



NEWSLETTER

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From the Editor's Desk

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter of 2024! It has been a long 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 year and more.

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 close 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 continues to bring you some of our longstanding favorite events. 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 or talk with a club representative.

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

Upcoming Events

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

- Sun. 8/25 Tag der Donauschwaben Festival
- Sat. 9/28 Wine Tasting
- Sat. 10/12 Penny Party
- Sun. 11/10 Wallfahrt - Pilgrimage Mass

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.



Everything Hurts Band



Family and Friends

Jackapalooza III

Jackapalooza III was held on Saturday, August 3. This was a fun night in memory of Jackschie Mattes. The event featured great music provided by the Everything Hurts Band. About \$3000 was raised for charity, which was donated to the Jefferson Brain Cancer Foundation.



Enjoying the music after the rain

Club Picnic

Our club picnic was held on Sunday, July 14. This was a great opportunity for our members to get together in the club picnic area to enjoy some comradery and great food.

2024 Summer Concerts

Two concerts were held in our 2024 Friday Night Summer Concert Services. The first concert featured the Tri-County Band and was held in memory of Thomas Rakszawski. Despite the threatening weather, the band ventured out to the club and put on a great performance. The second concert was the club-favorite Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band. Thanks to all our members and friends who came out to enjoy the great music!



**Thomas E. Rakszawski Memorial Concert
(Tri-County Band)
June 14, 2024**



The Everything Hurts band entertains the crowd



The women's division competition



**Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band
June 21, 2024**



The men's division competition

2024 Danubia Beer Festival

The 2024 Danubia Beer Festival was held on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Despite it being a rainy and cloudy day, members and friends gathered for a nice afternoon. Guests sampled 20 different beers, including German, Mexican, and other craft beers. They also enjoyed the music of the Everything Hurts band. The Masskrugstemmen competition proved to be popular once again with about 7 individuals competing in the women's division and about 20 in the men's division. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event possible!



Guests enjoying the beer festival

2023 Pig Roast

Contributed by Fred Gauss

The summer club picnic and pig roast is an annual member favorite. Even though the pig is supplied by a South Philly butcher, Adam Dickmann Sr., former President and pig preparer in years past, would have approved of the taste. The weather did not cooperate with threats of thunderstorms but people were ready to eat at the assigned start time of 1:00 p.m. With the potential weather issues, tables were prepared for both indoor and outdoor dining and pop up tents were positioned for covered walk ways. Don Bitterlich was in attendance and he graciously played his accordion to an appreciative audience. The Franklinville Schwarzwald Männerchor was also in attendance and they sang a variety of well-known Volkslieder to the delight of the audience. Many of the attendees took advantage of the situation and joined in singing many of the songs. It was nice to hear Volkslieder again at the club.

Please save the date for our 2024 Club Picnic and Pig Roast on Sunday, July 14!



Fred, Hans, and Chuck preparing the pig

IN MEMORIAM

Hans J. Kloehn, Sr.
September 17, 1936 - April 25, 2024



Enjoying the club picnic



Enjoying the afternoon in the picnic area

Verband Update

The annual meeting of the Landesverband der Donauschwaben U.S.A. was held in April 2024 in Cleveland, OH. Congratulations to Ray Martini from the Trenton Donauschwaben for being elected the new President! Ray succeeds Robert Filipi from Cleveland in this role. Recognition also goes out to Kathleen Martini for being re-elected as National Youth Leader, Werner Fricker, III for being elected as National Sport Leader, Michael Fricker for being re-elected as Press Secretary, and Fred Gauss for being named Eastern Region President.

Penny Parties

The 2022 Donauschwaben Penny Party was held on April 9, 2022. After a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic we were finally able to open our club to guests again. The ladies enjoyed coming to the penny party and being among friends. There were many beautiful prizes. Much work went into preparing for this event. Many thanks go to Gerlinde Maitz for her great efforts in this preparation. Also, many thanks to all her workers who helped make the event a success.

The club's 2024 Penny Party will take place on Saturday, October 12. Come out to have some fun and support the club at this annual event! Please call Gerlinde Maitz at 215-673-4423 for reservations and for more information.



2022 Penny Party



Club board members Fred Gauss, Mike Rakszawski, Paul Hoenisch, and George Brenner at the event



Frau Maitz next to the Trenton Treffen flag

Landestreffen 2022

The 2022 National Donauschwaben Treffen was held in Trenton, NJ over the Labor Day weekend. Here are some photos from the memorable weekend.



Dancers from clubs across the U.S. and Canada



The flagbearers before the grand march begins



Club members and priest celebrants at the Sunday Mass



Members of the choir at the Sunday Mass



Memorial crosses

Kulturpreis Awarded to Paul Hoenisch

We are pleased to share that longtime club board member Paul Hoenisch was presented with the Kulturpreis award from the Landesverband USA last year. The award was presented at the 2022 Landestreffen in Trenton, NJ. It is quite an honor whenever anyone is presented with this award, so we wish our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Hoenisch!



Cultural Exhibit



Mr. Paul Hoenisch is awarded the Kulturpreis

Membership Note

Thank you to all who renewed their club membership for 2024 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 or Venmo.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact our membership secretary, Lauren Brando, at membership@danubeswabian.com.

Danubia Soccer News

Special thank you to Councilman Brian O'Neill's Office for awarding the club a City Activity Award Grant over the past few years for the club's soccer program. It will help fund the continued fertilizing and seeding of the soccer field which is a multi-year project.

Major Men

The Danube Swabian Association welcomed in a new men's soccer team at the club for the 2022-2023 season. It was a fresh start for the club, with new leadership and all new players for the team. However, some familiar faces returned to the club many years later after growing up and playing youth soccer at Danubia. Another familiar face would be George Pohl, long-time member, who is helping coach the men's team and enjoying watching his sons (Kevin and Mark) play on the team.

The team participated in the Majors II division of the USL of PA and also competed in the Robert M.

O'Neill Amateur Cup. Starting the season with an impressive 5-1 start, saw the team finish in 3rd place with an overall 8-1-3 record. With such a competitive league, it is not always easy to put a team together in one year and achieve success right away, but the team built a stronger bond each and every game, not just to the game of soccer but to the Danube Swabian club. We look forward to our upcoming season by representing such a great club and making memories as many others have done in the past. We look forward to having members stop out for a game and hangout at the club after.



Major Men 2022-2023

2012 Girls (Wolves)

The 2012 Girls (Wolves) just completed their first season with the club. The team competed very hard in an extremely competitive league this past fall. The team took 3rd place in the Cherry Hill Halloween Tournament this past October and even got to play a game at the Wells Fargo Center in January against local rival PSC. The team is excited to start training in August for their second season @Danubia with some new girls added to the group. The future is bright for the Danubia Wolves!



2012 Girls (Wolves)

Danubia Griffins

The U13 Griffins had a successful 2022-2023 campaign.

In the fall, the team finished with a record of 9-1 and finished in first place in the EDP-Blue division. This top finish earned the Griffins a promotion to the prestigious USYS league. The Griffins also won in the Mount Laurel Columbus Day Tournament and finished in third place in the EDP Fall Classic Tournament.

In the winter, the Griffins finished in third place in the rugged, 10 team YSC Division 1 Indoor League. However, in the single-game elimination, championship tournament the Griffins outlasted all teams to win the YSC Division 1 Indoor Championship. In February, the Griffins also won the 8-team Philadelphia Union Futsal Tournament.

In the spring, the Griffins finished in fifth place in the 10-team USYS League.

With the entire team returning, the Griffins look forward to having a successful 2023-2024 campaign.



Danubia Griffins 2022-2023



Congratulations to the Danubia Griffins!

2022 Summer Concerts

Contributed by Fred Gauss

The Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band kicked off the club's summer events with an outdoor concert. It was the 26th year of their playing in our concert series. The concert was held in conjunction with a Friday schnitzel night. The band did not disappoint! The picnic area was fully occupied. It showed its versatility with songs by Gershwin (Someone to Watch Over Me), Andrew Lloyd Weber (Phantom), and Glenn Miller (Moonlight Serenade). Peter Palan, Director, kept his promise of playing some German music with Berliner Luft and Braune Augen Polka selections. The concert was halted for 20 minutes due to the traditional thunderstorm which arrived close to intermission. The audience huddled under the tents or refilled their refreshments at the bar as they waited for the weather to pass. The concert concluded with Sousa's Stars and Stripes with an unexpected appearance by former drill team members with precision march steps. It was a lovely evening of music and Gemütlichkeit.

2023 Danubia Beer Festival

Contributed by George Brenner

The 2023 Danubia Beer Festival took place on May 13, 2023. There were a few new things for this year's beer tasting. Rather than the usual scheduling on a Saturday afternoon, the time was moved back to begin at 4:00 p.m. This allowed parents from our soccer program to attend after the Saturday morning soccer games. The rest of us had the chance to catch up on our weekend chores. With the soccer games and chores behind us, the attendees settled into a wonderful Saturday evening of beer tasting.

Another new item this year was the beer blessing. We were fortunate to have Fr. Dominic Ishaq from Maternity BVM Parish lead us in German and English prayers and songs, thanking the Lord, all the farmers, brewers, and others who work in the beer industry so that we could enjoy the fruits of their labor. In many households, Tischgebete or a prayer before a meal is a common practice. Perhaps the next time we enjoy a beer we should stop for a moment and say a Tischgebete.

May 13 was a perfect weather day to try some new beers or enjoy some of the traditional favorites, see old friends again, enjoy some bratwurst, listen to music, see a home brewing demonstration, and cheer on your favorite competitor in the Masskrugstemmen competition. The festival had all the above. The beer selections included 14 international beers and 8 domestic craft beers.



Masskrugstemmen competition

Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands

Are you interested in learning more about your Donauschwaben heritage? If so, along with our club, another great resource is a group called the Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands. You can visit their web site at www.dvhh.org or find them on Facebook. Their web site in particular has great information regarding the many villages where our families originated.

Recipe Corner

Palatschinken (Crepes)

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 4+ cups milk
- Pinch salt
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 3 eggs
- ¼ tsp vanilla

Directions:

1. Mix ingredients in a large bowl
2. Pour a scant amount of batter in a pan over medium-to-low heat
3. Flip when firm to cook other side
4. Serve filled with jam or cheese mixture (ricotta, powdered sugar, lemon, vanilla)

This crepe recipe is taken from the club's kitchen and is used at our Suppe und Palatschinken 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.

2022 Palatschinken Dinner

Contributed by Doris Leisch

With COVID restrictions lifted, we were able to welcome members back on Sunday afternoon, February 5, to enjoy one of the favorite dinners served at the club - Suppe und Palatschinken! Suppe und Palatschinken was traditionally eaten on Fridays in Lent, when many – both in the old country and today – do not eat meat. Over the years, the homemade soup and Palatschinken dinner became one of the most anticipated dinners at the club. This year was no exception, and then some! We received so many reservations that the dinner was served in the upstairs hall for the first time.

Traditionally the meal features homemade soup (generally a potato soup) and Palatschinken (crepes). Our version had a wonderful homemade potato soup, a tomato soup, and crepes stuffed with a choice of a farmer's cheese, apricot preserves, or strawberry preserves. Many members ordered the "plain" Palatschinken that were also available, to be filled with Lekvar, Nocello, and other delicious fillings that the members brought with them.

As in the last few years before the pandemic caused us to pause this event, we are very grateful that our younger generation continues to volunteer to cook these delicacies. In fact, we had multigenerational volunteer and staff cooks in the kitchen this year. The scrumptious potato soup was prepared by Trish Gauss Kelly, who picked up the mantle from her brother, Matt, using her Oma's recipe. Volunteers who made the Palatschinken were the father and son team of first-timer Al Taubenberger and veteran Palatschinken-maker William Taubenberger, board vice-president George Brenner, and kitchen "fixture" Chuck, all supervised by the irreplaceable Hans. This busy group of cooks prepared and filled 600 Palatschinken! It is a testament to their culinary skill that we had virtually no leftovers.

Thank you to all our members and friends who joined us for this Sunday dinner. The upstairs hall was filled to capacity with people who came hungry but left with full stomachs. Several tables had unofficial contests for who ate the most

Palatschinken. Maybe next year we'll make the contest official.

Club Projects

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

- Time and mother nature have taken their toll on the outdoor stage. Many of the wooden panels needed to be replaced and painted. Thank you to the men who helped with their carpentry skills.
- The downstairs bar also received a face lift with the installation of a new, lighter colored floor.
- The ice and coffee machines have also been replaced. They just don't make things to last anymore.

2023 Schlachtfest

Contributed by Fred Gauss

The Schlachtfest returned on March 5, 2023 after a three-year pause. The hall was decorated in its usual never-ending pig-paraphernalia. Some new appetizers were presented, namely pigs in a blanket and bacon dipped in chocolate. They set the tone for the rest of the meal, which consisted of the traditional full plate of Bratwurst, Leberwurst, pork loin, and vegetables. But to top off the event, the expected pig play games occurred. It started with the reading of pig puns by Mary Kelly in a lovely pig costume. Schlachtfest supporter Joe Juliano then received special attention for his continued support of the event over the years. Also, two chicken lovers (non-pork plates) were also recognized and serenaded by the attendees with the chicken dance. There is always more to the event than just the meal.



A nice crowd for the 2023 Schlachtfest



Guests enjoying the Schlachtfest



The pig makes an appearance

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 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.

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.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new club members from the past two years.

- Irene Bodnar
- Kris Eigenbrood
- Kristyn Sauerwald
- Anthony Acquaviva
- Kevin Galm
- Liz Kozar
- Carly McArdle
- Gabor Toth

Celebrations

Beth and Mike Kauffman were treated to a surprise 70th birthday party on a party boat out of Wildwood. The "Three Hour Tour" (Gilligan's Island fans) did not result in any mishaps but was a lot of fun on the water. There were dancing dolphins on view in Delaware bay.

Mary Kelly played the part of Dorothy in St. Luke's Summer Production of "The Wizard of Oz" held at the Keswick Theater in August.

A happy belated milestone 80th birthday to Gerlinde Maitz! She celebrated her special day on Saturday, November 19, 2022 with her children Frank and Renate Pittmann, grandchildren Matthew and Brittany Pittmann, and her great-granddaughters Arianna and Amelya. Along with a few other family and friends they enjoyed dinner at the Austrian Village restaurant.



Happy Birthday, Frau Maitz!

In Memoriam

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

- Franz Birgel - July 2022
- Joe D'Angelo, Sr.
- Katharina Eggers – March 2024
- Adam Herbert - April 2023
- Anna (Anni) Hoenisch - June 2023
- Joseph Juritsch
- Hans J. Kloehn, Sr. - April 2024
- Jack Koeberlein
- Katharina Leisch - January 2023
- Ross Matico, Sr. - December 2022
- Tom Murtaugh
- Sr. Martina Nicklaus
- Elisabeth (Liesl) Pohl - February 2023
- Katharina Provasnik - September 2022
- Thomas Rakszawski - November 2023
- Anna Schmidt - December 2022

- Rudy Schmidt
- Hugo Scholer
- Ella Steiner - September 2022
- Joe Urich - April 2022
- Witold Wenzel - March 2022
- Josef Wesztergom - April 2023

New Arrivals

Congratulations to our members on the following new arrivals from the past two years.

- Allison Mary Epps was born to Karen and Greg Epps (daughter of Alice Leisch and Carl Guarino) on May 22, 2023, joining her two-year-old big sister, Emily Alice
- Ziggy Scafuro Gauss, born February 2023 to Matt Gauss and his wife, Kimmy Scafuro; President Fred Gauss has his Stammhalter
- Andrew Michael Rakszawski to parents Michael and Chelsea Rakszawski in July 2022
- Jude Malone Rakszawski to parents Eric and Jasmine Rakszawski in July 2022

A Blast from the Past

Thank you to board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these great photos from the 2007 Wallfahrt at St. Peters Church in Philadelphia and the reception following it at the club!

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.



Wallfahrt at St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia



An attendee from New York with the late Anna Gauss



Members of the Dickmann family



Clergy and religious



The late Frau Marx who made all the arrangements for Archbishop Zollitsch to come to Philadelphia in 2007; Archbishop Zollitsch was born in Filipowa and was also in Gakowa as a youngster



Members of the Hoenisch family



Group photo all from the town of Filipowa

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