



# NEWSLETTER

Philadelphia, PA

Spring 2020

## *What's Inside?*

Komm Lieber Mai .....	1
President's Message .....	2
From the Editor's Desk .....	2
Suppe und Palatschinken .....	3
Project Updates .....	5
Summer Events .....	5
Soccer Reunion.....	6
Children's Christmas Show.....	6
Landestreffen 2021 .....	6
Quarantine Survival Tip.....	7
Venison Dinner.....	8
Danubia Soccer News .....	8
70 Years in America .....	9
Member News.....	10
Airport Art.....	12
Frauengruppe Memories.....	12
A Blast from the Past.....	13
Club Contacts .....	14

## *Important Note*

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we ask you to please refer to our web site, e-mails, and mailings for updates to our upcoming and regularly scheduled events. The well-being of our members and community is our highest priority. Thanks for your understanding!

## **Komm Lieber Mai**

Komm, lieber Mai, und mache die Bäume wieder grün,  
und lass uns an dem Bache die kleinen Veilchen blüh'n!

Wie möcht' ich doch so gerne ein Blümchen wieder seh'n!

Ach, lieber Mai, wie gerne einmal spazieren geh'n!

Ach, wenss doch erst gelinder, und grüner draußen wär!

Komm, lieber Mai! Wir Kinder, wir bitten gar zu sehr!

O komm, und bring vor allen uns viele Rosen mit!

Bring auch viele Nachtigallen, und schöne Kuckucks mit!

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

Christian Adolph Overbeck

## President's Message

The first quarter of 2020 has been quite a roller coaster ride of ups and downs.

UP - The very good response by the membership to the financial support request to offset the expense caused by the new bathroom plumbing repairs.

DOWN - Yet another sewer problem developed causing excavations in January.

UP - The Palatschinken, Venison and Shuffleboard events were successful.

UP or DOWN - There was no snow.

DOWN - The virus came and closed us with no opening in sight.

DOWN - The walk-in refrigeration system had to be replaced.

UP - Spring has arrived and mother nature is beginning to bloom.

As we wait for our reopening, let us enjoy what has become a very simple life style of watching TV, doing long forgotten chores, working in the garden and "Zoom" with the family.

Please be careful and stay healthy.

Fred Gauss

### ***Events Cancelled***

Unfortunately, all of our April events were cancelled due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We hope to return to more of our regularly scheduled events later this year.

Remember to visit our web site at [www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com) for the latest news and events.

## From the Editor's Desk

Greetings to all of our club members and friends! First of all, I hope you and your loved ones are well amidst everything happening in the world today. Our club is like family, so we send our well wishes to and pray for all those impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic in any way.

In the midst of all the lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, I hope you will enjoy this latest issue of our newsletter. Inside are highlights from events held during the first few months of the year and some other great stories and memories from our members.

Please remember to check the club's web site often at [www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com) for the latest details on all of our upcoming events. In particular, there may be some cancellations or postponements of events in the near-term as we consider to evaluate the situation in our world and in our community. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

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](mailto:newsletter@danubeswabian.com) or talk with a club representative.

I wish a very happy Mother's Day to all mothers and hope that you all enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter. Stay well!



[www.facebook.com/danubeswabian](http://www.facebook.com/danubeswabian)



[www.twitter.com/danubeswabian](http://www.twitter.com/danubeswabian)

## Suppe und Palatschinken

One of the favorite dinners served at the club is the Suppe und Palatschinken dinner. If you didn't know, Suppe und Palatschinken was a traditional meal, which was generally eaten on Fridays in Lent since it is a day of abstaining from meat. The club usually hosts one of these dinners on a Lenten Friday but has also found it to be a hit on a wintery Sunday. So, on Sunday, January 12, we gathered to start the new decade with this fabulous meal. Traditionally the meal features homemade soup (generally a potato soup) and Palatschinken (crepes). Our version had a wonderful homemade potato soup, and crepes stuffed with your choice of a farmer's cheese filling, apricot, or strawberry jelly. Over the years, the homemade soup and Palatschinken dinner has become one of the most anticipated dinners at the club. This year was no exception. The downstairs hall was full of hungry people.

Once again, this year, we are very grateful for our younger generation of volunteers who are now becoming the "old timers" at working in the kitchen for this dinner. The potato soup was prepared by Matt Gauss who watched and learned to make the soup from his Oma. One measure of success for the event is the size of the pot that Matt uses for the soup. Over the years the Matt has increased the size of the pot used for soup. This year was the largest pot ever and there were no leftovers. In planning for next year, Matt may think about adding a second pot! We also had two returning volunteers making the Palatschinken. Cassidy Sudell, a teenager currently studying German at Lower Moreland High School, and William Taubenberger, a student at the University of Connecticut, made the hundreds of Palatschinken eaten at the dinner. Using the measure of pots and pans, Cassidy and William produced the Palatschinken using five pans rather than the four in prior years. Hopefully for next year we can add volunteers and pans!

We are thankful for all our members and friends who joined us for this Sunday dinner. The downstairs hall was filled to capacity. A reward for preparing and serving a meal is seeing a roomful of people enjoying the event. At the end

of the meal, there were multiple conversations about which kind of Palatschinken was their favorite or how many they had eaten.

As we launch into this new decade, we are off to a great start at the club where "No one goes home hungry".



**Cassidy Sudell and William Taubenberger help in the kitchen**

### *Upcoming Events*

Please visit our web site to check the latest status of our upcoming events. Unfortunately, many of our summer events may be impacted by the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, the health and safety of our members and friends remains our highest priority as we make decisions about any activities that happen at the club.

- |           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Sun. 7/12 | Club Picnic and Pig Roast |
| Sun. 8/30 | Tag der Donauschwaben     |
| Sat. 10/3 | Wine Tasting              |
| Sun. 12/6 | Children's Christmas Show |



**Danube Swabian Association  
of Philadelphia and Vicinity**

# **Tag der Donauschwaben**

**Sunday, August 30, 2020**

Gates Open at 11:30 a.m.

Festival Admission: \$5

Soccer Games • Folk Dancing • German Music  
Children's Games • German Food and Drink



Catholic Mass in German at 12:15 p.m. in Upstairs Hall

**Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity  
1277 Southampton Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
215-969-9356  
[www.danubeswabian.com](http://www.danubeswabian.com)**

## Project Updates

Thank you to all who helped to make the bathroom project at our club a success in this past year, especially those who donated their time, talents, and treasure! We are currently working on a plan for the new entryway area. The current proposal is to create a cultural exhibit in this space highlighting the Donauschwaben heritage. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved with this project, please contact a member of the board.

We are also working to make improvements to the downstairs bar area by installing a new drop-ceiling and new carpeting. This will add to the newly installed light fixtures to make the space more inviting and up-to-date.

Finally, we recently replaced the walk-in refrigerator box. Over the past few years, it has become problematic and has needed extra attention. As you can imagine, this was a large expense, but it is important for us to have a reliable piece of equipment so that we can continue to provide the food and drink that you love. Once again, your support of our club in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Besides enduring the rain soaking at Disney World, Fred saw plant containers at the parks which he thought would fit into the landscaping at the club. Along with A LOT OF HELP from his son Matt, the first experimental moving containers were put into production. With warm weather approaching the movable planters are soon to be filled.



**Fred Gauss with the new planter boxes**

## *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).

## Summer Events

We are currently reviewing our plans for our annual Summer Concert Series and Pilgrimage Mass. As we make decisions, we will post updates to our web site and to our e-mail list. Thanks for your continued support, and we hope to be able to enjoy more festivities at the club soon!

## *Membership Note*

Membership renewals for 2020 were sent out a few months ago, and we thank all those who have returned them. If you have not done so already, we ask you to 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.

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



## Soccer Reunion

Former Major Men's soccer players came together at the club after the Christmas holidays to again replay and embellish the goals and near misses of their careers. The storytelling went well into the night. It was agreed that this will be an annual event (to be held the first Friday after New Year's Day).



Major Men Soccer Reunion

## Children's Christmas Show

*Contributed by Fred Gauss*

On Sunday, December 8, 2019, the club kicked off the celebration of the Christmas holiday with the annual Children's Christmas Show. The afternoon began with a delicious Schnitzel dinner followed by the traditional lure of the chance table to the children. Cookies baked and contributed by many members of the club, provided an extra special dessert.

Then it was time for the show. With a total of 18 children, ranging in age from 2 to 12, there was a wonderful and lively program. They started their performance with a rousing rendition of the current hit "Baby Shark" but updated the words to singing Santa Shark as they danced their way up the aisle. There were a few more songs, a variety of poems, a violin solo, two ensemble songs, and finally, the Nativity scene. This year, the Nativity was a bit less traditional, told from the perspective of the many animals that visited Baby Jesus. Each of the children showed off their talents, and the parents, and especially grandparents, clapped with real enthusiasm. It was a wonderful start to the season.



Another great Christmas show!



Guests enjoy the performance

## Landestreffen 2021

Save the date! The Donauschwaben Landestreffen will take place in Trenton, NJ in 2021 over Labor Day weekend! More details will be provided in future newsletters.



## ***Recipe Corner***

### Schwarzwälder Kirsch Torte

This one might be somewhat involved, but give it a try. My mom was a really good baker, and this was easily my favorite cake. I usually got one every year for my birthday cake. It does not contain alcohol like many other traditional recipes do.

For each of 3 layers:

- 4 eggs
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1 pinch of baking powder

For two of the three layers (top and bottom) follow this procedure:

- Separate the eggs and beat the egg whites until stiff. Mix the egg yolks and sugar.
- Fold in the beaten egg whites.
- Carefully fold in the flour and baking powder.
- Pour into a springform pan lined with wax paper or parchment.
- Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in preheated 325-degree oven.

For the middle layer, follow the same process but mix in a pinch of cinnamon, 1 tablespoon of cocoa powder, and 1 teaspoon of almond extract before baking.

Once all 3 layers have been baked and cooled, spread half a can of Comstock cherry pie filling on top of each of the bottom and middle layers.

Assemble by placing middle layer directly on the pie filling covering the bottom layer.

The layer with no cherries will be your top layer - place directly on pie filling atop middle layer.

Cover top and sides of cake with stabilized whipped cream (use Dr. Oetker whipped cream stabilizer or Dream Whip).

Decorate with shaved chocolate.

Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving.

Reserve one slice and send to Rob Hessler for quality control testing.

*This recipe was contributed by board member Rob Hessler.*

*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).*

## **Quarantine Survival Tip**

One of the reasons for coming to the club is to enjoy the wonderful Schnitzel dinners and the tasty bratwurst. If you are looking to enjoy the food like what is served at the club, there are two establishments that can satisfy that need. For a Schnitzel dinner you can try the Austrian Village. They are open on limited days for pick up only. They have a limited menu, but their Schnitzel and famous potato salad is on the takeout menu. If you are looking for a bratwurst, Rieker's Prime Meats can fill that need. When ordering a bratwurst, just ask them for the kind that is served at the Donauschwaben. In addition to bratwurst, Rieker's also has a wide variety of other meat selections as well. Before going, check their website and Facebook for the latest information. To all, stay well und ein Guten Appetit (good appetite).



## Venison Dinner

*Contributed by George Brenner*

What should we have for dinner on a winter Sunday in January? Looking for something different? On Sunday, January 26, 2020 the Donauschwaben provided the answer with their annual Venison dinner which was the second dining event held at the club in this new decade.

Actually, there was a choice of venison prepared three different ways, or kassler rippchen (smoked porkchop). For those choosing the venison, it came prepared as sauerbraten, goulash, and meatballs and served with a side of potatoes and red cabbage. The kassler rippchen were served with sautéed onions and the sides of potatoes and red cabbage. Both entrees were excellent choices! The dinner entrees must have been a good combination of choices since dinner was well attended and served in the upstairs hall.

We need to thank Hans for coordinating the sourcing of the venison and having it tastefully prepared. Thanks also goes out to our young volunteers Natalie and Billy Reap, both students at Temple University, and Billy Burbage currently attending Roman Catholic High School. Without their help in serving and cleaning up, events like the Venison dinners are not possible.

Also thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the dinner. It was especially good to see quite a few first-time visitors to the club. Dinner was served at 1:00 and people were still socializing, playing cards, and enjoying each other's company into the early evening. The Germans would call this "Gemütlichkeit". For the Venison dinner, Gemütlichkeit can be translated as a relaxing Sunday afternoon dinner spent with family and friends enjoying great food.

We are looking forward to next year's venison dinner!



**A great turnout for the Venison dinner!**

## Danubia Soccer News

The soccer program held an indoor Futsal tournament in February for 12 teams. The tournament was dedicated to Nick Kramer, former Danubia Soccer President.

We are also so proud of the Danubia women! They were back-to-back "A" division state champions!



**Danubia Women - "A" Division State Champions**



# 70 Years in America

## Memories of my 70 years in America

**December 19, 1949 – December 19, 2019**

Early Monday morning on December 19, 1949, the United States Line S.S. Washington sailed into New York Harbor past the Statue of Liberty; on board was the Hoenisch family and many more immigrants. She welcomed this then 16-year-old displaced youngster hoping for a new life and a better future in America. Relatives who I never met greeted us after our custom clearance. They immigrated before the First World War also for a new life and better future. We moved to my father's uncle's farm in Bordentown, NJ. Without knowing any English, my sister and I started public grade school in Columbus, NJ. We had a hard time learning the English language, but the teachers were very patient and helpful. I graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1951 but could not continue my education because my parents needed to pay our ship fare. I started my first job in Trenton, NJ for 75 cents an hour. We moved to Philadelphia in early 1952 and all found new work. On March 16, 1954, I was drafted into the United State Army without being an American citizen. After basic training in Fort Dix, I was shipped overseas on the Troop Ship Darby. In August 1955, I took the oath to become an American citizen of the United States. Returned home from overseas in November 1955 on the Troop Ship Upshur. After 19 days at sea, the ship passed the Statue of Liberty; this time she welcomed back a proud American soldier and a citizen of the United States.

As I sit in front of my computer writing my memories and pictures and reflect back on 70 years, I have to be thankful for my health, specifically my parents who decided to immigrate to America, my wife Anna of 61 years, my family, relatives, and all my friends who have been part of my journey. A special thanks to my 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher whose word on her graduation picture helped me to achieve all my goals. I have been retired for 29 years and in that time seen the beauty of this great land of the free.

I thank God for the opportunities America has given me; you could say this 86-year-old immigrant has reached the American Dream.

Paul Hoenisch  
December 18, 2019



**Relatives that I never know I had greeting us in New York Harbor**



**A proud American citizen**



**Prost to 70 years in America!**

*Note: This article was published with minor grammatical and formatting corrections to the original.*

## 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.

- Thomas and Denise Becker
- Linda DiLeo
- Elaine Shiffler
- Tony & Paulette Simek
- Steve Weiler

### Get Well

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

### Weddings

Congratulations to **Matthew Pittmann** and his bride **Brittany (Gardner)** on their August 30, 2019 wedding. The celebration took place at Normandy Farm in Blue Bell, PA. Matthew is the son of Frank and Renate Pittmann; and the grandson of Gerlinde Maitz and Katherine and Anton Pittmann. We wish them a lifetime of happiness!

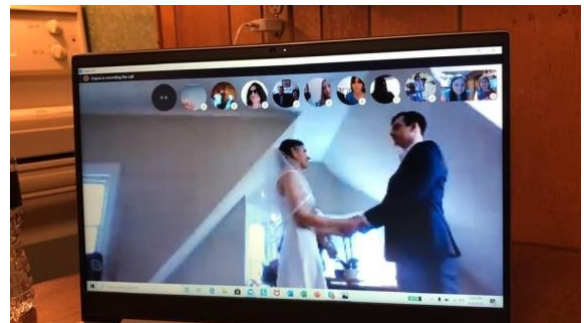


Matthew and Brittany with grandparents



Congratulations to the Pittmann family!

Congratulations to the new **Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Scheidler**. Luisa Martini and Glenn Scheidler's wedding day was scheduled for Saturday, April 4. Unfortunately, the pandemic got in the way, but they had a private "virtual" wedding and are now officially husband and wife. Thank goodness for Zoom! Luisa participates in our folkdance group and was Miss German American for the Steuben Day Parade. We are still waiting for Glenn to put on his dancing shoes.



Family and friends watch on Zoom



Congratulations to Luisa and Glenn!



## Travels

Marianne and Fred Gauss visited Disney World in February as Marianne promised a family friend to participate in the Princess 5K walk/run through Epcot. The thought of Marianne participating in an athletic event is rather magical; however, Marianne shattered all preconceived notions of her athletic ability by not only completing the race but aggressively pushing through the finish line.



**Marianne Gauss participates in the Princess 5K**

She was greeted by her stunned husband who was standing in the worst Florida weather possible - freezing, rainy and windy. Besides the miserable weather, the prep time for the race started at 3 a.m.! Yes, 3 A.M.!!!

In order to bring the world back in balance from this altering event, Fred volunteered to read a book. Marianne will choose a book without Cliff or Spark notes, so that, unlike college, Fred can actually read the book on his own.

Respectively submitted by Fred Gauss

## In Memoriam

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

- Josef Proll
- Adam Martini
- Mary Pack
- Joesph Brandecker, Sr.
- Christina Vanderpool
- Hilda Cohen
- Rosa Knoll
- Johanna Kuchar
- Pam Mayer
- Charles Schoettle

- Bruno Karnas
- Milly Banning
- H. Reed Armstrong

Pam Mayer, wife of Richard Mayer for 40 years, passed away in early April. Pam and Rich ran the catering and kitchen activities in the late 1990 and early 2000. The Mayer family was connected with the club since its inception.

Rosa Knoll passed also passed away in early April. The Knoll family participated in both the cultural and athletic activities of the club since the late 1950s.

Joe Proll was a member of the first Danubia men's soccer championship team (1967). He supported the club and soccer program throughout his lifetime.

## Other News

The Salmon family Christmas pollyanna party has outgrown a normal house party so they held it at the spacious upstairs hall.



**The Salmon family Christmas party**

Congratulation to composer Kile Smith who received critical attention for his part in two Grammy nominations. Most prominently, a performance of his recent choir production, *The Arc in the Sky*, was nominated for Best Choral Performance. Kile is a member of the Franklinville Schwarzwald Maennerchor and attends many of our events with his wife Jacqueline who is the director of the men's chorus as well as the ladies Waldecho chorus.

## Airport Art

As you've waited in an airport, have you ever wondered who the artists are who design and produce the work that is there? Waiting in an airport is a pain, but the art installations are always interesting and often inspiring. Currently, in terminal B at Philadelphia International Airport, there is an installation of Doodles created by Kimmy Scafuro. Kimmy is a wonderfully talented woman, working in many different types of media. The installation includes a wide variety of faces, doodles, drawn on the background. Hung in front of these prints are ceramic pieces of other faces that she has doodled. She's especially important to us because she is married to Matt Gauss, who has been a member of the club his whole life. Her art is wonderful, her judgement, well?

See more of her work at <https://www.phl.org/at-phl/art-exhibitions/kim-scafuro>.



Artwork by Kimmy Scafuro

## *Mother's Day Wishes*

From all of us at the club, we wish all of our mothers a very happy Mother's Day!

## Frauengruppe Memories

The following photos were shared by Roswitha Hoenisch. The first is of "The Frauengruppe" probably around the 1980s. The other pictures are of a "fashion show" of our home sewn dresses, possibly from 1973.



The Frauengruppe, likely in the 1980s



Front row: Hilde, Sylvia, Kathy, and Rose  
In wedding dress: Liz



Rose Matico holds her cousin Erika in the front

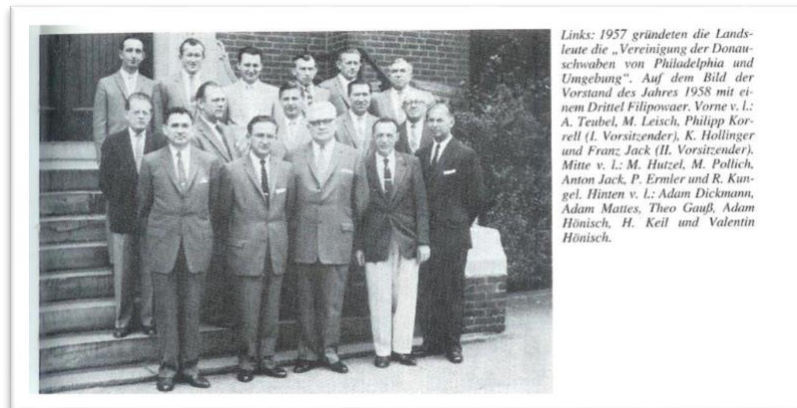


# A Blast from the Past

Thank you to board member Paul Hoenisch for contributing these wonderful memories!



**Julia Proll, the first Donauschwaben Soccer Queen (1964-1965)**



**The first Donauschwaben Board (1958)**



**Filipowaer Kirchwei (1978)**

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).

## *Newsletter Contributors*

Michael Rakszawski	Editor
George Brenner	Contributor
Fred Gauss	Contributor
Barry Harvey	Contributor
Rob Hessler	Contributor
Paul Hoenisch	Contributor
Roswitha Hoenisch	Contributor
Rose Matico	Contributor

## Club Contacts

### **Fred Gauss, President**

215-722-4253

president@danubeswabian.com

### **Hans Kloehn, Jr., Soccer President**

215-768-4108

soccer@danubeswabian.com

### **Fred Gauss, Folk Dance Group**

215-722-4253

dance@danubeswabian.com

### **Patricia Kelly, Children's Dance Group**

215-681-0470

### **Roswitha Hoenisch, Membership**

215-638-8387

membership@danubeswabian.com

### **Gerlinde Maitz, Ladies Auxiliary**

215-673-4423

### **Hans Kloehn, Friday Night Dinners**

267-770-6898

### **Amy Burbage, Events and Hall Rental**

267-632-2482

events@danubeswabian.com

### **Michael Rakszawski, Newsletter**

newsletter@danubeswabian.com

---

### **Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity**

1277 Southampton Road

Philadelphia, PA 19116

215-969-9356

www.danubeswabian.com



### **Danubia Soccer Club**

www.fcdanubia.com

---