

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 8 Issue 1

January-March 2008



Points of Interest

- Albert Bierstadt, from Solingen, Germany, was one of the most famous American painters in the 1800s.
- Werner von Braun, Wirsitz, Prussia, was the father of American rocketry.
- German-American, Adolphus Busch, co-founded Anheuser-Busch beer 1857.
- Manfred George, of Berlin, founded the widely circulated German weekly newspaper, *The Aufbau*, in New York City.
- German Johann Paul Schott, was a major American military leader during the Revolution and commanded the "German Dragoons".
- German-American, Oscar Hammerstein, was famous for his Broadway musicals.
- German-American, Friedrich Hecker, helped found the Republican Party and elect Abraham Lincoln.
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President's Christmas Message for the 2008 New Year

(ed.note: This letter was distributed at the club's December St. Nikolausfeier. The letter was addressed to all members & friends of the club so we have reprinted it here in its entirety).

Dear Members and Friends of the Donauschwaben,

I would like to welcome you to our annual St. Nikolausfeier. We are glad you are here with us this afternoon as we celebrate the start of the Christmas season with great food, singing, poems and lots of *Gemütlichkeit*.

While we all love the decorations, gift-giving and rituals that make this time of year so special, we shouldn't forget that Christmas is really about giving thanks. We give thanks for the birth of Jesus, for our family and friends, and for all the many blessings God bestows upon us. As a club, we are thankful for the many fine members who made 2007 another good year for the club. A great big "Danke!" to everyone for their hard work and support. We really could not have done it without each and every one of you.

We've had some terrific events this past year, including the auto show, our canoe trips, big ski trip, pilgrimage, and the heritage festival in Holmdel. This is in addition to our consistently successful monthly dinners like the Schlachtfests, pig roasts, and today's St. Nikolausfeier among others. Of course, we can also all be proud of our newsletter, website, German language school and dance group which remain fundamental to our club's stated mission of promoting German language and culture. No doubt about it, ladies and gentlemen, it's been another successful 12 months for the

Donauschwaben.

Yet, while the good times were many, we also want to remember all those members and friends who passed away this year. Sometimes it's easy to forget just how many lives we come in contact with through the club. It really is like one big family and when someone passes away all of us feel the loss in some way. We can all take some solace in the fact that while these members are no longer with us they will remain a part of the wonderful memories all of us share through our experiences here at the Donauschwaben.

And so, on behalf of the Donauschwaben, I would like to wish all of you a very merry and blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Frohe Weihnachten und alles Gute im neuen Jahr. Prosit, 2008! *Sincerely, Joseph Brandecker, President*

New Year's Message

The governing committee would like to wish the members and friends of the Donauschwaben a happy and healthy 2008. We look forward to seeing all of you in the year ahead and thank you for your ongoing support.

We are grateful that our club continues to grow and that our financial situation remains stable. More importantly, we are delighted that our youngest generation of members is taking a more active role in the organization. They are, after all, the future of the Trenton Donauschwaben and the key to its survival.

All of us can also be proud of the fact that this small club of ours continues to promote an understanding of our cultural heritage in a big way. Through our tasty ethnic dinners and special cultural events, through our web site, genealogical research, auto show, German school, dance group, newsletter, as well as our memorial and scholarship committees, our club remains a contributing and relevant part of the German/Donauschwaben community and the community at large. Ladies and gentlemen, we truly are "the little club that can!"
Der Vorstand

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Club Matters & Members



Our Own German Teacher at Pennsbury

Christa Tindall, daughter of club members Al and Liz Tindall, is in the middle of her first year as an eighth grade German teacher in the Pennsbury School District, located in Yardley, PA. After having graduated from Rider University with a degree in Global Politics and completing a Masters degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, Christa's career as a German teacher began in September. She is the only German teacher in the district's three middle schools, rotating to the next school every thirty days, and by the end, she teaches over 800 students. This introductory class familiarizes the students with basic vocabulary and the culture of the German-speaking countries. At the start of each rotation, she finds that the students do not know very much about the German culture, but by the end, they have a new appreciation for the language, food and customs.

It is important to give the students a good impression and to make the class fun and entertaining to encourage the students to continue their studies in high school, for German could be the next subject to be cut out of the budget of many schools if the demand decreases! Her passion for the language and culture came at an early age from spending time with her grandparents, Alex and Frieda Hepp, and thus, considers this to be a "dream job". Teaching German has been a very rewarding experience and she is excited about continuing to share knowledge of the great German, Austrian and Swiss cultures!

Keep up the good work , Christa!

ADULT SCHOOL WILL RESUME IN MAY

Our adult German language teacher, Herr Andy Franz, will not return from his vacation until May. The exact date that school will resume will be announced when this information becomes available.

See you in class.

Updated Obrowatz Ortssippenbuch Available



Dear Landsmann, Dear Fellow Researcher,

Even though the intensive research on this work has been completed from A to Z some years ago, including additions found through new sources, the publishing of this work has been postponed due to work related and personal reasons.

The biggest hindrance was the breakdown of my computer, which forced me to rewrite a large part of the data. Our family's relocation back to Batschka took time away also. This research work is not just a Families book showing only the dates, but an interactive accumulation of data, which gives multi-

ple searching opportunities, as well as by names as by places. Included are 6,987 families and **23,870 persons** with indication to their relationships and also how they connect to the **798 listed places**.

With the grateful help of my youngest son Sebastian, who is working as media designer in France (<http://www.sebar.net>), the work was also optically enhanced, especially the technical aspects have been improved:

The search function was widened, for example to recognize the input 'ß' and 'ss' as 'SZ'.

- As previously announced the **place names as used** today (and old German, Hungarian) will come up by a click only.
- Most importantly there is **no need for any complicated installation**. After inputting the CD into the CD-drive it will take only a very few minutes for the data to show up on your computer screen automatically.

It was a big surprise that our Landsmann Franz Lotspeich found an **old Obrowatz village sign made around 1870**. During one of his visits in Obrowatz, he found the sign with the help of an old school friend and acquired it. The sign in German and Serbian language has been scanned and is part of this combined work.

You can purchase this completed **combined edition on CD-ROM for a purchase price of 70.00 Euros**, shipment included. If you already purchased the CD's 1 and 2, then the difference to pay for the new combined CD-ROM will be only 25.00 Euros. As previously, you can remit the money to my account at the Postbank in Stuttgart. After receiving the payment the Obrovac-Families-Book (CD-ROM) will be immediately shipped out to you.

Account bearer: **Wilhelm BUSCH** - Bank: **Postbank Stuttgart**
BIC(Swift): **PBNKDEFF 600** - IBAN: **DE40 6001 0070 0104 080709**

I would like to put your attention on the www.obrovac-boroc-oberndorf.net pages (still under construction) where our parish will be represented in facts and photos. It is open to any one who wishes to find information on the village and its citizens. You can also have the opportunity to contribute to these WebPages and bring it to life. Under the drop-down menu of 'Bewohner' (inhabitants) a list of **names as published in the 'Families Book' can be downloaded**. The owners of the combined CD-ROM will have the opportunity in the future to update any upcoming changes free of cost through a protected area.

Dipl. Ing. Wilhelm Busch, Csátalja / Tschatali, January 2008

Donauschwaben Talk



Dennis Bauer & Hans Martini will give a talk on the "Donauschwaben of Mercer County, NJ" at the June meeting of the Central Jersey Genealogical Club in Hamilton. Look for a follow up article.

Club Matters & Members (continued)

New Club Officers for 2008 - 2010



Forget the primary election battles between Obama and Clinton or McCain and Huckabee, the Donauschwaben had its own elections this past January 27th. While no one claimed to be the successor to JFK or Reagan, as far as we know, we're pleased to tell you that we had no trouble finding quality candidates to fill all of the important club positions.

So what's the secret to the club's "inner workings" anyway? Good question, we're glad you asked... but we're not really sure. ☺ Okay, okay, a long time ago our club's founders set up a system whereby every two years a new slate of officers would be voted upon. The process insured that interested and dedicated members would always step up to move the club forward. We know it all sounds so glamorous (!), but the reality is there's actually real work involved most of the time.

This year's election/annual meeting was attended by a very respectable number of folks (see photo). Before electing the new officers, issues such as optimizing our kitchen operations, making improvements to the ladies' restroom, and creating an access ramp were discussed in a thoughtful and productive manner. Honestly, unlike some of the crazy meetings decades ago, today's meetings are almost always very polite and respectful.

Eventually the time came for the election committee to take center stage, dismiss the old club officers and bring in the new. The Committee was comprised of three experienced members with knowledge of the people and of the needs of the club. It was their job to track down qualified candidates for the elections. If asking didn't work, they were prepared to resort to begging, pleading and "guilt-tripping" club members when necessary. Oh just kidding! We'll tell you straight out that very few club members ever turn down the opportunity to serve the club in whatever capacity they are able, of that we can all be grateful!

And so, the 2008 – 2010 term returns Joe Brandecker to his familiar spot as the Donauschwaben President. This is Joe's 12th year at the helm of our club. His steady hand and his commitment and dedication have made him a most effective president. Joining him again this year is an able trio of vice presidents, Dennis J. Bauer, Kim and Bob Walter. Of course, where would we be without Herr Jakober holding a death grip on the club's purse as treasurer? It always seems to amaze people that Herr J can always be found when there's money coming in, but is strangely no where to be found when money has to go out! Seriously though, his is an important job and we're delighted he's agreed to continue on in that position.

We'll admit straight out that the club's Ladies' Auxiliary (or Frauenschaft) is an anachronism from decades' past. Back then women were still trying to achieve the same status as men. Can you imagine Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel, presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State Condi Rice or even Oprah Winfrey settling for second class status? We don't think so either. Whatever the case, we continue the Ladies' Auxiliary more out of tradition but, with a recognition that our club's women are every bit as capable and respected as the men (some would argue they are actually quite superior! ☺) Today's Ladies' Auxiliary includes devoted and hardworking men and women who keep the club afloat and make the money that keeps our doors open.

Heading up this fabulous group for the past 15 years has been Josefa Brandecker. She has personified the hardworking Donauschwaben work ethic to a tee. This year she stepped back from the responsibilities of the position but has promised to remain just as active as ever. Herzlichen Dank und Vergelt's Gott, Frau Brandecker! We're pleased to tell you that she was voted in as "Ehren Frauenpraesidentin", an honor she shares with only one other person, Frau Rosa Wildmann. Taking over the position as Ladies' Auxiliary president is Eva Martini. "Omi", as she's known, will do her very best to help keep the grand culinary traditions of our club alive and well. Joining Frau Martini are the talented Helga Kusenko, Caroline Brandecker and Denese Lenyo, all of whom will serve admirably as vice presidents. We can all be thankful that the club's kitchen and serving crews are in very, very good hands.

Following the election, the annual meeting wrapped up with a brief look forward as to what's in store for the club. We're delighted so many members attended the event. The meeting showed that ours is a vibrant and active organization with a future filled with optimism and promise. We can all rest assured that many good things are in store for our club in the years ahead. Long live the Donauschwaben!

NOTE: Members voted to open the club's by-laws for review, revision and/or updating. Information on this process will be printed in these pages when it becomes available.

For complete election results, please contact Dennis at donauschwaben@mail.com.

Genealogy, Culture & History Section

NEWS FROM PALANKA

Dear Dennis,

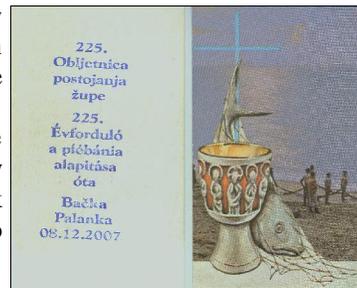
Because you are interested, let me tell you the latest regarding Palanka. On the 8th of December 2008, the 225th anniversary of the consecration of the Palankaer church was held. Two masses a day were celebrated the entire week, where usually none are celebrated. On Saturday the 8th, the archbishop from Subotica and 10 priests celebrated the high mass. Also present were the Lutheran pastor, a Serbian priest, as well as the mayor and his administration. It was the first time anyone saw these guys in our church.

There was talk of a big bus full of Schwobs attending, but in the end, only Franz Flock from the Palankaer Heimatausschuss and a family from Obrowatz represented us.

I'm sending you pictures to distribute to former Palankaers who are interested in the church's 225th anniversary. This is the same church where so many from Trenton, both those who came before and after the war, were baptized, received communion, were confirmed, etc.

At the end of October, a book appeared in Palanka by Franz Eisenhut. This was already available in the Batschka for the past few months. It's title: Subotica, Sombor, Novi Sad, Senta representations and drawings by Franz Eisenhut. One of his best known pictures was "The Battle at Senta between Prinz Eugen and the Turks" which still hangs in city hall at Sombor and it's still the biggest hand drawn picture in Serbia today. The artist is well-known to all the older Palankaer.

The descendants of Eisenhut from Austria were present to promote the book. They were part of the organization that originally published the book for their grandfather and were officially invited to the festivities. They then used the balance of their time to visit his crypt and look around Palanka a bit. They remembered very little of the town since they left when they were 8 to 10 years old in 1944.



Note: This is from a letter to Dennis Bauer from a friend living in Palanka. Translation from German by Newsletter staff.

AKdFF 2008 Meetings

The Spring AKdFF meeting on the 5th April 2008 in Sindelfingen will feature a lecture by Michael Hutfuss on "Research in the Batschka". The Fall AKdFF meeting on 11 Oct 2008 in Sindelfingen will feature a lecture by Günter Junkers on "Research in in Schwaebische Türkei".

In addition to the usual opening times of Tuesdays and Thursdays of the AKdFF archives in Sindelfingen for researchers, the AKdFF Archives/Library will also be open on the first Saturday from 11-4 of each month for AKdFF members. This is an opportunity to exchange data with others or search the archives/library. There will also be a meeting of Banat family researchers on the 20th of September at the Banater Kultur- und Dokumentationzentrum in Ulm, with the theme of creating a Banater a databank of Banat Aussiedler.—From Dave Dreyer's post on the Banat-List, 23 January 2008.

Trenton Churches and Cemeteries of the Donauschwaben

The Donauschwaben were a deeply religious group. Most were Roman Catholic, but some were also Lutheran and Reform. Roman Catholic Donauschwaben here in Trenton, both those who came here before WWII and after, attended services at several local churches including: Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, St. Francis, Immaculate Conception and Holy Angels.

Roman Catholic Donauschwaben were buried at a variety of cemeteries, including: St. John's, St. Mary's, Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Sepulchre, St. Peter & Paul's, and St. Francis. The grave stones pictured below show but just a few of the many Donauschwaben buried at Our Lady of Lourdes and Holy Sepulchre cemeteries.

Club genealogist, Dennis Bauer's next cultural project is to photograph all the Donauschwaben tombstones in these two cemeteries with the help of Adam and Eva Martini.



Membership News

2008 Newsletter Staff



Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President
Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor
Ludwig Jakober, Treasurer

Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor
Kim Walter, Vice President/Club Photographer
Hans Martini, Secretary

Staff Writers: Adam Martini, Andy Franz, Jacob Bauer and Michael Lenyo
AutoKlub Leader & Contributing Writer: Terry Huff
Website Committee: Dennis J. Bauer & Terry Penrith
Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer
Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini

Gearing up for the Tag der Donauschwaben in Cleveland!

The preparations are already under way and, yes, Trenton is going to the Donauschwabentreffen in Cleveland, OH, on Labor Day weekend with just as many members as we can possibly assemble. The last few "treffens" have seen up to 36 club members from "mighty" Trenton and we hope even more will be a part of this year's cultural extravaganza. Right now we're hopeful a bus can be arranged in cooperation with another club so that every member will have at least the opportunity to attend. PLEASE plan to join us for this upcoming fest. It promises to be the very best event of its type held ever. More information to follow in future newsletters.

Membership Happenings (births, engagements, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, vacation trips, graduations, etc.)

Belated Happy 80th to member **Patricia Huff** on her 80th birthday in November 2007. We wish you many more to follow.

Much Thanks to members **Jim and Kathleen Lieblang** on their recent donations to the club's cultural and youth programs.

A hearty congratulations go out to both **Kathleen and Adam Martini** who competed in the 2008 Texas Open, Tae Kwon Do Tournament held in Sam Houston University in Houston, Texas. In true to form they continued adding to their medal collection. Kathleen took the Bronze medal in forms and the Silver in sparring and Adam picked up the Bronze in forms.

Since having moved to Texas this summer, the fighting "Schwob" have not missed a beat and will continue on to other tournaments in Texas, Georgia and Florida, leading up to Nationals in Madison WI. Good Luck to both of them.



Congratulations to the NEW YORK (NJ)

GIANTS— Although many club members are Eagles fans and some even Cowboys or Browns fans, most of us did cheer on the Giants to victory during the Super Bowl Game on Sunday, 3 February 2008.

It certainly was an exciting game down to the last minute of play. Eli Manning did deserve MVP of the game for his last minute come back effort. I know **Steve Brandecker** was proud of his Giants. Well, as we Eagles fans have said for decades, "Maybe next year?"



Condolences to the Miljkovic family on the passing of past club member **Dan Miljkovic** on 27 November 2007 at his retirement home in Serbia. He is survived by wife, Jelena; daughters, Susan Bardouil and Alexandra Jarrach; son-in-law Sam Bardouil and grandchildren, Omar and Rick Bardouil.

Get Well to club members; **Pat Huff, Andy Franz, Joe Veccione & Kevin Nakashima, Mira Nakashima** on their recent illnesses as well as **JoAnn Martini, Mike Colacello, George Majer, Hans Klauser, Anna Martini** and **Adam Mattes**.

We've also heard that former German School teacher **Frau Lori Hanks** is very seriously ill. We pray for her recovery and wish her all the very best.

The club sends a special well-wishes to member **Erika Lingohr**. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



A Very Special Thanks to **Josefa Brandecker** for heading up club's Ladies' Auxiliary (or Frauenschaft) for the past 15 years. **A well deserved thanks from all the members of the club!!!**

Also look for a new arrival (baby) in the **Steve & Melanie Brandecker** household in July! Another grandchild for the Bauers & Brandeckers.

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

Making of Bratwurst

By Jacob A. Bauer

As the club approaches its 2008 annual February Schlachtfest, it is certainly appropriate that I recall my memories of making bratwurst as a youth in Lower Bucks County, PA during the Great Depression.

I was born in 1927 to Donauschwaben immigrants, Jacob Bauer from Backa Palanka and Theresa Helleis from Batsch. Both towns are in the southern part of the Batschka region of then Austria-Hungary (now Serbia). High quality hog production in the Batschka was widely known and pigs were exported throughout Europe. My sister, Elsie Penrith (nee Bauer) was born in 1924 in Falls Township, Bucks County, PA.

My grandfather, Christian Bauer came to the USA and settled in Trenton, NJ in 1901 with his wife, Elisabeth Bohnert and their sons, Charles and Jacob (my father), then an infant. The Bauers became tenant farmers in Falls Township from 1904 until 1917, when they bought their own farm on Tyburn Road in Falls Township, Bucks County, PA. My Bauer grandparents grew; asparagus, string beans, tomatoes and peppers on their farm and had one horse for farming duties. However, "Blackie", the horse, was finally replaced by a tractor but remained a family "pet" until he died. Their two sons and two daughters helped on the farm until they got married. Christian finally sold the farm in 1946 and moved in with his daughter Elisabeth Meszaros and husband in Fallsington Heights (now Fairless Hills). He died there in 1950.

My grandfather, Lorenz Helleis, wife, Barbara Blank and children, Barbara, Lorenz, Jr, Theresa (then 11 years old, my mother) and Frank came to the USA and settled in Trenton in 1913. The Helleis children, Maria and Adam remained in Batsch. The Helleis family moved to a rental farm, owned by the Balderstons, across the road from the Bauers around 1924. They grew cabbage, corn, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupes and water melons on a farm somewhat larger in acreage than the Bauers. They had two horses which were used for farm duties and a cow. Son, Frank and daughter-in-

law, Kate lived on the farm also and did most of the farming work until Lorenz died in 1938. The other children married and lived elsewhere. My grandmother Helleis, then moved in with us in Fallsington Heights. Both were "truck farmers" selling their produce at the Trenton Farmer's Market near the Delaware River, on Rt. 29 near the present day Trenton minor league baseball park on Cass Street.

Christian was an active member of the Trenton Aurora Club. However, both families were active members of the Trenton Arbeiter and members of the Roman Catholic church community, first in Trenton and then Morrisville, PA. My parents, Jacob and Theresa met at German social events in Trenton and were married in Trenton on 28 January 1923. Both the Bauers and Helleis' family members are buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hamilton, NJ.

My uncle Frank Helleis and his wife Katie Maas Helleis later joined the Trenton Donauschwaben, followed by my son, Dennis Bauer and his family (their children and their grandchildren), my wife, Carol and I and then my nephew Dan Penrith and his family. Uncle Frank and Aunt Kate Helleis were also members and Kate was active in our club kitchen for many years, including at Schlachtfest time.

As in the "old country", Fall was the time to butcher pigs and make bratwurst and other pork-based meats for family use during the Winter and Spring. Extra pork products were often sold at the farmers market by my grandparents. Making sausage was a special family event, including young and old. My sausage making memories go back to the mid-1930s in Falls Township.

Both my grandparents raised piglets for the event. At times, full grown hogs were purchased from farmers in the Trenton area and brought home for sausage and pork production in Uncle Frank Helleis' truck.

The pigs were killed using a 22 caliber rifle and then bled into a "Trog" or trough. They were then de-haired using hot water, hung up, be-

headed and split in half. My job as a youth was to prepare the intestines for the sausage casings. This was a nasty job which I still vividly remember some 70 years later. I had to turn the pig intestines inside out, scrap and then clean them while my elders butchered the pigs, removed the meat for grinding and mixing with ingredients (garlic juice, salt, white and black pepper, paprika and special spices). My grandfathers used hand-made metal tubes and wood plungers (Wurstspritz) to inject the casings with the tasty finished sausage mix. In addition to bratwurst (Brootworscht), we also made liver wurst (Lewerworscht) and blood wurst (Blutworscht). Two feet sections of stuffed casings were then cut and tied off for sausage links. Some were used for fresh sausage and some were hung and cured in grandpop's (Grossvater) smoking shed out back behind the farmhouse. He used hickory chips to smoke the sausage and hams. My grandfathers would insert cloves of garlic in the hams centers prior to curing them in the smoking shed. After the preparation, sometimes over several days, the family sampled their product at a meal of fresh bratwurst and Gulaschsuppe over noodles. **(continued on page 7)**



Top picture
(Jake Bauer, Jr.,
Uncle Lorenz &
Aunt Helen
Helleis & Cousin
David Majoksky
on Opa Helleis' PA Farm in 1941).

Middle picture (Bratwurst injectors).

Bottom picture (Drying the bratwurst).

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 2

(continued from page 6 —

Making of Bratwurst)

In addition, we used other parts of the pig for bacon, spare ribs, pork roast (Schweinebraten), head cheese (Schwartelmaga), pigs feet (Schweinhachse), brain and lard for cooking. Our family efforts certainly paid off and supplied us with meat throughout the Winter and Spring during the Depression years. We would also make weekly fishing trips to the New Jersey shore in preparation for our weekly Friday dinner meal, being good Catholics.

These memories are brought to mind each November and February when I participate in the leberwurst and bratwurst making duties here at the club under the watchful eye of our "Papa J" Jakober. For those in the club that have not participated in the event, you are truly missing a lot "Gemütlichkeit" not to mention a truly cultural fun filled day introducing you to an ancestral tradition. Membership is always open to join the Bratwurst Boys (and girls) at the club the Friday and Saturday before our feast on Sunday, February 17th.

Mahlzeit!!



Remembrances of my Time in Austria (Erinnerungen an Österreich)

by Adam Martini

(English translation by Newsletter staff)

The expression "you only live once" is one that always seems to cause a great deal of reflection. These particular reminiscences are from my time in "Upper Austria" in an area known as "Innviertel". Our regional capital was "Braunau" and I lived in a hamlet known as "Pfaffing" that was part of a place called "Haigermoos". Haigermoos was a sleepy little community in 1947 when we arrived as refugees, with just a few hamlets surrounded by farmland. The whole scene seemed like something out of the Middle Ages more than from the present.

The farming families here had worked the land for many generations and

were proud of their heritage and traditions. To insure the farms stayed completely intact, the oldest sons were sole heirs who took the job of passing down the whole farm to their oldest sons quite seriously. This tradition still goes on today to varying degrees.

I found this all most interesting. While we refugees weren't exactly greeted with open arms by the locals, one had to hand it to these good and straightforward folks: They gave us shelter and food, educated our children and welcomed us in their churches where we would join them for mass on Sundays.

Every farm had a small house in addition to the main house where everything seemed to happen. The main house was always one of four that formed a square with a yard in the middle. The farmer, his wife and children lived there as did any farm hands and caretakers. The small house stood usually next to the main house. Here the retired farmer and his wife (the parents of the current farmer/owner) lived when they could no longer work the farm. This is the way it was for generation upon generation.

So, into this carefully choreographed culture, so rich in tradition, marched refugees like myself. We were moved right into the small houses by the government and the old-timers had to move back into the main houses with their son's family. We took up residence anywhere an empty room could be found. Naturally there was quite a bit of resentment on their part, but who can really blame them?

On the other hand, we Donauschwaben provided a cheap and very effective workforce. Indeed, it caused an economic upturn in the area that was plain for all to see. Since there was no industry, there was little for our people to do but work the farms. So undeveloped was the area that the only paved road was only as long as the tiny hamlet itself.

And so it was that in the fall of 1947 my family came to this place called Haigermoos. It was here that my mom, grandmother, sister and I found a place to stay and a place to put the few things that comprised our worldly possessions. I was a "thin as a bean stalk" ten year old

and my sister, Maria, was just four. We were happy to have escaped with our lives from Tito's death camps and wanted very much to put that unpleasant memory behind us. My mother, always the strongest of our family, knew how to get along and was able to always make the best of things. My grandmother, on the other hand, was as stubborn as they come, with strong views that she was quick to share no matter what the circumstance. It fell to me to try and keep her as quiet and as inoffensive to others as possible. Alas, the very first comment she made was within earshot of the locals, saying in a heavy Donauschwaben dialect "how come these folks don't speak proper German?" Our new life in Haigermoos was off to a roaring start!

These days it's different, of course. Those small houses I mentioned above have now become something like villas. All the roads and even the walkways are nicely paved. The nearby pond called "Hoellerer See" (which no one but the locals knew about back then) has now become something of a tourist destination. Farmers have changed too. They manage to do almost all of the work by themselves, it seems. Modern equipment has revolutionized the farming industry and no longer are horses, oxen and throngs of farmhands necessary. Milking machines take care of the cows whose output is optimized by highly trained veterinarians for heaven's sake!

Over the years, many of the Donauschwaben moved away from the area. Some went to the larger towns in search of work while others sought their fortune across the Atlantic Ocean. Still others got married to native Austrians and became citizens of that country. A few would even stay and build their own homes in Haigermoos.

This is just a taste of what the situation was like for us refugees in Austria after the war. Hopefully, you have some sense of the area and the folks we encountered. I've surely forgotten many of the details over all these years, but my impressions of that beautiful land and its people will stay with me forever.

Note: Adam's Austrian Adventures continue in the next issue. Stay turned!



Our Autoklub Travels



Porsche 912 Restoration Begins

Our AutoKlub Leiter, Terry Huff, just got his 1968 Porsche 912 back to his shop from K & M Auto Body after it received a brand new black paint job. He has owned this classic 912 for over 18 years. It has seen many car shows and road course race tracks since then.

Now he has to finish the complete restoration in time for the 2008 car show season. He plans to have it completely back together by our Euro-American Auto Show in July, then on to the Cannstatter Car Show in August and then Wildwood in September. Good luck Terry. We know the finished product will be a real car show winner!

Members Check Out New Cars

Members, Steve and Melanie Brandecker, Brittaney and Joe Brandecker, Jr. and Dennis and Donna Bauer checked out the new cars at the annual Philly Car show in February 2008.

As expected the hot topic of the show was "Green cars", those with increased gas mileage. But, also as expected, the guys were seen around the high powered sports cars (Audis, Corvettes, Porsches, Masaratis, Mustangs, BMWs, etc.).



There was interest in the VW GTI (see picture with Joe and Brittaney, "Hey Dad, I want one"), the Mercedes Smart Car, the new VW W/3 Beetle (very top picture) and of course the McLaren Mercedes \$450,000 two-seat sports car.

2008 Euro-American Auto Show Set to Go

Please reserve Saturday the 12th of July (rain date: July 13th) for our 4th annual Euro-American Auto Show at the German American Society's picnic grove on Uncle Pete's Road in Yardville. Planning is already well underway in cooperation with our partners at the German Americans. We would appreciate trophy sponsorships (business or personal) or donated items that can used as door prizes. Also, please let us know if you know someone or know of a company that might consider helping us out. Note that sponsor companies and door prizes do not have to be car-related. Of course, we do want to thank all those who made donations in years' past.

Our own Gary McGhee will return in his role as DJ this year. Gary's talents have helped make our car show a success - and we're just plain glad to have him around! We are even attempting to get one or more dance groups to perform at the show, but nothing has been finalized as of this writing. More information will follow in our next newsletter. Please contact Dennis J. Bauer at donauschwaben@mail.com or Terry Huff at 215-736-1915, if you have any questions or comments.

The Danube Swabian Assn. & The German-American Society
Present The
4th Annual Euro-American Auto Show
Saturday July 12, 2008
(Rain date - July 13, 2008)
9am - 3pm
At the German-American Picnic Grove
215 Uncle Pete's Road
Yardville, NJ 08601

Shade Trees, Picnic Tables
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DJ & Music
Door Prizes

Trophies Awarded to Top 50
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Best Team
Best American
People's Choice
(Must be registered by 12 noon)
Car Clubs must Pre-Register

All Cars Must Be Street Driven

Admission free to the General Public
No Food or Beverages may be brought into the Park. No Pets, No Alcohol, Bikes, Skateboards, Radio, or Buns-Out.

For More Information or Applications Call or Contact:
Trenton Danube Swabian Association
137 Route 156, Yardville NJ 08620
1-609-985-1915
www.trentondauschwaben.com

German-American Society
215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville NJ 08620
1-609-985-5200
www.aksclub.org

Make Checks Payable to & return to:
Danube Swabian Association, 137 Rt. 156, Yardville, NJ 08620 - Attn: Car Show

DIRECTIONS ON WEBSITE

Name _____ Phone _____
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Signature (Please sign) _____

Discussions, Letters, Articles and participation by members of this Club, online and through the Danube Swabian Association & The German American Society, its officers, its members and participants and anyone who contacted with the permission of this club shall remain the property of the Danube Swabian Association, its officers, its members and participants and anyone who contacted with the permission of this club shall remain the property of the Danube Swabian Association.



THE SMART CAR FROM GERMANY

The Smart car from Mercedes-Benz is priced at \$11,590 and with all options \$13,815.

This cute little 2-seater is powered by a 3 cylinder engine at 70HP and rear wheel drive. It comes with a 5-Speed Automated Manual transmission and only weighs in at 1,800 pounds. The 2008 EPA Mileages are City/Highway 34/40.

The driver and passenger are surrounded by a "Walnut" like safety cage and according to the manufacturer, the car, for its size, is extremely safe. Even Joe Brandecker, Jr. (6'3") fit in the car with no problem.

With the price of gas today, not a bad investment, especially for around town.

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Membership Sponsors:

- * Familie Marie, Ray, Kathleen & Adam Martini from Texas *
- * Frau Marlene Novosel und Familie *
- * Frau Anna Hahn in memory of husband Anton *
- * In memory of Frau Katie Helleis *
- * Frau Käthe Marx *
- * In memory of Familie Otto & Edith Kraus *
- * Familie James & Kathleen Lieblang
- * Herr Harold Million *
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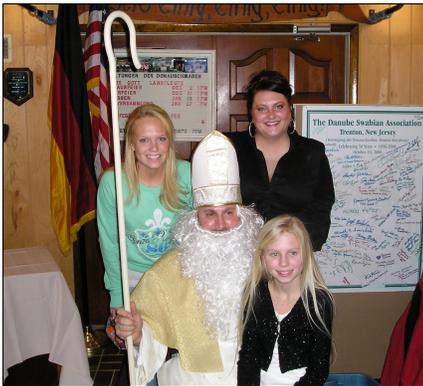
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Club Caretaker Sought

It was with great optimism that we signed up a young man named Todd to be our caretaker/tenant back in August of 2007. Unfortunately, things did not turn out as we had hoped. We are now asking those interested in applying for the caretaker/tenant position to contact a club officer as soon as possible. Candidates must be committed to keeping our clubhouse and grounds neat and tidy. The position includes a deeply discounted rental house with two bedrooms, bath, living and dining rooms, kitchen, a laundry with a washer/dryer, new carpets, new paint, air conditioning, ample parking and a large, fully enclosed garage. This is a great opportunity for a dedicated person or couple with a good work ethic to live relatively inexpensively while taking care of our property. We will be conducting interviews soon, so let us know if you or someone you know might be interested. Thanks.

Club Pictures - 2007 Christmas Party & 2008 General Membership Meeting (center)



Deutsche Sprach Schule Seite (Adult & Youth)



MEMORIES OF MY TRAVELS

by Brittany Brandecker, Youth Dance Group, Adult Language School Student & World Traveler

Two thousand and seven (2007) was an amazing year for me and I wish it didn't have to end. Some people may say that they wish they had my life. And well, to tell you the truth, if I was someone else I would want my life too. Just in 2007, I had been on seven different trips and I had the time of my life on all of them.

It all started in February, when the club traveled to the Crystal Brook Resort in Round Top, New York for a fun-filled weekend of skiing. After arriving we all went skiing, then returned back to the lodge for more fun while listening to music and dancing. Hopefully, sometime soon the Philadelphia-Trenton Dance group will perform at the resort.

Next was our yearly camping trip, also as a club gathering. However, this year it was at Soaring Eagles Campground. It was a very different yet exciting experience from what we were used to at Red Barn. After the week we spent there, it was almost like home. The canoeing was fun and as usual the water was cold and swift (well at least that's what it felt like). But all in all, everyone seemed to like the new campground.

Not even a week after I returned home from the camping trip I was off on the biggest trip of the year. My Tante Klara had retired recently and she wanted to go on a vacation. So I told her I would go along with her and I suggested England. She said ok, and off we were to a country where they actually speak our same language.

When we got to England, we were really tired but the only thing that kept playing over and over in my head was "I can't believe I'm in London, England where the Queen, Prince William and Harry live" The first thing we did once we got off the bus was to get our luggage and go to our hotel room. Then got on another coach and visited Windsor Castle. Now, this is one of the Queen's summer houses and although she was not there, the cool thing was that we stood at the altar where Prince Charles said "I Do!" to Camilla Parker Bowles. I also got to stand next to a Keeper, one of the dudes with the big furry hats that are not allowed to move, Cool!

The next day we were off on the start of the actual trip. The first stop was Stonehenge. I had read about it in books and on the internet, but this was nothing compared to seeing it in person. I just couldn't believe how and why the stones got there. Just these large stones in the middle of nowhere. What a fantastic sight. Next we went to Bath, England. There we saw the ancient Roman baths. It definitely was not somewhere I would want to take a bath, if you know what I mean.

Then we were off to Cardiff, Wales. Now this place actually has a funny story that I am still laughing about. Before I left on the trip, my mom handed me this little bag thing as I was packing and told me it was a poncho. I said ok and I packed it without looking at it. In Cardiff, when it was time to bring out the poncho, I opened it up and low and behold it was definitely not a poncho, my mother had sent me to England with a tote bag instead and didn't even realize it. I was laughing so hard that I started to cry because I now had no rain coat at all to go out in the pouring rain. Let's just say for my sake it was not fun. And to make matters worse it was a Sunday and nothing was open so I couldn't buy myself a rain coat or umbrella.

After all that drama we were off to Ireland by boat. It was actually more like a ferry and the trip was four hours long. By the time we got to Ireland it was late and we still had another hour or two drive to the next hotel after we jumped over the "puddle" and onto Waterford. After all the traveling that day we were really tired. The next day we got on the coach again and we visited the Waterford Crystal Factory. I found out that they make the ball that is dropped in Times Square, NY on New Years Eve. It was just so amazing that someone actually makes all that crystal by hand. It was nothing like we see on TV, as it is so beautiful in person. Later that day, we got on the coach and headed for Dublin. On the way there we stopped in a town called Kilkenny where we visited the castle that is in the center of the town. This is also the place where we almost got run over by a truck. Unlike here in the USA, over there they drive on the wrong side of the road, so when we were trying to cross the street we didn't look the correct way and before we knew it, a truck was headed right for us. We also stopped and visited the Irish National Stud Farm, a famous horse farm. We saw all different kinds of horses including, miniature ones which were so cute. Later in the day we arrived at the hotel in Dublin. That night we saw "The Irish Caberret", which is a show with Irish dancing and singing.

The second day in Ireland, we took a tour of the city and visited the University of Dublin and Trinity College. In Europe, the colleges are very different, but it was cool to see how different the college environment is there. Before we left Dublin, we just had to visit GUINNESS, their popular beer. We saw the storehouse and walked through their little museum. I must not forget that they gave us a free beer and a view of the whole city which was beautiful. In addition, we got to see St. Patrick's Cathedral, an amazing sight. Next we were off to Belfast, Northern Ireland. We weren't in this town very long but the town was made famous for being the town where the "Titanic" was built. Within two hours, we were off our second ferry trip and in Stranraer, Scotland and had a long drive to our next stop in Edinburgh. We took a tour of the city, saw the home of Robert Louis Stevenson, when he was living there, and also saw Edinburgh University and the Edinburgh Castle. The next night we saw a Scottish show with bagpipes, which were awesome. They also brought out the famous food, Haggis, which was really weird.

We were then off to York, England. On the way there, we stopped at Floors Castle where we actually got to tour sections where the people actually live in. On the day we finally got back to London, after eight days of traveling my Tante and I decided we wanted to visit some London sites. So we got a map and asked how far some of the sites were. A lady told me it was too far to walk and that we would have to take "the underground", which is like our subway. However, we didn't want to and decided to walk. So this is another really funny story. We started walking and we walked to a park and saw Kensington Palace, which was very beautiful from the outside. We then walked a little farther and saw the Diana Memorial Fountain and with our with luck, it wasn't on. Then we walked through another park and finally ended up at the most visited palace in England, Buckingham Palace. It happened to look a lot bigger in person (the Queen wasn't there). I also finally got a picture of a Bobbi, a British police officer, too. This "little" walking trip took us about three hours from the time we left the hotel till when we returned. Before we left I finally got to stand in one of the phone boxes and made a phone call home. Even with the difficulties it was one of the best trips I had ever gone on and it was definitely a great learning experience.

Upon returning home, a couple weeks later, I was then off to the Treffen in Mansfield, OH. When we finally got to the hotel, after the long drive from home, we all put our swim suits and jumped in the pool. The next day, Anna Martini, myself and some of the adults went to the Mansfield Clubhouse for the Friday friendship night and the start of our dance weekend. We had fun that night, even if we did not know any of the youth. On Saturday we were really excited. After we got to the club and did the formal march in, I met up with some of the friends I had made at other Treffens over the years and hung out with them. Our dance group had to dance late both nights, so we were the last ones to dance. That wasn't all bad since we got to see everyone dance before we went on. All in all, it was a really fun weekend. Hopefully when our club goes to Cleveland this year, I will be able to go. If not there is always next year. **More on my excursions in life in the next newsletter issue!**

Club Events for the Winter 2008

EVENTS— DATES & TIMES

Come out and join us!

- ◆ Winteressen, 13 January, Sunday, 1pm
- ◆ Yearly Membership Meeting, 27 January, Sunday
- ◆ Club Ski Trip to Catskills, NY, 10 February Weekend
- ◆ Schlachtfest (Bratwurst, pork & sarma), 17 February, Sunday, 1 & 3pm
- ◆ Osteressen (Easter Dinner), 9 March, Sunday, 1pm

Happy New Years to ALL and Have a Happy Easter too!

Please call Frau Eva Martini (609) 586-6109 or Frau Kim Walter (609) 585-8752 for meal reservations. Chicken is always available as an alternative to the featured dish (except at the Schlachtfest). Please let us know your preference in advance.

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DSATRENTON@YAHOO.COM
609-585-1932
PRESIDENT— JOSEPH BRANDECKER
PRESIDENT@TRENTONDONAUSCHWABEN.COM

Dennis J. Bauer, V.P., Editor & Club Genealogist
Email: donauschwaben@mail.com
215-945-9089

Hans Martini, Secretary
Email: Dsatrenton@aol.com
609-888-2762

www.
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Vielen Dank !

To all of our members who do the work that always needs doing, THANKS!! Whether it's in the kitchen or out by the tables; serving refreshments or baking pastries; selling tickets or cleaning up; it takes many fine people a good many hours to make dinner events a success. We truly have some of the finest club members anywhere. Danke Schön!!



A great big THANKS!! also goes to all of our members and friends who attend the club's activities and purchase our Club jackets, shirts, hats, etc. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Auf Wiedersehen bei den Donauschwabern!



Young People Making a Difference at our Club

Anyone who attends monthly dinners at our club will notice the large number of young folks assisting with serving and/or clean up. Isn't it super?! The eight to ten young members are the hardest working and best behaved "Jugend" any club could ask for. Believe us, any club in this region would love to have such youngsters involved in their organizations.

So who are they? Well, there's Lyla, Brittaney, Anna, Luisa, Joe, Sofi, Nick, Chrissy, Mary and Emma. Parents, Caroline Brandecker and Denese Lenyo serve in an oversight role, but really the young people do know what to do and need very little, and often no direction at all.

The Donauschwaben has a long history of encouraging the participation of its youngest members. We have always sought to give them "ownership" of the club in a way that makes them want to come back again and again without mom or dad forcing the issue. We are very much aware that to really feel a part of the club they have to believe they are making a valuable contribution and that they are appreciated for it – and they are. All of our young people are treated with respect and dignity but with an expectation that they will do their very best for our dinner guests. While no person, young or old, is perfect, they have not disappointed us.

These young members are the future of our organization. They will form the nucleus or "core" around which others will gather. It's how it has always been at successful clubs and ours is no different. We treat their presence at our club as vitally important to our mission and as the key to all the good things yet to come.

Vielen Dank, junge Menschen!