Vereinigung der Donauschwaben
127 Route 156, Yardville, NJ 08620

Trentoner Donauschwaben Nachrichten

Volume 19 Issue 4 Oct-Dec 2019

Points of Interest

- Most Christmas trees today are grown as an agricultural product on tree farms.
- About one million acres are dedicating to tree farming.
- Between 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold annually in the US.
- It takes about 15 years to grow the normal harvested tree.
- Every state in the US grows Christmas trees.
- Germans are credited with bringing Christmas trees into the American home and decorating them in the spirit of Christmas.
- Tree farms aid the environment by removing carbon dioxide.
- The trees are also recyclable.
- Source: *Der Ahnenforscher*, December 2019. Our newsletter is copyrighted ©. All rights reserved.

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2019 Donauschwaben Treffen—Milwaukee

US, Canadian and Hungarian Donauschwaben found their way to that oh-so-German state of Wisconsin this past Labor Day Weekend. Boy do we mean German: 44% of its residents trace their roots back to the Fatherland, Donauschwaben among them. The Badgers as they are known also happen to own quite a few cows which they use to make the most cheese of any state, hence the license plate motto "America's Dairyland". The capital city of Milwaukee where we would gather has its own claims to fame, including Harley Davidson motorcycles and, of course, breweries as far as the eye can see. We like Wisconsin!

It seems that among the drinking age crowd, breweries and more specifically beer play an important role at any Treffen. It is the crucial ingredient that fosters peace, love and understanding among the gathered. It encourages dancing and singing and laughing and that feeling of well-being we call "Gemuetlichkeit". It's not to say we couldn't have a Treffen without that frothy, fermented friend but we have yet to find anyone who's willing to try.

For many of us the trip began at Trenton's Adventure Airport where the short runway makes every take off and landing pretty exciting. Eventually all of the Region Easters (Trenton, Philly and the UGH) converged on the big Milwaukee Donauschwaben facility which features a super sized outdoor pavilion and a more modest but still very nice clubhouse. "*Die Mil-wow-kee Landsleit*" are great party throwers and the event went off without a hitch.

As with every Treffen Saturday features a big, colorful parade of clubs that ends up on the soccer field. National anthems and a few short speeches later and it was time for the communal dance which saw hundreds of young folks doing "Drah di um" or "turn yourself around". It's an up tempo number that was fun for both participants and spectators alike. Great stuff!

Spirited dance performances and live German music continued throughout the day in front of appreciative audiences who smiled broadly and applauded loudly. It is simply not possible to describe the scene adequately enough to those who have never been to a Treffen. It's special and at times it's almost magical.

The Milwaukee Treffen ended Sunday night with a big, DJ driven rock n roll dance party aimed at the youngest generation who made the most of it. It's interesting to note that these same young people performed in a most traditional manner just hours before while proudly wearing ethnic dress of a bygone era. For them there is no contradiction as they honor the past while embracing the modern age.

Many thanks to all those who attended and to the Milwaukee organization that made it possible. Next Labor Day's 2020 Treffen will be much closer (driving distance) to home so please consider joining us in Cleveland, OH. After that the whole show moves really close to home as Trenton will host the 2021 Treffens along with its Eastern Region partners. Great times ahead, good people! *Hans Martini*

Note: see additional photos on pages 6 & 7.

Club Matters, Members & Stuff

Our 63rd Club Anniversary

A beautifully decorated hall, delicious appetizers, soup, salad, Schnitzel with all the trimmings and topped off with a delightful Schwarzwaelder Kirschtorte!

A short program entertained our audience and two awards from Der Verband der Donauschwaben USA were presented by Club President Joe Brandecker and Region East President Marlene Fricker, to two of our members, Al Tindall and Kim Walter for their many years of service. Al is our Club Treasurer, and also takes time to help out wherever he can, especially making sure the grounds are always beautifully maintained.

Furthermore, he coordinates our two Schlachtfests (one of which is coming up in November). Kim Walter has taken over the kitchen since Frau Eva Martini's accident and is doing an outstanding job. This is not an easy task and we are so thankful to her for all she does. Eva is now providing guidance from behind the scenes. A huge THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to Al and Kim.

Also, thank you to all the volunteers who come out for every event to help make it all possible....especially our young folks. They're our future and will continue to keep our culture alive and well! We're so proud of them!

**

ROCK ON

Club member **Mike Lenyo (guitar)** and his band "Union" rocked-on at the Five Four Bar & Grill in Levittown, PA on December 6. A number of our club members attended in support of Mike.

The band plays annually at our club's auto show each summer and the Five Four Bar is a sponsor of our Auto Show. Thanks for their support. ****

Blast from the Past—Our Founders in 1956!

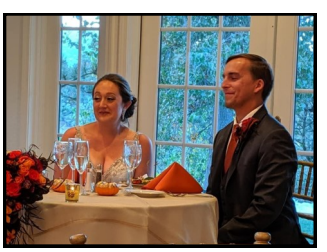
****

Club Family Members—Tying the Knot in 2019!

Joseph Brandecker and Emma Lee Belardo! Son of Club President Joseph Brandecker and wife Caroline, the happy couple was married on January 20 of this year.

On August 11, 2019 **Dana Galati married Charlie Brown.** Dana is the granddaughter of Club members Hans and Api Herdt, and Tony and Nancy Galati. She is the daughter of Michael and Barbara (Herdt) Galati.

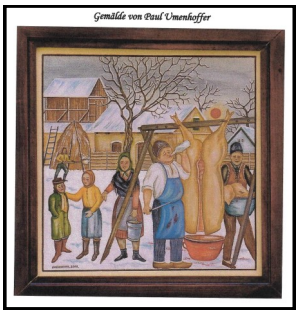
Then on September 21, 2019, **Katie Tindall married Grant James.** Katie is the daughter of Club members Al and Liz (Hepp) Tindall, and granddaughter of Club members Alexander and Elfriede Hepp.



Alexandria Herdt and Matthew Brothers, Alexandria is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Herdt (Frank is a past Donauschwaben Verein Trenton President). They were married on October 11, 2019 in Lyons, Colorado.

Congratulations to the happy couples and their families!

Donauschwaben History & Culture



A Very Well Attended—Schlachtfest November 18th!

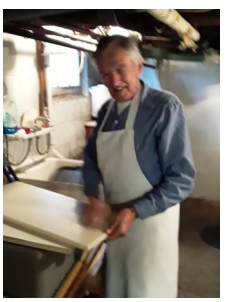
It was a sell-out crowd at both seatings! We are so grateful to all who attended and supported, whether dining in or take-out! And, of course, a huge thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who have been hard at work since Thursday....shopping, chopping, cooking, frying, baking, cleaning, etc. etc. The final product....beyond delicious!!!!

We were also delighted to welcome the Steinert High School students studying German, their families and teacher, Mrs. Lacey Smith! Herzlich Willkommen!

Our next Schlachtfest is scheduled for February. Exact date to be confirmed! Make sure you reserve early, as SPACE IS LIMITED!

Welcome to Schlachtfest!

Our club carries on the Schlachtfest or "butcher's festival" tradition that has deep roots in the German speaking areas of southeastern Europe where ethnic Germans called "Donauschwaben" once thrived. In my home town of Bukin, virtually every family owned a pig they fed generously all year long. After harvest time, the family's attention turned to this nicely fattened animal whose turn it now was to provide life sustaining meat products for the coming year. Usually an experienced person from the village would be hired to manage the process with assistance from the entire family and anyone else they might get to help. Killing the pig was not for the faint of heart it's fair to say and perhaps not nearly humane enough by today's standards either. A group of men would have to catch and hold the squirming and squealing animal. This wasn't easy at all and the excited pig would often bounce one or two right into the manure pile before it could be brought under control. The wild scene caused all of us to watch in horrid fascination. The death blow (a piercing of a main artery) had to be done accurately to capture the animal's blood for later use. It was then time to drop the pig into scalding water to facilitate the removal of its hair. Every now and then the pig, who was supposed to be quite dead, wasn't quite so. Out of the hot water it would jump and around and around it would run. The uproar and turmoil this caused was epic. Eventually the important work of processing the many parts of the pig would get underway. Produced would be everything from sausages to lard to bacon, and so much more. As important as it was for the food it produced, the event was also a social event for the hardworking German families from Hungary, Romania, as well as Yugoslavia with its Viovodina region which is where I come from. Good food and drink, as well as a sense of camaraderie bound family and friends together in a way that benefitted everyone including the community as whole like little else could. It was one of the high points on the yearly calendar back then just as it is for our Donauschwaben club today. All of the Schlachtfest specialties you enjoy today are the delicious results of our members very best efforts over the last three days. The event remains a living reminder of the way things were back in those wonderful towns and villages along the Danube River we once called home. Thanks for being part of today's culinary journey back to the old country! Reminiscences of a Proud Son of the Voivodina, by Adam Martini



Membership News

Club Officers & Newsletter Staff

Joseph Brandecker, Jr. President. Dennis J. Bauer, Vice President/Newsletter Editor
Bob Walter, Vice President. Kim Walter, Club Photographer
Alfred Tindall, Treasurer & Mike Lenyo, Vice-Treasurer
Hans Martini, Secretary. Eva Martini, Recording Secretary (Fill in Brittaney Brandecker)
Staff Writers: Hans & Adam Martini, Liz Tindall, Andy Franz, Christa Tindall Pullion & Michael Lenyo & others
Melanie Brandecker, Newsletter Copy Editor
AutoKlub Leader and staff: Terry Huff , Pat Huff & Colin Huff
Website Committee: Tom Rubino—Web Master, Dennis J. Bauer & Hans Martini
Genealogical & Historical Researcher: Dennis J. Bauer
Mail Room Coordinator: Eva Martini

Get Well/Thinking of you to members, **Eva Martini, Donna Gruzlovic**, **John Herdt, Hilde Schintzler, Richard West** and **Erika Volltrauer,** and those members that we were not aware of .

Look Who's Home— Club member **Eva "Omi" Martini** returned home in August and was able to attend our September Harvest Fest and Christmas dinners. It was so good to see your smiling face at the club again**.**

Membership Happenings (births, engagements, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, graduations)

Club member **Peter Kernast**, Jr. celebrated his 30th Anniversary hosting the radio show called "Legacy" on WTSR-FM and www.wtsr.org on November 18. The weekly 3-hour program features folk, roots, and world music along with live performances and special music segments. "Legacy" broadcasts on Monday evenings from 6 - 9 PM on 91.3FM and internet streaming at www.wtsr.org or the TuneIn app. More information about the program can be found at: www.wtsrlegacy.com."

Member **Chris Carson**....clamming this Fall in the bay near his home on Long Beach Island, NJ. Chris has been a life long clammer. We also want to thank Chris for overseeing the Schlachtfest prep team.

Happy 90th birthday to member **Harold Huff**. He and family celebrated this special day yesterday (day before the Schlachtfest) and at the recent Schlachtfest.

Also we congratulate fellow member **Anna (Mayer) Hahn** on her 90th birthday also as announced at the Schlachtfest also. Kudos to both…...they must have good German genes.

John J. Annasenz 81 of Hamilton passed away Friday October 11, 2019.

Mr. Annasenz was born in Yugoslavia and has been an area resident most of his life. He is retired from General Motors and a United States Army Veteran. He was founding member of the German American Society and a member of the Donauschwaben Club in Yardville.

John was the son of the late Jakob and Magdalena (Schoen) Annasenz. And brother of the late Nikolaus Annasenz and his wife Rita. He was husband of the late Elvira Annasenz. And is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Marie and Sean Gorman of Yardville, his son John J. Annasenz of Columbus and grandchildren Kyle Annasenz, Kelsey Annasenz, Christina, Elizabeth and Shane Gorman. Interment was at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery. ***

Member **Joseph Brandecker** Sr. 91 of Yardville passed away November 28, 2019. Mr. Brandecker was born in Siroko Polje, Yugoslavia. He has been an area resident since 1955. A member of the Danube Swabian Club in Yardville. A parishioner of St. Raphael-Holy Angels Parish. He is retired from Hill Refrigeration. Mr. Brandecker was affectionately known as Sepp and his late wife as Sophie. Son of the late Anton & Katharina (Schmidt) Brandecker. Husband of the late Josefa Brandecker. Brother of the late Adam and Nikolaus Brandecker. Surviving are his daughter, Klara Andrichuk. 2 sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph & Caroline Brandecker and Stefan & Melanie Brandecker. 5 grandchildren, Brittaney Brandecker, Joseph and Emma Brandecker, Greta Brandecker and Tina Brandecker. Sister, Maria Petty. Sister in law Martha Brandecker. Several nieces and nephews. Interment was at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Hamilton.**

Deutsche Ecke, Seite 1

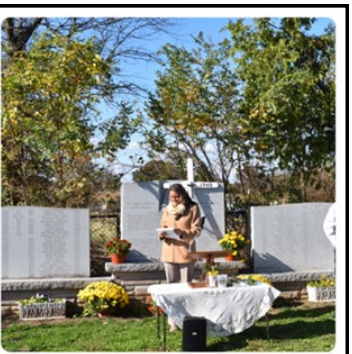
The Club held it's annual Totengedenkfeier on November 3rd, which was a very moving and emotional event!

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery off Cedar Lane in Hamilton.

We marked the 75th anniversary of the expulsion of Donauschwaben from their ancestral homes through prayer, ritual and song. "Die Vertreibung" as we call it in German caused not just the loss of untold lives, but also an entire way of life in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Christa Tindall Pullion gave a detailed account of life in the death camp of Jarek, as told by her Opa, Herr Alexander Hepp, Jr. To quote him...."*In Jarek sind Ã ber 1000 Kinder verhungert. Mein Grossvater Nikolaus Hepp ist auch von den tausenden die in Massengrãber in Jarek waren. Er war derjenige der das Buch 150 Jahre Palanka schrieb".* And..." *Gott war die Hilfe zu einer schőneren Zukunft".*

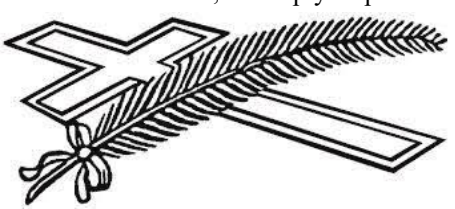
Herr Andy Franz recounted his horrific experiences as well and the importance of keeping our culture alive, always with the focus of God, hard work, faith and family! Anna Martini read a beautiful and very moving poem.

After the Memorial Service, we headed over to the Donauschwaben clubhouse for complimentary refreshments, coffee, cake and camaraderie. This is a tradition that will continue for generations to come to always remember the plight of our ancestors! Below are a few photo highlights of this event....(photos by Katie Tindall)



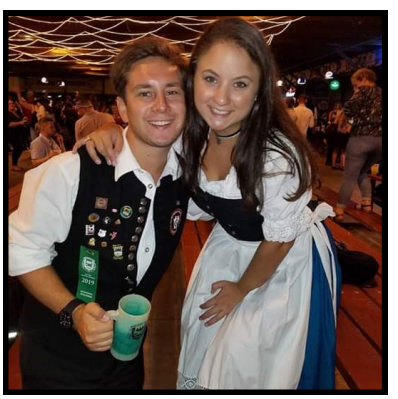
Annual Totengedenkfeier
Annual Memorial Service
Sunday, November 3, 2019;
1 p.m.
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery off Cedar Lane in Hamilton.

We marked the 75th anniversary of the expulsion of Donauschwaben from their ancestral homes through prayer, ritual and song. "Die Vertreibung" as we call it in German caused not just the loss of untold lives but also an entire way of life in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. Make plans to join us next year at the cemetery for what is always a moving and emotional event. Everyone is invited! Contact us for more information or to let us know you can attend. We look forward to seeing you there next. Email DSATrenton@aol.com for further information, or simply respond to this email.



Treffen Pictures I

Treffen Pictures 2



Trenton Treffen 2021

2021 Landestreffen der Donauschwaben September 3rd, 4th and 5th

Sponsored by the clubs of the Verband's Region East and

hosted at the German American Society (gasociety.org) in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Plan now to be a part of this cultural extravaganza!

More information to follow soon.

Our AutoKlub Travels

Terry's Service Center Winter Auto Tips

Inspect operation of wipers and change windshield wipes blades before Winter

Clear obstructions (ice and snow) on windshield and head/tail lights before driving

Slow down in inclement weather

Top off all fluids (wiper washer reservoir, radiator, oil)

Check engine hoses

Use regular headlight setting in fog, not high beams

Go out only if necessary in foul weather and when visibility is good

Check tire pressure monthly in cold weather and for wear condition, replace worn out tires for better traction and wear

Carry ice scraper, car emergency kit (blanket, flashlight, energy bar, etc.) and some cat litter (traction if stuck)

Wash car as needed to reduce salt buildup and its impact on cars paint and frame/body

******

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*** Frau Marlene Novosel & Familie ***
*** Frau Anna Hahn in memory of husband Anton ***
*** Familie Bauer & Penrith in memory of Jacob & Theresa Helleis Bauer, Jacob & Carol Bauer and Frank & Katie Maas Helleis ***
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*** Familie Szmutko in memory of Carl & Eva Frey ***
*** Familie Rosa Kernast ***
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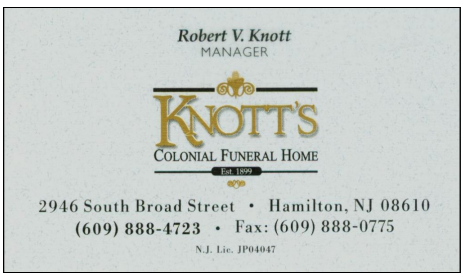
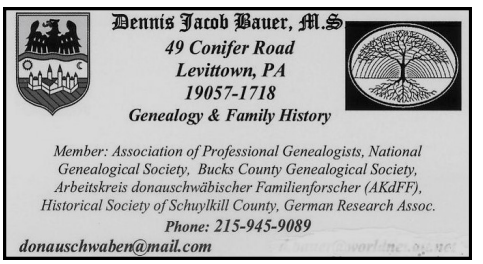
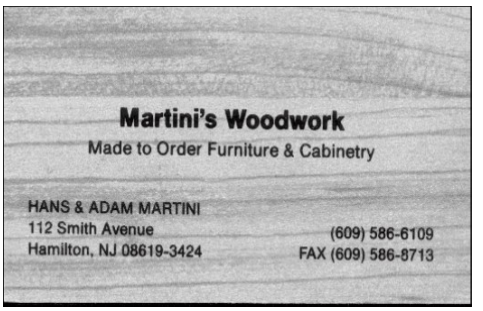
***Katharine E. Purr Newlon ***
Harold Huff in memory of wife Mary Patricia Huff and daughter-in-law Mary Beth Huff
***Adam & Eva Martini ***
Alexander and Elfriede Hepp







Consider advertising your business and sponsoring our Newsletter.
Contact a Club Officer for details.

Additional Newsletter Sponsors:

*** Kathleen Martini & Jacob Hamlescher***
Lisa & Gary Bartmann
Carl Conrad
Robert Knott
Frank Herdt
Philip E. Haines

Vielen Dank!

Club Pictures (Christmas Party)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our annual St. Nikolausfeier was well attended and quite festive yesterday! Beautifully decorated hall and tables by Ron Kernast and Marlene Novosel; a delicious buffet dinner, Christmas Carols both in English and German, led by Luise Martini; poetry and Bible Reading by Christa Pullion, Gabriella Pullion, Katie James, Chrissy Martini made for a wonderful afternoon!

Everyone was delighted to have Frau Eva Martini back reciting a beautiful Christmas poem! Hans Martini did a great job, as always, being the MC of the event! We thank all those who joined us and all those who made it happen! Kim Walter and her kitchen team did an outstanding job, yet again! A number of our members baked Christmas cookies, and we even had the Steinert High School German Honor Society come to the Club on Thursday evening to help with the baking! Our cookie table was amazing (photo below).

A raffle also took place supporting our Scholarship fund....thank you all for your generosity, and thank you Tina Brandecker and dad Stefan, for selling the raffle tickets!

We had record attendance of good little boys and girls who welcomed St. Nick and received goody bags! Krampus was a bit upset because there were no bad children in the audience; although a few of our older members received a lump of coal. Krampus has had his eye on them all year long! This was our last event of 2019! We look forward to welcoming you all again in 2020!

A special thank you to a friend of the Donauschwaben Verein Trenton, Susanne Schrapper, who was so kind to send us beautiful St. Nikolaus napkins all the way from Wiesbaden, Germany. You can see the napkins on the photos below. Our sincere thanks, Susanne! - *Liz Tindall.*

2019 Calendar of Events

Donauschwaben of Trenton

127 Route 156 Hamilton, NJ 08610 609 585 1932 www.trentondonauschwaben.com

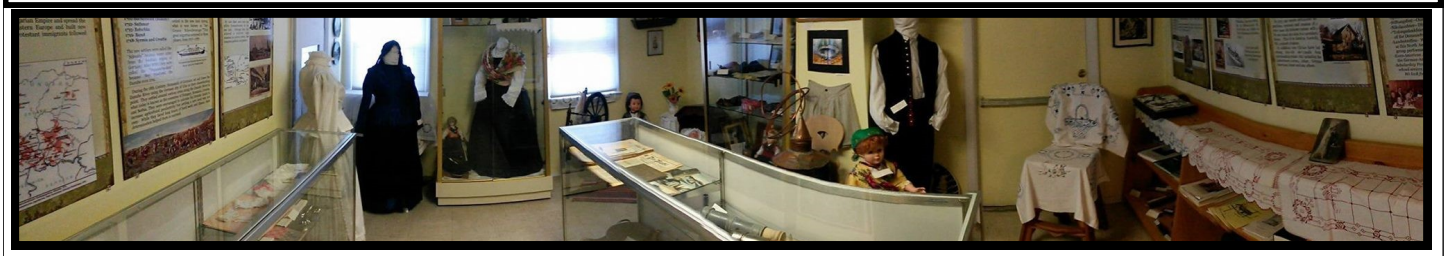
January 13th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Winteressen
January 27th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Jahreshauptversammlung/Annual Meeting
February 10th, Sunday, at 12:30 and 3:00 PM	SCHLACHTFEST!
March 17th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	"Back Home Again" Dinner
April 14th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Osteressen (Easter Dinner)
April 26th, 27th, and 28th	DS Verband Meeting in Chicago, IL
May 5th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Mother's Day Dinner
June 9th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	PIG ROAST
4th of July (4th to the 7th) (Moved to July 27th week-end)	Canoe & Camping Trip
July 13th, Saturday	DS/GAK Car Show
July 21st, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	PIG ROAST
Aug 30th, September 1st and 2nd	DS Treffen in Milwaukee, WI
September 15th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Harvest Festival Dinner
October 13th, Sunday at 1 PM (Moved to 10/20)	Club's 63rd Anniversary
November 3rd, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	Memorial Service
November 17th, Sunday, at 12:30 and 3:00 PM	SCHLACHTFEST!
December 8th, Sunday, at 1:00 PM	St. Nikolausfeier

RESERVATIONS: 609 586 6109 or DSATrenton@AOL.com

For last minute (day-of) reservations: CALL THE CLUB 609-585-1932
(You must speak to JOE or HANS to see if there is room).
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR EVERY EVENT.

Bimonthly Business Meetings first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM starting January.

Scholarships & Culture



Did You Know About Our Museum?
Second Floor of our Clubhouse!

When attending one of our many wonderful dinners, take a moment to stop by the second floor of our Clubhouse to tour our museum. Donations were given by many of our members from the "old country"..... original "Tracht", among other things, and a history board detailing the plight of the Donauschwaben people and the founding of our beloved Club back in 1956 (See photo above).

The Club will celebrate it's **63rd Anniversary** on October 20th at the clubhouse. We hope it will be well attended and enjoyed by all. Please tour the museum, which is updated throughout the year. Many visit the museum during our monthly dinners and are impressed with the items presented.

***

Student Scholarships Presented in June!

Congratulations to the following students:
Jonathan Marte - Hamilton High School West
Elena Kosowski - Steinert High School
Hagen Delakowski - Steinert High School

Each students received $500. They were selected by their teachers for outstanding work in the study of the German language, overall good scholarship, and a high potential for continued success!

This is our Club's **10th year** presenting scholarships to our three local high school deserving students. Over these ten years, our Club has donated over **$20,000** in scholarships. So to all our members who continuously support this program through raffles, car show, donations, etc., we say.....We also enjoyed a little Father's Day program, and introduced two of our scholarship recipients, Jonathan Marte from Hamilton High West, and Elena Kosowski from Steinert High School at our June Pig Roast.

Again the club's AutoKlub raised scholarship funds from their 2019 July Auto Show….A big Vielen Dank goes out to them. For further information about our scholarship program, please contact Liz Tindall.

*****

Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands

Club member **Dennis J. Bauer** was recently appointed to the Donauschwaben Villages Helping Hands Board of Directors (www.dvhh.org) starting April 2020. Make sure you visit this great research site. He also was named Secretary/Treasurer of the Old School Euros Car Club. Congrats!

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2021 TREFFEN TO BE HELD HERE IN TRENTON IN THE SUMMER OF 2021

Our club, the Philadelphia Donauschwaben and the United German-Hungarian Club will host the event at the German-American Society, Yardville, NJ

Club Events for the Fall 2019

2019 FALL EVENTS— DATES & TIMES-Come out and join us!

♦ Club's 63rd Anniversary Dinner–October 20, 1pm.

♦Memorial Service– November 3, 1pm., Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Hamilton, NJ

♦Fall Schlachtfest-November 17, 12:30 & 3pm.

♦ St. Nikolausfrier-December 8, 1pm.

♦ Have A Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please call (609) all meal reservations (advisable, required both for Schlachtfests) or email at *dsatrenton@aol.com*. Chicken is always available as an alternative dish (except at the Schlachtfest). Please let us know ahead.

facebook

PROUD TO BE GERMAN AMERICAN

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Hans Martini, Club Secretary
Eastern Region Dachverband President
Email: dsatrenton@aol.com

www.trentondonauschwaben.com

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 Donauschwaben!

TRENTON DONAUSCHWABEN CLUB COOKBOOK IS HERE

Attention All Cooks/bakers— The cook books have arrived! The book contains over 95 recipes (breakfast, main dishes, appetizers, sides, desserts, etc). A big thanks to all of the many members and friends who contributed their treasured recipes. Also a special thanks to Christa Tindall Pullion & Kim Walter and their helpers for all their hard work putting this book together. Vielen Dank! The cost for this keepsake is just $12 . We have two hundred copies, so get yours before they are sold out. ****