



NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

The summer season at the club was very busy as reflected by the numerous articles in the newsletter. We did a lot of fun things, namely the concerts, pig roast, and our August festival; but we still connected to our cultural roots with our Annual commemorative Mass and our cultural exhibit.

The fall was just as busy with the restart of the soccer program, the shuffleboard league, the Wine Tasting, and the upcoming Schlachtfest. A special mention is necessary on the completion of the bathroom project. It has been a two-year undertaking. Thank you to all who did the physical labor and to those who financially contributed making this improvement possible.

Enjoy the articles, and I hope to see you at an event.

Fred Gauss, President

www.danubeswabian.com



Club members at the 2019 German-American Steuben Parade

From the Editor's Desk

Please enjoy this latest issue of our newsletter! Inside are highlights from events throughout the summer such as our annual Pilgrimage Mass, Summer Concert Series, Tag der Donauschwaben festival, and much more. There are also some other bits of news and stories that may be of interest to you.

Please remember to check the club's web site often at www.danubeswabian.com for the latest details on all of our upcoming events. In particular, we have our Schlachtfest and Children's Christmas Show coming in the near future.

As a reminder, if you would like to contribute to any of our future newsletter issues, please send an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com or talk with a club representative. Happy reading!

Schlachtfest

We hope you will join us for our annual Schlachtfest, a club favorite event, on Sunday, November 24 at 1:00 p.m.

This is the annual dinner featuring homemade meats, sausages, soups, appetizers, and desserts. No one goes home hungry! Cost is \$20 for adults. Cost for children 12 and under is \$10. Chicken is available if ordered in advance.

Please call Gerlinde at 215-673-4423 for reservations.

If you are interested in helping to prepare the sausages on the days before the Schlachtfest, please call Fred at 215-722-4253.

Landestreffen 2019

The Donauschwaben Landestreffen was held in Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend 2019. Members of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben were in attendance.



Members of the Philadelphia and Trenton Donauschwaben at the Landestreffen



Dancing in Milwaukee

Please note that the Donauschwaben Landestreffen will take place in Trenton, NJ in 2021! More details will be provided in future newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Sun. 11/24 Schlachtfest (\$20)

Sun. 12/8 Children's Christmas Show (\$10 – Schnitzel Dinner)

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.

Tag der Donauschwaben

Contributed by Rob Hessler

The earliest of many Philadelphia area German-American annual fall fests, Tag der Donauschwaben, took place on Sunday August 25. We are always at the mercy of the day's weather, and lucky for all, we had absolutely wonderful conditions this year with a high of around 75 degrees, a bit of a breeze, and bright sunny skies. Getting ready for this event always takes a lot of work throughout the prior week, but this year's activity took on a greater intensity. We had some very hot days, some rainstorms, and a cranky HVAC unit that required multiple service visits. On top of all that, we had to prepare the upstairs room for a cultural exhibit to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the expulsion. We thank all who pitched in to make sure everything was in place, with special thanks to the Trenton Donauschwaben and the United German Hungarians for their help in setting up the cultural exhibit.

On Sunday, the Fest opened with a Catholic Mass in the upstairs hall celebrated in German by Father Eugene Wilson, pastor of Holy Cross parish in Springfield, Delaware County. The altar was decorated beautifully as always by Frau Marx, who provided fresh flowers from her garden. George Brenner and Doris Leisch did the German scripture readings and petitions at Mass, while

Ingo Kraus lead us in song with his guitar, capped off with a German-language selection at the end of Mass. The display of crosses with the names of the various camps where so many of our ancestors died provided a touching and appropriate backdrop.

Immediately after Mass, the altar was cleared and the room was opened for visits from anyone interested in the many items detailing typical Donauschwaben life and the books on the topic of the Donauschwaben. Members of the three clubs were there throughout the afternoon to answer questions and provide insight to exhibit visitors. There were several times throughout the day where an Oma or Otta could be seen pointing out an item and explaining it to their Enkelkinder, or sharing a relevant story; in this way all of the effort was proven worthwhile.

Outside, festivities got underway with delicious food: schnitzel, bratwurst, leberkäse, sauerkraut, potato salad, and more. Don Bitterlich provided music throughout the day on his accordion in the main tent area, while several of the Danubia teams engaged opponents on the soccer field. Attendees were treated to dance performances by the Philadelphia-Trenton Donauschwaben, United German Hungarians, and GTV Almrausch. Club president Fred Gauss recognized and congratulated GTV Almrausch for winning the 2019 Gaufest competition and the United German Hungarians for placing fourth. The 2019 Cornflower court, Miss German America of Philadelphia Shelby Lynn Reed along with Princess Sarah Gilgenast were in attendance and greeted the crowd from the stage. Danubia soccer player Ashley Fischer was presented with the "Golden Boot" award for being top goalscorer in the Women's Major division last season. Congratulations, Ashley!

Many thanks to all who helped make the day possible: the club members and soccer parents who provided hours of labor during setup and cleanup, Father Wilson for taking time from his busy schedule to say our Mass, Don Bitterlich and the dance groups for their entertainment, the soccer teams for the sporting competition, and to the many attendees from local German clubs including Bayern, United German Hungarians, GTV

Almrausch, Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, Trenton Donauschwaben, and Lancaster Liederkrantz for joining us on our special day. We hope to see you all again next year!



The upstairs hall in preparation for the day



Catholic Mass was held in the upstairs hall



A cultural exhibit was on display after Mass



Enjoying the cultural exhibit



The Kindergruppe provides entertainment



Enjoying the music of Don Bitterlich

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Project Update

The bathroom and foyer renovations are complete. It has been a long time coming, and everyone is pleased with the results. The bathroom size is such that it can comfortably accommodate either individuals or a family. The foyer area is also now large enough that we are considering decorating it with cultural pictures and paintings about the Danube Swabians – Donauschwaben.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless volunteer work of Bernie Schneider, Adam Dickmann, and Hans Kloehn. The Club is in their debt. Many times, Bernie and Adam reminisced about their teen years, when they helped their fathers in building the club. I'm sure their dads would be proud of their work.



New drywall goes up in the entryway



Walls are framed for the new bathrooms



One of the two new bathrooms



The coat closet is gone (new bathroom walls are in the far background)



The entryway is refinished!

Pilgrimage Mass

Contributed by Rob Hessler

For the second year running, we were able to hold our annual Memorial Mass at the chapel of the Sisters of the Redeemer on Moredon Road in Huntingdon Valley. The chapel, already beautiful, was further adorned with flowers from the garden of Käthe Marx. Father Eugene Wilson, despite now being assigned as pastor of Holy Cross parish in Springfield, was once again the celebrant for our German-language Mass, for which we are very grateful. We thank also the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor and the Waldecho ladies chorus for beautifully singing the Schubert German Mass.

Mass began with a solemn procession including members of the Trenton and Philadelphia Donauschwaben clubs carrying the club banner and the crosses which represented each of the camps where our ancestors perished. Young ladies from the Trenton and Philadelphia Donauschwaben (Anna Martini, Luisa Martini, Vickie Burbage, and Natalie Reap) served as attendees for the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout Mass. Rob Hessler and Rose Matico did the scripture readings in German, while Doris Leisch and Madeline Kelly presented the petitions.

Following Mass, a kaffee-und-kuchen reception was held in the adjacent room, with many tasty donated baked goods available for snacking.

A huge thanks to the Sisters of the Redeemer for being gracious hosts to our annual commemoration.



Members of the choir



The procession in the beautiful chapel

Membership Note

Membership renewals for 2020 will be mailed in the coming months. Please kindly complete the form and return it to the club as soon as possible. Your membership and added donation are very important for the success of the club. Thank you!

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 and click on "Membership" or "Donate" to learn more. If you have any questions, please contact our membership secretary, Roswitha Hoenisch, at 215-638-8387 or membership@danubeswabian.com.

Wine Tasting

Contributed by Joann Brenner

Our 5th annual Wine Tasting turned out to be another spectacular event. Once again, Victor Ykoruk, now with Commonwealth Selections, was our host and guide leading a sold-out crowd through the tastings of five wines from either Allegro or Pinnacle Ridge wineries.

Our guests enjoyed food pairings that complemented each varietal served. First up was Allegro's 2018 Steel Chardonnay paired with a seafood boat which was a seared avocado half topped with seafood salad. Next came a homemade Chicken and Wild Rice soup paired with Pinnacle Ridge's 2017 Cabernet Franc. Our third course featured a wine favored by many: Allegro's 2017 Duet (Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc blend) matched with cavatappi pasta with sweet Italian sausage, kale, cannellini beans, and mascarpone cheese. Next, we sampled Allegro's 2017 Merlot/Chambourcin paired with roast pork tenderloin with a spicy apricot jam and roasted red bliss potatoes. After Victor demonstrated how to properly open a sparkling wine bottle, we enjoyed Pinnacle Ridge's 2017 Brut Rosé accompanied with a Belgian waffle topped with an apple topping, caramel sauce, and whipped cream.

Besides just tasting great food and wonderful wine, we like to get our guests actively involved in the evening. We played games such as Fun with Flags and Last Person Standing where our guests could win prizes.

Many thanks to all who made the evening a success. First and foremost, thanks to our guests that attended and we hope you had a wonderful evening. 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. Lastly, we would like to thank the planners, wine tasting committee, decorators, raffle basket makers, pourers, servers and kitchen help whose efforts made the event possible.

Victor has graciously accepted our invitation to host Danubia's 6th annual Wine Tasting to be held

in 2020. Check the web site and future newsletters for when we announce the date. Until then, Cheers!



Guests enjoying the event



The club was full!



Volunteers at the Wine Tasting event

*Note from the Editor:
We extend a special thanks to Joann Brenner for all of her efforts in organizing this great event!*



A great evening at the club!



A few club members and friends enjoy the Wine Tasting event

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.

Please visit our web site for information about renting the hall at the club!

www.danubeswabian.com

Summer Concert Series

Contributed by Fred Gauss

These shows are a favorite of mine. This year, we were limited to only three Friday nights, but the performances did not disappoint. The attendance was the best to date, and we have been doing this for over 20 years. The weather cooperated at each concert, which resulted in a crowded picnic area.

The **Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band** started the concert series by showing its versatility in performing show tunes (Fiddler), Big Band Polkas, and classical pieces (Puccini's – Nessun Dorma). Al Taubenberger, Philadelphia Councilman-at-Large, surprised the band after intermission by presenting a Philadelphia City Council Achievement Citation to the band. It is a well-deserved honor.

It has also become tradition to have an Irish band play. This year, we had new performers - **Connolly & Murphy** - who did a magical job in getting the crowd into the Irish spirit.

The **Soundwave Big Band** closed the series with many great classic numbers, which may cater to a more senior group, but it is just great music.



Al Taubenberger presents a citation to the Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band

Donauschwaben Cooking Classes

Contributed by George Brenner

Over the years we have all received the invitation to come to the club and learn to make some of our favorite dishes like schnitzel and potato salad in preparation for Tag der Donauschwaben. Actually, this year the turnout was so good for the “class” that rather than taking an entire day to prepare the schnitzel and potato salad, the students/volunteers finished in the early afternoon. Thank you to all who helped with these preparations.

The teaching does not stop with potato salad and schnitzel. On August 28, a group of our members packed into the club kitchen for another “class” to watch, learn, make, and eventually taste Zwetschgenknoedel, a dish that many of our mothers and Omas brought to us from their homeland. Zwetschgenknoedel is a plumb dumpling coated in buttery breadcrumbs. Using the seasonal Italian prune plums and a potato-based dumpling mixture, Clara Titz Fabian provided the recipe, the instruction, and the technique to make the dough, form the perfect Knoedel, and make the tasty treats. Clara also instructed us on making a sweetened buttery breadcrumb sauce as a Knoedel topping which was used in her family’s preparation of the Knoedels.

The class was hands on as everyone got involved in preparing the plums, mixing and rolling the dough, and wrapping and shaping the plum dumplings. As my mother used to say, “Viele Hande machen die arbeit schnell am ende” (many hands make the work go by faster). With everyone helping, the group produced enough Zwetschgenknoedel to satisfy all the participants as well as have some to take home and share with their families.

In addition to enjoying the delicious Zwetschgenknoedel, we also heard that “Viele Hande machen viel Spass” (many hands make for a good time). Without a doubt it was a lot of work but there was also a lot of fun had by all. Unlike sitting in a class at school where only the teacher spoke, the kitchen was filled with conversation and

laughter. Thank you, Clara, for putting up with the “students” in your class! Based on the final test which was the taste test, this class deserved an A+++. Our mothers and Omas would be proud!



Gathering in the kitchen



Preparing the delicious dish



The plumb dumplings look great!



Enjoying the fruits of their labor

Recipe Corner

Clara's Plum Dumplings

Ingredients:

- 10 med-large russet potatoes
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 eggs
- Flour (2+ cups, as needed)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 30 Italian prune plums
- Sugar
- Bread crumbs
- Cinnamon (for sauce)
- 1/2 cup butter

Directions:

1. Peel and cut up potatoes, place into a large pot with enough water to cover. Add 1 tsp. salt to water. Bring to a boil, cook until tender. Drain and then mash the potatoes, adding 1 tbsp. Butter, then allow to cool.
2. When potatoes are cool enough to touch, start adding flour, 1 cup at a time and the eggs. Work the dough with your hands adding more flour, as needed. Turn dough out onto a floured surface, and knead until smooth.
3. Split open each plum where it cracks, and remove the pit. Layer into a bowl then sprinkle with sugar into the middle of each plum. Continue with next layer of plums.
4. On a floured surface, roll out the dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into 3 inch squares. Place one plum into each square, and bring the corners around to the top. Pinch together all of the seams to seal.

5. Bring a large pot of water to slow boil. Place about 5 - 7 into the water at a time. Once they float to the surface, continue to cook for 5 more minutes. Transfer cooked dumplings to a dish and keep warm.
6. Melt butter in large skillet. Stir in bread crumbs, stirring. Begin adding dumplings to brown on all sides. Remove, and add more until they are all browned.

Sauce:

In the same skillet you browned the dumplings, add a couple tsp veg. Oil and sprinkle in more bread crumbs, allow to brown slightly.

Pour in 6 cups water, 3 cups sugar and bring to a boil. Keep stirring, this mixture will thicken as it cooks. To get the consistency you like, sprinkle in more bread crumbs, and sugar. When the thickness is to your liking, sprinkle with cinnamon. Pour sauce over the dumplings and enjoy!!

This recipe was contributed by George Brenner on behalf of Clara Titz Fabian.

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.

Jackapalooza

On Saturday, July 27, club members and friends gathered for an evening of music, entertainment, friends, and family in loving memory of Jack Mattes. This was a great “reunion” of sorts for previous club members to get together for a night of memories and fun.



Members of the band



Receiving recognition for the great evening



The dance group where most of the Jackapalooza participants danced

Photo credits go to Jon Sklut Photography for the following great shots from the event.



Ingo Kraus plays the guitar at the well-attended event

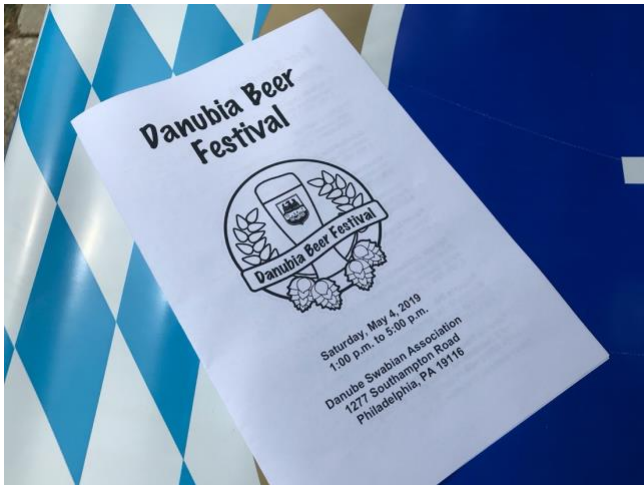


Guests enjoy themselves for an evening of family and friends

Visit our web site for the latest news and events!
www.danubeswabian.com

Danubia Beer Festival

Thank you to everyone who came out to the club on Saturday, May 4, 2019 for Danubia Beer Festival. It was a great event! As promised in the last newsletter, here are some more photos for your enjoyment.



The program for the day



Some of the great German beers



Enjoying the music



Brothers and board members Michael and David Rakszawski volunteer at the event



Getting ready for the competition

Danubia Soccer News

We would like to thank all of the soccer teams for their support of the club over the summer!



One of the many great Danubia Soccer teams

Danubia Fury

Congratulations to Danubia Fury forward and captain Ashley Fischer on being awarded the 2018/19 Golden Boot award. Ashley had 16 goals, doubling her next nearest competitor and averaged over a goal per game. Well done Ashley!

The Fury ended the season on a high note with a 8-0 victory over Fox Chase SC. The team finished the season with a 9W-2L-3T record and runner up in the highly competitive Majors division of the USL of PA. Team captain, Ashley Fischer (née Jones) accepted the trophy for the team from games commissioner, Tom Maegerle. The team then presented the trophy to Danubia club manager, Hans Kloehn. The team would like to thank our club, family, friends and fans for all their support through a long grueling season.



Danubia Fury – Women's Majors



Presenting the trophy to Hans

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.

Dance Groups

If you would like to join one of the club's dance groups, please contact Fred Gauss, Patricia Kelly, or any of the board members.



A memory from dance group about 10+ years ago

Shuffleboard League

Did you know that our club has a shuffleboard league? Many of our club members come out in the evenings and have a great time.

Jack Koeberlein

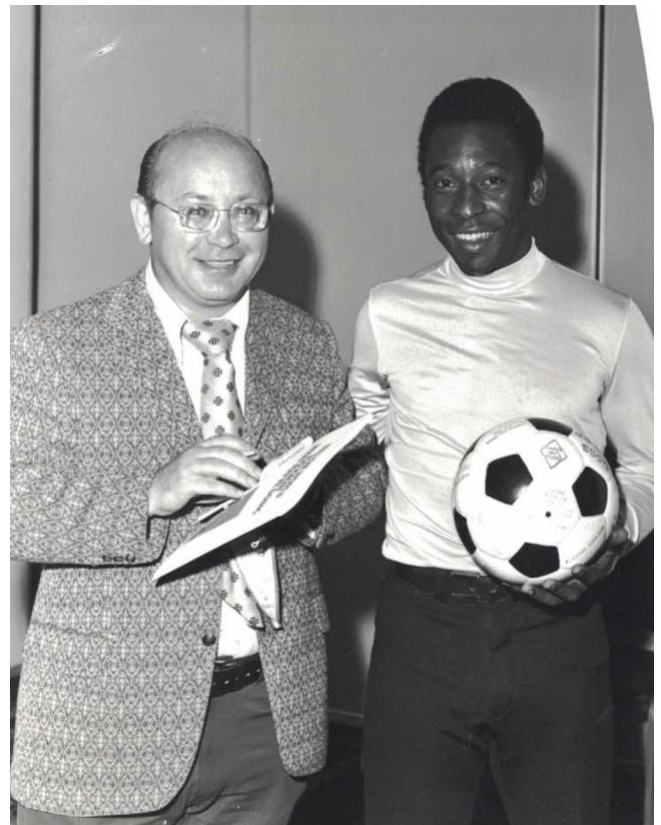
Jack Koeberlein, a long-term member of Danubia, was recently inducted into the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association Hall of Fame. Over many years, Jack has been a supporter of our soccer program and cultural activities.

As a sports columnist who reported on games from the local amateur leagues to World Cup games, his articles appeared in all the local Philadelphia newspapers as well as in local German and national newspapers. He reported on all of the World Cups from 1970 through 1990. As a result of his writings, he had the opportunity to interview many of the top soccer players in the world. Two of his favorite interviews were with Pele and Franz Beckenbauer.

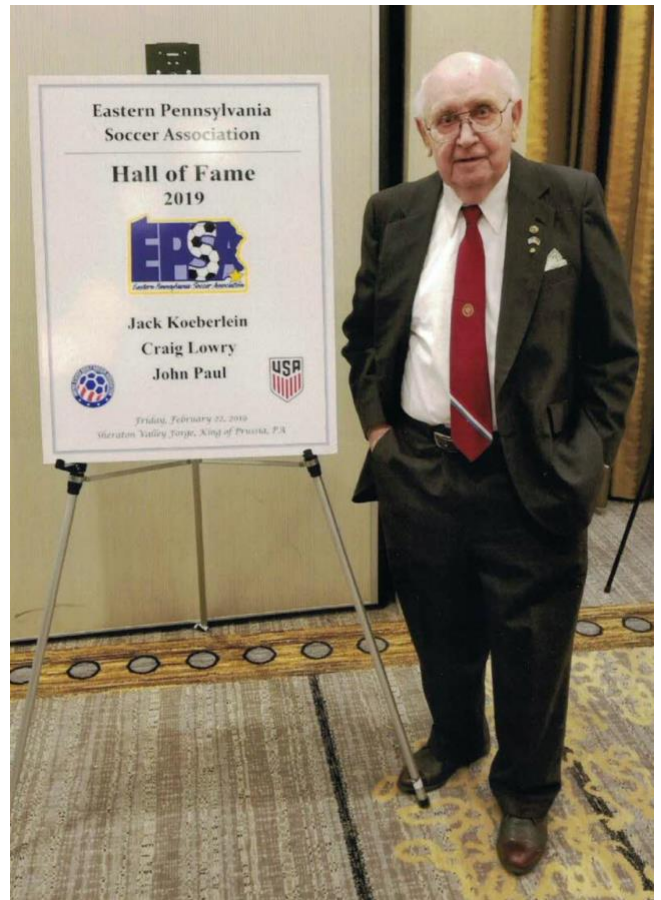
He is a soccer enthusiast who is always willing to discuss soccer games from any professional league. Given the breadth of his knowledge and his unrivaled enthusiasm, he was the acknowledged expert of the soccer community. You can often see Jack in his yellow and black jersey as he is an avid supporter of the Bundesliga's Borussia Dortmund.

We thank you, Jack, for all your support, not only for our club but for the whole soccer community. This is a well-deserved honor. Congratulations!

“Fußball du allein du allein sollst meine Freude sein.”



Soccer supporter and club member, Jack Koeberlein



Jack Koeberlein at the Hall of Fame induction

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.

- Debbie Carr
- Robert and Elizabeth Cramer
- John & Jackie Kradzinski
- Chris Matico
- Richard Maurer
- Mary McGill-McCourt
- Pat Murray
- Rosemarie Polanski
- Timothy Rausch

New Arrivals

Justin and Mariel (Kauffman) Vitti had a baby girl, Piper Anne Vitti.

Michael and Chelsea Rakszawski welcomed their second daughter, Emma Clare Rakszawski, on October 19, 2019.



Board member Michael Rakszawski with new daughter Emma

Get Well

We continue to wish a speedy recovery to Eva Martini of the Trenton Donauschwaben.

Weddings

On May 11, 2019 club member **Christina Brenner** married **Frederick Teufel III**. Christina is the daughter of George and Joann Brenner. If you have not seen Christina at the club recently it is because she and Fred are working in Munich. They will be returning to the US at the end of the year. Congratulations to Christina and Fred and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.



Christina and Fred Teufel with Christina's family

Congratulations to **Eric Rakszawski** and **Jasmine Maloney** on their wedding on September 7, 2019 in Lancaster, PA.



Eric and Jasmine Rakszawski

Congratulations to **Eric Guarino and Anna Sunnergren**, who were married on March 15 at St. Patrick's Church in Malvern, PA. The couple celebrated with their immediate families at the General Warren Inn following the ceremony. The celebration continued the next day with a reception for family and friends at the Franklin Institute. Eric is the son of Alice Leisch Guarino and Carl Guarino and the grandson of Michael and Hilde Leisch.

Travels

The Gauss', Kauffman's and Agen's enjoyed a cruise along the Danube in August.



Relaxing at a Viennese coffee house
by St. Stephen's Cathedral

In Memoriam

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

- **Nikolaus Kramer** – former Danubia soccer president
- **Frank Betsch, Jr.** – father of the club's current financial advisor
- **Ernst Pohl** – life time member who helped build the club in the 70s

Other News

On August 1, 2019 **Captain Maximilian Clark**, son of club members Harry and Heidi Clark assumed the command of the of the USS Nimitz one of the 11 aircraft carriers in the US Navy. Max's proud parents, family, and friends attended the Change of Command ceremony on the flight deck of the Nimitz currently stationed in Seattle Washington. Congratulations to Max and all the best to him and the crew of the USS Nimitz.



Captain Clark and family



Captain Clark and his parents

A Blast from the Past

Here are some photos from the 1983 Steuben Parade down Chestnut Street on the 300-year anniversary of the German settlement in Germantown. The first photo is from the original German bikers and the rest from the Donauschwaben group and float. We again give special thanks to board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these wonderful memories!



Original German bikers



Club members marching in the parade



The club float



Carrying the club banner in the parade



Do you recognize anyone in this photo?

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.

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