



Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity

NEWSLETTER

Philadelphia, PA

Summer 2025

To all of our members and friends, thank you for your continued support of the club as we move into the summer months.

We hope you'll enjoy this latest newsletter, which has a few updates from events held in the first half of 2025. Many of the events helped to carry on our traditions and celebrate our culture, and it has been great to see many of our younger family members getting involved.

We hope to see you in the next few weeks as we begin our Summer Concert Series and then host our annual pig roast. We also look forward to kicking off the festival season with our annual Tag der Donauschwaben festival, which will be on Sunday, August 24.

Once again, thanks for your support, and enjoy the newsletter!

General Membership Meeting

At the general membership meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2025, we held the biennial election of board members, including officers. The agenda for the meeting included reports from the various officers and section heads and a message from our president. After the reports were completed and on motion, our President dissolved the current board, and new elections were held to fill the vacant positions.

Following are the new officers and trustees for the 2025 – 2026 term, until February 2027:

Officers:

Fred Gauss, President
George Brenner, Vice President
Joe Schaeffer, Secretary
George Burbage, Assistant Secretary
Doris Leisch, Treasurer
Lauren Brando, Membership Secretary
Michael Rakszawski, Media Chair
Ross Matico, Inventory Chair

Trustees:

George Breslin	Rob Hessler
Paul Hoenisch	Roswitha Hoenisch
Karl Martin Leisch	Linde Luczakowsky
Rosalie Matico	Gerlinde Maitz
Ronnie McDermott	David Rakszawski
Elisabeth Reap	Al Taubenberger

We are very grateful for the commitment of the prior board members who chose not to continue for another term. And we are very fortunate that six new members have joined the Board. We look forward to hearing new perspectives and ideas so that we can continue to provide both traditional and innovative programming to our Danube Swabian community.

February 23 marked a major milestone for one of our board members. On February 23, 1975, Paul Hoenisch joined the Board. Paul has served on the Board since then and agreed to continue his service to our club for another two-year term. Congratulations to Paul! We look forward to seeing him diligently collecting admissions at the

gate on Tag der Donauschwaben and to benefiting from all the other things that he does around the club that no one really sees but that need to be done.

Suppe und Palatschinken

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, we celebrated Fasching with a lot of feasting before Lent began on Ash Wednesday on March 5, with our annual Suppe und Palatschinken Essen. Over 100 people filled the upstairs hall to enjoy the home-made soups and Palatschinken.

On the menu was the excellent potato soup once again prepared by Matt Gauss, who made it the way that his Oma made it. The other soup was a bean soup prepared by Doris Leisch, who managed to prepare the soup the way her mother prepared it. This was quite a feat, since not unlike many of us who try to recreate what our mothers cooked, nothing is written down; Doris also did not have a recipe. Even without recipes, both soups were excellent.

The other item on the menu was Palatschinken. Cheese, apricot, and strawberry filled Palatschinken were offered. Plain, unfilled Palatschinken were also available for those who brought their own special fillings. Other fillings included cinnamon sugar, Nutella, bananas, quince, and Lekvar (prune butter). If someone brought something else, please let us know.

This event could not be held without the enormous effort of the many volunteers. It begins with taking the reservations and continues to the final clean up. Taking reservations requires more than just answering the phone and writing down names and numbers. Figuring out how to seat the large number of people takes creativity, experience, and knowledge of who wants to sit together. Think about planning a seating chart for a wedding. Gerlinde Maitz continues to keep this part of the event well under control, and we are grateful to her for taking on that thankless job. On the day before the event, Frau Maitz, Ronnie McDermott, and Roswitha Hoenisch set the tables and otherwise made sure the hall was ready.

Cooking, serving, and cleanup take the work of a lot of volunteers. Making and filling over 500 Palatschinken one at a time is not a one-person job. We were fortunate that we had a few veterans volunteer again, but we also had the next generation help as well. Our new board member Karl Martin Leisch (grandson of Martin & Kathi Leisch and son of Karl-Heinz & Donna Leisch) and his wife Stephanie Hogan joined veterans George Brenner, Linde Luczakowsky, Frank Sudell, Al and Joanne Taubenberger, and Linda Rakszawski in the kitchen. They were busy making Palatschinken nonstop for hours. Katherine Losoncy traveled all the way from Virginia to work in the kitchen, just to experience and learn how to make Palatschinken. Ross Matico was the jack-of-all-trades for the afternoon, helping in the kitchen, tending to the sound system, and otherwise lending a hand where needed. We're also grateful for the work of the younger generation, Maddie, Mary, and Jack Kelly and Tobin Veitz, who served the meal.

The reward for all this effort was to see the families, club members, and their guests enjoying a great meal and camaraderie by celebrating a Fasching Essen at the Club. Thanks to all who made the event a success.





Bowling Party

As a reward for a wonderful Christmas show performed by the club's youth group and a successful fall soccer season for the Girls U-13 2024 Fall season, the club sponsored a bowling afternoon on February 8 for the participants and parents. There was plenty of food and refreshments as well as many entertaining attempts to knock down pins.



Soccer Coach Recognized

Barry Harvey, former women's soccer coach as well as Board Member, was one of the inductees into the 2025 Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association (EPSA) Hall of Fame. He was recognized for his long-time commitment to women's soccer and as Cup Grievance Commissioner and Chair where he "consistently advocated for fairness in the game". Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!



Gurkin. Combined with crusty bread, this was an excellent start to the meal. The next course was a little different from what was served in prior years. Previously a liver dumpling soup was served. This year, a staple in many Donauschwaben kitchens, Kries Knoedel Suppe was served. The main meal was roast pork, bratwurst, liverwurst, mashed potatoes, and sauerkraut. To make sure that “no one went home hungry”, a piece of cheesecake or pound cake was served for dessert.

Not only were our members and guests treated to a wonderful meal, they also saw more pig themed decorations than anyone could imagine existed. The upstairs hall is generally decorated for whatever the theme of the function is. However, for the Schlachtfest, there are stuffed animal pigs and T-shirts with pigs. On the tables you could find sayings and jokes related to pigs. There was even a flying pig overhead. The best “decoration” was when our president Fred Gauss came out after the meal dressed in a pink pig costume! Everyone in the hall erupted in laughter. It was a great way to end a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

The great atmosphere and great food do not happen without the help of the many volunteers. During the week, several of our members helped to set up the hall and prepare a few items in the kitchen. Early on Sunday morning, our board member Michael Rakszawski prepared the Kries Knoedel Suppe just like his Oma (Anna Gauder) taught him. It is always good to know that some of the things that our parents and grandparents taught us are being passed down to the younger generations. Thanks also to everyone who helped in the kitchen and the cleanup. As they say, “Viele Hande machen die Arbeit schnell am ende”. Most of all, thank you to all who attended the Schlachtfest!

Schlachtfest

On Sunday, April 6, 2025 a Schlachtfest was held at the club. This is an event with the focus on eating various types of pork-based meat dishes. This year was no exception. Our members and their guests started the afternoon dinner with a plate of appetizers that included Headcheese, bacon, and liverwurst accompanied by radish and





Danubia Beer Festival

In spite of all the gloomy weather forecasts, the weather on Saturday, May 3 was perfect for our annual Danubia Beer Festival. Actually, the weather was excellent for beer tasting!

The event featured 22 beers for tasting. This included many German beers along with some local craft beers. This year, there were also 5 non-alcoholic beers. Guests enjoyed a variety of lagers, pilsners, and IPAs.

There were more than 75 people in attendance including an impressive 20 people who participated in the Masskrugstemmen competition. Congratulations to our winners! Musical entertainment was provided by the Everything Hurts band.



The beer selections, the music, the food, and the weather were great! But without the help from all of our volunteers, the Bier Festival would not have been a great event. Everyone worked together and had a lot of fun with their family and friends. We may wonder why we expend so much time and energy at our club. The comradery and fellowship displayed is one of the reasons that our club exists and this event helped to prove that point.

Thank you again for everyone who attended Danubia Beer Festival and to all the volunteers who made the event a great success!





E-mail List

You can subscribe to our e-mail list to stay informed of news and upcoming events at the club by using the link on the right-hand side of the club's web site.

Upcoming Events

Summer Concert Series:
Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band
 Friday, June 20, 2025 -- 7:00 p.m.

Summer Concert Series:
Tri-County Band
 Friday, June 27, 2025 -- 7:30 p.m.

Club Picnic and Pig Roast
 Sunday, July 13, 2025 -- 1:00 p.m.

Tag der Donauschwaben
 Sunday, August 24, 2025 -- 12:00 p.m.

Rocktoberfest
 Saturday, September 20, 2025 -- 2:00 p.m.

Penny Party
 Saturday, October 25, 2025 -- 1:00 p.m.

Wallfahrt
 Fall 2025 – date TBD

Wine Tasting
 Fall 2025 – date TBD

Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity
 1277 Southampton Road | Philadelphia, PA 19116
 215-969-9356 | www.danubeswabian.com

