



Club Newsletter

April 12, 1999



Vereinigung der Donauschwaben, e. V.

Danube Swabian Association, Inc.

127 Route 156

Trenton, NJ 08620



Donauschwaben Cultural Exhibition

"Culture"

To some, the word evokes an immediate and uncontrollable reaction.

You know... the yawning, the glazed-over look, the fidgeting... For many otherwise fine fellas there is very little doubt that watching a rerun of "This Old House" - for the fifth time - would be infinitely preferable to watching even the highest quality show about ethnic culture. Hey, it's a "guy-thing", it's in the blood!!

In the face of this strong biological imperative, our club stands little chance of being able to change this human condition! What we can do, however, is to present our culture in such a manner that it makes learning about it an enjoyable experience for everyone. This, my friends, is precisely what a large group of people will be doing for this weekend's Donauschwaben cultural exhibition.

For both beginners and the more knowledgeable -young and old - the United German Hungarians, the Philly Donauschwaben and the Trenton Donauschwaben have put together an in-depth look at who we are; where we've come from; and, what happened to us along the way. It is a great opportunity for everyone to learn something about....culture!

Now we know most of you don't fit the tongue-in-cheek stereotype used above. That's why we're confident you will really find this weekend event worthwhile!



This Saturday from 12 to 8 PM and this Sunday from 11 to 6 PM (come any time during these hours), our club will co-host what will surely be a most worthwhile event show-casing our brand of German culture. The Philadelphia Donauschwaben clubhouse will be set up with tables - convention style - allowing you easy access to

all of the exhibits. We'll have original artwork; ethnic crafts; period photography; fabulous "Heimat" books; artifacts of everyday life; and, of course, "Tracht" or ethnic costume in many splendid variations.

We'll also have website tours; on-site genealogical help; and, perhaps most interestingly, discussion groups. These groups will address themes that include the ethnic cleansing/ genocide suffered by our own people and how today's events in Yugoslavia/Kosovo compare, etc., etc.. Everything from the serious to the light-hearted will be part of this exhibition.

Naturally, we'll have beverages and plenty of delicious ethnic foods and desserts on hand as well. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Don't forget: the event is being held at the **Philadelphia Donauschwaben clubhouse** (NOT ours)! We've enclosed directions and can assure you that not only is their clubhouse very easy to get to, but that it is also only a 30 minute drive from our clubhouse.



Other News and Events -- Fund Raising Dinner Planned

We made brief mention of Kosovo before and would like to continue on that issue for just a bit. Most of you recognize the sad situation down there as being tragically similar to what happened to the Donauschwaben in the Voivodina (Batschka) and elsewhere. The upcoming club dinner will be a fund-raising event for humanitarian aid to the innocent victims of this present day nightmare. Part of the proceeds from the May 2nd "Muttertagessen" will go to the Caritas relief organization (a Catholic relief agency with an outstanding reputation) to help fund their work in this region.

See the enclosed schedule for details and do reserve early as this dinner is usually very well attended.



Special Guest to Lead Service at Annual Wallfahrt

The 21st annual pilgrimage to St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia, held on June 6, 1999, will be lead by the Reverend Father Harvey Blaschko from Chicago, Illinois. Judging from his writing in the Heimatbote newspaper, this is indeed a highly intelligent and well spoken man with an intimate knowledge of our history and culture.

Surely many of our members will want to attend this always beautiful and most meaningful morning service (ALL denominations are welcome and expected).

We'll have several choirs singing the melodious Schubert mass with the German brass band providing additional musical accompaniment. This event commemorates the tragedy that befell the Donauschwaben and all Germans in the aftermath of W.W.II. It will certainly have enhanced meaning in light of the tragedy unfolding today in the Balkans.

We encourage all of our members and friends to make an effort to be a part of the event this year. For information, directions and/or possible transportation to the church, please call Joe Brandecker, Jr. at 585-9001 or Hans Martini at 888-2762. The event begins at 10:15AM in Philadelphia.



Memorial Prayer Service in Trenton

On June 6th, 1999, Father Harvey Blaschko will travel to us in Trenton to hold a short prayer service at our own unique memorial here in Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery off Cedar Lane in Trenton. The event will be held at 4:30 PM and won't last much longer than 20 minutes. As most of you know, our usual service in November is held without the benefit of clergy. So, when the possibility for having someone exists - we seize the opportunity!

We do need your attendance to make this a successful undertaking. It is not enough for a couple of us to show! Besides, we're going to be pretty lonely (and not a little embarrassed!) otherwise! Let's show Father Blaschko that we Trentoners are an active community of ethnic Germans!

Following the memorial service everyone is invited to come back to our club in Yardville at 5:30 PM for a light meal/beverage reception for the visitor from Illinois. Come on, Donauschwaben members and friends, we have what it takes to make this occasion a success: YOUR PRESENCE!! Vielen Dank!

Call Joe or Hans for further information.

Club Newsletter

April 12, 1999

Continued



More News from around the Club

Herzlichen Dank!

A hearty THANK YOU to all of our active members on behalf of Joe Brandecker, club president, and the governing committee. Let's go out on a limb and mention just a few individuals: Marion Dlubak, who, with son, Joe, has been keeping the club and grounds spic and span; Dana Miles, who's been using almost every lunch break at work to make sure our website is the best it can be; Nicole Lenyo, who is serving so ably at our club dinners alongside our other fine women; Dennis Bauer, who has been contributing time and effort in the area of genealogy in the club's name; and, all the other active members without whom the club could not survive. The club appreciates your efforts very much... you make the difference!



Auf Wiedersehen!

Gary and Lisa Bartmann, along with their three children, have moved to Germany for a few years! Gary was promoted to a new posting with his company, Lockheed Martin, and has since taken up residence in Munich. By the way, anyone looking for Gary in that fair city can find him at his desk at the Hofbräuhaus... oopssss....sorry, Gary, the secret slipped out!

Wir Gratulieren!

As if the move to Germany wasn't enough, Lisa and Gary also became parents for the third time! Julia was born to them this past February ...Congrats!

Members Forrest and Joanne Shull can be very proud that their son, Forrest, recently received his Ph.D. in computer science. Some of you may recall that Forrest was one of two of our young members to win the national Donauschwaben scholarship. We wish Dr. Shull all the best in his future endeavors!



It wasn't that long ago (okay, several months) that members Andrew and Barbara LaRue tied the knot. The handsome couple lives up in Metuchen,

NJ. We wish them a life full of love and happiness.

Website

Truly one of the bright spots at the Donauschwaben club recently has been our internet website. Member Dana Miles has worked many, many hours to give us a professional looking and very informative site that has been well-received by everyone. WE WANT YOUR HELP! Should you have anything that might be useful, informative or interesting for the site, whether it be poetry, essays, photos, etc., please let us know.

Let us know what you think by signing our [Guest Book!](#)



School News

We would like to thank Lou Romolo and Sylvia Magnus for their continuing efforts in service to our adult German Language School. Thanks to them, our club can provide an educational opportunity for those wishing to learn German.

We haven't forgotten about our children even though the club's children's school has been suspended for the last couple of years. With so many youngsters now belonging to our organization, it seems more important than ever that efforts continue to be made to reintroduce at least some type of school. There have been a number of good suggestions including ways to lessen the strain on the teachers and parents.

ANYONE interested in helping; suggesting ways to help; or, even suggesting someone who could help are urged to contact Joe, Hans or anyone at the club. Time is slowly passing us by on this issue, hopefully we'll be able to do something soon!

Books for Sale

We have a large consignment of books still available on the subject of the Donauschwaben tragedy. These are written in ENGLISH and feature the true story of a Jesuit priest, Wendelin Gruber. Priced at \$15, this is the perfect gift for yourself or for anyone with an interest in our heritage - it's a compelling read! Please call Eva Martini at 586-6109 or the club to get yours today.



Shorts

A big SERVUS! to all of our members who have moved far away but still retain membership... Markus in IN; Ray and Marie in GA; Emmi and George in VA; Gary and Lisa in the FRG; Augustine in CA; Dieter and Irmgard in OH; John and Inge in

FL; and, Franz and Anna in FL.

Have a great spring everyone!

