**Winter 2014** 

# Der Adler

The Quarterly Newsletter for the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society



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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: <u>www.donauschwaben.com</u> <u>cincydonau@gmail.com</u>

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#### A MESSAGE FROM BOB DECHER

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to thank the members of the Club for their confidence and support by allowing me to return to the Board after a two year absence. My thanks go to the other Board Members who entrusted me with the position of President for this year.

One of my goals this year is to reach out to our members who miss out on many of the activities at the Club. We have accepted these individuals as members and need to determine why they have chosen not to explore the different activities we have held since they have joined.

Our five dance groups are doing well and growing, the Easter Party, Gulasch Dinner, Schwaben Day, Oktoberfest, and Club Christmas Party are well attended. However, the club dances can always have more people in attendance. The dance committees and all of our other activities welcome members to attend and participate.

#### A MESSAGE FROM MARTY KUNKLE

Dear Members and Friends,

As 2013 ends and 2014 begins we take time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. We remember all the members who passed away this year—they'll be greatly missed and we are grateful for the time we had with them. So if you are like me and have two left feet, and dancing is not your thing, come anyway and bring some friends and enjoy the music, drinks, and friendship, and after a few drinks you might even try a dance or two.

Volume X, Issue I

To our newer members and those members we haven't seen recently, we have started activities, which perhaps you have read or heard about. They include events such as Schwabenfest, Fifth Friday Froth Fest, Friday Night Stein Verein, Bogenschiessen, and just recently the Culture Committee started up Fuchs lessons. Of these only Schwabenfest needs your help by volunteering to work. The other activities allow you to just come have a beer or two, relax and participate in the event.

We have quite a few wonderful events coming up in the next few months, all of which are highlighted in this publication. We hope to see you come out and support the Donauschwaben!

#### Bob Decher

Cincinnati Donauschwaben President

2013 concludes my last year as your president. It has been an honor to serve in this position. I'd like to thank my Mom and Dad for the love and pride that they instilled in me for our Donauschwaben history, language, custom, and traditions. They are the very core of who I am. Many thanks to the board for your support and dedication to our Verein. Thanks

### In the News

#### MARTY KUNKLE (CONTINUED)

to the ladies board for all your efforts at every event. Thanks to ALL of the group leaders where would we be without you. Thanks to our caretakers, Elvera and Jim Delp for your care. Thanks to all of you who encouraged me, those who were sounding boards, and, yes, even those of you who thought we should do away with presidential term limits. I hope I've lived up to your expectations.

While we've had some projects that didn't come to fruition, we had a number that were successfully completed and some that are still works in progress. I'd like to thank Mischell Wolfram—we worked on several major projects including the renovation of the Main Hall bathrooms and Phase 1 of the Main Hall renovation—the transition from rectangular tables and folding chairs to round tables and banquet chairs and a fresh paint job.

#### DER ADLER GETS NEW EDITOR

We are happy to announce that Schuhplattler member Joe T. Ludwig will be the new editorin-chief of *Der Adler*.

For the last nine years, Rogar Schneider has produced and edited this publication and has recently decided to step down. We would like to thank Rogar for his hard

#### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Anyone considering joining the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society should attend its monthly meetings on the fourth Friday of every month (except December) at 8:00 PM to meet the membership and learn more about how the club works. Annual membership dues are \$35 per family and are due no later than March 1, 2014.

Please make checks payable to the Verein der Donauschwaben (if your dues have been frozen, please check for correct amount before

#### 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. Both these projects were completed as presented and approved by the members, on time and under budget.

I thank ALL OF YOU who have worked to support our Verein these past years. With the beginning of 2014, let's all resolve to give of our time and talents so that our Verein continues to prosper in the years to come. Remember a chain is only as strong as its weakest link and we're ALL links in that chain!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Bob Decher our incoming president. I pledge my support. Again, thank you for the privilege of being your president.

Marty Konrad Kunkle Outgoing President

work and dedication to the club these last 9 years. To submit information to the newsletter, please e-mail Joe T. Ludwig at: ludwigjt89@gmail.com

> Spring 2014 issue deadline: March 28, 2014

sending payment).

If you've moved recently or are moving in the near future, please stay in contact—simply send your new mailing and contact information to:

Nick Abt 335 South Elm Street Harrison, Ohio 45030 E: <u>abt.nick@gmail.com</u> T: 356-6851

For more information please contact:

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

#### The Board of Trustees

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DER ADLER INFO To submit information to the newsletter, please contact Joe T. Ludwig <u>ludwigjt89@gmail.com</u>

Spring 2014 issue deadline: March 28, 2014

# **Upcoming** Events

#### **DINNER DANCE**

Enjoy great food, drink and entertainment at the Donauschwaben Society's Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 8 from 6:30 until 11:30 PM. This popular event is the perfect cure for the winter blues and is a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day with that special someone.

The doors and cash bar open at 5:30 and dinner runs from 6:30 to 7:30. Dinner includes a big piece of breaded schnitzel (pork), mashed potatoes, green beans, red cabbage, bread, dessert and an open wine bar. After dinner enjoy music from the Rheingold Band from Louisville.

The cost of the dinner and the dance (including an open wine bar during dinner) is \$17 per

#### **BEER & WINE TASTING EVENT**

What is the difference between an ale and a lager? What is the difference between red and white wine? Find out at the second annual Donauschwaben Beer Tasting Fundraiser on Saturday, February 22 from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group Travel Fund, including their 2015 trip to LA.

The event will be open from 7:00 to 11:00 PM with the beer tasting from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and a social hour from 9:00 to 11:00 PM (with cash bar).

Entry Price includes 10 samples (all beer, all wine, or a combination), Hors D'oeuvres and a souvenir glass for our VIP guests.

#### 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JOHANN STRAUSS BALL

On Saturday March, 8, enjoy an evening from a bye gone era when our youth group and other young adult members of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society perform a series of dances set to songs written by the famous Austrian composer, Johann Strauss.

Dressed in tuxedos and long formal gowns, these performers not only play the part, they look the part. In addition to a performance by our dancers, live music will be provided by the Spitzbuam band. A light snack buffet will be provided around 10:00 PM. person. If you just want to go to the dance the cost is \$8 or if you just want dinner the cost is \$9.

To make reservations call the club reservation line at 385-2098 (select option 3). You can also make reservations via e-mail at

<u>dtullius@fuse.net</u>. Please include your name, how many people are in your party and who is included in your reservation.

Make sure to make your reservations early, our reservation deadline is Tuesday, February 4. Remember, due to our round table setup in the main hall, we can only accommodate 10 people per table.

VIP tickets—now until February 10 Table of 8: \$200 Single ticket: \$30

Regular Ticket—February 11 to February 23 Single Ticket: \$35.

Designated Drive: \$15

To make reservations, please contact Lori by phone at 513-245-9450 or via email at **lpd@fuse.net**. When using email, include Beer Tasting in the subject line. **Download the reservation form here.** 

Make your reservations early because seating is limited. **Must be 21 or older to participate.** 

The dance starts at 7:30 and goes until 11:30 PM. Because of the popularity of this dance, reservations are REQUIRED.

Phone reservations can be made at 385-2098 (select option 3). You can also make reservations via e-mail at <u>dtullius@fuse.net</u>. Please put Johann Strauss Ball in the subject line. This is one of the Donauschwaben Society's more popular events so we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Admission is \$12.50 per person.

#### **Upcoming Events**

For tickets/reservations to upcoming events, call our reservation line at (513) 385-2098, option 3

**Fifth Friday Froth Fest** Friday, January 31 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Annual Dinner Dance\* Saturday, February 8 6:30 to 11:30 PM

> Friday Night Stein Verein Friday, February 14 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Beer/Wine Tasting\* Saturday, February 22 7:00 to 11:00 PM

Johann Strauss Ball\* Saturday, March 8 7:30 to 11:30 PM

Friday Night Stein Verein Friday, March 14 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Spring Concert\* Thursday, April 3 5:30 to 11:00 PM

Friday Night Stein Verein Friday, April 11 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Schwaben Sausage Fundraiser Pick-Up Sunday, April 6 4:00 to 6:00

Member's Easter Party\* Sunday, April 13 2:00 to 6:00 PM

\**Reservations are required or recommended* 

# **Apcoming** Events

#### SAUSAGE MAKING FUNDRAISER

The Donauschwaben Youth Group is once again preparing homemade sausage as one of their fundraising activities. They will be selling three varieties: regular, spicy, and smoked sausage. Cost for the original flavor and spicy flavor is \$6 per pound. Smoked versions of both flavors are available for \$7 per pound (minimum order is 5 lbs) and payment is due when your order is picked up.

Sausage can be picked up at the Donauschwaben Society on April 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Orders must be turned in by March 28. To order, download the Sausage Order Form April 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 March 28 will be honored.

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.

#### FIFTH FRIDAY FROTH FEST

On every Fifth Friday of the month come out and enjoy traditional German Gemütlichkeit and camaraderie at the Donauschwaben Society for our Fifth Friday Froth Fest celebration. Coming up in 2014, there are 4 Fifth Fridays:

January 31, 2014 August 29, 2014 October 31, 2014 May 30, 2014

#### **MEMBER'S EASTER PARTY**

Come celebrate the Easter holiday at the annual Donauschwaben Member's Easter party, on April 13. The party starts at 2:00 and features a performance by our kindergruppen, a surprise guest, and an Easter egg hunt. A buffet dinner will then be served by the ladies group and includes carved ham, chicken strips, all the trimmings, and dessert. Dinner is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Reservations are REQUIRED if you are eating dinner. For reservations contact Helen Hary at 923-4548 or e-mail her at hary@fuse.net with the subject "Club Easter Party".

#### ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

On Friday April 4, join well-known German singers Birgit Langer, Willy Seitz, Kay Dorfel, and Die Waldspitzbum for a festive evening at the Cincinnati Donauschwaben. Even if you don't understand German, you will enjoy the music.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00, and the show will be from 7:30 to 11:00 PM. The dinner menu is TBA but is always delicious. Both the dinner and the show will \$25 per person, just the dinner will be \$10 and just the show will be \$15. For reservations, contact Helmut Wolfram 513-451-6452 or email him at derkaiser@fuse.net. Dinner reservation deadline is April 1. Please put Spring German Show in the subject line.



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### The German Community

#### **BOCKFEST 2014—IN HISTORIC OVER-THE-RHINE**

The 2014 Bockfest will be March 7–9 in historic Over-the-Rhine. It begins with a parade on Friday evening that starts at Arnold's Bar & Grill, Cincinnati's oldest saloon. The parade is led by a goat pulling a keg of bock beer and the reigning Sausage Queen. It ends at Bockfest Hall where the ceremonial first keg is blessed, the best Parade entries are honored, and Bockfest officially begins.

The hall is open throughout the weekend and features live entertainment, great food, historic walking tours, authors and breweriana, a

#### **BOCKFEST MASS AT OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

The Annual Bockfest Mass will be held on Sunday, March 9 at Old St. Mary's Church. Mass will begin at 11 AM with a parade of German society flags into the church. The music will be provided by the Vereinsmusikanten.

#### MONTHLY MUSTARD CLUB MEETINGS

The Händlmaier's Mustard Club Cincinnati is the first and only US chapter — and one of only two clubs located around the world — dedicated to sharing the gemütlichkeit that is Händlmaier's Mustard. Come out to their monthly meeting on the second Saturday of every month at Mecklenburg Gardens starting at 11:00 AM. homebrew competition, 5K, Continental Sunday celebrations and lots of delicious bock beer.

Bockfest is not just limited to the hall. It occurs in over a dozen participating venues in Overthe-Rhine and downtown, and all events are free to the public.

Come see the Donauschwaben Schuhplattlers perform at Bockfest on Sunday, March 9 and enjoy the festivities.

Fellowship will follow mass in the Ratskellar and at the numerous Bockfest venues in the area. Hope to see you there to represent the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society.

All "meetings" are open to the public. Mecklenburg charges \$11 for the buffets, and both buffets are all-you-can-eat. For more information visit their website: http://mustardclub.org/

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Germania Maskenball

Saturday, February 1 7:11 PM to Midnight The Radisson Hotel Contact Leslie at (513)-378-2706

Bockfest Weekend March 7, 8, 9 Various Times & Locations <u>More information</u>

Bockfest Mass Old St. Mary's Church Sunday, March 9 11:00 AM

King's Ball Kolping Society Saturday, March 15 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM More information

Mustard Club Meetings Mecklenburg Gardens 2nd Saturday, Monthly 11:00 AM <u>More information</u>

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### **OUR JOURNEY** HOME A Look Back at the Youth Group's 2013 European Trip

Written By: Joe T. Ludwig

Becky Suer remembers her last performance in Europe like it was yesterday.

It was dusk and an audience of about 100 people sat on a hilltop overlooking the beautiful town of Zsámbék, Hungary. In the backdrop of the wooden stage stood the ruins of a Catholic Church that barely survived an earthquake. A TV crew sat in the audience, broadcasting their performance live on Hungarian television. As the Youth Group walked off the stage after their final number, the crowd cheered.

They were giving a standing ovation, demanding for an encore.

It was this moment that it started to sink in for Becky—and the rest of the group; they were leaving for home in less than six hours. After months of practicing and years of talking and planning, it was over.

In 18 short days they traveled by bus to 13 cities in five countries. In addition to performing a two and a half hour show for their host families, the Youth Group experienced sight-seeing, learned about Donauschwaben history, saw historic sights, had the opportunity to experience first-hand the journey of the Donauschwaben people and meet the most generous and hospitable people that they will probably ever meet.

Of course, it took a lot of hard work and dedication to get to the point of cheering crowds and encores. The following is a look back at the Youth Group's 18-day journey.

#### A TRIP SEVEN YEARS IN THE MAKING

The Cincinnati Donauschwaben Youth Group have been preparing for their three week trip to Europe ever since their



successful 2006 trip. When all was said and done, 25 Youth Group members, ranging from 14 to 28 years old, signed up to participate Youth Group co-leaders Debi Tullius and Lori Decher, along with their husbands Eddie and Bob

acted as chaperones.

In the months leading up to the trip, the group devoted hours of additional practice to learn new material. The show in its entirety was two and a half hours with several costume changes. The first hour included a variety of German skits, poems, singing and dancing and the second hour, meant to somehow represent American culture, was broken up into two parts: "Country Cowboy" and "American Favorites". A lot of behind the scene work had to be done in order to make the European trip a success, including creating the costumes, choreographing the show, and mixing the music. Most of the costumes that the young ladies wore throughout the two and a half hour show were handmade by Lori and her mom, Kathi "Oma" Prugel. The two of them spent months measuring, picking out fabric, sewing and hemming, and making sure the costumes fit everyone like a glove. The American dances in the second half of the show were choreographed by Youth Group Co-Leader Debi Tullius and many of the older Youth Group members while her husband, "DJ" Eddie Tullius, was in charge of mixing the music so that it would run seamlessly while they were on the road.

At the Father's Day Goulash Dinner on June 23, 2013 the membership was invited to see the Youth Group's entire show that they would be performing in Europe just a few weeks later. After spending countless hours perfecting the show, they were ready to perform it front of an audience for the first time. The audience was pretty impressed with their show but there was still a lot of kinks to be wrinkled out before they left.

#### A RIGEROUS TRAVEL SCHEDULE

The group knew when they signed up that they were going to have a very strict travel schedule. They were also told that they had to be as flexible as possible, something that the group figured out really quickly as soon as they got on the bus.

"The bus immediately took us from the airport to the Rhine River for a boat ride," Lori Decher said of their first day. "It was very important to our hosts from Speyer that this was the first activity that we did."

The boat tour included views of fairy tale castles and numerous wineries along the hillsides. Later that afternoon they were taken to the local Donauschwaben club in Speyer, Germany, where they prepared to do their first show of the trip—after 38 hours of travel.

"The kids did their first show kind of unexpectedly the first night. We were all exhausted from the flight and the activities that day and we were scrambling to get everything ready," Lori said. "But in the end they put on an amazing show. The crowd



### **OUR JOURNEY HOME (CONTINUED)**

really got into it."

The next morning, the group enjoyed a walking tour of Speyer. They climbed the stairs of the watch tower and saw a beautiful panoramic view of the town. That evening they were invited to perform at Speyer's Annual Bretzelfest, an annual summertime festival celebrating pretzels. The group was even featured in the local newspaper the next day.

On Friday, they departed Speyer and headed to the House of Donauschwaben in Sindelfingen, where they toured the cultural center that chronicles the history of the Donauschwaben. They placed a wreath at the Donauschwaben memorial and proceeded to perform their entire two hour show in an auditorium for a full house. Again their show was a hit. The audience was touched by the poems that they shared; some even had tears in their eyes.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE DONAUSCHWABEN CULTURE

The next couple of days, the group learned a lot about



Donauschwaben history. In Reutlingen, the group participated in an authentic Kirchweih Celebration at the local church and afterwards, they paraded through town to the dance hall. In Göppingen, they took a tour of the town

and visited a museum where they learned of the three waves of Donauschwaben migration that moved people from the Bavarian region of Germany to their new homeland down the Danube River.

In Ulm they toured the Deutches Zentral Museum, a museum that shows all the old practices of the Donauschwaben people, had a walking tour of the city where they saw the Donauschwaben monument and had a brief time to shop and sightsee. In their free time, most of the group climbed 785 steps to the top of the Ulmer Münster, the tallest Catholic Church in Germany.

"In Reutlingen, Göppingen, and Ulm especially, we learned a lot about the Donauschwaben people and their culture," Kelly Wilzbach recalled. "At first it felt like information overload but looking back, it really helped me digest the information better by being there and experiencing the history myself."

On the way to München the group toured Schloss Linderhof, one of King Ludwig II of Bavaria's famous castles. That night they went to a local beer garden for dinner. The next day, they had a brief tour of the city and town hall, had a quick snack and performed several songs in the council chambers. Before they knew it, they were on the road again to Salzburg and Vienna.



The club's lack of youth in Salzburg and Vienna were a real eye-opener for the group. In Salzburg, they performed for the remaining eight members of the club. In Vienna, they performed for about

100 people or so. Both clubs did not have an established Youth Group.

"Seeing the lack of youth in Salzburg and Vienna showed me how important it is for us to carry on the Donauschwaben Traditions," Bobbi Krimmer recalled. "It really helped me appreciate what we do at Youth Group practice every week."

#### **RETURNING TO THE HEIMATLAND**

One of the group's favorite stops during their tour was a village in southern Hungary steeped in Donauschwaben tradition called Gánt. It was so small that it was difficult to find on a map. When the bus pulled into the town, they were greeted with a brass band and welcome signs. During their stay, the Youth Group was shown the true meaning of the word Gemütlichkeit.

Sombor, Serbia was the most emotional part of the trip. While here, they visited Gakowa, which was a former death camp set up by the Yugoslavia Communist leader, Tito. Two members of the Youth Group who went on the trip actually had relatives who experienced the death camp first hand. They were told the story of what happened in the town first in German, then translated into English:



Originally, about 3,000 people lived in the town. During the war, not a shot of gunfire was fired in that part of Europe. After the war, 22,000 people were brought to this town against their will. The Yugoslavia army put barbed wire around the town with the intent to starve the population. Just outside the town, the army threw all the dead bodies into a pit. The people in the town weren't allowed to go out and visit and grieve for their dead. On average 180 people would die per day.

Between 1945 and 1948 many of these "death camps" were established throughout Yugoslavia and they especially targeted the ethnic Germans, or Donauschwaben. This has been known as "The Forgotten Genocide". Today, a memorial sits near the old town with a plaque that remembers the Donauschwaben people who perished during that time.

The Cincinnati Youth Group is proud to say that they were the first American Donauschwaben invited to experience Serbia and Croatia. And they hope they aren't the last.

#### **"THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME"**

Although they were eager to see their family in the states again, they all left with heavy hearts. Not only did they learn about the Donauschwaben history, they felt as though they were leaving a bit of their hearts behind with each host family who graciously fed them, did their laundry, and gave them somewhere to sleep at night.

"I can't express how much of an awesome time we had during

this trip," Becky said. "We always had each other's back no matter what happened. This group of people aren't just my friends, they are my family."

Even though the trip has been over for six months and reality has settled in, Becky, and the rest of the group, will never forget their journey in July 2013 — the trip of a lifetime.

#### Debi Tullius contributed to this story.

For more pictures of the Youth Group's trip to Europe, see the club's <u>Facebook page.</u>



### **Groups & Committees**

#### **KLEINE KINDERGRUPPE**

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

#### **MIDDLE GROUP**

Meets Mondays at 7:00 PM. 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 PM. For more information, please contact: Debi Tullius: 522-3849 Lori Prugel-Decher: 245-9450

#### SCHUHPLATTLER

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

#### TRACHTENGRUPPE

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 PM. For more information, please contact: Kathi Weissmann: 467-6120

#### FRAUENGRUPPE

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month at 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact: Helen Hary: 923-4548

#### SENIORS GROUP

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10 AM. 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: <u>ludwigjt89@gmail.com</u>

#### **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 <u>www.cincydonau.com</u>