



# NEWSLETTER

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## From the President

I hope that everyone's holidays were pleasant and many family memories were made. Regarding the club, our current situation is still not normal as we are not fully open. However, I believe that come springtime, it will happen.

You, the members and supporters, have been extremely generous over the past two years with your membership renewals and donations. This support has softened the tremendous pressures imposed on us by COVID restrictions. This being our 65th anniversary year, I look forward to celebrating and greeting every one of you at what we hope will be a full schedule of events.

Please make it a point to come to YOUR CLUB and enjoy the Gemütlichkeit.

Hope to see you soon,

Fred Gauss



A glimpse of the club picnic area from the fall

# Wine Tasting

*Contributed by George and Joann Brenner*

On a beautiful afternoon and early evening on October 2, Danubia hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting event. This event has become a perennial favorite with attendees as evidenced by the many who return year after year. The tasting was held outside in the picnic area under the tent where the venue was transformed by Fred Gauss into a setting with grape vines and a beautiful arrangement of plants and flowers.

Victor Ykoruk of Commonwealth Selections was once again our host and expert. He selected multiple wines from Allegro Winery to pair with our food selections for the evening. At the start of each of our five courses, he described the wine which was being served and gave insights into the varietal as well as other information about wine. He certainly made the evening informative and fun.

The first course of the evening was a Pork Tostada which consisted of shredded pork, beet slaw, cotija cheese, avocado crema, and bean spread on a tortilla crisp, paired with Allegro Winery's 2019 Dry Rose. Next served was Corn Zucchini Soup paired with a 2020 Sauvignon Blanc. The third course was a Citrus Quinoa Salad paired with a 2020 Steel Chardonnay. Fourth was a Stuffed Taco Boat with beef, black beans, salsa, and cheese in a boat shaped tortilla served with a corn muffin and paired with a 2019 Petite Sirah. The final course was a homemade decadent 70% cacao dark chocolate brownie with raspberry drizzle paired with Allegro's 2019 Petite Verdot.

Our guests certainly seemed to enjoy the food and wine but were also entertained by some games with wine prizes awarded to the winners. We played a wine trivia game where guests had to hold up cards indicating whether they believed the correct answer was over or under the number given until the last person was left standing. There was also a competition involving throwing wine corks into cups.

Many thanks to all who made the evening a success. First and foremost, thanks to our guests

and we hope you had a wonderful evening. Thank you to the planners, decorators, center piece makers, raffle basket makers, pourers, servers, kitchen help, and sound engineer whose efforts made the event possible. Lastly, we couldn't put on such a lovely evening without Victor Ykoruk and we thank him for helping make this a terrific event each year. We also wish Victor much success in the new Pinnacle Ridge Tasting Room that he has just opened at 34 Susquehanna Avenue in Lansdale. Be sure to stop in and visit him.

Prost!



**Welcome table and raffle prizes**



**A beautiful day for an outside event**



**Guests enjoyed games and activities**



**Guests enjoy their time at the annual Wine Tasting event**



**2021 Wine Tasting planning committee and volunteers**

## ***Recipe Corner***

### Corn Zucchini Soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp butter
- 2 strips bacon, chopped
- 1 chopped yellow onion
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ tsp thyme
- 2 medium peeled russet potatoes, chopped into small cubes
- 4 cups chicken stock

(cont.)

- 1 bay leaf
- 4 ears of corn, husked and kernels placed in a bowl
- 1 medium zucchini, diced into cubes
- 1 cup cream or half and half
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Cayenne pepper and chopped parsley to garnish

#### Directions:

1. In a large pot on medium heat, melt the butter. Add bacon and cook until bacon starts to brown.
2. Add onion, celery, carrots, garlic, and thyme; cook until veggies begin to soften, stirring occasionally.
3. Raise the heat to medium high and add in the potatoes, water, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil and then lower the heat to medium and simmer for 8-10 minutes.
4. Add zucchini and corn; season with salt and pepper to taste, and simmer for additional 8-12 minutes or until the vegetables are completely tender.
5. Fish out the bay leaf and then transfer 2 cups of soup to a food processor or blender. Blend until smooth. Stir the mixture back into the pot. Add half and half and cook just until heated through. Taste for salt and pepper.
6. Serve garnished with fresh chopped parsley and sprinkle of cayenne pepper, optional.

*This recipe was contributed by Joann Brenner and is one of the dishes served at the club's 2021 Wine Tasting event.*

*If you would like to submit a recipe to be included in the Recipe Corner in our next newsletter, please contact Michael Rakszawski or send an e-mail to [newsletter@danubeswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com).*

## From the Editor's Desk

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter of 2022! It has been a while since our last newsletter was released, so we hope this issue provides a good sense on what has been happening at the club over the past few months.

As you will see in this newsletter, we have a lot to celebrate, including some well-earned recognition to our dedicated club members. However, we have also lost a number of our members, including family and friends. We honor them by modeling their positive traits and continuing to live out the traditions that they held dear.

Your support of the club has been tremendous over the past few years, and we thank you for being involved and staying connected with us! We hope this year brings a return to some of our longstanding favorite events that have either been put on hold or delayed for some time. Please continue to check the club's web site or subscribe to our e-mail list for the most up-to-date information.

As a reminder, we are always looking for interesting content for our newsletter. If you would like to contribute anything - a story, a poem, photos, a recipe, or family memories - please send an e-mail to [newsletter@danubeswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com) or talk with a club representative.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the club, and we hope you enjoy the newsletter!

### ***65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club***

Where have the years gone? The club was founded in 1957, and it has gone through many transformations. Celebrations are in the works for the summer and fall. We will keep you informed.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Please check the club web site for continued updates on these upcoming events.

Sun. 2/27	General Membership Meeting
Sat. 3/19	Takeout Goulash Dinner
Sat. 4/9	Penny Party

*Please be considerate and make your reservations in a timely manner so the kitchen can properly prepare for each event. For reservations, please call Gerlinde at 215-673-4423.*

## Dance Group Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our dance groups have not recently been active. However, we would like to revive them as we have a few big events upcoming this year. These include our club's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the national Donauschwaben Landestreffen in Trenton, NJ. If you would like to stay in touch and learn more about participating in the club's dance groups, please contact Fred Gauss, Patricia Kelly, or any of the board members.

Visit our web site for the latest news and events!  
**[www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com)**

## Landestreffen 2022

The 2022 National Donauschwaben Treffen will be held in Trenton, NJ over the Labor Day weekend. To learn more about the event, you can visit the Trenton Donauschwaben web site at <http://www.trentondonauschwaben.com>. All are invited!



## Verband Update

The Verband's national Donauschwaben meeting will take place in Akron, OH on the weekend of April 22-24. If interested, please contact Fred Gauss for more information.

## *New Year Resolutions*

With the coming of the new year, individuals always make many optimistic resolutions. To keep your prospective on this activity, we share with you a quote regarding behavior modifications from Joe E. Lewis, actor.

"I went on a diet, swore off drinking and heavy eating, and in 14 days I lost two weeks."

## Kulturpreis Awarded to Maria Mattes

We are pleased to share that longtime club member Maria Mattes was presented with the Kulturpreis award from the Landesverband USA this past fall. The award was presented by club president Fred Gauss at the club's Schnitzel Dinner on September 18. It is quite an honor whenever anyone is presented with this award, so we wish our heartfelt congratulations to Frau Mattes!



**Maria Mattes receives the Kulturpreis award**

## ***Membership Note***

Thank you to all who renewed their club membership for 2022 at the beginning of this year. We also thank all those who included an extra donation to the club along with their membership dues. Your donations are a great help to keep the club operating, and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

As a reminder, we offer the ability to pay membership dues and make donations to the club on our web site via PayPal. Please visit [www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com) and click on “Membership” or “Donate” to learn more. Note, you do not have to have a PayPal account to do this.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact our membership secretary, Roswitha Hoenisch, at 215-638-8387 or [membership@danubeswabian.com](mailto:membership@danubeswabian.com).



**2021 Danubia Men's EPSL Team**



**2021 Danubia Wolves U11 Girls Team**

## **Danubia Soccer News**

The soccer club welcomes our newest team, the Girls 2012 Wolves, to the family. The Wolves are coming off a very successful fall season with their previous club. If any club members know of any girls who would possibly be interested in being a part of the Wolves, please contact Coach Lou Hagarty Jr. at [louhagartyjr@gmail.com](mailto:louhagartyjr@gmail.com) or 267-496-1372.

Improvements to the soccer field continued in November. The whole soccer field was professionally seeded. Now we just have to wait for the snow to melt and allow the warmth of spring to produce a lush green carpet.



**2021 Danubia Lightning U15 Girls Team**

Weekend game schedules for the spring will be posted on the club's soccer web site, which can be accessed at [www.fcdanubia.org](http://www.fcdanubia.org).

# In Memoriam: Erich and Oskar Pohl

*Contributed by Fred Gauss*

The club has lost two great men. Erich and Oskar Pohl passed away within one week of each other in January 2022. In life, they were always together, and so it is with their departure from this world. Both have been connected to the Danubia soccer program from the very beginning. They were the last two remaining men from the original board members of the Danubia soccer program which was started in the 1960s. They were born in Kalynivka, Ukraine, so they weren't from the traditional Donauschwaben area by birth, but they were Donauschwaben by every other measure. They coached youth teams and they played on the men's team.

They helped build the first of many Danubia soccer fields starting first at the Bavarian Club. They then built the one at the current club. Let's not forget that they cleared, lined, and maintained the field at the state hospital behind Somerton. They poured foundation cement for the current club in addition to pouring financial support when the club was purchased in the 1970s. They attended every soccer game even if it meant traveling to the indoor arena at 46<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets or to the Landes Fussball Turnier in Milwaukee. I'm sure Roni and Liesel, their wives, will attest to that.

Roni and Liesel never had to worry about where their husbands were on a Sunday afternoon at 2:30. Oskar and Erich supported Danubia teams for many years, and all the players appreciated the many pitchers of refreshments given to them after games. No wonder retired players always ask "how are Oskar and Erich?" The Pohl brothers were devoted members but mostly they were friends to us all. They spent many hours enjoying the soccer stories at the bar, but eventually they would erupt in chorus to sing "Fussball du allein, du allein sollst meine Freude sein." They shall be remembered as good men, good friends, good teammates, and good Donauschwaben.



**Erich and Oskar Pohl**

## *Club Hours*

For those interested, the club is open every Saturday from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. and on select Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. when the Shuffleboard league has activity. Please call the club to confirm hours if you have any questions.

## **General Membership Meeting**

The club's annual general membership meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. This year, members have the option to attend the meeting in person or virtually (via Zoom). For members attending in person, we ask that you respectfully follow all COVID precautions. For members who would like to participate via Zoom, we ask that you please send an e-mail to [webmaster@danubeswabian.com](mailto:webmaster@danubeswabian.com) to request the meeting details. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting!

## Schnitzel Dinners

The club held two Schnitzel Dinners over the past six months. The first was on Saturday, September 18, 2021 where guests could eat outside in the picnic area or take their food to-go. During this event, the club honored Maria Mattes with the Kulturpreis from the Landesverband USA.

The most recent Schnitzel Dinner was on Saturday, February 12, 2022. It was takeout only, but members and friends seemed to enjoy it nonetheless. The club served over 90 meals. As a special touch and while supplies lasted, flowers were distributed to celebrate Valentine's Day.



A tasty "takeout" Schnitzel Dinner from the fall

### *Kitchen Help Needed*

The club is looking for kitchen and wait staff help. For more information, or if you are interested, please contact Fred Gauss at 215-722-4253.

### *Thank You!*

Thank you to Visconto Funeral Home, which provided the 2022 monthly planners and calendars located at the entrance of the club.

## In Memoriam: Katharina Marx

*Contributed by Fred Gauss*

It is with deep sadness that I write the following.

With the recent passing of Katharina Marx (93), the Donauschwaben have lost one its most faithful members. She was heavily involved with the club since the 1960s, and she was still willing to help before her medical problems became too great in June.

She faithfully committed her time and effort for the past 35 years coordinating an annual Pilgrimage Mass at religious shrines to remember those who died in the various camps in Yugoslavia at the hands of the communists. Her thoughtful dedication to this event stems from her own survival as well as the loss of many of her own family members in these camps. She has always inspired a reverent and relevant celebration of Mass, making sure there was a German-speaking priest and the music of the Schubert Mass. It was always a beautiful and poignant event. Due to her efforts, she was able to arrange to have a Philadelphia cardinal and a Philadelphia archbishop celebrate this Mass held in German. She also successfully arranged to have Erzbischof Dr. Robert Zollitsch, Freiburg i.B., travel to Philadelphia and celebrate this Mass. Erzbischof Zollitsch is also a camp survivor born in Filipowa, Batschka.

In keeping with her religious efforts, Mrs. Marx was responsible for the annual support of the Deutsche in Romaenien Fund. Over the past 30 years, through her fundraising efforts, she has been

able to send over \$22,000 to needy individuals in the former homeland.

She served in many capacities for the association. Most notably, she was the secretary for many years. She was affectionately known as the club historian. The five presidents under whom she served would attest to her efficiency and meticulous recordkeeping (both in English and German).

As a result of the above works, she was awarded the National Donauschwaben Cultural Award in 2015 for her dedication to the Donauschwaben culture.

She was also an artist. She had stationary made from some of her paintings and donated it to the National Donauschwaben Foundation as a fundraiser. She also donated paintings for the club's various raffles.

She was the subject of the book "Last Waltz on the Danube" by Ali Botein-Furrevig published in 2012. It was a very impactful historical account of her family history, as well as the Donauschwaben, and the atrocities they survived.

She had a rigorous work ethic, and when it came to details, nothing was left to chance. Here are two stories.

- I always admired her rose collection. She had a wonderful collection of rose bushes which were constantly cut to decorate the club for events. Pictures of her garden regularly appeared in the club's newsletter. She said that she would give me a few cuttings to grow. At the time I didn't know you could do this. Well, the next day she was standing at my door with 10 cuttings tied with a colored ribbon to indicate the color, a bag full of horse manure, which according to her is absolutely necessary for success, and a sketched layout of the Northeast horse farm where I can get the free manure. A majority of the roses are still thriving in my garden.
- The City of Philadelphia sent the association a delinquency notice that we did not have a valid business license. It is

a one-time payment. Frau Marx put the city in their place by producing a 20-year-old receipt and license from her records. The inspector said he had never seen such a version of a license or receipt.

There was a generational difference between us. In conversations or discussions, it was never Käthe or Katharina, it was always "Frau Marx." For those who grew up in the club, we know that is the only and proper way. Though there was an age and cultural difference, Frau Marx and I became friends and shared many conversations.

She was a good friend and a wonderful role model. She will be missed.



**Katharina Marx**

### *La Salle Alumni*

Being that many of our club members are La Salle University alumni, we are pleased to celebrate that La Salle's athletic programs ranked first among all NCAA Division I schools in the NCAA's annual Graduation Success Rate report. La Salle had a near-perfect score of 99 and was tied for the top spot in the nation with Columbia, Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, Holy Cross, Lafayette, and Yale. Congratulations, Explorers!

## Christmas Celebrations

This past Christmas, a few families gathered to work on gingerbread houses for members of the club.



Left to right: Domenic Veitz, Jack Kelly, Trish Kelly, Mary Kelly, Maddie Kelly, Tobin Veitz, Lauren Kauffman, Cecelia Veitz



Great looking gingerbread houses!

### *Club E-mail List*

We welcome anyone interested to sign-up for our club e-mails. You can self-subscribe to our e-mail list by visiting our web site at [www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com) and clicking on the link on the right-hand side of the home page.

If you have questions or need help with the new e-mail list, please contact [webmaster@danubeswabian.com](mailto:webmaster@danubeswabian.com).

### *Club Projects*

Thank you to all of the club members who assisted with projects over the past few months. Just to name a few:

- Hans Kloehn, Ross Matico, Paul Hoenisch, and Fred Gauss were able to get all the tables, chairs, and landscaping put away for the winter.
- Hans Kloehn put a coating of sealant on the porch above the kitchen.
- The tire parking guards along the picnic area have been removed. This should increase each parking space depth in the lot as well as making snow plowing easier.
- Rob Hessler, Ross Matico, Fred Gauss, Paul Hoenisch, and Mike Rakszawski helped to take down the tents in the outdoor picnic area after some of the bad storms in the fall.

We would also like to thank Andy Weyerhauser who donated another two wooden flower containers for the picnic area. It gives us an opportunity to highlight additional members' home towns.

## Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands

A great resource for learning more about your Donauschwaben heritage is a group called the Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands (DVHH). You can connect with them at [www.dvhh.org](http://www.dvhh.org) or by finding them on Facebook.

## Member News

*We hope you will enjoy reading about the recent accomplishments, travels, birthday milestones, anniversaries, and other news 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 and/or photos to [newsletter@danubeswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com).*

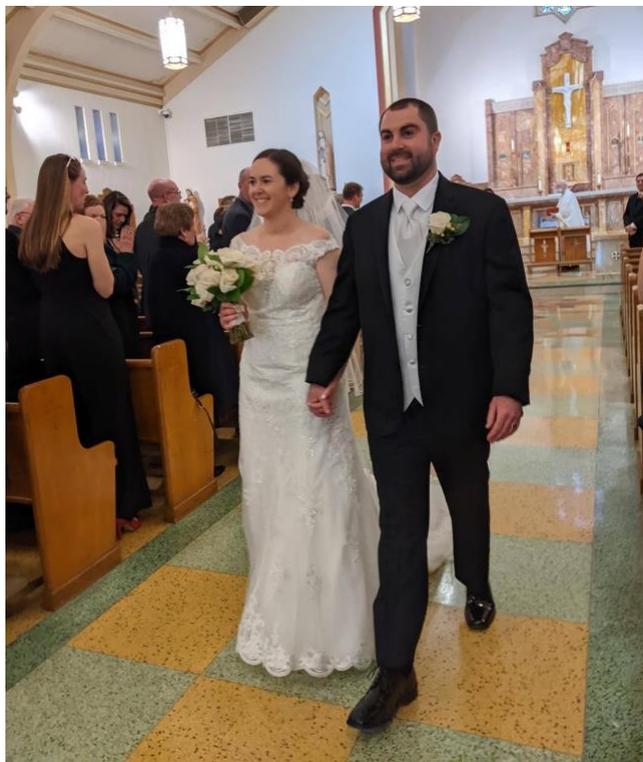
### ***New Members***

We would like to welcome the following new club members.

- Philip and Immaculata Ferrara
- Lou and Shannon Hagarty
- Joseph Hillegas
- Joe Mooney
- Fr. Carl Pieber
- Mary Ellen Turner

### ***Celebrations***

Congratulations to David and Marianne Rakszawski on their recent wedding in November 2021! David is a current board member at the club.



**David and Marianne Rakszawski**

Congratulations to Megan Sullivan for her election to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Megan is the daughter of Larry and Kathleen Sullivan. Larry played on the men's team for many years.

Tom Kelly participated in his first Philly Marathon in November and finished in a respectable time of 3 hours 35 minutes. He was cheered on by his wife Patricia. Tom is now training for his second marathon this spring.



**Tom Kelly at the Philadelphia Marathon**

On December 12, 2021, Katharina Leisch celebrated her 99th birthday. She is possibly the oldest current member of the club. Congratulations!

Christina Hoenisch, wife of Edward Hoenisch (member and former Kindergruppe dancer), and daughter in law of Roswitha and Stephan Hoenisch, participated in the Disney Dopey Challenge in January. She participated in the 5k, 10k, half marathon, and full marathon and medaled in all events. We congratulate her in her accomplishments. Christina participates in many races throughout the year; she and Ed both are participants in the yearly Blue Cross run in Philly.



**Christina Hoenisch in Disney**

### ***Graduations***

We wish the following individuals belated congratulations on their graduations this past year as we regrettably missed mentioning them in our previous newsletter.

- Matthew Kraus graduated from DeSales University and is now attending medical school at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Matthew is the son of Ingo and Terry Kraus.
- Cassidy Sudell graduated from Lower Moreland High School and is now attending the University of Maryland majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Cassidy has been very active at the club volunteering in the kitchen as well as serving for many of the club events.

### ***TV Appearance***

Andrew and Kate Stackhouse's kitchen reconstruction was featured in the cable series "Stone House Revival." All of "the soccer boys" are waiting for a dinner invite.

### ***New Arrivals***

Congratulations to our members on the following new arrivals.

- Isla Curran to parents Hillary and Gene Curran as well as grandparents Gene and MaryClaire Curran

### ***Travels***

This year, Roswitha and Stephan Hoenisch had the pleasure of having their son Bob (also a former Kindergruppe member) visit along with their grandchildren. The children, Flynn (8) and Elsie (6), experienced the ocean for the first time in their lives. Since they live in Montana, there is no chance for ocean fun there. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the grandparents did too, just watching them.



**The Hoenisch Family at the beach**

### ***In Memoriam***

We remember the following individuals who passed away during the past few months. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

- Alex Ely
- Maria Jack
- Margaret Jochum
- Erich Kielburger
- Katharina Marx
- Erich Pohl
- Oskar Pohl
- Walter Schütz
- Joseph Walter

We also remember the following members who passed away in 2021.

- Ulrich Both
- Franziska Burbage
- Anna Hessler
- Ernie Masur

## ***Franklinville-Schwarzwald Maennerchor***

The Franklinville-Schwarzwald Maennerchor has been very supportive of the club. They provide the singing of the Schubert Mass at the Wallfahrt and always sing Volkslieder at our annual pig roast. During the closure of practices and concerts during the COVID-19 pandemic, the choir created with the help of current technology a special but traditional greeting for us and all the German clubs. We hope you enjoy it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-bRUti3QgY>

## **Kindergruppe Memories**

Here are some memories of our very own Kindergruppe, likely from the 1980s and 1990s.



**Donauschwaben Kindergruppe**



**Donauschwaben Kindergruppe, September 1990**



**Donauschwaben Kindergruppe**

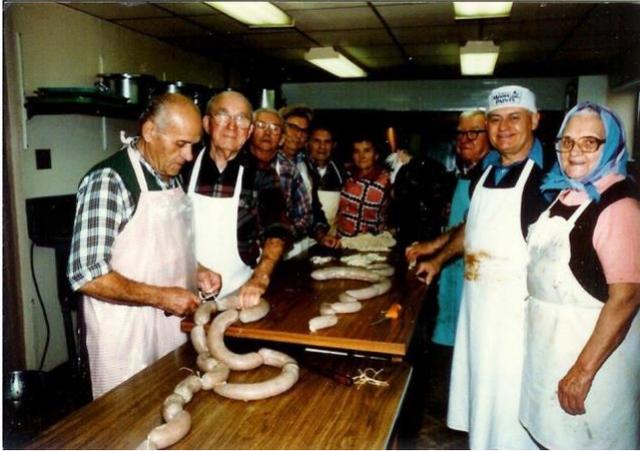


**Donauschwaben Kindergruppe at the Wallfahrt with current newsletter editor Michael Rakszawski on the far left and his twin brother Kevin on the far right**

*If you would like to share any of your own photos or memories from the Kindergruppe, please send a note to [newsletter@danubswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubswabian.com). We look forward to hearing from you!*

## A Blast from the Past

It has been a while since the club last held a Schlachtfest, so we thought we'd put you in the spirit with some fond memories. We thank board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these photos of club schlachters from old through 2019.



Thanks again to Paul Hoenisch for sharing these great memories! We hope to be able to hold another Schlachtfest in the near future for your enjoyment.

*If you would like to share any of your old club photos for the next newsletter, please contact Michael Rakszawski or send an e-mail to [newsletter@danubeswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com).*

### ***Takeout Goulash Dinner***

We are happy to offer a takeout Goulash Dinner on Saturday evening, March 19. Cost is \$18. Please call Gerlinde at 215-673-4423 by Tuesday, March 15 for reservations.

## *Newsletter Contributors*

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Rob Hessler	Contributor
Paul Hoenisch	Contributor
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## **Danubia Soccer Club**

[www.fcdanubia.com](http://www.fcdanubia.com)

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