



NEWSLETTER

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From the Editor's Desk

We are happy to share with you this latest issue of our newsletter! In this issue, please take special note of the list of events for 2018. There are some of the usual favorites as well as exciting new things planned.

As we enter the new year, we would like to thank all of our members and friends for a successful 2017. Without your support, we would not be where we are today. At this time, please consider submitting your membership renewal for 2018. As a reminder, membership dues and donations can now be submitted online on our web site.

If you would like to contribute to our future newsletter issues, please send an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com or talk with a club representative. On behalf of the entire board of directors, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our Next Event

Suppe und Palatschinken

Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

To make reservations, please call Hans at 267-770-6898 or Fred at 215-722-4253.



2017 Children's Christmas Show

President's Message

With the new year approaching, it gives me a chance to look back at the wonderful successes we had in the second half of 2017. The Danube Swabian Festival (Tag der Donauschwaben) was extended to two days to accommodate the expanded soccer program. Each day was well attended and our members and our guests had fun. The crowd for wine tasting was near capacity and it has become a must attend event for next year. The Schlachtfest enjoyed a rejuvenated interest and the children's Christmas lunch and show played to a full house.

During the last year, two teams in the soccer program have won state championships, and they have recently received special state and city citations as well as being featured in local newspaper articles.

Even with all these positives, it is sad to notice that our founding generation is slowly passing away or in declining health. This brings us to the thought that our history needs to be preserved. We cannot forget our club's original purpose which was to preserve and maintain our culture. The Donauschwaben/German culture is a gift that our parents (die Oma und der Opa) gave us by *forcing* us – yes, that old world method – to attend and participate in all the various German activities. Looking back, I only see positives in our traditions of singing, dancing, soccer, food, drink, and baking.

We need to pass on these wonderful traditions. I hope you agree and will help in this endeavor during the upcoming year.

Fred Gauss, President

Tag der Donauschwaben

On Sunday August 27, 2017, our club once again celebrated our Donauschwaben heritage and culture. The day began with Fr. Eugene Wilson of St Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensalem celebrating a Catholic Mass in German at the Club. As in all the prior years, Frau Marx prepared the upstairs hall with beautiful flowers from her garden and conducted the readings during Mass. Billy Burbage, a member of the Donauschwaben dance group, was the altar server at the Mass. We need to give a special thank you to Ingo Kraus who lead us with the music and singing for the Mass.



Fr. Wilson and Frau Marx prepare for Mass

After Mass, we were blessed with perfect weather to continue the celebration on the grounds outside the clubhouse. Throughout the afternoon soccer games were played and the outside stage was occupied by entertainers. When Don Bitterlich was not playing the accordion, there were dancers from the United German Hungarians, G.T.V. Almrausch, and the Donauschwaben dance groups. For the younger children, there was a bounce house and the Frauen Gruppe held the verlosung where you could win many great prizes.

No celebration is complete without something to eat and drink. The Donauschwaben kitchen was serving bratwurst, schnitzel, leberkase, homemade potato salad, and more.

For the sweet tooth, there was plum cake and peach cake. With all the food and the perfect weather, the beer tasted outstanding!

Thank you to all who came to Tag der Donauschwaben this year and to all those who helped with the planning, the setup, the food service, the bartending, and the cleanup!



Presentation to the Cornflower Queen and Princess



Children's Dance Group



Jugendgruppe



Enjoying the beautiful weather



Club members, friends, and guests enjoying an afternoon under the tent



Don Bitterlich performs on the accordion

Ladies Auxiliary Updates

The following is an update on the activities of the Frauengruppe (Ladies Auxiliary) from the past few months. Thank you to all of the women who graciously support the club!

Tag der Donauschwaben

At Tag der Donauschwaben, the Ladies of the Verlosung table - Gerlinde Maitz, Roswitha Hoenisch, and Elizabeth Reap - sold chances for prizes. The table drew a lot of customers hoping to try their luck, and everyone loved to open the straw chances to see what they won. The Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the Verlosung table at Tag der Donauschwaben and the Children's Christmas Show each year.



**Roswitha Hoenisch, Gerlinde Maitz, and Liz Reap
volunteer at the Verlosung table**

Children's Christmas Show

We had a nice array of prizes at the Christmas show Verlosung. Many children and adults were very enthusiastic about the prizes. Everyone loves the surprise of opening the straw numbers to see if they won a prize. The Ladies' cookie sale also went quite well, and all the cookies were homemade. We are all very proud of our tradition of homemade cookies. The ladies of the Frauengruppe - Gerlinde Maitz, Roswitha Hoenisch, and Maria Mattes - wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year. We hope to see everyone at upcoming events especially the Penny Party on March 21st.

Penny Party Gifts

The Club's "Penny Party" will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. We are always in need of prizes so if you receive that special gift over Christmastime which you may not be able to use, please consider donating it to the club for our event. Also, the event will be the week before Easter, so any seasonal gifts are also welcome. Thank you!

Romanian Fund

For over 25 years, the club has sent donations to needy older Germans still living in Romania. The Ladies Auxiliary of the German Society has been a major financial contributor and partner in this endeavor. Through donations made at the Wallfahrt and the Mass at Tag der Donauschwaben along with the German Society's Ladies Auxiliary donation, we were again able to send a donation to Romania. Thank you to Kaethe Marx who has been the organizer for this charitable work. Last year, we were able to help over 20 families. If you are interested in making a donation toward this effort, please contact Fred Gauss.



www.facebook.com/danubeswabian



www.twitter.com/danubeswabian

Steuben Parade Recap

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, the German-American Community showed their pride with a parade through Rockledge and Fox Chase in northeast Philadelphia. The Donauschwaben participated in the day's events and were well represented at the parade.

The day began with an Ecumenical Service at the Holy Nativity Church. Father Eugene Wilson and Pastor Sonke Schmidt-Lange concelebrated the service. After church, it was time for a little Fruhschoppen at the Austrian Village Restaurant. The parade kicked off at 12:00 noon. The Donauschwaben once again provided the pedal power for the Tricentennial Bike. A special thanks is given to all those who helped with the bike repair. It is a lot easier to ride the bike rather than have to push it as was the case in the 4th of July Parade.

At the conclusion of the parade, many of us found ourselves back at the Hop Angel or the Austrian Village enjoying some great food, music, and of course, a well-deserved beer after the long march in the parade.



Club members participate in the 2017 German-American Steuben Parade

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1/14 | Suppe und Palatschinken |
| 1/27 | Youth Soccer Banquet |
| 2/11 | Venison Dinner |
| 2/25 | General Membership Meeting |
| 3/21 | Penny Party |

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

Hall Rental at the Club

Did you know that if you are a club member, you can rent the hall for a birthday party, wedding reception, Baptism, or other special event? We offer a variety of packages for those interested in renting the hall. Not a member yet? Consider submitting a membership application first and then talk with our hall rental coordination about your options. What better place than the Danube Swabian Association to plan your next event!



Upstairs hall available for rental for your next event

Wine Tasting

Our third annual Wine Tasting event held on October 14 was a sold out success. The club was packed with people eager to taste some good wines, have some wonderful food, and enjoy an evening of fun and socializing.

Victor Ykoruk of Majestic Wine and Spirits returned as our host for the evening. Victor led us through the tasting of 5 different wines from the Deutsch Family portfolio of wines. His depth of knowledge, humor, and charm once again made it an enjoyable evening for all.

Our first tasting was a Barone Fini Pinot Grigio paired with an antipasto skewer of marinated mozzarella, artichokes, roasted peppers, olives, salami, and more. Following the first pairing, we played Danube Swabian WINE-O which was somewhat like BINGO however it used wine terms. Prizes were awarded to the winners. Next, we sampled a bold red wine: Villa Pozzi Nero d'Avola, which was served with a creamy parmesan sundried tomato tortellini cauliflower soup. Due to many requests, the recipe for the soup appears in the newsletter.

Next, we had an excellent chardonnay from Josh Cellars paired with a Bavarian inspired dish – loaded twice baked potatoes topped with bacon, bratwurst, caramelized onions and cheese served with a horseradish sour cream sauce.

Our wine tasting event is not just about the food and wine. It is also about having fun. Our group competition involved each table selecting a lady from their table to represent them in a “How Well Can You Hold Your Wine” competition. No, we did not see how much wine they could drink. Instead they each had to hold a filled wine bottle straight out and try to be the last one not allowing it to sag. The winner won a bottle of wine for herself and a bottle of wine and gift wine glasses for everyone at her table. It was great to hear the

men and the women in the crowd cheer their representatives on.

The next course featured balsamic marinated pork filet slices on a cranberry balsamic spring mix paired with what was undoubtedly the favorite wine of the night: Ruta 22 Malbec. We then held our raffle where the lucky winners were awarded baskets of wines and other great prizes.

We ended our evening with the final course, which paired a Rose from Josh Cellars with a chocolate chip brownie with a salted caramel topping.

Thanks again to Victor, the wine tasting committee, pourers, servers, kitchen help, and all who attended this enjoyable and successful evening. Many have already told us that they are looking forward to next year's wine tasting event. Until then... Cheers!



The upstairs hall was full for the third annual wine tasting event!



A friendly competition at the wine tasting event

Recipe Corner

Creamy Parmesan Sundried Tomato and Spinach Tortellini Cauliflower Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- Red pepper flakes to taste (optional)
- 6 cups vegetable broth or chicken broth
- 1 small head cauliflower, cut into florets
- 8 ounces cheese tortellini (gluten free for gluten free)
- 1 (8 ounce) jar sundried tomatoes, drained and 1/2 pureed and 1/2 sliced thinly
- 1/2 cup parmigiano reggiano (parmesan), grated
- 8 ounces spinach (optionally coarsely chopped)
- 1/4 cup basil, chopped (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Heat the oil in a large pan over medium-high heat, add the onion and cook until tender, about 5-7 minutes.
2. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes and cook until fragrant, about a minute.
3. Add the broth and cauliflower and bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer covered until the cauliflower is tender about 10 minutes.
4. Puree the cauliflower in a blender/Vitamix and return to pan (or use an immersion blender in the pan).

5. Add the tortellini along with the pureed and sliced sundried tomatoes and simmer until the tortellini is tender, about 5-7 minutes.
6. Mix in the parmesan, spinach and basil and cook until the cheese has melted and the spinach and basil has wilted before seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.

This recipe was featured at our 2017 wine tasting event. It was contributed by Joann Brenner.

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



Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity

2018 Schedule of Events

Suppe und Palatschinken

Sunday, January 14

Youth Soccer Banquet

Saturday, January 27

Venison Dinner

Sunday, February 11

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 25

Penny Party

Wednesday, March 21

Danubia Beer Festival

Saturday, April 28

Pilgrimage Mass and Lunch

Sunday, June 3

Summer Concert Series

Weekends in June

Club Picnic and Pig Roast

“World Cup Final”

Sunday, July 15

Tag der Donauschwaben

Sunday, August 26

Wine Tasting

Saturday, October 13

Schlachtfest

TBD

Children’s Christmas Show

Sunday, December 2

*Please visit www.danubeswabian.com for updates throughout the year.
For information and reservations, please call Hans (267-770-6898) or Fred (215-722-4253).*

Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity

1277 Southampton Road

Philadelphia, PA 19116

215-969-9356

www.danubeswabian.com

Schlachtfest Success

All pork lovers again attended the annual Schlachtfest celebration, which was a successful event. Two days prior to the event, the Schlachters met and created the wonderful wurst platter meats for the Sunday meal. The kitchen was busy but the storytelling made the hours pass quickly for the Schlachters.

The Sunday meal started with the traditional hors d'oeuvres plate of pork delicacies followed by a delicious bowl of liver dumpling soup. The main course then followed with the platter of bratwurst, leberwurst, pork loin, and vegetables. The doggy bags were in full use as members know that they will have extras for the next day. The latest item added to the menu was chocolate covered bacon (delicious).

The hall as always was decorated in a wide variety of pig items accumulated over the years. The traditional game played before dessert was "pig pun fun" where contestants had to successfully answer the pun.



Paul Hoenisch and Walter Schutz



Bratwurst looks delicious!



Schlachters prepare the meats for the dinner



The Schlachters enjoy a lunch after working to prepare for the Sunday dinner

Children's Christmas Show

On December 3, 2017, the Club celebrated one of its most beloved events. The annual Children's Christmas Play was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience. The room was filled with families who enjoyed schnitzel and lots of home baked cookies. More than 70 plates of cookies were contributed. The children enjoyed the verlosung booth and energetically begged for "just one more dollar."

Then the play began. All 21 of the children, ranging in age from 3 to 12, sang a rousing rendition of "Eine Muh, Eine Maeh." A bevy of beauties then danced the hula. There were recitations of poetry in German and in English. Two of the girls played Jingle Bells on their violins. One of the highlights was an entertaining rendition of "There once was an Austrian" where the conclusion of the song featured a new Austrian dancer named Scott Logan (if you are curious, there's a great photo on Facebook). There was a lovely mixture of songs, skits, music and the traditional Nativity.

While the hard work of all of the bakers and parents who set up and practiced the play is appreciated, it was really nice to see the older children take larger roles as scene changers and narrators. The play was a perfect combination of fun and solemnity of the holy season. It was a wonderful way to prepare all in attendance for Christmas.



The upstairs hall was full for the annual Children's Christmas Show



Children reenacting the Nativity scene



Children sing Christmas carols at the annual Christmas Show

Project Updates

Family Bathroom

The bathroom project at the club continues to move forward! We have recently reviewed the plans to determine the best location for entrance(s) to the family bathroom. We hope to commence work in 2018. If you would still like to make a contribution or get involved with the project, you can make a donation or contact us via the club's web site. Thank you to those who made generous contributions to the club in the past year to make this project possible.

Danubia-L Mailing List

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

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

Member News

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

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new club members.

- Janice Koch
- Rose Collins
- Kathe and Joseph Sobczak

Travels

Congratulations to club board member Christina Brenner on her new position in Munich, Germany for work.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to club members Regina and Nick Kosiek on the birth of their daughter Lucy on September 4, 2017.

Congratulations to club members Michael and Chelsea Rakszawski on the birth of their daughter, Cecilia Marie, on September 5, 2017.



Chelsea and Michael Rakszawski with their daughter Cecilia

In Memoriam

The association is sad to report that Tony Jack recently passed away. Tony, who was residing in Virginia, was the last of the original board of directors. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family.

Danube Swabian Foundation

The Danube Swabian Foundation is the tax-exempt organization (501c3) of the National Danube Swabian Association. The annual message of the foundation's chairman follows on the next page of this newsletter. We believe that you will enjoy his message.

The foundation is a worthwhile organization that sponsors many Danube Swabian activities. Our club has been a regular recipient of financial support for its youth programs.

After reading the annual message from the chairman, if you would like to make a donation to the Danube Swabian Foundation, 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.



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

New Wallfahrt Location for 2018

The Wallfahrt Mass for 2018 has been relocated to the Chapel at the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer located in Meadowbrook, PA. This change was necessary as the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Campus – Mother Katharine Drexel Shrine is closed due to the sale of the property. The date will remain the same – the first Sunday in June. More details and directions will be provided in the next newsletter.

Danubia Soccer News

Danubia Youth Soccer had a successful fall season. All of our teams played competitively and many of our teams finished in the top of their divisions in the Intercounty Soccer League. Congratulations to the following teams for their first place finish: Griffins 2010, Griffins 2009, Gunners White, and Hotspur. Also, we congratulate the following teams for their second place finish for the season: Lightning, Cosmos, and Dynamo.

In addition to League play, our youth teams compete in various tournaments throughout the year. Most recently, the Gunners, Gunners White, and Celtic teams played at the West Deptford Soccer Club Thanksgiving tournament and came home with first place trophies in their brackets. The Cosmos and Hotspur teams finished in second in their respective brackets. The Griffins 2010 and Griffins 2009 teams both participated in the Parkwood Youth Organization Schillinger Tournament, each earning a first place finish in their brackets.

The Danubia Fury, the Women's Majors Team, heads into the winter break in fifth place with a record of 4W-3L-4T. They will continue competing in a winter indoor league at YSC until regular league play resumes in the spring.

The Men's Majors Team completed the first half of their season and are gearing up to start the second half of the season in the spring.

For more information about the soccer club, please contact Hans Kloehn, Jr. or visit our web site at www.fcdanubia.org.

It's in the Genes

Danubia Soccer has been fortunate to have had many dedicated players in its programs. During the fall soccer season, the Northeast Times did feature articles on two Senior High School soccer players: Georg Montag and Marcelo Ibarra. Both players' grandfathers (Georg Montag and Erich Pohl) played on the club's 1967 United League Championship Team and the fathers (Georg Montag and Jose Ibarra) also played for the men's major team for many years. We wish the young gentlemen ongoing success in their soccer career.

Membership Note

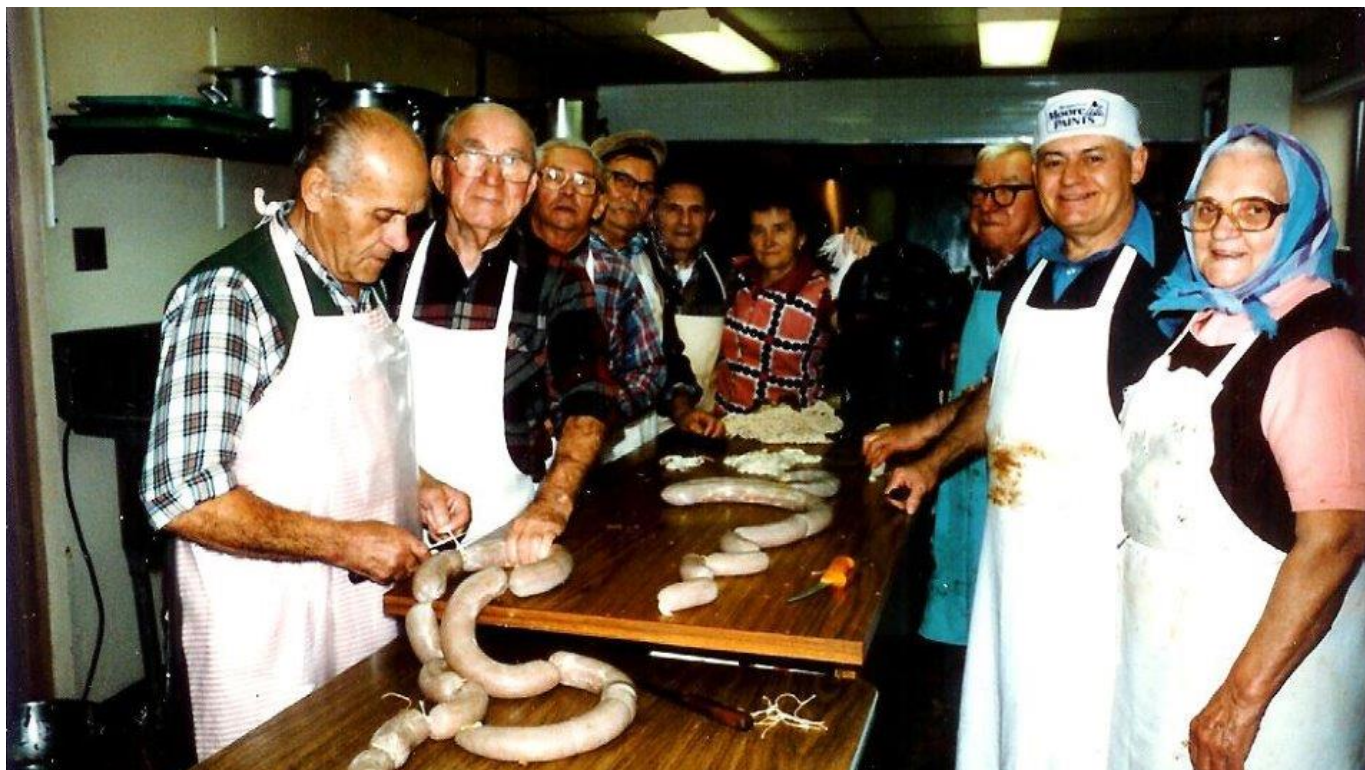
It is that time of year to submit your membership renewal for the club. All members should have received a mailing at the end of 2017 with membership renewal details.

As a reminder, we now offer a way to pay membership dues and make donations to the club on our web site via PayPal! Please visit www.danubeswabian.com and click on "Membership" or "Donate" to learn more.

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

A Blast from the Past

We once again thank board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these great club photos! In this issue, we have two of the early pictures of club members making the Leberwurst for the Schlachtfest. These photos are most likely from the late 1970s or early 1980s.



Left side (front to back): Michael Brucker, Hans Hoenisch, Mr. Gross, Joe Wittner. Mr. Herbert, Theresia Brucker
Right side (front to back): Mrs. Herbert, Stefan Brenner, Valentin Hoenisch



In order (left to right): Joe Walter, Paul Hoenisch, Mrs. Braunchek, Mrs. Birgel, Theresia Brucker, Theo Gauss, Walter Schutz, Joe Miller, Richard Kraus, Anna Gauss

Newsletter Contributors

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