



# NEWSLETTER

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## **A Note From the Editor**

Greetings to all of our club members and friends! We are pleased to publish this first issue of our revised newsletter for the Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity. We hope this newsletter provides an informative and enjoyable summary of our recent events, current news, and upcoming activities at the club. We especially thank all of our many contributors to this newsletter; without them, it would not be possible.

Our goal is to publish this newsletter four times a year. If you would like to write an article, submit a story, or contribute in any way to our future issues, please contact us at [newsletter@danubeswabian.com](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com) or talk with a club representative. We hope you enjoy our first issue!

## **Tag der Donauschwaben 2015**

First, the Board of Directors would like to thank all of the volunteers who devoted many hours cleaning, landscaping, shopping, setting up equipment, cooking, etc. needed to get ready for our biggest day. Even though there were many hours put in, there were a lot of moments of fun and companionship. On Saturday morning we had one of the greatest turnouts in years as we prepared the German Potato Salad and Schnitzel. We were allowed to use some new technologies (after careful scrutiny from the "experts") to help facilitate the making of our delicious potato salad. In addition, we would like to thank the many volunteers who devoted time to make our actual day such a great success.

The day started with a beautiful Mass in our upstairs hall that took in both our German and American heritage. The music and singing provided some truly special moments this year. Following the Mass we enjoyed the picnic grounds for some delicious food, drinks,

and entertainment by our dance groups, the United German Hungarian dance group, and the GTV Almrausch. The young ones had fun with the moon bounce and clown. The adults and children alike enjoyed the “Verlosung” Table – some trying hard to win the beautiful hand-sown Trachten Puppe. A special moment in the day was when we were able to present Frau Marx the National Kultur Preis from the Verband der Donauschwaben U.S.A. and Stiftung. In true Frau Marx fashion, she donated her monetary winnings to our club – a special woman to us all!



**Catholic Mass at Tag der Donauschwaben**



**Children’s Dance Group at Tag der Donauschwaben**



**Youth and Adult Dance Group at Tag der Donauschwaben**

It was also an exciting day of soccer at Tag der Donauschwaben. Teams from Bucks County, Montgomery County, and Delaware County competed against Danubia’s finest. Our U-11 boys team was the first to take the field. The Eagles played a tough game against the Ukrainian Nationals. Our Eagles fought hard, but the Ukies were able to win the match. Overall, it was a great game between two elite level teams. Next up was our adult majors team who played UGH. This was another battle for Danubia resulting in a 2-0 win for UGH. The U-11 girls took the field next and were determined to win. The girls came out strong and kept constant pressure on their opponent resulting in a 3-0 win for the Danubia Dynamo! Our next win of the day goes to Danubia’s youngest team. Our U-8 boys dominated against Lansing’s U-10 team with a final score on 5-0. Our last game of the day was played by Danubia’s U-10 boys against Lighthouse. Our boys took the lead early and never looked back. They won 5-2.

## **Dance Group Travels to Los Angeles for Landesverbandtreffen**

On the weekend of August 7 through 9, the club’s dance group participated in the annual meeting of all North American Donauschwaben clubs. Participating from our club were Fred Gauss, Rose Matico and her son Christian, and Robert Hessler with sons Joe and Anthony. With the help of our friends from Trenton (Sofi and Emma Walter, Greta, Brittany, and Joe Brandecker, and Chrissy, Luisa, and Anna Martini) as well as Kathleen Martini, this year’s Landesjugendleiterin, from Ohio, we were able to put 7 couples on the dance floor! This is no small achievement, as this year’s host was the Los Angeles club, located in Anaheim, California.

The first event on Friday night was a “Freundschaftsabend”, which gave everyone the chance to see the grounds for the first time,

meet up with friends old and new, and enjoy performances by the band and dance group visiting from Hungary. On Saturday, things took a more formal turn as all of the groups joined the “Aufmarsch” parade into the grounds in full dress, and assembled for the opening speeches by the hosts, various dignitaries, and the new Germany Consul General in Los Angeles, Hans Jörg Neumann. At this point our longtime club secretary, Frau Käthe Marx, was awarded one of two national prizes for her tireless efforts to keep the Donauschwaben culture strong. Fred Gauss and Rose Matico accepted the well-deserved award for Frau Marx. Once the speeches were over, it was time for dancing, music, dancing, beer, food, and more dancing. Each group performed once on Saturday and again on Sunday, switching between the large outside fest tent and the indoor ballroom. On Monday, the LA Donauschwaben also hosted a day at the beach; however, only the Matico family attended since the others were traveling.



**Youth and Adult Dance Group in LA**



**Aufmarsch in LA Landestreffen**

Having come such a long way, some of us took the opportunity to do some sightseeing during

the week before the event. There are plenty of stories to tell (\$4+ gasoline, \$8 beers, vineyards, castles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, the Queen Mary, traffic!!), so don't be shy about asking Rose, Fred, or Rob for more details about their trip to the left coast.

### ***Upcoming Events***

- 10/18 Anniversary Dinner
- 10/23 Oktoberfest Special Dinner
- 10/30 Schnitzel Night
- 11/22 Schlachtfest
- 12/6 Children's Christmas Show
- 1/10 Palatschinken und Suppe
- 1/24 Venison Dinner

### **Club Members Active with the Pope's Visit to Philadelphia**

Did you attend the Papal Mass on Sunday September 27 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway? If you did, hopefully you heard the choir singing along with the accompaniment of the organ music.

One of the club board members, Michael Rakszawski was a member of the choir that sang at the Papal Mass. Over the summer months, Michael had to audition at the cathedral in order to be selected as a choir member. Michael said that one of the hymns, Verleih' Uns Frieden, was sung in German.

Another member of the club, Sándor Kádár, was the organist at the Mass. Sándor is the organist at St Andrew Catholic Church in

Newtown, PA. He was chosen as the organist for the Papal Mass as well as the Mass at the cathedral on Saturday, September 26.



**Sándor Kádár (left) and Michael Rakszawski (right) at the Papal Mass on September 27**

Along with this recent accomplishment, both Michael and Sándor traveled to Rome in 2013 along with the St Andrew's choir where they performed at St. Peter's Basilica and other venues. Congratulations to Michael and Sándor!

Members of the Donauschwaben also played a part the last time a Pope visited Philadelphia in 1979. Then, members of the youth group took part in the ecumenical parade, and an individual of Donauschwaben heritage had built the chair that Pope John Paul II used at the Papal Mass celebrated on Logan Circle in 1979.



**Club members Michael Rakszawski (left), Rob Hessler (center), and wife Patti (right) at the World Meeting of Families**

## ***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](mailto:webmaster@danubeswabian.com).

## **Frau Marx Honored with Award**

We are happy to announce that Katharina Marx has been awarded the 2015 Kulturpreis of the Danube Swabian Association of the U.S.A.

Mrs. Marx has been a remarkably dedicated member of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben for over 50 years. She has worked tirelessly for the association with a special commitment to helping preserve the history and traditions of the Donauschwaben people.

She has distinguished herself particularly in her dedication to remembering those who died in the camps under the communists. She has faithfully committed her time and effort for the past 35 years coordinating our annual Pilgrimage Mass at the Shrine of St. John Neumann in remembrance of these innocent victims. 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 ensured a reverent and relevant celebration of Mass, making sure there was a German-speaking priest, the Shubert Mass, and due ceremony. Due to her efforts, she has been able to have two Philadelphia archbishops celebrate this Mass held in German. She also successfully arranged to have Dr. Robert Zollitsch,

Archbishop of Freiburg, travel to Philadelphia and celebrate this Mass. Archbishop Zollitsch is also a camp survivor born in Filipowa, Batschka. Due to Mrs. Marx's diligent efforts many of the members of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben have had a chance to share this history with their children and grandchildren. The natural reluctance to speak of the atrocities was overcome by the need to explain the crosses that were carried into church and the solemnity of the event.

In keeping with her religious efforts, Mrs. Marx is responsible for the annual support of the Deutsche in Romania Fund. Over the past 20 years, through her fundraising efforts, she has been able to send over \$20,000 to needy individuals in the former homeland.

During the past 50 years, Mrs. Marx has served in many capacities for the association. Most notably she has been the secretary for the association during this time. She is affectionately known as the club historian. The five presidents under whom she served would attest to her meticulous recordkeeping and efficiency.

She was also on the Danubia German School - Board of Directors for 25 years. During this time, over 3,000 students received high quality German language instruction.

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

We commend Katherina Marx for her dedication and commitment to the memory of the Donauschwaben people. Her tireless work has allowed the social and religious traditions of the homeland to be preserved and carried on for many years. Her contributions have remembered our past, enriched our present and provided inspiration for our future. Congratulations!



**Frau Marx (center) is recognized at Tag der Donauschwaben by Fred Gauss (left) and Rose Matico (right)**

## **Chili Tasting Cook-Off Night**

The club hosted a Chili Tasting Cook-Off in September. Members and friends were asked to make their favorite chili and share it at the event. There were 13 entries in the fun and delicious contest. The tasting was held outside, and the picnic area was decorated nicely for the occasion. Each participant brought their favorite home-made chili and decorated their table. Other attendees of the event enjoyed tasting the chili and judging the ones they liked best. The dishes ranged from sweet to spicy. Music was provided by the Matt Gauss Band and all had a great time!



**Club members showcase their chili at the Chili Tasting Cook-off**

# German-American Steuben Parade

On Sunday, October 4, members of the Danube Swabian Association took part in the 45th annual German-American Steuben Parade. For the first time, the parade took place in Rockledge and Fox Chase. The day started with an inter-faith service at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. Following the service, the Austrian Village hosted Fruehshoppen where everyone enjoyed delicious German food and time to socialize. The parade stepped off at 12:00 noon. In the parade, members of the club carried a banner and flags and rode the 12-person tricycle. Members of the children's group marched with the club and proudly waved German and American flags. The day ended with a celebration at the Hop Angel Brauhaus. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the German-American community!



Club members ride the 12-person tricycle at the German-American Steuben Parade



Children's Group relaxes after marching in the German-American Steuben Parade

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Rob Hessler	Contributor
Rose Matico	Contributor
Ross Matico	Contributor
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