia-L" electronic mailing list to stay informed of news and upcoming events.

To sign up for the Danubia-L mailing list, send your name and e-mail address to webmaster@danubeswabian.com.

Penny Party

This year's penny party was a great success. Many thanks to Gerlinde Maitz and the ladies, all the soccer Moms who helped out, and Fred Gauss for all their hard work. We had many beautiful prizes and lots of good fun. We had a new addition to the prizes this year - a "man cave" section with prizes geared toward the men at the party (yes, there are always a few men and every year a few more). It was greatly received and many women loved the items as they thought they were great for household cleanup, electronics, or tools that they could use too - or something for the men in their lives. We are looking forward to next year's penny party with great enthusiasm.

Hope to see everyone there again. Please, tell your friends about it, and we can all have a good time again next year.



A full house at this year's Penny Party!

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 6/2 | Summer Concert Series: No Irish Need Apply |
| 6/4 | Pilgrimage Mass (Wallfahrt) |
| 6/16 | Youth Soccer Tournament |
| 6/23 | Summer Concert Series: Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band |
| 6/24 | German Day (held at VE) |
| 6/30 | Summer Concert Series: SoundWave Big Band |
| 7/16 | Club Picnic / Pig Roast |
| 8/27 | Tag der Donauschwaben |
| 10/1 | German-American Steuben Parade |
| 10/14 | Wine Tasting |
| 11/18 | 60th Anniversary Celebration |

Please be considerate and make your reservations in a timely manner so the kitchen can properly prepare for each event.

Steuben Parade

This year's German-American Steuben Parade in Philadelphia will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017 in Rockledge - Fox Chase. The German-American Steuben Parade in New York City will be held on September 16, 2017.

Mother's Day Dinner

We celebrated our Mothers, Omas, and Grandmothers with our Mother's Day dinner. This year, we celebrated during the Friday night dinner. The event had a nice turnout. There was delicious soup, dinner, and dessert. The Kindergruppe performed with 5 couples. They performed 4 dances, including one with their mothers. The children also recited a poem. Each mother in attendance received a flower from the children. Everyone enjoyed celebrating the different mothers in their lives!



Members of the Kindergruppe with their mothers



Celebrating at the Mother's Day dinner

Recipe Corner

Spritzgebäck

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks of butter (or 1 butter, 1 margarine)
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 1 packet of Dr. Oetker Vanilla Sugar
- 2 eggs
- Pinch of salt
- 1 flat teaspoon of baking powder
- 4 cups of flour

Directions:

Cream the butter and gradually add sugar, vanilla sugar, then eventually the eggs and salt. Sift flour together with baking powder and add 1 tablespoon at a time.

Load dough into a cookie press with desired tip. Deposit cookies onto nonstick baking sheet, shape as desired. Try not to smooth the extruded dough, it looks better when left "rough". Try to keep all shapes the same width so they bake evenly. Thinner ones may burn before the others finish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 8 - 10 minutes.

Contributed by Rob Hessler

We always enjoy contributions from our members! If you would like to submit a recipe to be included in the Recipe Corner in our next newsletter, or if you would like to submit a personal story about your Donauschwaben family, a poem, a memory, or some other item of interest for our newsletter, please contact Michael Rakszawski or send an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com.

Ward Ein Blümchen Mir Geschenket

Contributed by Rob Hessler

Text: A.H. Hoffmann von Fallersleben (1798–1874)

Ward ein Blümchen mir geschenket,
hab's gepflanzt und hab's getränkt,
Vöglein kommt und gebet Acht!
Gelt, ich hab' es recht gemacht.

Sonne, lass mein Blümchen sprießen!
Wolke, komm', es zu begießen!
Richt' empör dein Angesicht,
Liebes Blümchen, fürcht' dich nicht!

Und ich kann es kaum erwarten,
Täglich geh ich in den Garten,
Täglich frag' ich: Blümchen sprich!
Blümchen, bist du bö's' auf mich?

Sonne ließ men Blümchen sprießen,
Wolke kam es zu begießen,
Jedes hat sich brav gemüht,
Und mein liebes Blümchen blüht!

Wie's vor lauter Freuden weinet!
Freut sich dass die Sonne scheint!
Schmetterlinge, fliegt herbei,
Sagt ihm doch, wie schön es sei!

Project Update

Thanks to your support, the bathroom project at the club is moving forward! We now have the detailed plans along with hardware requirements. We are doing a final review before the work will begin. If you would still like to make a contribution or get involved with the project, you can make a donation or contact us via the club's web site.

Landesverband der Donauschwaben

The Landesverband der Donauschwaben held their annual meeting this year in Detroit Michigan the weekend of April 29-30, 2017. We congratulate Hans Martini from the Trenton Donauschwaben Association who was elected as the new Regional President from the East, Michael Fricker from the United German Hungarians who was newly elected as Press Chief, and Kathleen Martini who has been an active participant in our dance group and was reelected as the National Youth Director. We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Fred Gauss who served for the past number of years as the Region East President. Of special highlight during his presidency, our 3 sister clubs worked seamlessly to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Expulsion through a Museum exhibit at the Philadelphia Donauschwaben, a Trachtenfest at the Untied German Hungarians, and "A Day in the Life" at the Trenton Donauschwaben. Thanks, Fred, for your leadership!

To learn more about the Landesverband der Donauschwaben, please visit www.donauschwabenusa.org.



**2017-2018 Donauschwaben Landesverband USA
Board of Directors**

STEBEN DAY OBSERVANCE ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY



GERMAN DAY 2017

Saturday, June 24



Philadelphia German Brass Band



\$7.00

Pre-Sale Tickets

Available at all German-American Clubs



Don Bitterlich



\$10.00

ADMISSION AT THE GATE

GATES OPEN

1:00 PM

Entertainment from **DON BITTERLICH & his WANDERING ACCORDION**

Music from the **PHILADELPHIA GERMAN BRASS BAND**

CROWNING OF MISS GERMAN-AMERICA PHILADELPHIA

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GERMAN-AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS ALL DAY**

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Cannonsfrauen
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Franklinville-Schwarzwalder Männerchor
G.T.V. Altravach

G.T.V. Edelweiss
German Society of Pennsylvania
Germania Männerchor
Hermann Humboldt Lodge
Immanuel German School
Int. German-American Police

Helping Society
Lancaster Liederkreis
Phoenix Sport Club
Reading Liederkreis
United German Hungarians
United Singers of Philadelphia

Vereinigung Donauschwaben Philadelphia
Vereinigung Donauschwaben Trenton
Vereinigung Erbsgrube
Women's Auxiliary German Society of Pennsylvania
Damenchor Wald Echo



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Summer Concert Series

Please join us for our Summer Concert Series on Friday nights throughout the month of June. The concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. The kitchen and bar will be open starting at 6:00 p.m.

- June 2 No Irish Need Apply
- June 23 Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band
- June 30 SoundWave – Big Band

This is a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxing Friday evening in a family-friendly environment. We hope to see you at one of our concerts!

Danubia Soccer News

This year, we are especially proud to have two state championship soccer teams at the club! Congratulations to the teams and to the soccer program for this great accomplishment! For more information about the soccer club, please contact Hans Kloehn, Jr. or visit our web site at www.fcdanubia.org.

U8 Boys (Griffins) - The Griffins were semifinalists in both the Department of Rec Futsal League and YSC Indoor League.

U9 Boys (Gunnars) - The Gunnars were the champions of the Department of Rec Futsal League and YSC Indoor League. The Gunnars wrapped up their PA State Cup run with a 3-2 win over Penn Fusion Predators, earning the title "2017 PA State Cup Champions".

U10 Boys (Cosmos) - The Cosmos were the champions of the Department of Rec Futsal League.

U11 Boys (Hotspur) - The Hotspur were the champions of the Department of Rec Futsal league. In addition, they competed in the PA State Cup tournament and were competitive to

the end, edging out West-Mont United in a 4-3 overtime win to clinch the title.

U12 Boys (Celtic) - The Celtic were the champions of the Department of Rec Futsal League and YSC Indoor League.

U13 Boys (Eagles) - The Eagles participated in the Elite Division of the PA Indoor Cups with a competitive showing.

U11 Girls (Lightning) - Danubia Soccer is proud to welcome coaches Mike Speak and Andrea Kolodij and the U11 Girls Lightning to the club!

U13 Girls (Dynamo) - Dynamo participated in two indoor leagues during the winter. They finished in second place in the Philadelphia Futsal League, but they did not participate in playoffs as they conflicted with the youth banquet.

Women's Majors (Fury) - The Fury were semi-finalists in both the Pennsylvania State Cups and finalists in the PA Indoor Cups.

Banquet - The youth soccer program was able to celebrate our players in our first (annual) youth soccer banquet on February 25, 2017. Parents, players, and coaches had a great time honoring the hard work and successes of each of the teams: U8 Boys Griffins, U9 Boys Gunnars, U10 Boys Cosmos, U11 Boys Hotspur, U12 Boys Celtic, U13 Boys Eagles, and U13 Girls Dynamo.



Players celebrating at the Danubia Soccer Club banquet held in February



Parents, coaches, and volunteers at the Danubia Soccer Club banquet

Union Game - Danubia moms with Union moms played against our youth Danubia teams at halftime during the Philadelphia Union vs. Houston Dynamo game on May 16. The kids won the game 1-0 and had the experience of a lifetime playing in front of twenty-thousand fans. Photos can be seen at www.philadelphiaunion.com.

Membership Note

We would like to welcome the following new members to the club!

- Melissa Broderick
- Anthony and Rose Cancelliere
- Rita Cancelliere
- Brian and Megan Fabrizio
- Rita Seaman
- Tom Wall

As a reminder, we now offer club membership renewal on our web site via PayPal!

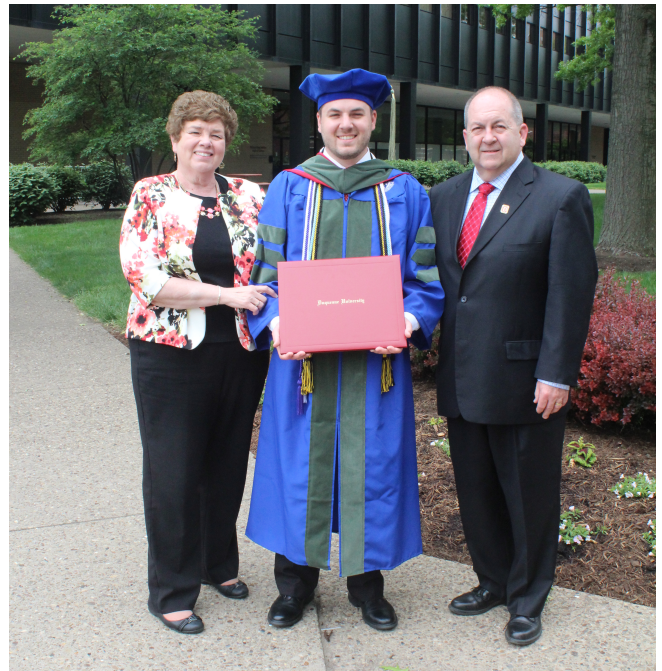
If you have any questions about club membership, or if you would like to become a member, please contact our membership secretary, Roswitha Hoenisch, at 215-638-8387 or membership@danubeswabian.com.

Member News

We hope you will enjoy reading about the recent accomplishments, birthday milestones, anniversaries, and travels, of our members. If you would like to submit your own member news to be featured in the next newsletter, please send an e-mail with the information to newsletter@danubeswabian.com.

Graduations

Congratulations to Eric Rakszawski, son of club members Tom and Linda Rakszawski, for graduating from Duquesne University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Eric has been accepted into a residency program at Lancaster General Hospital for the coming year.



Eric Rakszawski with his parents Linda and Tom Rakszawski at the Duquesne University graduation

Congratulations to dance group member Anthony Hessler, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Central Bucks South High School in June. Anthony will be attending DeSales University in the fall, majoring in Computer Science.

Weddings and Anniversaries

Frank and Renate Pittmann celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on April 25, 2017. Best wishes to them from their family – boys Matthew and Kevin, granddaughter Arianne, mother Gerlinde Maitz, and parents Mr. and Mrs. Anton Pittmann.

Travels

From April 24 through May 4, Fred and Marianne Gauss had an opportunity to visit Italy. They stayed in Rome for three nights, visiting the Basilica of St. Peter, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel. Taking a train to Florence, they then spent two nights there seeing Michelangelo's spectacular David at the Academia on the first day as well as the magnificent Duomo. On the second day, they spent hours in the Uffizi museum and shopped as they "were cruising that amusing Ponte Vecchio" (I couldn't resist the Cole Porter reference). Returning to Rome, the rest of the trip was spent seeing ancient Rome and visiting churches and eating Gelato. The Forum was vast and fascinating. It was also crowded as May 1 is a national holiday for the Italians. The Colosseum, where Fred had to resist the urge to salute with an anthem of "strength and honor", was remarkable. Visiting the Palentine, it was interesting to see ancient ruins juxtaposed against modern and vibrant Rome. It was a wonderful trip filled with fine food and great memories.



Fred and Marianne Gauss exploring ancient Rome

Birthdays

Renate Maitz Pittmann celebrated her 50th birthday on January 23, 2017. Best wishes are coming from her family - husband Frank, boys Matthew and Kevin, granddaughter Arianna, her mother Gerlinde Maitz, and her inlaws Mr. and Mrs. Anton Pittmann.

Anna Hessler's 90th birthday (April 13) was celebrated with a big family gathering and dinner at the club on the evening of April 22. Several long-time club members and their children were in attendance. Best wishes, Frau Hessler!

Charlie the Church Mouse

Contributed by Gerlinde Maitz

A lady hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car, and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help.

Within five minutes, a beat-up motorcycle pulled up driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. The lady said, "Yes, my daughter is sick and I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

"Sure," he said. He walked over to the car and in less than a minute, the car door was open. She hugged him and through tears softly said, "Thanks, God, for sending me such a very nice man."

The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I'm not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft." The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a professional!"

Is God great or what!?!

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