

Der Adler

Summer 2014 | Volume X, Issue III

Digital Edition



Inside:

**Celebrating 60 Years:
Defining Who We Are**

**4th Annual
Schwabensfest**

**News, Events
& More**

Contents

From the President.....[3](#)

In the News.....[4](#)

Upcoming Events.....[6](#)

The German Community.....[7](#)

Celebrating 60 Years.....[8](#)

4th Annual Schwabenfest.....[10](#)

Groups & Committees.....[12](#)



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From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you and your families are having an enjoyable summer so far.

We have had a busy couple of months at the Donauschwaben Society. Our Bridal Expo was held in May and generated some interest in our Rental business. The Bridal Committee is already planning next year's event which is tentatively scheduled for March 2015. Also in May we had the Dirndl-Trachten Ball, our worker's appreciation dinner, and a Fifth Friday Froth Fest, where we officially tapped our new house beer, Schwaben Lager. The 4th Annual Schwabenfest was held in June and we couldn't have asked for more perfect weather. There were good-sized crowds on both Friday and Saturday and the roasted OX was very well-received. Also in June, we held our annual Goulash Dinner, Fuchs Tournament, and the Youth Group Golf Ball Drop.

If you didn't already know, 2014 marks our Club's 60th anniversary! Over 60 years ago, our founding members lost everything as a result of World War II. It took a lot of hard work and dedication for them to build and grow the Club into what we have today. We not only owe our gratitude to the founding members of the Club but we also have an obligation to preserve the Donauschwaben culture for our future generations to experience and enjoy. Of course, none of our events could be possible without the full support of our volunteers and the participation of our members; without you, our Club would not have made it 60 years. THANK YOU!

Donauschwaben Day, which will be held on August 10, has always been considered as a special day where we honor our Donauschwaben ancestors. This year, however, is going to be extra special because we are hosting 22 guests from the Donaudeutsche Trachtengruppe of Speyer, Germany. As our guests, they will perform two half-hour performances for us. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them and making their time here in Cincinnati enjoyable.

Remember that we have a work day on the third Saturday of every month. There is plenty of work to be done around the Club during the summer and fall while the weather is still nice. The outside of the Club requires painting and the additional driveway lights need to be installed. Adam has these projects on his list but it takes people to accomplish the task. I encourage each of you to give a few hours of your time to help. There is always food and cold beer available!

We have many more events to come in the months ahead, all of which are highlighted in this newsletter. Don't forget to support the German Community, especially our friends at Germania and Kolping.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer wherever your travels might take you. Cheers to our 60th Anniversary and to the future of our Club!

Sincerely,

Bob Decher

Bob Decher

Cincinnati Donauschwaben President

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*



In the News

Ladies' Auxiliary Cookbook

The Donauschwaben Ladies Auxiliary's newest cook book is now available for sale. It is \$10.00 to pick up at the club or shipped to you for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 per copy after that. Please contact Helen Hary at hary@fuse.net for more information.

Acknowledging Our Members

Donauschwaben Day is also the day that we promote Associate Members to Full Members. If you know of an Associate Member with 24 consecutive months of membership and has worked toward the betterment of the Club please let Bob Decher or any Board Member know ASAP so that they may consider them for Full Membership.

Speyer Group

Speyer arrives in Cincinnati from St. Louis on Saturday, August 9 in the late afternoon and will depart for Detroit on Monday, August 11 in the morning. The group has 21 people and they will need a place to stay for the weekend. The weekend plans are not finalized but host families will need to take their guests home on Saturday and Sunday nights to sleep, possibly offer to do a load or two of laundry for them, feed them breakfast on Sunday and Monday morning and bring them to club on Sunday and Monday morning. Please contact Debi Tullius or Lori Decher if you are interested in being a host.

13th Annual Fuchs Tournament

The 13th Annual Fuchs Tournament was held on June 22 in conjunction with the Father's Day Goulash Dinner. Included among the 12 participants were two ladies and two graduates of the recent Fuchs classes.

Winners of the qualifying rounds (Tischmeisters) were Nick Feisthammel, Adam Hary and Philip Pamer (last year's Fuchsmeister). After a spirited round of 16 games, the players were separated by only \$0.50, with Adam Hary emerging as the winner. Congratulations, Adam, on your first title.

The Culture Committee would like to thank all of the participants for helping to keep this Schwaben-unique card game alive and vibrant. A special thanks also goes to the Goulash Dinner Committee for sponsoring a free dinner for the winner.



Golf Ball Drop Update

The Golf Ball Drop was held on June 23 before the Goulash Dinner. The Cincinnati Fire Department provided us with one of their aerial ladder trucks. Congratulations to Candy Shannon, Heidi Kurzhals, and Kelly Igel, who won first, second and third place, respectively.

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets to support this fundraising event. The Youth Group raised \$1,310 to help offset traveling costs, including the upcoming Labor Day Trip to Milwaukee. The 4th Annual Golf Ball Drop will be held on June 28, 2015 at the Goulash Dinner. Tickets will go on sale at Oktoberfest.



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In The News

Der Adler Deadline Reminder

The deadline for the Fall edition of Der Adler will be **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**. Please send all information about upcoming Schwaben events, German community events etc. to Joe T. Ludwig at ludwigjt89@gmail.com. Joe will need information about our Weinlesetanz, Member's Christmas Party, New Year's Eve Dance. **Please do what you can to meet this deadline.** The printer needs at least 1 week to print the newsletters and it will save the editor a lot of time if he doesn't have to hunt down information.

Come Out and Bake Cakes

On **Sunday, September 7** and **Sunday, September 21**, we will be baking our famous 8-layer Dobosh and our wonderful Walnut Torte for Oktoberfest. We need as many hands as possible to help to make this another successful year. Pick your favorite spot-whether it's icing cakes or whipping the egg whites. Everyone is WELCOME – experienced or beginner.

Come any time after 10 a.m. and we'll have a great time, compare recipes and talk (and talk and talk...). If you have any questions please contact Linda Igel at 513-741-4228



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Donauschwaben Receptions & Events

The Club's rental business is now on Facebook! With your support, a Facebook presence will help get the word out about what we have to offer, help us increase traffic to our receptions website, spread the word about our non-cultured events (e.g. Bridal Expo) and ultimately increase our rentals in the future.

Please help us spread the word about our new Facebook page by inviting friends/family and by liking and sharing our posts. If you are interested in helping to provide engaging Facebook content, please contact Joe T. Ludwig at ludwigjt89@gmail.com.



Schwaben Sausage Fundraiser

The Donauschwaben Youth Group is once again preparing homemade sausage. They will be selling three varieties: regular, spicy, and smoked sausage. Original flavor and spicy flavor is \$6 per pound while smoked versions of both flavors are available for \$7 per pound.

To order, download the Sausage Order Form Oktober 2014 on the club website and mail it in to the address listed or email it to Lori Decher at lpd@fuse.net.

There is no guarantee that orders placed after OKTOBER 6 will be honored. Sausage pick-up will be at the Donauschwaben Society on Oktober 26 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Proceeds from this event will help offset the group's upcoming travel costs—including the costs of the group's trip to Los Angeles in 2015.

Upcoming Events

60th Annual Schwaben Day

Come join us for the "birthday" celebration of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben as we pay special tribute to the founding of our club and the members who made it possible.

Take advantage of the free admission and enjoy performances by our various club dance groups, music by the Vereinmusikanten, and of course, the opening parade. Help us congratulate members who have distinguished themselves over the past year(s) and those who will receive special awards.

22nd Annual Oktoberfest

The 22nd Annual Donauschwaben Oktoberfest will be held on October 3, 4 and 5 and once again we will need help from the membership. As we get closer to the event, keep a look out for email communications about volunteer opportunities. Success will only happen when we all work together as a team.

There will be a Oktoberfest planning meeting on July 30 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If anyone has any questions, comments or new ideas contact Hansi at 615-2665 (cell) or at jhansw@fuse.net.

Kirchweih Mass at Old St. Mary's Church

Our annual Kirchweih Mass will take place at Old St. Mary's 11 a.m. German Mass in Over-the-Rhine on Sunday Oktober 12. During the homily the priest will bless the Rosemary Bush which will then be auctioned off at our Kirchweih Dance.

Kirchweih is one of the oldest traditions of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society and everyone is encouraged to attend and wear their traditional German costumes to mass.

Kirchweih Dance

On Saturday, Oktober 18 come continue our Kirchweih celebration. The highlight of this event is, of course, the reciting of the Kirchweih poem and then the auctioning of the blessed rosemary bush, which symbolizes love and prosperity.

Members (traditionally men) will bid against one another in an attempt to win the beautiful rosemary for their wife, sweetheart, fiancée, or even future in-laws. When the raffle ends the entire club will wish the winning couple good luck with dancing and drinking.

Music entertainment will be provided by the Hank Haller Band. Admission is \$8 per person. For reservations call the reservation line at 513-385-2098 and select option 3.

Monthly Work Days

Come out every third Saturday of the month to help out at 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 at 923-4548 (home) or at hary@fuse.net.

Oktoberfest Setup

We will begin setup for Oktoberfest on Sunday, September 28th at 9 a.m. Setup will continue throughout the week starting at 5:00 p.m. All help is appreciated.

6th Annual Car Show

The 6th Annual Car Show will again take place Sunday Oktober 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the last day of our Oktoberfest.

If you or anyone that you know would like to enter their car into the show, please contact Hansi.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Stein Verein

Friday, August 8
6 to 10 p.m.

Schwaben Day

Sunday, August 10
2 to 7 p.m.

Fifth Friday Froth Fest

Friday, August 29
6 to 10 p.m.

***Labor Day Trip**

August 30 to September 2

Stein Verein

Friday, September 12
6 to 10 p.m.

Oktoberfest Setup

Week Before Oktoberfest
Various Times

22nd Annual Oktoberfest

Oktober 3, 4, 5
Various Times

6th Annual Car Show

Sunday, Oktober 5
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stein Verein

Friday, Oktober 10
6 to 10 p.m.

***Kirchweih Mass**

Sunday, Oktober 12
11 a.m.

Kirchweih Dance

Saturday, Oktober 18
7 to 11 p.m.

Fifth Friday Froth Fest

Friday, Oktober 31
6 to 10 p.m.

DER ADLER INFO

To submit information to the newsletter, please contact:

Joe T. Ludwig

ludwigjt89@gmail.com

Fall 2014 issue deadline:

September 26, 2014

The German Community

Germania Oktoberfest

Come out to Germania's 43rd Annual Oktoberfest on August 22, 23 and 24. The Donauschwaben Dancers will perform on Sunday, August 25 from 5 to 6 p.m



Tug-of-War Competition

Come out and support our Tug-of-War team at the Germania Oktoberfest Tug-of-War Competition on Sunday, August 25 from 2:30 to 4:40 p.m.



Downtown Zinzinnati Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati, the largest Oktoberfest celebration in the country, is held along Fifth Street in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio and showcases the rich German heritage of Southwest Ohio, as well as tasty samples of German-style music, food and beer. First held in 1976, the event has grown to be America's largest Oktoberfest with more than 500,000 people attending each year.

As the event gets closer, check your emails for information about where and when the Donauschwaben Dance groups will perform.

Old St. Mary Church Update

After several years of fundraising, the organ at Old St. Mary's Church is now fully restored. If you haven't been to Old St. Mary's Church in Over-the-Rhine lately, feel free to stop by. The German Mass starts at 11 a.m. every Sunday. The full sound of the organ will be an excellent addition to our Kirchweih Mass on Oktober 12. Thank you to everyone who donated to the organ restoration fund!



THE GERMAN COMMUNITY

**Germania Oktoberfest
Germania Society**
August 22, 23, 24
Various Times

**Tug-of-War Competition
Germania Society**
Sunday, August 24
3 p.m.

**German Heritage Night
Great American Ball Park**
Saturday, September 6
4:10 p.m.

**Vandalia Sister Cities
Oktoberfest**
September 6, 7, & 8
Various Times

**Oktoberfest Zinzinnati
Downtown Cincinnati**
September 19, 20, 21
Various Times

**St. Jude Oktoberfest
St. Jude Bridgetown**
September 26, 27, 28
Various Times

Mustard Club Meetings
Mecklenburg Gardens
2nd Saturday, Monthly
11:00 a.m.

DONASCHWABEN RECEPTIONS & EVENTS

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 mkurzhsals@fuse.net for more information.



Celebrating 60 Years of Donauschwaben Culture

Defining Who We Are

By: Joe T. Ludwig

The Donauschwaben House at 4290 Dry Ridge Road has represented many things over the years.

To the average Colerain resident, for example, it is synonymous to a German fest hall that hosts many events. To many brides and grooms, it is where they celebrated their first dance as a married couple together. To the original members of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben, it represents their homeland they were forced to leave behind. It represents overcoming years of hardship, pain and eventually enduring success and happiness. But, most of all, it represents something that could not be taken from them: the very essence of who they are.

60 years ago, in 1954, the original members of our organization were victims of a war that they had nothing to do with. Their story is not told in history books; it isn't taught in schools. But it is a story that survives through each and every member of the club.

COMING TO AMERICA

The "Donauschwaben" or "Danube Schwabians" were a group of people who lived in the southern region of Germany, (Swabia) and sailed down the Danube River to settle the fertile swamp land. They created their own towns in Austria-Hungary—present day Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and

Hungary—and made a better life for themselves and their families.

After the First World War, when the borders changed, a lot of the citizens in Central Europe were stripped of their nationality. But despite this, life went on for the small Donauschwaben towns. When World War II broke out in Europe, school for the children became secondary; air raids eventually became second nature. Near the end of the war, the Americans and the English attacked from the west and the Russians attacked from the east. As the Russians got closer and closer, most of the people in the Donauschwaben towns decided to leave their homes and flee to Austria and Germany.



They left with what supplies they could carry plus the clothes on their back. And just like that they were homeless; and scared. Sometimes they were shot at and a lot of them nearly starved.

In the years after the war, there were a lot of displaced people in Austria and Germany. Eventually there were too many people and nowhere for them to go, so the government built barracks and forced them into refugee camps. When they were released from these camps, it was very difficult for them to find work because they were considered “outsiders”.

“WE DON’T HAVE TO BE AFRAID ANYMORE”

After going through such horrific experiences, some people might give up on life and become bitter. But not the Donauschwaben immigrants.

“I was amazed by what I perceived as a lack of bitterness,” said Kevin Wilzbach, who was heavily involved with the interview process for “Success, Loss and Rebirth: The Story of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben”, a DVD documentary that was created for the organization’s 50th anniversary in 2004. “Of course, they are still upset

and frustrated their property was confiscated and that reparations have been non-existent but they never let pain or bitterness define who they are.”

At first, life in America was difficult. They did not have any money or possessions; they did not know the language or understand the customs. They would constantly get off at the wrong bus stop and get lost in the city and pick up the wrong items at the store. But they were determined to make it work because living in America meant that they were free, that they didn’t have to be afraid anymore. Before long, these “poor” immigrants all had jobs, owned a house, and eventually had very successful careers.

“Most of them [the Donauschwaben] are very proud of what they’ve accomplished in the United States,” Kevin said. “Even though they lost everything, they did not give up.”

DEFINING WHO WE ARE

There were already a fair amount of German immigrants who called Cincinnati home before the original Donauschwaben arrived. In the early years, the Donauschwaben went to other club’s events. There were several

reasons why they decided to create their own club. They didn’t feel a sense of belonging and unity between them and the old immigrants and they felt it was important to pass the Donauschwaben culture to the next generation. But ultimately, it was the youth’s desire to socialize with each other, play soccer and participate in traditional dances that led to the creation of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society.

Today, 60 years later, the youth continue to play an important role in the organization. The present day Kleine Kinder Group has members who are third generation Donauschwaben-American. The Youth Group is over 30 members strong. They have been over to see the homeland three times in the last 15 years and they are already planning their next trip.

“We always did a good job of involving the young people in the club,” said Josef Ludwig, former president of the Donauschwaben Society and one of the original members. “They are the lifeline of our organization. As long we continue to involve them, then the Donauschwaben culture—and our story—will survive for many years, even after we are gone.”



Club members Joe “Sepp” Abt and Scott Lowry roasting the ox for the 4th Annual Schwabenfest

The 4th Annual Schwabenfest

A Bavarian Paradise

On Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14 the Cincinnati Donauschwaben hosted the traveling Paulaner Biergarten and the 4th Annual Schwabenfest. The festival included live entertainment by the Donauschwaben Dancers, the return of the Stein Holding Contest, in addition to live music.

Schwabenfest, like all of our events, would not have been possible without the contributions of our members and volunteers. While results are not final, the consensus is that we greatly increased our revenue and profit in 2014!

If you did not attend Schwabenfest, you missed great food, great entertainment, and absolutely perfect weather! This year’s festival saw the return of Paulaner’s München-style Biergarten – including authentic Biergarten tables, benches, decorations, and glass liter steins courtesy of Paulaner USA. Keeping with this theme, nine different types of Paulaner and Hacker-Pschorr Bier were offered, as well as authentic Oktoberfest fare including sausage, schnitzel, and—the main attraction of the festival—roasted ox.

Top-notch entertainment was provided by Saffire Express on Friday night and Squeeze Play and Chicago’s number one German act, the Johnny Wagner Band on Saturday. For the second year in a row, we saw record attendance for the festival on Friday and Saturday!



Club member Caroline Dektas carrying pitchers of water for the Stein Holding Contest participants.

Schwabenfest was truly a club-wide success. We had over one hundred volunteers – both long-time and new members – who worked countless hours to put on a first-class festival. We wish to thank all of our booth chairs, volunteers, trustees, friends from the GACL, guests, and partners at Paulaner USA for supporting Schwabenfest and the Donauschwaben!

If you have any suggestions or comments related to Schwabenfest, please contact Nick Kruppen or Roric Schneider, or plan on attending

the wrap-up meeting which will be scheduled in the near future. The date and time of the wrap-up meeting will be communicated via Facebook and the club e-mail account in the coming weeks.



Top Left: *Dancing and enjoying the music*

Top Right: *Participants from the 2nd Annual Stein Holding Contest*

Middle: *The ox roasting over the fire.*

Bottom: *Local band Saffire Express providing live music.*

Pictures courtesy of Donauschwaben club member Annette Suer

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

Der Adler Credits

Joe T. Ludwig.....Editor-in-Chief
Caroline Dektas.....Editor
Annette Suer, Joe T. Ludwig.....Photography
Joe. T. Ludwig.....Design
Heidi Kurzhals.....Cover Picture

Are you interested in contributing content to *Der Adler*? Contact Joe T. Ludwig at ludwigjt89@gmail.com for all inquiries. The Fall deadline is September 26, 2014.

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

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