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FROM THE EDITOR

Due to the quarterly nature of this publication, information may change after printing. Please understand that the editor does his best to ensure the accuracy of all information in Der Adler. Please accept his apologies for any mistakes made herein. Also please understand that space is limited. For the latest information on all events please visit the club website or Facebook page.

*—Joe T. Ludwig—
Editor, Der Adler*

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Contact Us At:

www.donauschwaben.com
cincydonau@gmail.com

Follow the Donauschwaben

**DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

I hope by the time you read this newsletter spring has arrived and the 45+ inches of snow that we endured during this winter has disappeared. I would like to thank Adam Hary and his helpers for removing the snow in a timely manner so that all of our club functions could be held.

Since the last newsletter we have held many successful events. The popular Dinner Dance and the Second Annual Beer & Wine tasting were held in February and our Annual Johann Strauss Ball was held during March. In April we were treated to a Spring Concert, the Youth Group held their spring sausage making fundraising sale and we finished the month celebrating Easter at our Member's Easter Party. I would like to THANK every person involved in these events; without your time and efforts none of these events could ever be successful.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events. During the month of May we will hold the First Annual Bridal Expo to help increase our rentals per year. Also in the month of May will be our Annual Dirndl-Trachtenball Ball, Worker Appreciation Dinner, and a Fifth Friday Froth Fest. This year we will hold Schwabenfest in June along with the Father's Day Gulasch Dinner. Prior to the dinner the Youth Group will be holding their Golf Ball Drop fundraiser.

Also, don't forget to support our fellow German Organizations. Germania is hosting their Maifest in May and Kolping is hosting their Schutzenfest in July.

During the next couple of months, you will see a lot of updates to our facilities in preparation for the Dachverband Meeting in April 2015. As the weather gets warmer, we plan to complete the shelter project that we started last year and add two additional decorative lights along the driveway. We will also paint the outside of the buildings and groom the grounds.

In order to get these projects finished we need volunteers to help us out. On the third Saturday of each month we host a “work day”. On these days we start around 9:00 a.m. and finish around one or two. You don't need to sign up, just show up and work until you need to leave. Don't worry about missing lunch; Helen never lets us go hungry. Please be generous with your time and help out.

In closing, I encourage each and every member to attend our monthly meeting held on the fourth Friday of each month. These meetings are your opportunity to meet new members, introduce new ideas, ask questions, voice your opinion on projects being considered, and exercise your right as a full member to vote.

Enjoy the spring weather and I hope to see you around the club!

*Bob Decher
Cincinnati Donauschwaben President*

In the News

EHRENPLATZ

Orders are being taken until June 1 for brick and stone placements in the Ehrenplatz. They will be installed by Donauschwaben Day in August. This is a great way to remember loved ones and to support our Verein. For more information, please call Linda Igel at 741-4228.

LABOR DAY UPDATE

The 2014 Labor Day Trip will be August 30, 31 and September 1 at the Donauschwaben club in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We plan to leave early on Saturday, August 30 and return on Monday, September 1, sometime in the evening.

The Youth Group will participate in the competition on Sunday. We will be staying at Brookfield Suites All rooms are non-smoking and the rate is \$99 per night plus tax. As in the past, youth group members will share a room with 3-4 youth group members per room. Total room costs for a youth group member is typically about \$50-\$60 for the weekend.

Please contact Lori Prugel-Decher as soon as possible at 245-9450 or lpd@fuse.net to see if rooms are still available.

MONTHLY WORK DAYS

Every third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. we will be hosting our monthly work days. There are many projects that need to be done and we need all the help we can get. Please consider coming out for a few hours to support and improve your Verein. For more information please contact:

Adam Hary
Home: 923-4548
Cell: 604-3816
Email: hary@fuse.net

DINNER DANCE REVIEW

The Dinner Dance committee would like to thank everyone who attended the 2014 Dinner Dance last February. We served approximately 175 dinners and everyone seemed to enjoy dinner, the open wine bar, our "Arsch and Kopf" split-the-pot bead game, and music by The Rheingold Band.



Please mark your calendar for next year's Annual Dinner Dance which will be held on Saturday February 7, 2015. Note that we're planning next year's event on the first Saturday in February instead of the typical second Saturday.

Another new introduction for next year will be our partnership with a local charity. Not only will our guests have a great time, but they will be able to feel good about helping a great cause. Stay tuned for more announcements and more information about next year's charity partnership. We look forward to seeing you again in 2015!

YOUTH GROUP GOLF BALL DROP

The Youth Group is once again hosting a Golf Ball Drop Raffle. Over the next couple of months, they will be selling tickets for \$5 each. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group's travel fund which includes their 2015 trip to LA! Thank you for supporting the Youth Group! The Golf Ball Drop will take place on June 22.

Prizes awarded will be:
CLOSEST BALL: \$500
FARTHEST BALL: \$300
RANDOM BALL: \$200



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Upcoming Events

DONAUSCHWABEN BRIDAL EXPO

In order to help expand our reception business, we will be hosting the first ever Bridal Expo on Sunday, May 4. Potential customers are invited to come tour our wonderful facilities designed to handle wedding receptions as small as 75 or as large as 400 people. Other participating vendors will include photographers, caterers, limousines and party bus companies, event planners etc.

Entry fee is \$10 and includes soft drinks and appetizers.

As always volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. If you know someone who is getting married, help us spread the word, share our event on Facebook and Twitter and visit our receptions website.

Contact our event chairperson, Candy Shannon, at cshannon1971@yahoo.com if you have questions or would like to help out!

FATHER'S DAY GULASCH DINNER

On Sunday, June 22, come out to the Donauschwaben Society and enjoy classic Gulasch the way it was made in the old country. Gulasch dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. Come early to enjoy the Kleine & Mittle Kindergruppen dance at 4:30.

Adults are \$6, children (12 and under) are \$4. A cash bar will be available.

For reservations, call Kathi Prugel at 542-0516. Dinner reservations are required by June 14.



DIRNDL-TRACHTEN BALL

Celebrate culture and tradition with the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Trachten Group.

With dance performances by our Trachten Group and other members of the society's dance groups, this is an event that celebrates our past and future. Music throughout the night will be provided by The Rheingold Band.

Reservations can be made via email to dtullius@fuse.net or via phone at 385-2098. Select option 3 on the voice mail option. Dinner reservations need to be made no later than May 7 and are required for dinner.

Guests are invited to wear Tracht or German costume to add to the festive atmosphere.

Dinner: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Dance follows from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Featuring Oktoberfest roasted chicken, coffee, dessert and cash bar.

Dinner and dance: \$17 per person
Dance only: \$8

FUCHS TOURNAMENT

The 2014 Fuchs tournament will be held at the Father's Day Gulasch Dinner on Sunday, June 22. Please be there by 1 p.m. to register. Games start promptly at 1:30 p.m.

To play, you'll need \$5 in change (\$2 entry fee, \$3 to use for playing). Two rounds of games are played to determine the table winners (Tischmeisters), who then play a fresh round to determine Fuchsmeister. Prizes are awarded to the Tischmeisters and Fuchsmeister. All participants keep their winnings.

If you don't know how to play or are new to the game, come on out anyway to learn strategies from the participants.

For more information please contact Karl at karl8879@fuse.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For tickets/reservations to upcoming events, call our reservation line at 385-2098, option 3

Bridal Expo
Sunday, May 4
12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Stein Verein
Friday, May 9
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Dirndl/Trachten Ball*
Saturday, May 10
6:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Worker Appreciation Dinner
Sunday, May 18
Details coming soon

Fifth Friday Froth Fest
Friday, May 30
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Schwabenfest
Friday, June 13
6:00 p.m. to midnight
Saturday, June 14
1:00 p.m. to midnight

Gulasch Dinner*
Sunday, June 22
1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Golf Ball Drop
Sunday, June 22
3:00 p.m.

Stein Verein
Friday, July 11
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Reservations are required or recommended*

DER ADLER INFO

To submit information to the newsletter, please contact:

Joe T. Ludwig
ludwigjt89@gmail.com

Spring 2014 issue deadline:
June 27, 2014

Upcoming Events

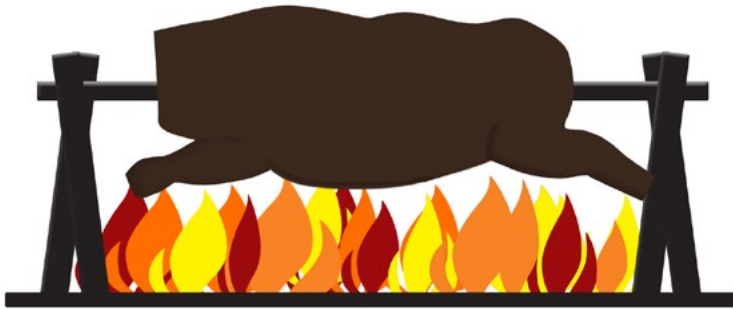
SCHWABENFEST COMING JUNE 13 AND 14

The 4th Annual Schwabenfest has been moved to the second weekend in June this year (Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14). Once again we will be hosting the traveling Paulaner Biergarten.

This festival will include live entertainment by the our dancers, in addition to live music provided by Saffire Express (Friday night), Squeeze Play (Saturday afternoon) and the Johnny Wagner Band (Saturday Evening).

An Ox dinner will be served on Saturday. Other food options will include homemade Schwaben sausage dinners, pretzel sandwiches with ham or turkey and more. Beer selections will include Munich's own Paulaner, the new house beer "Schwaben Lager" and other local beers.

As you can probably imagine, in order to make Schwabenfest a success, we will need help from the membership. Please contact Nick Krummen or Roric Schneider at schwabenfest@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out at this festival. We will send out more information via email as the event gets closer.



Schwabensfest
Schwabensfest logo designed by Kristen Wilzbach

NEW HOUSE BEER TO BE RELEASED IN MAY

We are pleased to announce the debut of "Schwaben Lager", our new house beer brewed by Cincinnati's own Rivertown Brewing Company. The Schwaben Lager is a recreation of what American Lagers originally were as made by our German ancestors. The beer accommodates the German Purity law of 1516 using only barley, hops, yeast, & water and no adjuncts. The hops are imported from Germany, giving it a nice authentic flavor.

Those who enjoy Light Pilsners, German Lagers, and local craft beers will enjoy our new seclction. Schwaben Lager will be sold exclusively by the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society starting at the beginning of May. It will only be available on draft and in growlers.

Join us at our Fifth Friday Froth Fest on Friday, May 30 for the official keg tapping of our house beer. More details coming soon.



Pictures coutesty of Nick Krummen and Rivertown Brewery.

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The German Community

MAITANZ AT GERMANIA

On Saturday, May 3 celebrate the kickoff of Germania's Maifest at the 4th Annual Germania Maitanz. This event is open to the public, so invite friends and family. Food will be provided by Germania member Rob Hammann and crew. Entertainment will be provided by Gerhard Albinus.

Dinner (served at 7 p.m.) includes grilled nurnberger bratwurst, spiral baked ham, chicken in white wine sauce, mashed potato bar with toppings and more.

Dinner and dance is \$15 per adult, \$8 per child (10 and under), dance only - \$8 per adult, children 10 and under are free. Reservations must be made by Sunday, April 27.

GERMAN DAY WEEKEND

Findlay Market welcomes the opening ceremonies of German Day Weekend on Saturday, May 31, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Come out and attend the brief program, featuring representatives of area German-American societies, local dignitaries as well as a presentation about the German heritage of the market. Watch the parade of society members in traditional dress, through the market square, carrying colorful German flags.

The OTR Biergarten will be open, serving Christian Moerlein products!

SCHUTZENFEST AT KOLPING

On July 18, 19 and 20 come out to the Catholic Kolping Society's Annual Schutzenfest! All profits from the festival benefit the social, sports and cultural sports exchanges, and a myriad of charitable and philanthropic interests of the Catholic Kolping Society.

MAIFEST AT GERMANIA

On May 16, 17 and 18, come celebrate spring Germania Style! This three-day festival includes delicious food and beverages, the Maikönigen crowning, great music, flower market, crafters, rides and games for the whole family. Admission is \$2, children 12 and under are free. Military personnel with current ID have free admission all weekend.

The opening ceremonies parade starts Saturday, May 17 at 4:30.

Come celebrate Germania's 50th anniversary on Sunday, May 18 and visit the Porsche car show.

THE GERMAN COMMUNITY

Maitanz

Germania Society

Saturday, May 3

Dinner: 6:30, Dance 7:00

For more info, contact Leslie at (513)-378-2706

Maifest

Germania Society

May 16, 17, 18,

Various Times

Admission \$2

German Day Weekend

Findlay Market

Saturday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.

German Day Mass

Old St. Mary's Church

Sunday, June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Schutzenfest

Kolping Society

July 18, July 19, July 20

Various Times

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44TH ANNUAL JOHANN STRAUSS BALL

Celebrating the Austrian Waltz King

By: Joe T. Ludwig

Since 1815 the Austrian city of Vienna has been known for hosting more than 200 balls per year in their luxurious concert and opera halls. Thousands of people, usually of the upper class, attended these prestigious events each year wearing long ball gowns or black tuxes with tails.

Throughout the night they would dance or listen to the orchestra play songs by famous composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauss II.

It is this almost 200-year-old Austrian tradition that Cincinnati Donauschwaben's Annual Johann Strauss Ball is based on.

AN AUSTRIAN LEGACY

Johann Strauss was born into a musical family.

He became a musician against his father's

wishes and was even composing music by the time he was six years old. Throughout his life, he composed over 400 waltzes, polkas and other types of dance music as well as several operettas and a ballet. He was largely responsible for the popularity of the waltz in Vienna during the 19th Century, so much so that he was given the nickname the "Waltz King".

Strauss' most popular waltzes were designed to be listened to and enjoyed in a concert hall. However, quite often small portions of these concert waltzes have been extracted from the music and were popularized as dance waltzes.

For this reason, the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society decided to dedicate an entire evening a year to celebrate his work.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The first Johann Strauss Ball took place in 1971.

In the early years, Strauss Ball was held at the Kolping Society, then it moved to the Cheviot Field House and finally to the Donauschwaben Hall where it has been ever since. Leni Jung was the original Youth Group leader until 1985 and taught the Strauss Ball Dancers until Debi Tullius and Lori Decher took over in 1987.

This year, 25 couples—under the direction of Debi and Lori—filled the society's dance hall. The young ladies wore eloquent, pastel-colored ball gowns with long white gloves while the young men wore black-tailed tuxedos.

Throughout their 30 minute show they performed seven dances. They marched into the hall to the cheerful "Gypsy Barren", they promenaded to the charming melody of the "Annen Polka", and they took the audience to the Erzherzog Rainer, Vienna's main skating rink in the city park, as they danced to

“Wine, Women, & Song” or (as the Youth Group nicknamed it “The Skaters Waltz”). They also performed the crowd-pleasing “Blue Danube”, “Vienna Blood” and “Nordsee Builder”.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society former youth group members were invited to come back and be a part of the event.

“The Youth Group were honored to invite back former performers for the 60th anniversary,” said Debi Tullius, co-lead of the Cincinnati Youth Group. “They brought so much more character and spirit to our performance this year. We were happy to have them.”

CELEBRATING THE YOUTH

The Strauss Ball has always been a popular dance that celebrated the youth. In the late 70’s, crowds of over 500 people attended the event. The dance brings parents, grandparents and the community to the Donauschwaben Hall who otherwise would not take the opportunity or time to support the club and see what it has to offer their young members.

What makes this event so popular is the involvement of the youth, says Cathy Weissmann who has been the committee chair, along with her late husband John Weissmann, for the last 41 years.

“The involvement of these young kids



is what I think makes this dance so special,” Cathy Weissmann said. “The dancer’s long ball gowns, tuxedos and flowers add a special décor that is difficult to find anywhere else in Cincinnati.”

It helps mold our young people into well-rounded, cultured individuals and teaches them to appreciate not only the Schwaben Culture but also the Austrian and German cultures as well. It makes them appreciate the value and reward of hard work. That hard work and pride that is put forth for weeks is clearly evident every year when they perform, says Cathy.

Plenty of hard work and effort is put into the Strauss Ball each year by the committee, the dancers, the instructors, and the parents who drive them to practice every Tuesday night. Every year, the youth group starts to practice in mid-January and work through February and into March, almost nine weeks of rehearsals.

But despite being one of the Donauschwaben’s most popular dances, Strauss Ball has had some challenging years. In the early 90’s attendance started going down for various reasons. In 1993, for example, attendance was unusually low because of the weather. In 2008, the weather was so bad that they had to cancel and reschedule the dance.

“I will never forget the Johann Strauss Ball in 1979 when Coke was on strike,” Cathy laughed. “The dance



committee had to break through the picket line in a pickup truck to purchase all the soft drinks for the evening, since they would not deliver.”

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

As the 44th Annual Johann Strauss Ball came and went, Cathy is feeling very optimistic about the future.

Some of the most special Strauss Balls that Cathy remembers from the last 44 years were those that her son, daughter and their spouses performed in.

“I remember watching Lisa and John [Hansi] perform with Mike and Jill almost 20 years ago,” Cathy reminisced. “And just this past year my granddaughters, Megan and Kelly, participated. It won’t be too long before [my other grandchildren], Brandon, Abby, and Allie join too. It is the same situation in other families as well.”

“As long as we continue the tradition, then I think this dance will continue for a long time. I look forward to it.”

Strauss Ball pictures courtesy of Annette Suer. Special thanks to Cathy Weissmann for taking the time to talk to me and sending me information about Strauss Ball.

This story is dedicated to the memory of Mr. John Weissmann whose favorite Donauschwaben function was our Johann Strauss Ball.



WHO ARE THE DONAUSCHWABEN?

A Brief History

By: Richard Elder, Karl Themare & Joe T. Ludwig

The Donauschwaben people have a very long history that dates back to the 15th and 16th Century. During this time the powerful Ottoman Empire conquered the Balkan State, most of Hungary and the City of Vienna. The Empire controlled southern Europe for more than 150 years and not only ravaged the land but also scattered the people. Some areas even lost all traces of civilization.

With the help of Prince Eugen, the General of the Austrian Emperor, the Turks of the Otto Empire were finally defeated. It was Prince Eugen's job to colonize the land again and to make it fruitful. Emperor Charles VI, the Empress Maria Theresa, and Emperor Joseph II encouraged settlers, farmers and craftsmen for the most part, from west German lands, Luxemburg, Alsace Lorraine, etc. to settle the ravaged land.

These settlers traveled on barges eastward on the Danube River to reach their new home. They settled on the potentially fertile land along the Danube and some of its tributaries. These settlers were later named the Danube Swabians, or as we know them now, Donauschwaben.

Many of the settlers never saw the fruits of their labors because of famine and

plague that swept through their ranks. The pioneer spirit prevailed, however, and they not only reestablished a civilization but in the span of 200 years they made this area one of the most fruitful in southeastern Europe. It was even referred to as the "breadbasket of Europe."

They were extremely proud of their German language and cultural heritage and lived in close-knit settlements. The number of settlers increased to such an extent that land became scarce thus causing many to seek a new life in America at the end of the 19th century. At the conclusion of World War I when the Austro-Hungarian monarchy was dissolved and this area was divided up between Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia, even more came to America.

At the end of World War II, the Danube Swabians who settled in Yugoslavia were forced into Tito's concentration camps. About 250,000 were annihilated. Furthermore, 100,000 from Romania and Hungary were sent to Russia for forced labor, and were forcefully displaced to the Baragan steppes of Romania, where many thousands perished. The largest part of the surviving Danube Swabians were forced to flee or were expelled from their homeland as a result of the advancing communism.

Most of them sought refuge in the already overcrowded countries of Germany and Austria, where some live to this day.

To many, the liberal immigration laws of the United States gave renewed hope and the opportunity to start anew as their forefathers had done again and again. A large number of the Danube Swabian people settled in Ohio, especially in the areas of Cleveland, Akron, Mansfield, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Youngstown.



Groups & Committees

KLEINE KINDERGRUPPE

Meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact:
Erin Sucher: 741-4986
Patty Butterfield: 863-1243

MIDDLE GROUP

Meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact:
Rose Abt: 367-4887
Heidi Kurzhals: 680-5303
Lauren Hunt: lauren.marie@fuse.net

YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. For more information, please contact:
Debi Tullius: 522-3849
Lori Prugel-Decher: 245-9450

SCHUHPLATTLER

Meets every Monday night at 7:15 p.m. For more information, please contact:
Lori Prugel-Decher: 245-9450

TRACHTENGRUPPE

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please contact: Kathi Weissmann: 467-6120

FRAUENGRUPPE

Meets 4th Friday of every month at 8:00 p.m. For more information, please contact:
Helen Hary: 923-4548

SENIORS GROUP

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact:
Hans Bucher: 861-6450

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like the Cincinnati Donauschwaben on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

CATERING COMMITTEE

Any member interested in helping with catering should contact:
Helen Hary: 923-4548
Lori Prugel-Decher: 245-9450

DER ADLER

The quarterly newsletter for the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society. For all inquiries and suggestions contact:
Joe T. Ludwig: ludwigjt89@gmail.com

CULTURE COMMITTEE

Please consider donating cultural materials to the committee.
Richard Elder: 761-4090
Karl Themare, Jr.: 451-1483

CLUB WEBSITE

For all the latest information about upcoming events, please visit our website at www.cincydonau.com

NEED A PLACE TO CELEBRATE?



The Donauschwaben Society offers two halls & an outdoor pavilion for wedding ceremonies, receptions, anniversary parties, and other events!

Contact Mike at 513-385-2098 or mkurzhals@fuse.net for more information.

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