



American Aid Society

of German Descendants

Vereinszeitung



Jahrgang 47 - Folge 4

Dezember 2017 – Februar 2018

Nummer 149



Der erste Schnee

Friedrich Güll (1812–1879)

Ei, du liebe, liebe Zeit,
ei, wie hat's geschneit, geschneit!
Rings herum, wie ich mich dreh',
nichts als Schnee und lauter Schnee.
Wald und Wiesen, Hof und Hecken,
alles steckt in weißen Decken.

Und im Garten jeder Baum,
jedes Bäumchen voller Flaum!
Auf dem Sims, dem Blumenbrett
liegt er wie ein Federbett.
Auf den Dächern um und um
nichts als Baumwoll' rings herum.

Neuschnee

Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914)

Flockenflaum zum ersten Mal zu prägen
mit des Schuhs geheimnisvoller Spur,
einen ersten schmalen Pfad zu schrägen
durch des Schneefelds jungfräuliche Flur -

Kindisch ist und köstlich solch Beginnen,
wenn der Wald dir um die Stirne rauscht
oder mit bestrahlten Gletscherzinnen
deine Seele leuchtende Grüße tauscht.

AMERICAN AID SOCIETY of German Descendants

is a **501 (c) (3) non-profit organization** dedicated to the preservation of our German culture and heritage. All gifts and donations given to this organization are fully tax deductible.

This organization is headquartered at our clubhouse address below:

6540 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631-1750

website: www.americanaidsofgerndescendants.org
email: americanaidsofgerndescendants@gmail.com

Our Mission

This organization's mission is to cultivate and maintain our German heritage by our traditions, customs, beliefs, music, dance, language, and to remember and preserve our history. To respect and accept Germans from Europe and their descendants living throughout the world. To aid other Germanic peoples in times of need such as when natural disasters occur. Also, to give support to other ethnic groups in times of crisis throughout the world. To maintain our loyalty, trust, love, and duty to the United States. And locally, to foster goodwill among all non Germans living amongst us in our community through education and entertainment.

Officers

Robert Lengfelder
President

Dan Katzenmayer
1st Vice President

Blanca Tilli
2nd Vice President

Bernie Heurich
3rd Vice President

Elvira Geist
Recording Secretary

Andrea Katzenmayer
Treasurer

Laura Casey
Corresponding Secretary

Präsidentenbericht

A few words from our President



Reflecting on another year coming to a close, I must say it has been a busy one for us. We started the year with a newly formed events committee and a goal of better communicating with our club members via an email based system. The event committee was challenged with helping bolster attendance at some events and coming up with some enhancements for other events. They were also tasked with helping raise money for the Pavilion Fund. Overall a lot was put on their plate but the help was welcomed and I look forward to more in 2018. I think that the email reminders, updates and important timely communication went well. We look to add more people to that communication committee and implement a monthly upcoming events format to assist in planning and improve attendance.

We also had some significant losses this year. The passing of Armin Homann and the end to the *Armin Homann Radio Show* had a huge impact on the German community. Also, the closing of the *Eintracht* weekly paper was another void that has not been filled. We also had many members and loved ones pass away this year, some well before their time was due. We send prayers and well wishes to those who have lost loved ones.

Some good changes also came about. We made some lighting and cooling upgrades to the outside kitchen along with changing the indoor kitchen lighting. This was not only to have a brighter and more comfortable environment but also to be more energy efficient. The lights came to us by way of a generous anonymous donation and are very much appreciated. We have also started demolition of the current pavilion with the hope that the general contractor can get the roof up this year. But, as everyone knows, you really can't bet on the weather in Chicago. We are also starting a letter donation campaign to raise funds for the pavilion: the letters should have been delivered to your homes already. Along with our own Jugendgruppe earlier this year the Kindergruppe also donated \$4,000 to the fund and presented that check to me at the Schlachtfest. Thank you to them and to all who have donated to the Pavilion Fund.

Some memorable occasions this year were Frühlingsbankett, the return of Heimatfest, Landestrachtenfest in Cincinnati, Kirchweihfest and of course my favorite, Schlachtfest. At the Frühlingsbankett, which marks the start of our year, we honored Mr. Joe Stein and Mr. Nic Fritz with the Gold Pin from the Landesverband. It's a privilege to give a little something back to people who have done so much for our club. This year, after a year without it, we brought back Heimatfest and had the opportunity to have the Hungarian dance group and band from Weri-schwar perform at our picnic. Thank you to Mr. Joe Stein and Mrs. Marianne Strumberger, president of the Donauschwaben, for arranging their visit, housing them and welcoming them to Chicago. The Cincinnati Landestrachtenfest was rather memorable this year but not for the weather. Those who attended saw the Kindergruppe perform to everyone's joy and the Jugendgruppe rose to the challenge of the competition. The Jugend did an amazing job and everyone was so proud of them. The Kirchweihfest was another event with a new twist. Past Jugend members enjoyed taking part in the fun alumni march. Mr. & Mrs. Stein won the Strauss for the alumni group. The Jugend also invited several members of the Milwaukee Jugendgruppe to participate in the march. Overall, it was a fun time and something a little different. Of course, the last memorable event this year was Schlachtfest. Although fewer members attended this year than last year's event, the food, entertainment and raffle of the baskets were very fun. We had the privilege to award the Landesverband Gold Pin to Mrs. Angela Stumpfoll, Mrs. Elsa Walter and Mr. Emil Hrbacek for their years of service. Please see the newsletter article for more information.

By the time this newsletter is issued and delivered, the elections will be completed. I already know that Dan Katzenmayer will no longer be our vice president. He is stepping aside from his role on the Vorstand due to a change of his work hours which allows Dan to help his parents more often. Dan has served on the Vorstand for the past 10 years and he will be missed. He was the first friend I

made when I joined the Jugendgruppe many years ago and I value his friendship and dedication to the American Aid Society. Cheers and thank you, Dan.

As this year ends, another begins. We will take on the challenges again next year and hope to enjoy another year of picnics, fests and banquets. I want to thank all the members of the Vorstand, the board of directors and the Oktoberfest committee for all their time and effort. Thank you everyone who volunteers and performs duties including cleaning, setting up, making food, selling tickets, bartending, writing articles, teaching the kids and repairing. You are all important to the club and we are better off having you as members.

On behalf of the American Aid Society, I wish all of our members, family and friends a very happy Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas and a healthy 2018.

Robert Lengelder

Veranstaltungen (Activities or Events)

10 Dec 17 Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas Celebration) & MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday at our Clubhouse, 6540 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago

Meeting starts at 12:00 PM, Lunch available at 12:30 PM
Program begins at 2:00 PM

Our youth and children's groups will present their
Christmas program in German and in English.
Come and see their special program.
Santa Claus will appear after the program to hand out gifts.

13 Dec 17 Rentnertreffen (Senior Meeting), 9:00 AM

January Rentnertreffen – NO MEETING

21 Jan 18 Mitgliederversammlung und Einführung der Vereinsvertreter,
SUNDAY, 1:00 PM (Membership Meeting and Officer Installation)

26 Jan 18 Kindergruppe Karneval (Children's Mardi Gras)
Friday at our Clubhouse, 6540 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago

Doors open at 7:00 PM
Donation at the door is \$ 5.00 per person. **Children are free.**

Our children's group will party and play games.
Children should come dressed up in their favorite costumes.
Come and see their special program. All children will win prizes and gifts.

February Rentnertreffen – NO MEETING

18 Feb 18 Mitgliederversammlung (Membership Meeting),
SUNDAY, 1:00 PM

23 Feb 18 Jugendgruppe SPINGO (Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo)
Friday at our Clubhouse, 6540 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago

Time: 6:00 PM until ???

Spaghetti Buffet available at 6:30 PM
Donation for Adults: \$ 10.00 — BINGO Card Donation: \$ 1.00 each

Kindergruppe members come in free
Please join us and bring your family and friends.
There will be great food and prizes to give away.

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This Vereinszeitung (club newspaper) is published quarterly with mailings to the membership prior to **March, June, September, and December** of each year.

It is your active participation which makes this newsletter informative, educational and entertaining reading. Mail or e-mail all articles, pictures or whatever you wish to share to the address below. Pictures will not be returned unless requested.

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Email publicist if you wish to receive your newsletters electronically.
Include NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

DO NOT wait until the last minute since late submissions will either be heavily edited or omitted entirely. Best to submit shortly after each activity or event. *Accuracy is the responsibility of each author and not the Publisher!* Second, the publicist **will NOT write articles** on your behalf.

Contribution deadline for articles is either on **February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, or November 1st**. This allows sufficient time to edit, proofread, layout, print, and mail the newsletters to the membership before month's end.

Laura Casey: Press Secretary, advertising
Margaret Wolf: Editor and proofreader
Walter Scheffrahn: Layout, printing & distribution

Rückblick seit der letzten Ausgabe

(Review since the last issue)

Oktoberfest

By Laura Casey

Oktoberfest 2017 was a record breaking success!! Thanks to all those who helped make things run smoothly.

This year we had a great jump start, because the *Heimatfest* picnic was a week earlier. The Tuesday crew got the hall and the grove ready and decorated nice and early. We also had an extra Saturday in between the German Day parade and the start of the Oktoberfest, so a few of us on the committee along with Peter and Erik Lissauskas, Mark Bappert and some Kicker volunteers gathered September 16th to continue with set up and decorating.

A HUGE thanks goes out to Matthew and Dan Katzenmayer—Thanks to Matthew, a scissor lift was donated: Dan installed a new battery in the lift and brought it out to Lake Villa. This makes reaching the ceilings for hanging banners etc. so much safer and easier, plus no more hauling around the big heavy wooden ladder. This makes cleaning the gutters a breeze too!!!

The weather was HOT on week one. It got up into the 90's on Saturday and by the time the doors opened, those of us who had been there all day were a sweaty mess! Luckily, the heat didn't stop the crowds—we set a record for week one attendance with just over a 1,000 people! It seemed to be the perfect weather to introduce our latest new drink at the fest—Honey Bourbon Lemonade, made with *Bärenjäger* liqueur. Needless to say, it's a thirst-quenching and refreshing drink that sold like crazy!! Thanks to Peter Lissauskas for the great idea!

As always, the band Paloma really got the crowd going with both German and American favorites! Our Jugendgruppe not only performed weeks one and three, but most members also worked very hard and added a huge contribution to the volunteer staff that supports the Oktoberfest—*Danke!!*

Week two brought cooler, more typical fall weather—mid 60's and sunny. This was a welcomed relief by all of our volunteers.

Another record was set this weekend, when we had almost 1,800 people, including the Rheinischer Verein, walk through our doors. Week two seems to be the biggest day of our fest, this thanks

to Groupon and the band Phenix, who has a steady following, even with this mostly American crowd. No matter what the crowd type, Phenix gets them on their feet and dancing (and drinking too!). Since we never really know how large a crowd we will get, it's always a challenge when it comes to ordering food, etc. and although the food lines were long at times and we ran out of a few items, the customers were still very friendly and quite understanding—the music and beer seemed to keep them content!

Week three was warmer than week two, but certainly not as warm as week one. It rained in the afternoon, which was much needed, but thankfully stopped around 4:30 and didn't impact our parking lot or the grove area, which gets more utilized with each passing year. The outdoor tables near the playground, by the monument and up to and on the outdoor stage were filled nearly all three weekends!

Again, our attendance was on point, we had over 1,100 people come through the doors. It's clear to us, that the fest has grown tremendously over the last 17 years. We have changed, added and deleted various ways of advertising. Besides word of mouth, Groupon has been our most successful way of getting people through the door. Each weekend, it brings us almost 500 people. Thanks to Matthias Wissmann for getting this started!! And thanks to all of our Groupon gals (Christine O'Reilley, Jenette Goecke and Erika Ehrat) for getting through those long lines with a smile and a tap of your phone!

Additionally, Matthew Katzenmayer introduced snapchat at the fest, adding yet another social media outlet to spread the word about our Oktoberfest. (Don't ask me how it works...I'm too old to understand it!)

Although Matthias and I appreciate the thanks the committee received, we agree that without the help from ALL the MANY volunteers from both Aid Society and the Kickers, we could not open the doors. It truly takes a village, so thanks to each and every one of you who came to help out. From the ladies who peeled endless pounds of potatoes, to the people who washed and swept the floors and cleaned the bathrooms, to the kitchen and parking staff—we are so grateful! That being said, I wanted to personally thank Angela Balcerak and Ann Lengfelder for coordinating all the volunteers and for working so closely with the volunteer coordinator from the

Kickers, Roberta Miranda.

I would also like to give a big thanks to Heidi Bernhardt. Heidi is a former Jugend member who has not only volunteered for many years, but has also recruited nearly half of our security staff from her colleagues, also members of the Evanston police force. She came weeks one and two, with her crew, despite the fact that she was getting married on Friday, October 6th. We all know how busy things get before a wedding, but Heidi still made time to help out – Thanks and congrats!!!

Lastly, thanks to all the members and friends who come out to party and celebrate at the Oktoberfest—we appreciate your support throughout these many years and look forward to 2018! ♦



Kirchweih

By Joe Stein

The American Aid Society of German Descendants celebrated its annual traditional Kirchweihfest on Saturday, October 21, 2017. With great joy and much anticipation, the children and youth groups participated in the Kirchweih march. It is the favorite fest of the year for both groups. The alumni of the Jugendgruppe from the past 60 years also participated with a march and had their own Strauss. It added to the evening's fun.

The winners of the auction of the Strauss are highly anticipated. The winners of the Kindergruppe Strauss were Stephen Slabinger and Sonja Illy and the Jugendgruppe winners were Aric Werstein and Christina Wagner.

At end of the evening, the winning youth group couple invited all participants and guests to an elaborate breakfast which ended by 1 AM. A marvelous time was had by all. ♦



Rückblick seit der letzten Ausgabe

(Review since the last issue)

Schlachtfest

By Joe Stein

Our Schlachtfest was held on a beautiful autumn day, Sunday, November 5th. Many busy hands of our wonderful volunteers worked Friday, Saturday and Sunday in preparation of this event.

We are very thankful that so many of our young members helped in the preparation and learned what is involved to keep the Donauschwaben tradition of Schlachtfest alive. Sarma preparation includes cooking cabbage leaves, adding meat and rolling them into cabbage rolls. Proper preparation also includes making the Bratwurst, head cheese, liverwurst, Gulasch, and cracklings (Grameln). Decorating the hall and setting up the tables for over 400 guests take much time and effort. The bar committee had their hands full as well. By the time the door opened at noon, everything was ready except for the cake plates. They were created as our members brought home-made cookies as donation upon their arrival. These beautiful plates were our dessert.

The official program began at 1:10 with singing of the American and the German national anthems followed by the dinner prayers. President Lengfelder greeted all the guests and representatives from different organization and wished all "einen guten Appetit." Our youth group served and cleaned up the tables after dinner. Before they served the coffee and cookies, President Lengfelder presented "die goldene Nadel" of the Landesverband der Donauschwaben to three of our deserving members for their longtime contributions to the American Aid Society – Angela Stumpfoll, Elisabeth Walter, and Emil Hrbacek.

For the annual fundraiser, the Kindergruppe sold raffle tickets for large baskets made by members. Each basket, worth at least \$ 50.00,

represented a different theme. The liquor baskets seem to have been the most popular. Phenix played beautiful dinner and dance music.

We would like to thank all our guests for supporting the American Aid Society's Schlachtfest. Your attendance made all the hard work worthwhile. A big "thank you" to the Jugendgruppe for serving and putting on a wonderful program, to the Kindergruppe for their program, the kitchen workers, the sausage makers, the decorators, the bar workers, the cookie bakers, and everyone who came and helped. We wish everyone happy holidays, a mild winter, and a healthy 2018. ♦



Mitglieder Meilensteine (Member Milestones)

Verstorbene (Deaths)

In the last three months, four of our members have passed to their eternal reward.

Helen Walter
Frank Hamma
Brian Dymitrowicz
Andy Csapo



We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Hochzeiten (Weddings)

On Friday October 6, 2017 **Heidi Bernhardt** married **Joseph Salamone**. They reunited after first meeting many years ago in high school. They had a beautiful wedding in Dundee Illinois with 200 guests. Heidi is a long-time member of the American Aid Society, former Jugendgruppe member, assistant Jugendleiterin and club secretary. Heidi works security at the Oktoberfests and Joe has now joined the team. After enjoying their honeymoon, the newlyweds now live in Crystal Lake. ♦



Komitee Bericht (AAS Committee Report)

Lake Villa

By Joe Stein

Our busiest work period, lasting from September through November, is finally over. The period of non-stop work starts after Heimatfest, as preparation for Oktoberfest begins. This lasts for three weekends. The required work for the Oktoberfest, which take place over three weekends, includes setting up, cleaning everything after every fest and setting everything up again. Then we have a week break to prepare for the Kirchweih and two weeks later it is the Schlachtfest. Switching the chairs before Oktoberfest and then replacing them again before the Kirchweih and Schlachtfest is a lot of work.

At the same time, we have to take care of all outside work; flowers need to be taken out, outside bathrooms and kitchen needs to be winterized, and many little odds and ends need to be taken care of. We appreciate the help cleaning after the Oktoberfests from the Oktoberfest committee. We had no major breakdowns or problems the last few months, which is always a plus. Now we can take our time waxing the floor, cleaning the washrooms, kitchen and hall. Hopefully we will have a mild winter. We can take it a little easy since many of our volunteers leave town for warmer climates. *Vergelts Gott!* to all the volunteers. Stay healthy! ♦

Donations

The following people have generously donated for the support of our Verein:

Mr & Mrs **Mike Walter** — \$500.00
Mr & Mrs **Peter Wenson** — \$200.00
... for Robert Lahr

Mr & Mrs **Edward Palfy** — \$100.00
... in Memory of Helen Walter

Mrs **Sara Hartig** — \$100.00
... for AAS Clubhouse

Mr & Mrs **Emil Hrbacek** — \$50.00
Mr **Martin Koenig** — \$50.00
... for our Vereinszeitung

Wir wünschen allen unseren Mitgliedern, die Geburtstag hatten, alles Gute, beste Gesundheit und noch viele glückliche Jahre. Allen unseren Kranken wünschen wir baldige Genesung und erholsame Wintertage. Allen Hochzeitsjubilaren wünschen wir noch viele glückliche Jahre.

Aus unseren Abteilungen (From our Departments)

Seniorengruppe

Hans Gebavi – Seniorengruppe Delegate
847-588-2308

What I Want in a Man - AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH!!!

Submitted by Annamaria Kieffhaber

What I Want in a Man, Original List

1. Handsome
2. Charming
3. Financially successful
4. A caring listener
5. Witty
6. In good shape
7. Dresses with style
8. Appreciates finer things
9. Full of thoughtful surprises

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 32+)

1. Nice looking
2. Opens car doors, holds chairs
3. Has enough money for a nice dinner
4. Listens more than talks
5. Laughs at my jokes
6. Carries bags of groceries with ease
7. Owns at least one tie
8. Appreciates a good home-cooked meal
9. Remembers birthdays and anniversaries

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 42+)

1. Not too ugly
2. Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
3. Works steady - splurges on dinner out occasionally
4. Nods head when I'm talking
5. Usually remembers punch lines of jokes
6. Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
7. Wears a shirt that covers his middle
8. Knows not to buy champagne with screw-top lids
9. Remembers to put the toilet seat down
10. Shaves most weekends

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 52+)

1. Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed
2. Doesn't belch or scratch his crotch in public
3. Doesn't borrow money too often
4. Doesn't nod off to sleep when I'm venting
5. Doesn't re-tell the same joke too many times

Please continue on the next page.

Aus unseren Abteilungen (From our Departments)

Seniorengruppe

Hans Gebavi – Seniorengruppe Delegate
847-588-2308

Continued from previous page

6. Is in good enough shape to get off the couch on weekends
7. Usually wears matching socks and fresh underwear
8. Appreciates a good TV dinner
9. Remembers my name on occasion
10. Shaves some weekends

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 62+)

1. Doesn't scare small children
2. Remembers where the bathroom is
3. Doesn't require much money for upkeep
4. Only snores lightly when asleep
5. Remembers why he's laughing
6. Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
7. Usually wears some clothes
8. Likes soft foods
9. Remembers where he left his teeth
10. Remembers that it's the weekend

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 72+)

1. Breathing
2. Doesn't miss the toilet

Another story

After being married for 44 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Darling, 44 years ago we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year-old girl.

Now I have a \$500,000 home, a \$45,000 car, nice big bed and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 65-year-old woman... It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year-old gal, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve your mid-life crisis. Read it, it's to the men who can still handle it!!!! ♦

Jugendgruppe

Renee Stein – Jugendgruppe Leader
847-381-7918

Jugendgruppe Report

By Kristina Wagner

The months of September and October always bring about a lot of excitement for our Jugendgruppe. In September we not only competed in Cincinnati, we also performed at Lincoln Square for German Day, helped host very successful three weekends of Oktoberfest in Lake Villa, and celebrated another Kirchweih.

The Jugendgruppe is extremely thankful for all the love and support we had during the Labor Day weekend in Cincinnati. Knowing that we had the encouragement of our entire club during the stressful period preparing for competition made all the long practices and hard work worth it. We would like to thank everyone who came out to watch us and continue to support us in every way they can. Regardless of the outcome, we are very proud of our performance and growth as a result of competition. Participating in competition and attending the Landestreffen reminds us all of why we love dancing and to cherish the life-long friendships made because of the American Aid Society.



Group picture of the Jugendgruppe before competition in Cincinnati



Julia, Zac, Jeremy, and Katrina in Cincinnati at the Landestreffen

Right after Labor Day we went into full swing with more events. We performed at the German Day celebration in Lincoln Square by marching in the parade and performing several dances at the fest. Oktoberfest season is always a very eventful time for the Jugendgruppe. We performed at several of our own Oktoberfests, along with Oktoberfest at the Hofbräuhaus in Rosemont. We really enjoy performing at these events because it allows us to share what we love to do with others and devour great German food in the process.

Most recently, we celebrated our annual Kirchweih in Lake Villa. This year our winners were Aric Werstein and myself, Kristina Wagner. It was an honor to win the *Strauss* this year and I especially loved seeing all the smiling faces that attended. This year we invited Aid Society Jugendgruppe alumni to come back and participate in a march of their own. It is safe to say they really enjoyed reliving their glory days of bidding on the *Strauss*.



American Aid Society members holding the German flag in the German Day parade



Karina, Ella, and Matthew helping at Oktoberfest in Lake Villa

As the winter slowly approaches our performance and event schedule begins to slow down. Make sure to look out for our upcoming Christmas program at the clubhouse in Chicago on December 10. If you have any additional questions or concerns about all things Jugend please feel free to email me at kwagner397@gmail.com. ♦



Kristina, Alexandra, and Jamie taking a break from selling shots at Oktoberfest in Lake Villa



The Jugendgruppe at Kirchweih



Jugendgruppe boys making a pyramid



Christian, Aric, Erika, and Kelsey flying during Kirchweih



Kirchweih 2017 winners Aric Werstein and Kristina Wagner

Jugendgruppe Appreciation

By Robert Lengfelder

Thank you to the Jugendgruppe!

The day after our Kirchweih, the Jugendgruppe participated in the annual tradition of putting away the picnic tables. It was a chilly and rainy morning but the Jugend made quick work of gathering and storing the tables in the stage building. Thanks Jugendgruppe and thanks also to Chrissy Palffy and Christine Slabinger for preparing a meal for them.

The machine that moves the tables is very helpful in this process. What a great idea! With the help of a friend who welds, I plan to repair the current machine in the spring. Please notify me if you know who made the original machine or if you could make another. Our youth group would definitely appreciate having another machine. ♦



2018
Happy New Year!

Aus unseren Abteilungen (From our Departments)

Kindergruppe

Christine Slabinger – Kindergruppe Delegate
847-692-2416

Kindergruppe Report

By Christine Slabinger

Labor Day - Cincinatti

This year's annual Donauschwaben Landestreffen took us to Cincinnati, Ohio. This event gives us an opportunity to see Kindergruppen in other cities perform and the chance to learn some new dances. It also gives us hotel time with each other and pool time for the kids. This year's group was small but mighty. They performed beautifully for the international crowd.



BIRTHDAY CORNER

Happy birthday to all our Kindergruppe members who have birthdays coming up over the next several months. We extend our best wishes to you all.

December

Elizabeth Scharaga

January

Ethan Heidrich

February

Elsie Anetsberger

German Day

Mother nature smiled on us for German Day this year. In the past, it had been cold, rainy or extremely hot. This year, the weather was perfect both for the parade and dancing. The children did an excellent job performing for the large crowd on Western Avenue and received enthusiastic applause. People always stop to tell us how nice it is to see our kids dancing and enjoying themselves.



Hofbräuhaus

By Michele Heidrich

On Sunday, September 24th, the AAS Kindergruppe performed to a packed crowd at the Hofbräuhaus in Rosemont. Nine couples performed six dances: Man in the Hay, New Bibi, Klarinetten, Klein Kinder Tanz, Hammerschmeids Gesellen, Hetlinger, and Wenn Wir Erklimmern.

The children were treated to a delicious meal between performances, which were at 5 pm and 6 pm. A special thanks to all of the AAS families who were there to support the Kindergruppe. The evening was a great success!



Kirchweih

A beautiful fall day is a great start to a Kirchweih. With the former Jugend members invited, attendance was higher this year. Annie Weingarter and the Werstein family donated the Rosmarin. This year we had an abundance and were able to make three Sträuße out of the selection. The Kindergruppe would like to thank the Fritzes, Mrs. Istl, and the Spislas for their donation of rosemary for the Sträuße. Danke schön! The kids love performing at Kirchweih and all anxiously wait to see whose name gets pulled out of the hat. Congratulations to Sonja Illy and Stephen Slabinger who won the Strauss this year.



Pumpkin Carving

Getting ready for Halloween is an American tradition that we have picked up in the Kindergruppe. We found ourselves carving pumpkins on a Friday night instead of dancing. Everyone had a lot of fun and were very creative with their designs. Even some of the parents got into the spooky spirit.



Schlachtfest

Besides a delicious dinner cooked by our talented and tireless kitchen staff, this is the only fundraiser for the Kindergruppe. We raffle off baskets donated by the families of Kindergruppe members and by other club members. Everyone waits in anticipation for their names to be called as the winners of their favorite baskets. We would like to add a special thanks to Erika Ehrat from Rare Dirndl for a basket and gift certificate, Hans Schmitt for the beautifully carved table, and to Mr. Merkhofer for the Nudelbrett & step stool. We really appreciate their support of our Kindergruppe. The kids enjoyed performing several dances. ♦



Aus unseren Abteilungen (From our Departments)

Noch Einmal Tanzgruppe Report

By Tanja Schubert

Noch Einmal was well represented in Cincinnati at the annual Landesverbandtreffen. Our group "kitty" covered the weekend entrance fee for all members in attendance, which was a nice gesture to help defray some of the costs of gas, travel, hotel accommodations and meals. We "attempted" to participate with the other Kulturgruppen in the joint dance, however quickly realized that most participants didn't really know the dance, so we mainly enjoyed the fun and laughter. Spirits were high, despite the gloomy, rainy weather. Our flawless performance on Saturday was also a definite bright spot! We received rave reviews and compliments from the audience. The greatest compliment was that a current Donauschwaben member approached me to get details about joining our group. (Name withheld to protect her identity.)



The following weekend we joined the festivities at the annual German Day on Lincoln Avenue. Members marched in the parade to help boost low attendance, due to work commitments and kids returning to college. Many of us also volunteered in the Jugend Bier Zelt. Additionally, we had a strong showing on Sunday, performing three dances (Zillertaler, Mexiwaltz and our latest, "the Slingshot"). Our newest member did an amazing job in her debut performance with the group; welcome to Noch Einmal, Christine Pfaffinger: we're so happy you joined!!!

Following Lincoln Avenue, we were invited to dance at the Glendale Heights Oktoberfest. Wolfgang Beyer from *Schnitzelplatz* extends an invitation to us every year. We were happy that we were able to accept his invitation this year, as it coincided with Elfriede Beyer's 80th birthday celebration. We were treated to a wonderful buffet and birthday cake, in addition to receiving food tickets and a generous

donation. Vielen Dank, Wolfgang und Elfriede Beyer!!!! Hoffentlich tanzen wir "noch einmal" nächstes Jahr!!



Noch Einmal was also well represented among the ranks of the Lake Villa Oktoberfest volunteers. Members were present each of the three Saturdays and helped to staff the bars, kitchen, entrance and for security work. We are happy to donate our time to the club and hope that we might be invited to showcase our dancing talent one of the Saturdays in 2018.

Lastly, we closed our season by performing at the Mount Prospect Oktoberfest again this year on Friday, October 13th. Despite the "ominous date - Friday the 13th", our fate was not sealed. We did stumble through the first set a bit, but after consuming a few FREE beers, our second set was MUCH better. Even though we may have missed a few steps, the local photographer loved us and snapped a ton of pictures of our group.



Thank you so much to our Tanzleitern, Karen Geist, Steve Huy and Christine Palffy (substituting for Ingrid Wissmann, who is on 'maternity leave'). Your patience, energy and good humor are what sustain our group. We'd be lost without you.

Thank you also to "the regulars" you know who you are. These are the people who show up for almost every performance. A strong showing and a good performance equals more invitations and donations.

Tanja Schubert
tessschubert@gmail.com



Oktoberfeste Weltweit

(Oktoberfests Worldwide)

The surprising German enclaves around the world that also celebrate Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is not celebrated in only Germany Credit: GETTY – 19 September 2017

It's not just in Germany where people chug steins of beer with gusto during Oktoberfest. From Canada to Namibia, expat communities around the world raised a glass to the feted festival of beer. After all, German enclaves crop up in the most unlikely places...

1. Kitchener, Canada

Formerly known as Berlin (the name was changed in 1916), this city in Ontario lays claim to the world's second largest Oktoberfest. That's a testament to the enduring appeal of German culture, which came to this corner of Canada in the 18th and 19th centuries, as increasing numbers of Europeans settled in North America.

Typically, the Germans brought with them a love of Lederhosen, Lager and, of course, Bratwurst, which is celebrated during the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest. Unlike the one in Munich (most of which takes place in September), this one actually takes place in October (6-14, in case you were wondering).

2. Colonia Tovar, Venezuela

It's a brave man or woman who travels to Venezuela at the moment (the FCO advises against travel). But if you do happen to find yourself in this troubled South American nation next October, do swing by the town of Colonia Tovar, which was founded by immigrants from the Grand Duchy of Baden (later incorporated into Germany).

Known as the "Germany of the Caribbean", Colonia Tovar famously hosts its own version of Oktoberfest. The annual jamboree takes place amid German-style architecture, for which the town is known, and occasionally features musicians from the motherland.

3. Bismarck, United States

Bit of trivia for you: the US is home to the largest German population outside of Germany. Bismarck is perhaps the best place for Germans to pay homage to the motherland; after all, the North Dakota capital is named after one-time German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, who helped with unifying Germany in the 19th century.

The authorities hoped naming the town after Bismarck would attract German immigrants, which it did. Ensuing settlers brought an appetite for beer with them, which lives on in German-themed bars such as *Lüft*, where punters can quaff strong beers and sizzling Bratwurst.

4. La Cumbrecita, Argentina

Telegraph Travel's Clare Wiley recently paid a visit to La Cumbrecita, a surreal slice of Deutschland in rural Argentina. "The street signs are in German, the restaurants serve Schnitzel and Goulasch, while the delis peddle Bavarian-style beer and jars of homemade Sauerkraut," she wrote. "It's undeniably Kitsch."

La Cumbrecita was designed as a faithful recreation of a Swiss-German village, but a gimmick it is not. The settlement was established by a German family, who migrated to Argentina in 1932 and built a holiday home in the mountains to remind them of the motherland. Find out how their little bolthole evolved into a Bavarian-style village.

5. Windhoek, Namibia

A former German colony, Namibia is officially one of the thirstiest nations in Africa. A coincidence? Perhaps not. There's plenty of evidence some Germanic culture remains,

not least in the profusion of beer houses and the annual Oktoberfest celebrations.

A word of warning: According to local media reports, pedestrians can now be punished for drink-walking. Yes, really: in a bid to crack down on alcohol-related road accidents, the Windhoek City Police has reportedly started treating pedestrians in the same way as they would drivers – by breathalysing them at the scene of an accident. You've been warned.

6. Sao Paulo, Brazil

After the US, Brazil is the second most popular destination for German expats. According to immigration studies more than a quarter of a million Germans settled in the South American nation between 1820 and 1972, most of whom chose to live in the country's southern regions.

Sao Paulo was particularly popular and the city is today home to many German-themed bars and restaurants. Oktoberfest is celebrated in towns across the country. Jamborees to look out for include Oktoberfest of Blumenau and Oktoberfest of Itapiranga.

7. Valdivia, Chile

Chile was, surprisingly, another popular destination for German citizens who were looking to start afresh in the 19th century. Sailing from Hamburg, many people from Germany made their way to the port city of Valdivia in southern Chile, where they have since exerted influence in everything from architecture to – yup, you guessed it – beer.

The city hosts its own version of Oktoberfest, dubbed Bierfest Valdivia, which is typically held in January when the weather is fine and the tourists are in town.

8. Galápagos, Ecuador

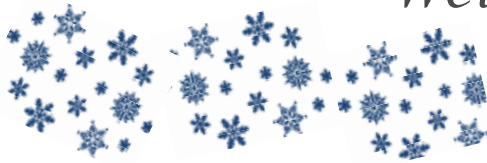
There is little visible evidence of Germany's unofficial colonization of Floreana in Galápagos – no beer halls or Bavarian-style houses here – but the island has a fascinating German history that has more twists and turns (and a greater body count) than an Agatha Christie novel.

Telegraph Travel's Gavin Haines learned all about it on a recent visit to the islands. Read his remarkable account of the German history of Galápagos – also known as the *Galápagos Affair*. ♦



Donauschwäbische Stiftung USA

Weihnachten 2017



Zwei junge Schwowe Mädchen

Collaborative Story: Karl Themare, Catherine Weissman and Ed Tullius

Zwei junge Schwowe Mädchen, Evi und Lissi, saßen zusammen. Es war das erste mal, dass Evi bei der Jugendgruppe mitmachte, und Lissi ist zu ihr gegangen, sie willkommen zu machen.

Evi sagte zu Lissi, „Schau mal den gut aussehenden Jungen dort drüben an, der linke von den drei. Was denkst du über ihn?“ „Ja, er sieht nicht schlecht aus, aber der mittlere gefällt mir am besten,“ antwortete Lissi.

„Mit dem habe ich früher getanzt – Mensch, der hat mich gut auf die Zehe getreten!“ beschwerte sich Evi. „Den da meine ich, der schaut mir aus wie er ein besserer Tänzer ist.“ Lissi schüttelte den Kopf und sagte, „Ja, ich habe schon oft mit ihm getanzt. Das Zeppeln geht gut, aber da sind auch andere hier, die gerade so gut oder vielleicht noch besser tanzen können.“

Evi sagte: „Schau dir seine blauen Augen an.“ Lissi sagte: „Es sieht so aus, als würde er alle Mädchen anstarren.“

Evi sagte: „Schau dir seine schönen Zähne an.“ Lissi sagte: „Er hat Zähne wie ein Pferd.“

Evi sagte: „Schau, wie groß er ist.“ Lissi sagte: „Er ist so groß wie ein Bohnenstängel.“

Evi fragte: „Warum sprichst du so über ihn? Kennst du ihn so gut? Was für ein Junge ist er? Hat er schon ein Mädels? Interessierst du dich für ihn?“ Lissi lachte und antwortete, „Ja, ich kenn ihn. Sein Name ist Hans, aber er hat viel mehr mit der Arbeit und seinen Kameraden zu tun als mit den Mädels.“

„Das ist nicht untypisch,“ meinte Evi, „aber ich möchte ihn ebenso kennen lernen. Kannst du uns bitte, bitte vorstellen?“ Lissi schaute sie ganz genau an, dachte ein paar Momente nach, und sagte, „Ich meine, dass ich das schon machen kann.“ Sie drehte sich zu den drei Jungen und rief, „Hans!“ Der Hans drehte sich von seinen Kameraden und schaute die zwei an. Lissi winkte ihm zu und sagte, „Komm mal her!“ Er drehte sich zurück zu seinen Kameraden, sagte etwas zu ihnen und sie lachten alle. Dann kam er zu den zwei Mädels und mit einem lachenden Gesicht sagte zu Lissi, „Schwester, wer ist deine hübsche neue Freundin?“

Evi wurde ganz rot im Gesicht, schaute die zwei an, und wußte nicht, was sie machen sollte. Lissi schaute sie amüsiert an und sagte, „Hans, das ist meine Freundin Evi.“

Moralische Aussage: Egal aus welchem Blickwinkel man sich richten kann, wird die Donauschwäbische Stiftung unsere Jugend und ihre Aktivitäten immer unterstützen.

For our English-speaking friends, above is a short story of two Swabian girls meeting for the first time with the Youth Group. The two are looking over the boys and discussing the boys' ability to dance. One of the girls has a fancy for one of the boys and discloses her desires to her new girlfriend. The girlfriend does not have the same opinion but continues this discussion until she discloses she will introduce him to her new friend. Turns out, this is her brother and the new friend is embarrassed by the dialog between them. Both girls had a different point of view of the same boy.

Moral Value: No matter which point of view one takes, the Danube Swabian Foundation will always support our youth and their Donauswabian activities.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr von uns allen in der Donauschwäbischen Stiftung.

Eddie Tullius, Stiftungspräsident, USA

Please give an annual donation to your Danube Swabian Foundation USA, Inc.



Danube- Swabian Association of the USA, Inc.

Verband der Donauschwaben in den USA. e.V.

November 2017

Liebe Landsleut,

As chairman of the Danube Swabian Foundation I am charged with soliciting contributions for our worthwhile cause. I have a knack for repeating myself in our yearly Christmas letter for obvious reasons. Most of our spending supports programs which enable our youth to actively participate in our culture. That focus remains unchanged from year to year! **Please include our foundation on your gift list for 2017. Our future depends on your generosity!**

This past June and July, my wife Liz and I went to Germany. Aside from visiting family and friends, we were also privileged to see the Cleveland Jugendgruppe perform. Our Landesverband ambassadors performed in Karlsruhe, Albstadt, Sindelfingen, Würzburg, Crailsheim, Ulm, Salzburg, Piliswerischwar, and Tacsony. Their three-part program featured dancing, singing, and speaking. Another highlight of the trip was the dedication of a plaque on the wall of the city of Ulm. This plaque was placed alongside those of Australia and Brazil, as well as many representing the villages, towns and cities of our Heimat. The foundation's support of the plaque project and the youth trip to Europe was critical in enabling these two key projects. Frankly, the work of the foundation is ongoing and multi-faceted. It supports German schools in our clubs, youth groups, brass bands, the soccer tournament, and so much more.

A few years ago, I asked for your support as follows:

We need your support in the following ways:

- 1) Encourage your family's participation in activities at your club.
- 2) Explain your family history to your children and their offspring.
- 3) Try to speak German and "Schwowisch" with your family.
- 4) Give financial support to your local club, especially for youth activities.
- 5) **Make a donation to the Danube Swabian Foundation annually beginning today.**

The priorities haven't changed, but the urgency has. During the past few years I've seen two of our clubs, New York and Rochester, close operations. Why? Because they were unable to sustain youth programs in their clubs and there was no "next generation" to take over. As they closed, both made sizeable contributions to our cause. Please heed my call for support and send your contribution today!

In closing, I ask you to pray for those that set such a wonderful example. As our immigrant generation sits on the doorstep of becoming ancestors, remember them daily in your prayers! Their motto for many years was: **„Hält unsre Jugend an die Tradition!“**

Let's leave our children similar memories of us and our generation.
Frohe Weihnachten!

Robert F. Filippi

President, Landesverband der Donauschwaben
Chairman, Danube Swabian Foundation

As in previous years, we are pleased to share with you the many activities which the Stiftung helped sponsor this past year.

Of special note, the Stiftung gave a generous donation towards the new plaque which was placed near the Donauschwaben Museum in Ulm, Germany. On Monday July 10, 2017 a dedication ceremony was held on the banks of the Donau for the new plaque for Donauschwaben from America. The Cleveland Jugendgruppe danced and sang as Father Peter Zillich, Heimatpfarrer, presided over the blessing. Also present at this event was Oberbürgermeister Gunter Czisch of Ulm, Weltdachverband President Stefan Ihas, DS Landesverband Vorsitzender Hans Supritz, President Margot Maurer of Cleveland, and Robert and Elisabeth Filippi from the Landesverband USA. Many local citizens participated in the ceremony. A floral arrangement was placed at the monument honoring deceased members of our worldwide Donauschwaben community by Ava Fabian and Lukas Biondich, assisted by Stefan Ihas and Robert Filippi.

AKRON JUGENDLAGER

Every year there is a Jugendlager, or youth campout. All Donauschwaben Jugendgruppen members from around the country are invited to participate in this friendship and culture themed weekend. This year our group had the honor of hosting this large event. This was our second time hosting this campout; our first-time hosting was in 2009. Many of the other groups have hosted this event and we took the opportunity to host it again. A lot of time and planning went into hosting this event and I would like to give a shout out and huge thank you to everyone who put their time and efforts into planning and helping make this event a huge success!

The Jugendlager this year began on Thursday evening with groups beginning to arrive at 6:00 and ended on Sunday morning after breakfast. There were seven groups that attended this year; Akron, Cincinnati, Chicago Donauschwaben, Chicago Aid, Detroit, Kitchener and St. Louis. It was a pretty large group which made for a lot of fun and a lot of opportunities to make new friends. Thursday was more of a casual day. As the groups arrived everyone set up their tents, got settled in, then headed into the clubhouse where there was a taco bar for dinner. We had a registration table set up so the group leaders could check everyone in and pick up their T-shirts for their groups. Since it was such a large group we decided that we would divide everyone into four groups. We gave every group leader a bag of different colored T-shirts, and these would be the different groups for the weekend. We had yellow, red, white and black groups.

After everyone was settled in and had dinner we called everyone into the club house for a large group activity. After the activity we split into our four groups. While in our different groups, we made a group poster and did several ice breaker activities to get to know everyone. After everyone was finished, we had free time. Some people went to the back fields and played soccer, others sat down inside and played cards, and the Kitchener group stayed in the outdoor pavilion and taught their dance "Du Hast" to everyone who wanted to learn. All lights had to be out at 11:00 or 11:30 every night to ensure that everyone had enough rest for tomorrow's upcoming activities.

Friday morning began with an early breakfast along with some rain. All the groups got on the buses and we headed to Akron for the day. We began our excursion at St. Bernard's church to learn the Donauschwaben history associated with the church. After that we headed down to the locks, where each of the four groups had their own tour guide. The guides took each group on a tour of the locks and canal systems and explained the history to us. After our tour and a quick lunch, we got back on the buses and drove to Parma to play a game called "Whirleyball", which

is a mix between bumper cars, lacrosse and basketball. We spent about 4 hours at the facility, where we also enjoyed bowling and playing laser tag. Then we returned to the club, where we had free time for the rest of the night.

Saturday was the cultural day. We had some of the founding members of our club come in and speak to everyone about the history of our club and how it all began. It was very touching to look around at everyone while our founding members were speaking, because there were very few dry eyes in the crowd. After this, we split up into our four groups again. The four stations included a cooking station where we prepared our dinner, a dessert station, a cultural station and a dance station. Before the Jugendlager weekend began, our youth group made up a friendship dance to teach to everyone at the campout. When the groups rotated to the dance station, they were taught the dance. After dinner, everyone went outside and performed the friendship dance together.

Towards the end of the evening, we gathered for a candlelight ceremony. Every group wrote their thoughts on what it means to be Donauschwaben, and how our culture affects their everyday life. Everyone was very moved by this ceremony and it served as a very reflective time. All in all, the Jugendlager this year was an amazing experience. Thank you again to all the groups that attended and thank you to everyone from our club who helped plan this event.

Taylor Herring

CLEVELAND EUROPE TRIP

The Cleveland Jugendgruppe served as Landesverband ambassadors this past summer. The group performed in Karlsruhe, Albstadt, Sindelfingen, Würzburg, Crailsheim, Ulm, Salzburg, Piliswerischwar, and Tacsony. Their three-part program featured dancing, singing, and speaking. One highlight of their trip was the dedication of the US Donauschwaben plaque on the wall of the city of Ulm. This plaque was placed alongside those of Australia and Brazil.

On a sad note, this past year another Donauschwaben Verein, the Donauschwäbischer Hilfs und Jugendverein of New York with George Ritter as president, ceased their operations. The club and all its members were very generous and donated their funds to the Donauschwäbische Stiftung to enable us to continue to support our mission.

Previously, the Verein der Donaudeutschen in Rochester, New York with President Gus Hoyer also ceased their operations. They also made a generous donation to the Donauschwäbische Stiftung.

We are truly thankful for these generous donations but are very sorry that they come to us due to clubs closing their doors. Let us all remember that we need our youth to sustain our clubs, our soccer teams, our dance groups, our Blaskapellen, and our future as a Donauschwaben culture.

Please send donations to:

Danube Swabian Foundation, USA

c/o William Kolbow, Treasurer 14678 Willamette Ave., Chino, CA 91710

Donations are fully tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations

Pavillionumbau (Pavilion Reconstruction)

Our pavilion reconstruction has begun and here are a few glimpses of our progress to date. We will keep you posted as it progresses.

Total demolition of the pavilion is now complete.

The structure was taken down in parts to make disposal less costly.

The shingles, trim, gutters and bar area were removed first.

Then the roof was cut off in 32" wide sections and the gable ends were removed.

Then columns were cut down.

The concrete slab and bases were removed last.

Currently the contractor is burying the utilities and installing footings for the new columns.

Next they will grade and level the dirt and install the gravel base and wire mesh prior to installing the new concrete slab.

With luck the contractor can get the columns and roof up this year still.

Please be generous with your donations. Current club members as well as club members of future generations will be able to enjoy and benefit from this project. ♦



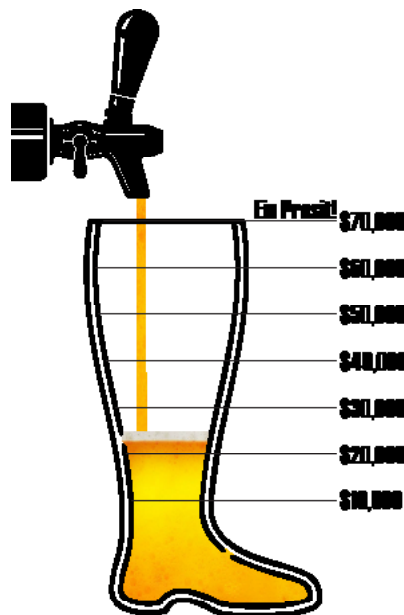
Please help fill our boot

Donations

The following people have generously donated for the support of our Pavilion project:

- Anonymous** — \$5000.00
- Kindergruppe** — \$4000.00
- Franz Dochnal** — \$1000.00
- Martin & Elisabeth Dschida** — \$1000.00
- Mathias & Gerda Schnauffer** — \$1000.00
- Horst & Anni Wagener** — \$1000.00

Again, a very big **DANKE SCHÖN** for your generosity. Anyone who wishes to support this project with a tax deductible gift would be greatly appreciated.





Zungenbrecher (Tongue Twisters)

ZUNGENBRECHER



Wenn Weihnachtswichtel
weiße Weihnacht wünschen,
werden Winterwunder wahr.
Winterwunder werden wahr,
wenn Weihnachtswichtel
weiße Weihnacht wünschen.



Wenn rennende Rentiere
Rentierrennen rennen,
rennen rennende Rentiere
Rentierrennen.



Hat die Maus die
Mandeln und das
Marzipan gemaust?



Kleine Nussknacker
knacken knackig.
Knackiger knacken
große Nussknacker.



Sieben Schneeschipper
schippen sieben Schippen
Schnee.
Sieben Schippen Schnee
schippen sieben
Schneeschipper.



Vor Weihnachten wirbeln
wunderschöne weiße
Schneeflocken wie
weiche wollige Watte
über den Waldrand
hinweg.



Anerkennung (Recognition)

By Robert Lengfelder

LANDESVIRBAND GOLD PIN

The award of the *Landesverband Gold Pin* signifies an exceptional level of service to our club. The level of service is measured in many different ways and each recipient is quite unique. It is positive for our club that members have a variety of backgrounds and talents. Without the many talents our members bring to the club, our meal today would not have tasted as good as it did or we couldn't sit comfortably in this nicely decorated hall.

Our talents are what shape us: However, it is how we use them that defines us.

These members are being recognized for the years of dedication to helping, teaching, influencing others throughout the organization and working until the job is complete... and any combination of these qualities and more. If members like these had not been with our club, the effects would have been felt in one way or another.

Please join the American Aid Society in recognizing these members who are recipients of the Gold Pin.

Mrs. Angela Stumpfoll
Mrs. Elsa Walter
Mr. Emil Hrbacek

There were others who were to have received this award today but they could not be in attendance so those will be delayed to another time and event.

Mrs. Stumpfoll joined the American Aid Society in the early 1960's. She was a helping mom with the Kindergruppe for 10 years. Angela has been a kitchen helper for as long as she and anyone else can remember. She has been a helper in Lake Villa, sold the tickets, cleaned and helped wherever needed. Angela has and still works the senior luncheons, always moving and never stopping. Mrs. Stumpfoll is not always in the spotlight but the spotlight would not shine as bright if it weren't for her consistent help. If you add up the years of service and participation you would agree that Angela has dedicated her adult life to the American Aid Society.

Mrs. Stumpfoll, please accept the award of the Gold Pin.

Mrs. Walter joined the American Aid Society Jugendgruppe on her eighteenth birthday in 1958. Elsa danced with the Jugendgruppe where she met Mike and they married in 1962. Elsa was the Kinderleiterin for 34 years, from 1972 until 2006. Elsa considered these her kids and kept

the Kindergruppe engaged and active during her time, regardless if there were many or few kids.

Elsa has been an advocate of sharing the Donauschwaben story and authored the book, *Barefoot in the Rubble*, which was published in 1996. She has received countless honors outside of our club with her work about the Donauschwaben. She also speaks to local schools about her experiences, and encourages other Schwabs to do so.

Elsa is also an artist and wrote and illustrated, *Kirchweih Fest*. Mike and Elsa Walter also co-published a translation of *Der Grosse Schwabenzug* with the Donauschwaben Stiftung in 2012. In 2014 Elsa was awarded the Kulturpreis by the Donauschwaben Stiftung. Mrs. Walter still promotes knowledge of our Donauschwaben heritage by selling books at our picnics.

Mrs. Walter, please accept the award of the Gold Pin.

Mr. Hrbacek became an active member of the American Aid Society in 1999. He has been an invaluable member of the Lake Villa crew. He has been instrumental in helping with the work in our hall, putting up drywall, laying the floor and installing the ceiling tiles. Emil helps in repairing the picnic tables, cleaning the garage and much of the outdoor work. For any heavy work or clean up that needs to be done, Emil is the man. Anything he starts has to be done just right and he doesn't give up until the job is finished to his liking, come hell or high water. The American Aid Society is grateful for his service.

Mr. Hrbacek, please accept the award of the Gold Pin.

Thank you all for your attention and please give another round of applause to our award recipients who, like so many, do so much for the American Aid Society. ♦



MATTHEW SLABINGER HONORED

Congratulations to Matthew Slabinger. On October 15th, I was witness to his Eagle Scout induction ceremony which took place at the American Aid Society hall in Chicago. Matthew's Troop 228, Northwest Suburban Detachment 80 of the Marine Corps League and honored guests were present. Many kind words were spoken by troop members and leaders regarding Matthew's journey and success with the boy scouts. Christine and Pete also gave speeches about what it meant to them to see him grow from a boy to a young man in the Boy Scouts.

The special guests with the Marine Corps League were Bob Stack and Woody Hughes. They presented Matthew with a Marine Corps KA-BAR knife which is quite an honor. Woody actually spoke about his tour in WWII as he fought in the Battle of Saipan and Battle of Iwo Jima. Woody was quite the star as he told stories of his KA-BAR knife and mentioned that Matthew shouldn't cut himself with it.

It was an honor to witness this and congratulations to the previous Jugend who received this honor and to the ones

who are in the process. ♦



Andenken (Remembrance)

NATIONAL GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY HERITAGE HOLIDAY

In the United States, National German-American Day is observed on October 6.

This German-American heritage holiday commemorates the 13 German Mennonite families from Krefeld who landed in Philadelphia. These families founded Germantown, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1683. The settlement was the first German permanent establishment in the original thirteen American colonies.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Use #GermanAmericanDay to post on social media.

HISTORY

National German-American Day was originally celebrated in the nineteenth century. However, it fell out of favor during World War I.

Then in the 1980s things began to change. As is tradition, President Ronald Reagan made his world tour in 1982, which included West Germany. In the midst of a cold war and a divided Germany, the newly elected U.S. President opened his speech to the people of Bonn by relating the history of the 13 German families who founded a settlement on American soil. He spoke of contributions, advancement, science, art and the honor to celebrate the German heritage that more than 50 million Americans claim.

"The noblest objective of our diplomacy is the patient and difficult task of reconciling our adversaries to peace. And I know we all look forward to the day when the only industry of war will be the research of historians," Ronald Reagan on June 9, 1982 in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany.

To honor the 300th anniversary of German-American immigration and culture into the United States, in 1983 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October 6 as German-American Day. It was on August 6, 1987, that Congress approved S.I. Resolution 108, designating October 6, 1987, as German-American Day, and it became Public Law 100-104 when President Reagan signed it on August 18. Proclamation #5719 was issued on October 2, 1987. At this time the President called on Americans to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. It has been commemorated each year since with presidential proclamations. ♦

NATIONAL GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY PROCLAMATION

President Donald J. Trump proclaims October 6 as German-American Day by the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION

On October 6, 1683, 13 families landed in Philadelphia, having set sail earlier that year from the German city of Krefeld. These pioneers founded the first German settlement in America: Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first American community to formally protest the evils of slavery. Since this auspicious beginning, millions of German immigrants have come to our Nation in pursuit of personal and religious freedoms and economic opportunity. These immigrants and their descendants have changed the trajectory of the United States, and on German American Day, we celebrate their role in helping our country thrive.

The more than 44 million Americans who claim German heritage join previous generations in making important contributions to every facet of American life. As the proud grandson of German grandparents, I am keenly aware of how German Americans have helped drive our economy, enrich our culture, and protect and defend the land they embrace as their own. Notable German-American leaders in business and finance include William Boeing, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Heinz, and Milton S. Hershey. Many others, such as Neil Armstrong, George Herman "Babe" Ruth Jr., Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, and the inimitable "Dr. Seuss" (Theodor Seuss Geisel) have become beloved figures. German Americans Chester Nimitz, John Pershing, and Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. are among the most decorated military officers in American history. American painters of German descent include Emanuel Leutze, best known for his classic work *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, and Albert Bierstadt, whose canvas captured the majestic beauty of the American West. German Americans have also designed some of the most iconic landmarks in the United States, including Johann August Roebling's Brooklyn Bridge. Even the quintessential American hot dog owes a debt to German immigrant Charles Feltman, who debuted the savory treat when he opened the first hot dog stand at Coney Island.

Today, the United States and Germany enjoy a close relationship through our

Von der Bibel (From the Bible)

Gottes Wort

Die folgenden Verse der Heiligen Schrift sind aus der Offenbarung, des Lukasevangelium, Kapitel 2. begonnen mit dem Vers . . .

16. Sie kamen eilends hin und fanden Maria und Joseph und das Kind, das in der Krippe lag.
17. Als sie es aber sahen, berichteten sie von dem Wort, das ihnen über dieses Kind gesagt worden war.
18. Und alle, die es hörten, wunderten sich über das, was ihnen von den Hirten erzählt wurde.

Word of God

The following scripture verses are taken from the book of Luke, Chapter 2, beginning with verse . . .

16. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
17. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
18. And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

shared history and common interests. As our Nation's largest ancestry group, German Americans are rightfully proud of how their deep cultural, historical, and familial ties have helped strengthen this robust transatlantic relationship. A strong partnership between the United States and Germany is vital to ensuring that we live in a peaceful world filled with vibrant economic opportunities for all.

Now, therefore, I, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6 as German-American Day. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of German Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Deutscheheiligkeiten

(German Saints)

Headless and limbless: Germany's best saints

Germany is a land full of saints. Travel more than a few miles in any direction and you're liable to trip over a shrine to some ascetic or hermit with the reputation for performing miracles / By Mike Stuchbery

It seems like every village church has an ornate shrine dedicated to their local holy hero, usually incorporating a grisly, preserved body part.

For those not used to it, especially those from outside Europe, it can seem just a little bit strange and morbid.

For the most part, these saints are known for their charitable work – feeding the poor, establishing monasteries and standing up to psychotic warlords – your standard, everyday altruistic acts.

However, scrape away at the history books and you'll find stories of German saints that make "The Avengers" look like an episode of Tatort.

Here in Germany nothing is done by halves and this is especially true of those the Catholic Church has seen fit to canonize.

Take St. Alban of Mainz. This 5th-century bishop sent from Milan to preach to the heathens was so caught up in his work that he lost his head to angry locals.

Not particularly perturbed by this change in his circumstances, he picked up his severed noggin and walked (accounts vary on the distance) to where he wanted to be interred.

St. Emmeram of Regensburg demonstrated similar levels of endurance when he was martyred in the 7th century. Having taken the blame for getting a duke's daughter pregnant (the real father being a member of the duke's court), the understandably upset father and his son ambushed him, cutting him into pieces and reducing him to a limbless trunk.

Amazingly, this wasn't enough to kill him and he lingered on until he was found by some of his followers. They carried the (still alive) bishop to a green and lovely place where he saw fit to die.

Some say at this point a ladder extended down from Heaven to take him up (though I'm not sure how Emmeram was supposed to climb it). Upon being interred, legend states that it rained for 40 days and nights until frustrated locals dug him up and floated him down the river to Regensburg, where his various bits and pieces can be found today.

St. Corbinian, who also lived in the 7th century in Bavaria, was said to have power over beasts. Once, on a pilgrimage to Rome, a bear attacked and killed his horse. Without missing a beat, the saint commanded the unruly bear to take his belongings and carry them to Rome.

Once he arrived, he released the bear, who quite happily loped back into the woods (presumably to spread the Good

Word against the local ursine population).

Another super-powered saint was Eucharis of Trier.

He was said to have been given St. Peter's staff, which he used quite liberally to bring the dead back to life.

Another saint with this gift was St. Fridolin, who was once memorably employed by a nobleman to raise a dead man so he could testify in a legal case.

As is the case with many of these tales, it is not recorded whether those resurrected were fully intact or just mindless zombies, but as a life-long horror fan, I like to think it was the latter.

I could go on with far-fetched tales of saints performing amazing feats, but my favourite German saint was very, very real and had her life meticulously documented.

Hildegard of Bingen was just a girl when she entered the convent at Disibodenberg, in what is now Rhineland-Palatinate, during the 12th century.

Over the years she grew in status and importance until she was elected the leader of that community.

At this point, she raised a ruckus and had the entire community moved to Rupertsberg, where she felt she could do more.

Do more she did. Hildegard was a polymath, excelling in many different fields.

At a time when superstition reigned, she wrote treatises

on medicine and healing, advocating the use of many herbs that would later turn out to have significant medicinal properties.

She wrote poetry, based on visions that she had, that are still being printed and reprinted to this day. She staged deeply mystical plays, using her nuns in an early form of liturgical dance.

She was also a cryptographer, inventing an alphabet that she used to communicate with the nuns under her care in a confidential manner.

But she is probably best known for her music, both for choirs and musical instruments, which is still performed today.

What makes Hildegard the greatest German saint is that she did everything at a time when the role of women was predominantly one of producing children and laboring around the hovel. Considering the attitudes and prejudices throughout medieval Europe, it is extraordinary that she was able to achieve as much as she did, and it is a real testament to her fortitude, faith and true grit.



Produkte (Products)**Seven immortal German products**

Germany is not the world's second largest exporter for nothing. Some innovations sought around the world became outmoded. But they pioneered markets that now dominate global trade.

The Z3 Computer

The world's first programmable computer, the Z3, was built by German computer pioneer Konrad Zuse in 1941. Zuse worked in isolation on two prototypes in his parent's apartment in Berlin, an idea – tweaked by Steve Jobs in 1976, when he worked in his parent's garage. Zuse founded one of the world's first computer start-ups in 1946.

**4711**

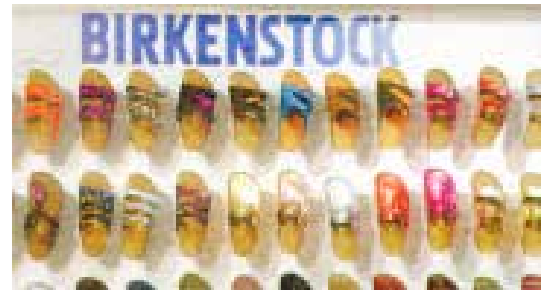
Most women in Germany say 4711 eau de Cologne reminds them of their grandmothers. It turns out people have been saying that for generations, because 4711 has been around since the early 18th century. This style of light fragrance was invented in Cologne and actually started out as a medicine. 4711 is so iconic it was actually owned by marketing giant Procter & Gamble for a number of years.

**Birkenstock Sandals**

They make BMWs in the USA and VWs in China, but Birkenstock footwear have been made only in Germany for 230 years. Birks became an export bit in the 1960s when a Californian woman with sore feet tried them on a visit to Germany, and began importing them to the USA. The timing was perfect... it was the height of the Flower Power movement.

**Aspirin**

In 1897, scientists at Bayer AG created a synthetic medication and called it Acetylsalicylic acid, or Aspirin. Bayer lost the trademark in France, Russia, the UK and the US after World War I, and it became a generic name in those countries. But Bayer still has the trademark in over 83 countries.

**The Spark Plug**

A Frenchman invented the very first electric spark plug. But Germany's Robert Bosch built the first spark plug that was part of a complete automotive ignition system in 1898. Today, Bosch is one of the world's largest suppliers of components to the automotive industry.

**MP3**

Karlheinz Brandenburg was a doctoral student working on digital music compression in the 1980s. Based on his and others' work, Germany's Fraunhofer Institute launched the first software MP3 encoder in 1994 and chose the filename extension mp3. Soon MP3 files began to be shared on the Internet, transforming the music business forever.

**The Cuckoo Clock**

Cuckoo clocks became a cottage industry in the Black Forest in the mid-18th century. Though the clock cases have changed with fashion, the whistling mechanism has barely changed. Manufacturers formed a syndicate in 1987, and they claim hundreds of thousands of authentic cuckoo clocks have been sold in the last few years, mostly to customers in North America.



Denkwürdige Wörter (Memorable Words)

We are offering something for fun in our newsletter. The following are contemporary words spoken today in Germany with an explanation and context on how these words are used. Lets try using these words in conversation the next time we meet.

Giesskannenprinzip

If the little sprouts in the pot are to become sunflowers, they'll need lots of water. And for that you need a watering can with lots of little holes in the spout, so that the water is distributed equally to all the sprouts.



The *Giesskannenprinzip* – or watering can principle – is much the same thing, except instead of water, money flows through the holes. Whether you're a parent distributing a weekly allowance to all your children or a CEO planning the company budget for the coming year, sometimes it can be easier to divide up the pie – or the water – equally.

While the *Giesskannenprinzip* might be fair in some cases, it doesn't take into account individual needs, like your 10-year-old who's saving for a new bike or the marketing department who's planning a major new campaign. So, best to apply the *Giesskannenprinzip* with care. ♦

Knutschfleck

How did your Valentine's Day turn out? Kissing is a natural part of being in love. But sometimes it can leave a trace, according to this German word.

It's often the trademark of a passionate love: the love bite, or hickey. Generally, someone who brandishes a love bite – or *Knutschfleck* in German (literally, "smooching spot") – often has a sudden interest in turtle necks, scarves and shawls.

The *Knutschfleck* is caused when a kiss on the skin creates a vacuum, bursting small blood vessels and leaving a telling bruise that generally turns from red to blue to green to yellow. A *Knutschfleck* usually disappears after a week or so, meaning the safe return of the turtle-necks and scarves back to the closet.

If you get another *Knutschfleck* before the first one disappears, it's a sure sign that the relationship has a future. ♦



Kassentoblerone



Let us start tackling the sticky issue by naming the object in question. You know, it's that little bar separating your stuff from the next person's items at the checkout in a supermarket. You might call it a checkout divider.

Knowledgeable Germans will call it a *Warentrenner* or a *Warentrennstab* (literally, "the stick separating the wares"). But in some cases, particularly in German-speaking Switzerland, it is referred to as a *Kassentoblerone*, or cash register *Toblerone*, after the three-sided Swiss chocolate bar.

Sweets aside, we all know the divider helps the cashier to the end of your groceries so they don't accidentally ring up additional items and then have to wait around for the manager to void the transaction. In Germany, it's not just convenient, it's non-negotiable. Don't dare leave an empty space in front of your lonely pack of gum. It would create unbearable chaos.

If you try to find out the proper etiquette with the *Kassentoblerone* or *Warentrenner* in Germany by simple observation, you'll be stuck with agonizing questions. Are you responsible for placing it in front or after your own stuff? Can you start loading your groceries on the conveyer belt even before you can reach one of the dividers? Should you thank someone who places it for you or did that person mean to show you should have done it earlier?

In any case, tension visibly arises at any German register when the dividers have run out or are all crammed at the front of the belt. Perhaps that's why the *Toblerone* chocolate reference is a fitting one: Respecting Germany's penchant for checkout dividers will sweeten any shopping trip. Just don't use a real chocolate bar in place of the divider. That would be the epitome of grocery chaos – and you'll probably get charged for it. ♦

Funkstille

A friend is no longer keeping in touch? You may well be experiencing what the Germans call *Funkstille*, or radio silence.

We have lost the transmission: It is an expression generally used when the radio goes unexpectedly dead or communication drops out. But the Germans have found another savvy use for *Funkstille* – literally, "radio silence" or "dead air" – for when interpersonal communication between two people drops off the radar.

"I haven't heard from her in weeks," he says. "There is a *Funkstille* between us. She no longer calls, no



longer sends any text messages, no longer emails." However, for a *Funkstille* to be genuine, you too need to be avoiding contact. There is literally a "silence" between two people.

However, it's not all so grim. The metaphor becomes literal and is used to save lives when it comes to shipping, where a *Funkstille* is routine. When no radio communication occurs for a few minutes, communication channels are opened to faint distress signals which may be emitted by vessels. ♦

Heulsuse

Your name doesn't have to be Susan, and you don't even have to be a woman to be called a *Heulsuse*.

People who whine about everything under the sun might be told off like this in German: "Don't be such a *Heulsuse*!" In German, *heulen* means to sob or cry with great gulps like a howling wolf. *Suse* is short for the female name Susanne.

Perhaps we'll hear the term *Heulmaxe* some day soon in the wake of gender equality – men can be crybabies too, after all. ♦



Kopfokino

It can happen anywhere, in the subway, at work, or at the grocery store. One moment you're buying a carton of milk, and the next second your mind drifts off into a daydream. You might even say your thoughts have run away to direct their own movie. In German this phenomenon is called *Kopfokino*, which literally translates to "head cinema."

Sometimes a *Kopfokino* can be pleasant. While you watch the cute supermarket worker scan your milk carton, your head starts playing a movie of the employee asking you for your number. Then before you know it, you're on your first date, taking a road trip, the sun is shining, your favorite song is playing, wedding bells are ringing ...

But hold your horses and come back to reality. Because by the time your *Kopfokino* stops, it's time to take your groceries and go. *Kopfokino* can also be very unpleasant. Your head might suddenly decide it wants to play movies titled "How my girlfriend started dating her hot co-worker" or "That day my dog got run over by a car," right when you're trying to fall asleep. So before your thoughts get hijacked by your newest imaginary movie "I never learned German," be sure to learn this issue's word. ♦

Korinthenkacker

A *Korinthenkacker* is someone who is so petty that they are even stingy when it comes to digestive waste products. *Korinthen* are raisins and *kacken* is a less-than-medical term meaning something like "to poop." Thus, the *Korinthenkacker* is so paltry that he or she won't leave anything larger than a currant in the toilet. Why that may all seem a bit graphic to you, we're basically talking about a pedantic, small minded person, who always wants to be right about everything. Think, "anal retentive," really. ♦



Stulpe



The term *Stulpe* – which would be the singular form – comes from the verb *stülpen*, to bend the edge of something upwards. Originally, a *Stulpe* was the upper edge of a boot that can be folded up like a cuff. Back when horses were a favored means of transportation, they protected men's legs from thorns.

Modern *Stulpen* were adopted by athletes. The woolen warmers were originally worn by ballet dancers or joggers to keep the active muscle warm and prevent a strain.

Over time, it became fashionable for women to wear leg-warmers in all kinds of colors and patterns – over jeans, leggings or tights, and with boots or sneakers. No matter how you combine them, there is one unwritten rule to be followed: Slouch the *Stulpen*. ♦



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Denkwürdige Wörter (Memorable Words)

Elefantrennen

You might be surprised to hear that “elephant racing” (*Elefantenrennen*) takes place just about every day on Germany's Autobahn. But this spectacle is not nearly as impressive or exciting as it sounds. In Germany, *Elefantenrennen* is anything but popular. It doesn't involve circus tricks or safaris, and there are no elephants lumbering through the African savanna.

That's because the *Elefanten*, in this case, are trucks. *Elefantenrennen* describes the frustrating moment when one truck tries to overtake another truck on a highway or main road, blocking all the lanes in the process. This can take a long time if there's only a slight difference in speed.

Elefantenrennen is particularly annoying if there's a lot of traffic on the roads. Vehicles traveling at higher speeds can't get ahead, and traffic jams ensue. *Elefantenrennen*, or specifically overtaking “at low differential speed,” is actually prohibited in Germany, and can garner the “elefant driver” a ticket. ♦



Halligalli

Do you go crazy at parties and dance on the tables after just a few drinks? Your friends might say you tend to make *Halligalli*. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but wild behavior has its time and place.

For many adults that's hard to learn, but may be even more difficult for children. “There were clowns, a bouncy castle, lots of games, and plenty of *Halligalli*!” If you hear that after a kids' birthday party, you know everyone had a good time.

But sometimes *Halligalli* is completely out of place. Parents, for example, might tell their children to “Get ready for bed without any *Halligalli*!”. Exactly where the funny sounding word comes from is unclear, but it might have something to do with a dance from the 1960s known as Hully Gully. ♦



Simsalabim

Harry Potter would have known just when to say: “*Simsalabim*!” It's the magic word magicians shout just before they pull that rabbit out of the hat – the German equivalent of abracadabra.

Like most magic tricks, it's not entirely clear where the word comes from. It could be a version of the Muslim invocation of God that made its way into the language in the late Middle Ages; non-Muslims may have thought it was an incantation. Others believe it might stem from the Latin “*similia similibus*” (“similar things take care of similar things”).

Whatever its origins, *Simsalabim* does the trick! ♦



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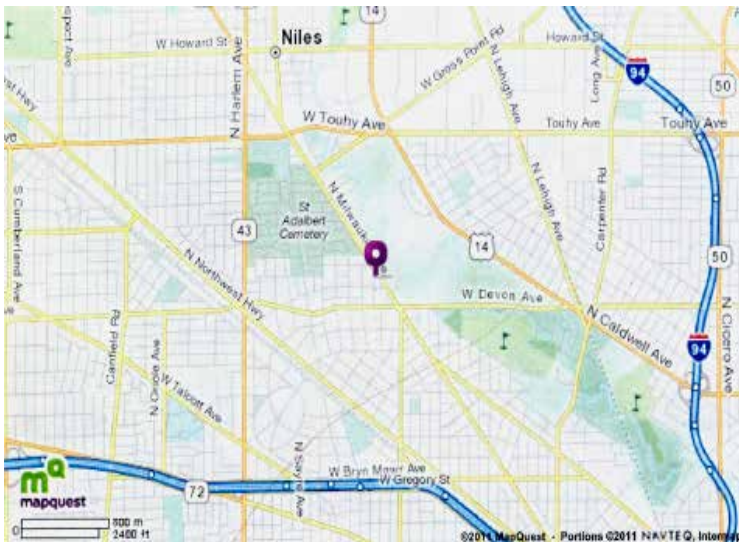
„Nur der ist seiner Ahnen wert, der ihre Sitten treu verehrt“

“Only he is worth his ancestors, who faithfully honors
their heritage, customs and traditions”

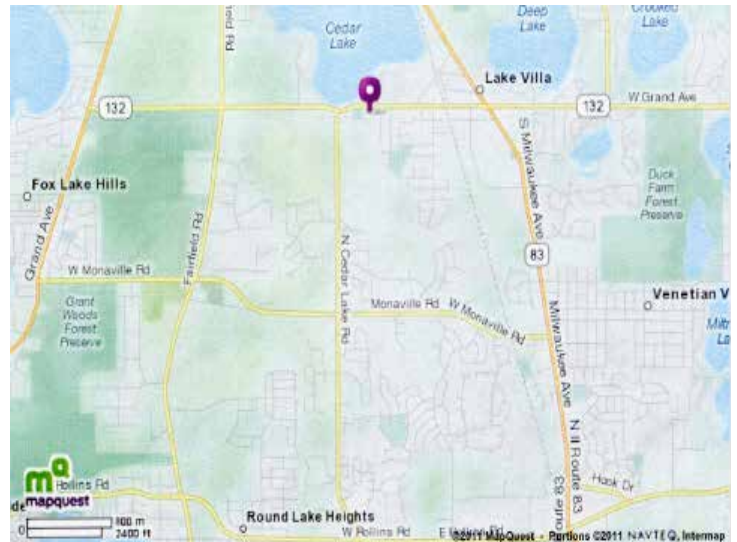


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