



Proud To Be German - American  
Stolz Deutsch - Amerikaner Zu Sein

Visit us at [www.DANK.org](http://www.DANK.org)

# German - American Journal

Volume 66 Number 2

April/Mai 2018

*Wernigerode Rathaus und Marktplatz*



MAI THE  
**FEST**  
BE WITH  
**YOU**  
APRIL 20 - MAY 25

EVERY MAY 1ST GERMANY REJOICES IN THE RETURN OF SPRING WITH "MAY DAY" RITUALS.

**ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

- APRIL 20 7:30pm ABC 7 Chicago's Paul Meincke - Keg Tapper
- APRIL 22 7:00pm Hoopla Band
- APRIL 28 6:00pm Division Brass
- MAY 4 5:30pm Chicago Donauschwaben Kindergruppe
- MAY 6 6:00pm Polka Quartet
- MAY 10 7:00pm Division Brass
- MAY 11 7:30pm Chicago Bears' Dwayne Bates - Keg Tapper
- MAY 18 7:30pm Society of Danube Swabians "Jugendgruppe"
- MAY 20 5:30pm Edelweiss Dancers
- MAY 24 7:00pm Division Brass
- MAY 25 7:30pm Chicago Donauschwaben Donau Dancers

HBChicago.com (847) 671-BREW (2739) 5500 Park Place, Rosemont, Illinois 60018



**DANK Decals are here!**

Show everyone that you are a DANK member with this DANK Decal. It is a die-cut oval in full color and looks really great!

The cost is \$2.00 each including shipping. For more information e-mail at [wb\\_dank@yahoo.com](mailto:wb_dank@yahoo.com).

Order from and make your check payable to:

DANK Chapter Milwaukee  
Vicky Ohde  
18550 Ventura Circle  
Brookfield WI 53045



## Contents of this Issue:

- 4 From The President's Desk
- 5 Calendar Of Events
- 6 New Members / Member Donations
- 7 DANK Region Three to Meet on 4-28-18  
About This Journal's Cover Image
- 8 On German Directness by Francine McKenna-Klein
- 10 The Altenheim by Reinhard Andress, PhD
- 13 Milwaukee School of Languages
- 14 Easter traditions in South Tyrol / Origin of the Chocolate Bunny -Germany ?!  
Chapter Chatter: DANK Erie
- 15 Chapter Chatter: DANK Bay City / DANK Cleveland
- 16 Chapter Chatter: Chapter Milwaukee
- 17 Chapter Chatter: DANK Chicago-North / DANK Pittsburgh
- 18 No more smuggling Kinder Eggs into the US
- 19 Der digitale Schub / Digital Upturn
- 20 White Asparagus Season in Germany by Francine McKenna-Klein
- 21 Christian Easter Tradition in Germany by Beverly Pochatko
- 22 From DANK Members: Planes, Trains, and lots of Beer by Stephen Knouse
- 23 The 6 German words you need to know for spring
- 24 Aus Unserer Schatzkiste / From Our Treasure Chest
- 25 Aus Oma's Küche: Asparagus Soup
- 26 In Remembrance
- 28 Gedichte für Alle
- 29 Puzzles und Spiele
- 31 Crossword Solution



**Der Deutsch - Amerikaner**

*Editorial Staff:*

Russ Knoebel  
Christel Miske  
Bob Miske

*Correspondents:*

Anne Marie Fuhrig  
Francine McKenna

*Typography:*

Russ Knoebel

*General Information:*

German American Journal - ISSN 1086-8070 is published bimonthly and is the official publication of the German American National Congress. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER\***

Send address changes to:  
German-American Journal  
4740 N. Western Avenue  
Suite 206  
Chicago IL. 60625-2013

Annual Subscription Rate \$15.00

[www.dank.org](http://www.dank.org)

Submit articles to [Office@DANK.org](mailto:Office@DANK.org)

DANK does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information published herein. DANK reserves the right to change or amend submissions for any reason without prior notice.





## ***From The President's Desk***

**Roger Herod, National President**

*rogerherod1@gmail.com*

Having been involved with DANK for over 20 years, I am extremely proud of the dedication and knowledge of the principals, teachers, and support staff that continue to make our German Language Schools so successful. At the DANK Haus, we now offer 7 levels of language instruction for Adults, as well as German History and Theater classes. For younger students, there is a very successful Kinderschule for children from 1 to 14 years old, as well as language classes for Teens. Our Chicago Northern Suburbs Schools in Arlington Heights and Palatine provide instruction for students from 3 years old through Adults and the schools receive significant financial grants annually from the German Government because of large number of students taking the AATG and DSD exams.

Not all our chapters can of course operate their own German Language Schools. However, several of our chapters are involved with other organizations that help to make German language programs available to our members and to the community in general. For example, members of our Springfield Chapter have worked very hard to reintroduce German into Springfield's High Schools by sponsoring German language programs and teachers, as well as organizing exchange programs for students coming to and from Germany each year. 5 years ago, only 46 students took German language classes in Springfield's High Schools; today, 180 are enrolled.

Supporting German Language Meetup Groups is another way that our chapters can help to promote German language and culture. DANK's National Education Fund for example has provided funds to help set up German Language Meetup Groups in Pittsburgh and Cleveland. These types of groups are now spreading through the Midwest and provide opportunities for members to socialize with others of similar German interests and to practice their German conversation skills in an informal setting. Similarly, the Chicago DANK Haus now organizes a weekly Kaffeeklatsch for DANK members which is highly popular and well supported.

We strongly encourage all our chapters to look for creative opportunities to partner with language schools, colleges, meeting groups, and language tutors that can provide German language tuition for our members and their local community. These types of partnerships also provide possibilities for us to recruit new DANK members. The National Education and School Fund was established to help provide financial support for these types of initiatives to promote the German language and culture. The National Education and School Fund is a 501(c)(3) entity of DANK so all donations made to the fund are tax deductible and of course much appreciated. Making contributions to The National Education and School Fund is a tangible way that we can all help to promote German language and cultural programs in the U.S.

*Roger Herod*



**Der Deutsch - Amerikaner**

DANK seeks to bring together Americans of German descent in the pursuit of cultivating and presenting their heritage and interests on local, regional and national levels. These were the primary reasons that the German American National Congress was founded in 1959 and they are still among the organization's primary objectives today.

### **DANK National Executive Board**

**President:**

Roger Herod

**Vice President :**

Erik Wittmann

Christel Miske

**Treasurer:**

Bob Miske

**Recording Secretary:**

Russell Knoebel

**Membership Chair:**

Erik Wittmann

**Office Manager:**

Russell Knoebel

DANK National Executive Office

4740 N. Western Avenue

Suite 206

Chicago IL. 60625-2013

**Email:** Office@DANK.org

**Phone:** (773) 275-1100

**Toll Free:** 1-888-USA-DANK

**Office Hours:**

9 am - 4 pm

Monday-Friday



## Calendar Of Events:

### April

- 2 Bay City, Board Meeting, 7pm
- 4 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 5 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 6 Benton Harbor – Fish Fry, 6PM
- 6 DANK HAUS, Chicago, German Cabaret Legacy
- 7 Milwaukee, Board Meeting 10:00 am
- 8 Chicago West - Board Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 9 Springfield, Board Meeting – 6:30pm
- 10 Milwaukee, Dancing 6:30 pm
- 10 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Deutsch Mic @ the DANK!
- 11 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 12 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 14 Milwaukee, Frühlingsfest, Schwabenhof
- 15 Chicago South - Monthly Meeting, 2pm
- 15 Phoenix - Board Meeting 1 pm
- 18 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 18 Erie - General Membership Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 20 DANK HAUS Chicago, Stammtisch – Open House, 7:30
- 21 Benton Harbor, Brian Randall Dance, 8pm
- 22 Springfield, Fundraiser at Corkscrew Wine Emporium, 2-5
- 24 Milwaukee, Dancing 6:30 pm
- 25 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 25 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 28 South Bend, Pizza Party 5PM, Weiss' Gasthaus

### May

- 2 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 3 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 4 Benton Harbor, Fish Fry, 6 pm
- 5 Milwaukee, Board Meeting 10:00 am
- 7 Bay City, Board Meeting, 7pm
- 8 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Deutsch Mic @ the DANK!
- 8 Milwaukee, Dancing 6:30 pm
- 9 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 10 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 13 Chicago West - Board Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 16 DANK HAUS, Chicago, Kaffeeklatsch - Coffee & Conversation
- 16 Erie - General Membership Meeting, 7 pm
- 17 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 18 DANK HAUS Chicago, Stammtisch – Open House, 7:30
- 19 South Bend, Meet at Fernwood 12 pm
- 19 Chicago South, Maitanz/May Dance
- 20 Benton Harbor, Squeezebox w/ Ted Lange & Molly B
- 20 Chicago South, Membership Meetings 2 pm
- 20 Phoenix - Board Meeting 1 pm
- 22 Milwaukee, Dancing 6:30 pm
- 24 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 31 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 31 – June 3 Maifest Chicago

### June

- 1 Benton Harbor, Fish Fry, 6 pm
- 2 Milwaukee, Board Meeting 10:00 am
- 4 Bay City, Board Meeting, 7pm
- 7 Milwaukee, Singing 7 pm
- 9 South Bend, Ciao Italy at Muessig's, 4 pm
- 10 Chicago West - Board Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 10 Chicago South, Membership Meetings 2 pm

### Saturdays at the DANK Haus

Kino Kaffee & Kuchen – Heimat films in German, 2 pm  
Lost German Chicago Exhibit in Museum, 11 am - 3 pm

### Language Schools

#### Chicago North - DANK Haus

Pre-K to 12th Grade - Saturday's 9am-12pm  
Adult Classes - Wednesday's 6:30pm-9pm

**Chicago Northern Suburbs** Christian Liberty Academy, Arlington Heights, Adults and Children 3+, Saturdays, 9:30 am – Noon  
Palatine H S, Adults and Children 5+, Monday's, 5:45 pm - 8:15 pm For more info: 847.392.5352

#### German Language School Cleveland

info@germanlanguageschoolcleveland.org

### Meeting Locations for DANK Chapters

#### Bay City

meets at the Stein Haus, 1120 N. Water St., Bay City, MI, 48708 Tel. 989.891.2337

#### Benton Harbor

meets at their DANK Haus, 2651 Pipestone Rd. Benton Harbor, MI 49022 Tel. 269.926.6652

#### Chicago

meets at the DANK HAUS, 4740 N. Western Av. Chicago IL 60625 Tel. 773.561.9181

#### Chicago South

meets at the DANK House, 25249 S. Center Rd, Frankfort, IL 60423 Tel. 815.464.1514

#### Chicago West

meets at Redeemer Lutheran of Elmhurst, 345 S. Kenilworth Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126 Tel. 630.805.1504

#### Cleveland

meets at the Cleveland Männerchor Club, 4515 State Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109 Tel. 216.741.7728

#### Erie

meets at the Erie Männerchor Club, 1617 State St. Erie, PA, 16501 Tel. 814.835.1939

#### Milwaukee

meets at the German Fest Office, W140N5761 Lilly Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Tel. 414.331.6957

#### Phoenix

meets at North Mountain Brewing Company, 522 E. Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ 85020 Tel. 602.569.9381

#### Springfield

meets at Engel's on Edwards, 552 S. MacArthur, Ste. A, Springfield, IL

**DANK Chapter Listing****ARIZONA**

Phoenix

**ILLINOIS**

Chicago  
Chicago South  
Chicago West  
Fox Valley  
Lake County  
Northern Suburbs  
Peoria  
Springfield

**INDIANA**

Indianapolis  
South Bend

**MICHIGAN**

Benton Harbor  
Great Lakes Bay Region  
(Bay City)

**OHIO**

Cleveland

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Erie  
Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh

**WASHINGTON DC**

Washington DC

**WISCONSIN**

Milwaukee

[www.dank.org](http://www.dank.org)**New Members:*****NATIONAL***

WESLEY MARSH  
JOSEPH SPEECE

***CHICAGO SOUTH***

REINHARD DIETZ  
NICOLAS THOMAS  
PETER SIMON  
ANGELIKA THOMAS

***CHICAGO WEST***

BERNHARD UNZNER

***SUBSCRIPTION***

ANGELIKA EGAN  
CYNTHIA MAXWELL

***MILWAUKEE***

RICK WILSON

***CHICAGO NORTHERN-SUBURBS***

DAVID DICKOW  
KATRIN EISENBERG

***BAY CITY***

LEO SNIDERSICH  
GLORIA SNIDERSICH

---

***WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER  
ROBERT MITCHELL, PITTSBURGH CHAPTER***

---

**Recent Member Donations:**

ULI BAECKER  
EUGEN BERNHARDT  
HANS CALLIES  
CHRISTINE CLARK  
KARIN CH DETHLEFS  
PAMELA DIXON  
INGE S DOMINIS  
GUDRUN DORGAN  
HEIDI EICHLER  
HELGA ESSERT  
JOSEPH T FIELDS  
SOFIA B FROMM  
EWALD GANSEWENDT  
PETAR GATARIC  
CHARLES GRAMLICH  
GREG HOEFT  
ERNA JOCHUM  
WALTER KIRCHHERR  
ALAN KLOHA  
KARL KORDAS  
SUSAN LIMBRUNNER  
DR CHARLES F LINDBLADE  
HELGA E MAHN  
DIETER E MARKWART  
KARL O MAYER  
HEDWIG MAYRENS  
HARRY M MEINHOLD  
TAK MIZUTA  
REINER MUELLER  
DR INGRID E NAUGLE

KATHLEEN NELSON  
SEPP OBERLE  
FRANK J PESCE  
HILDEGARD PIEGER  
EGON POLNAU  
NICHOLAS POPOFF  
JOSEPH PUCHER  
WALTER RADKE  
LINDA A S RAY  
HELMUT SAWALL  
HELENE SCHOENTAG  
HERBERT K SCHRECK  
CATHERINE SCHWAB  
KARL SCHWEISTHAL  
DORIS H E SIMON  
INGWALDE SNYDER  
GARY STEPHENSON  
HARRI W STRELIS  
CYNTHIA THORNTON  
MARGARETE A TKOCZ  
JENNIFER A VALENTINE  
ELFRIEDE VOGEL  
HORST N WAGENER  
INGRID CH. WAGONER  
WALTER W WHISLER MD  
CHRISTINE WJST  
ILSE M WORKMAN  
SIEGFRIED WUNNER  
RENATE A ZERNGAST

**We thank you all for you donations and support!**



# DANK REGION THREE CLEVELAND-ERIE-PITTSBURGH TO MEET ON 4-28-18

*By Erik Wittmann*  
DANK Region Three President

Chapter Presidents from the three active Chapters in Region 3, in conjunction with the President of Region 3 Erik Wittmann, have decided to have their Chapter Board Members and any other interested Chapter Members meet in Cleveland, Ohio on April 28, 2018.

Part of the purpose is to decide if the Regional concept should be dissolved, as is the case in other DANK Regions, or if the Chapters wish to maintain the current set-up. Hopefully, it will also give the Chapter Representatives the opportunity to share success stories and get ideas from other chapters in attendance.

The get together will not be strictly business focused, but also will be social in that it will be a Luncheon Meeting held at Hansa Import Haus Restaurant! Complete with plans to visit the World Famous West Side Market nearby, and then visit the German Gardens, which are part of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The luncheon meeting is scheduled for noon with the German Garden visits afterwards.

The get together will not be limited to just Board members but other interested Chapter Members as well. Interested members need to touch base with their Chapter President to let them know of the interest, so we can get a count for lunch as well as travel arrangements to the German Gardens.



## About This Journal's Cover Image:



### *Wernigerode - Harz Mountain - Germany*

The town of Wernigerode is situated on the foothills of the Harz Mountain where the romantic Schloss Wernigerode rises above it. Wernigerode, often referred to as "the colorful town of Harz", is a very popular tourist town. There is a vast difference today as compared to 1777 when the poet Goethe visited Wernigerode. In those days it would have been just a rural town.

In the town square, you can see the Rathaus (Town Hall) which dominates the market place and started out as a theatre in 1277. Walk around the town hall and you will see the Gardenstedt, an old watermill, one of the best buildings in Wernigerode, known by locals as the "tilted house". Back in the town square, you will see the Neo Gothic fountain built in 1848, and the 15th century Gothisches Haus which is now a hotel with some amazing details.

There is much more to see and to do. Our tip: Take a trip to Germany and don't forget to visit the Harz Mountains and the picturesque small towns. "Gemütlichkeit" pure!

*from Wikipedia.de*





## ON GERMAN DIRECTNESS, OR "WHY ARE GERMANS SO BLUNT?"

by

Francine McKenna-Klein, Staff Columnist

Germany is an "apple paradise" and there are so many varieties, I just did not know what to choose. I was standing by the fruit counter of a supermarket in southern Germany wondering which would be more suitable for cooking and what were "eaters" so I could buy some and begin snacking.

Had only been in Germany a few days and, after politely excusing myself for interrupting her, asked a lady who was also looking at the apples if she could tell me which would be best for eating fresh rather than cooking, as all of the varieties were unknown to me.



Had asked in my best German and her answer, in German of course, "What do you expect me to do, pick them up and take a bite out of each one for you?"

*My first experience of "German directness".*

I know many Germans, and had since childhood, but all had lived out of the country for extended periods so had "adapted" in some ways perhaps.

Whereas an English speaker would have probably have answered she was sorry but did not know either, and in most regions of France and Italy there would have followed a detailed explanation, plus favorite recipes for each variety, which would have lasted five minutes at the very least, this answer was quick and to the point. She didn't know, and saw no reason to waste time being polite to a stranger.

Then just days later there was the young man of my age, who after we were introduced by my friend, said to him in English, obviously so the message could be clearly received in case my German wasn't up to it, "I don't speak to British or Americans on principle, aren't there enough German girls?" and walked away.

Well we were in Cologne by then, which had been reduced to rubble many decades before by British and American forces during WWII, and this I was told later by others was his reason. Understandable. Even though the additional information was that none of his own family had been affected as they had lived in a small property outside the city, where they had not only been begun to grow their own food and keep animals for themselves soon after the outbreak of war, but also made their initial fortune on the black market. Its origins were supplying food to those less fortunate during WWII, and the years afterwards, at inflated prices, the actual victims of the bombings. And this, with careful management, had ensured they were among the present day "privileged" in the region.

But nevertheless Cologne had been flattened by Allied bombing, with the consequent loss of lives, trauma and dev-

astation that accompanied it, widespread, and both short and long term. Bullet holes were, and still are, to be seen in buildings.

German directness can sometimes be scary, even seem illogical, especially in the beginning until one realizes it is not really being rude, just being German. Described as "honest", it is straight to the point and certainly with no "sugar-coating" or "beating about the bush" to make a truth/opinion more palatable. This, from a German point of view is at best a frustrating way to communicate but in fact also very close to deceit.

Small talk is avoided, actually there isn't even an expression for it in German, but should you ask "how are you", if there is time it is highly likely you will be probably be told the absolute truth.

The roof leaks, the eldest daughter/son got a five in math (bad), he/she is tired, has a headache, hates the heat/cold/snow etc.

No airy "I'm fine", like most English speakers, even those who are suffering from a raging fever, a punishing work schedule, or with foreclosure looming...instead the simple truth

and often not positive. So it is often easier just to say "Guten Tag" with a handshake like everyone else.

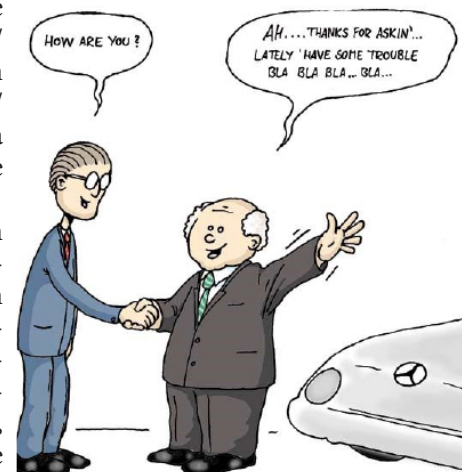
Germans really don't do small talk, those familiar little phrases about the weather or someone's general well-being, not meant to convey hard information but to perform a social function...like making people feel good.

Would a German talk about the weather, or anything else in an elevator or doctor's waiting room? Not likely, although they would say a polite "Guten Tag", or the regional equivalent, on entering and goodbye when leaving.

Then in business there is the "That won't work" end of discussion, the direct and loud "No!", the ever popular "Quatsch" - rubbish, often followed by "It will be done like this."

All a bit of a culture shock in the beginning, but after a while easy to see that it is a more efficient way to get a point across, leaving no room for interpretation/misinterpretation. What might be thought of as "rude" and "commanding" in some cultures is the norm in German conversations.

Could be one of the reasons why Germans are so produc-





*It took them 600 years to build a cathedral, and now they are building an airport.*

tive and efficient, even though the country enjoys among the lowest number of working hours, and longest holidays, in Europe.

Of course in that case we do have to look the other way when faced with something inefficient, and continuing source of embarrassment, like the “When is it (new Berlin airport) ever going to be completed?” The BER is a never-ending saga. Due to open in 2012 it’s still an unfinished project with no real end in sight, having already cost around six and a half billion euros (over \$7 billion), four billion more than estimated with at least an additional one billion euros expected to be necessary. Perhaps the inclusion of so many outside contractors/experts etc. from all over the world meant no one ever got to the point and made workable decisions. Who knows?

Nevertheless anyone who thinks the Germans have no sense of humor should hear, and see, some of the comments about this, and other, exceptions to the norm.

Directness is considered positive not only in formal, but also informal situations. Comments like “Have you put on weight?”, “That color does nothing for you”, “I have a good hair stylist you should try her”, “How old are you?”, are not unusual, even coming from comparative strangers. It can be a bit of a shock to someone new to the culture.

“You have aged badly, what a difference,” was how the wife of a former US Ambassador to Germany was greeted on a Berlin street only a few years after his tour of duty had ended there. It was from someone she had met often at diplomatic functions etc., but there was no opening greeting “Hello” or anything similar, just straight to the kill. Was there, together with her husband, so know this did happen. Although whether it would have taken place if she was the wife of an Ambassador still in his post his rather than an “ex” Ambassador with a title...hmmm. (Former Ambassadors keep their rank “forever”, like ex-Presidents). Perhaps even German directness doesn’t go that far.

Additionally in Berlin there is the “Berliner Schnauze” effect, a slang that is often quite outspoken and blunt. Forget to close the door of a store and you will probably hear: “Biste in der S-Bahn geboren oder was?” - “Were you born on a train or what?” being shouted after you. Few would not turn around and shut the door after that.

The value placed on directness again has an influence on the serious side of Germans. In these matters it is necessary to be as serious, even negative, and to the point as possible. Something that I found very difficult in the beginning always having been surrounded by cultures that value a certain degree of humor even in the most difficult of situations. Germans however see misplaced humor as disrespectful and a sign of concealing true intentions or emotions.

While a lack of a real appreciation and understanding of sarcasm, verbal irony, and dry wit, means in the beginning there are lots of red faces and strangled conversations for many newcomers to Germany and confused/angry/irritated Germans.

While “Please” and “Thank You” don’t often appear. It will be “pass the salt/book/files etc.,” or bring something from another office or room - without a “please”, “would you mind...?” or “could you do me a favor...?” And a “thank you”, once the instructions are met, is not to be expected either, although this is changing, especially among the young and those who have traveled on business.

Nevertheless, although it is really not meant as abrupt and rude, this gap between German directness and the indirectness of other cultures can lead to miscommunication. Although it also doesn’t help that German can sound aggressive, even when describing something pleasant.

All this is not so important for tourists as most don’t come in contact with everyday life, but certainly is anyone who is planning to stay for a while, is on a business related visit, or would just like to know something about how Germans “tick”.

In fact sometimes their laser sharp focus and (painfully) direct communication can be missed. For example in a mixed culture work situation where a half an hour of small talk prefaces any meeting, then issues/problems/ultimate aims are skirted around instead of dealt with directly.

So - Germans don’t beat around the bush and can be extremely blunt, even to strangers. Idle chit chat is certainly not in their genes, they value truth and directness over being polite and a clear question receives a clear answer although perhaps not always a welcome one. All of which may be a bit of a culture shock for «outsiders» in the beginning, it does take some getting used to, but ultimately becomes a valued trait and in its way is so refreshing.

Surprisingly quickly those “Yikes...!” lessen, replaced by the appreciation of regularly experiencing both honesty, welcome or not at the time, and getting to the point quickly, so thoughts often turn instead to “Is there any other way to be?”





## **The Altenheim: a German Old People's Home in Forest Park through the Ages**

**Reinhard Andress, PhD**  
Professor of German  
Director of German Studies  
Loyola University Chicago  
*randress@luc.edu*

In May of 1886 the Altenheim, a German Old People's Home in Forest Park, officially opened its doors to 75 elderly Germans. Already in April 1872, the State of Illinois and its Secretary of State, Henry Dement, had approved the *Frauenverein des Deutschen Altenheims*, the Women's Society of the German Old People's Home, as "a legally organized Corporation." The names of the fifteen "Directors" for the first year were listed, of whom Maria Werkmeister, Gustava Rochener and Caroline Hebel signed the official document. As the Statutes indicate, membership was 25 cents per month in order to support the mission of the *Frauenverein* to found a senior residency for immigrant Germans. After vigorous additional fundraising, a structure was erected on a large plot of roughly 20 acres in the western suburbs of Chicago in Harlem, later Forest Park. The laying of the cornerstone in 1884 appears to have been a huge event with over ten thousand people present, and in May 1886 the building was dedicated with the Mayor of Chicago, Carter Harrison, Sr., in attendance.

The main building with yellowish and red stucco and gables reminiscent of the 19th century Gothic architecture in Germany was decorated with the following inscription left and right on the façade: *DEUTSCHES HAUS IM NEUEN LAND / SCHIRM ES GOTT MIT STARKER HAND* (German House In New Land / May God Protect It With Strong Hand). Such was the clear reference to the Altenheim's immigrant heritage, and with God's help it hoped to turn its mission into reality. In the Statutes of 1893, we read more specifically about the mission: "Der Verein stellt sich zur Aufgabe, eine Heimath für alte, verlassene und hilfbedürftige Deutsche, beiderlei Geschlechts, zu gründen und zu erhalten, und für das Wohl der Insassen derselben Sorge zu tragen." (The society sets itself the task of founding and maintaining a home for old and desolate Germans in need, of both genders, and of caring for the welfare of its residents.)

Such treatment of the aged has become standard practice in today's world, but that was by no means a given before the 19th century. Rather, the elderly often ended their days in an almshouse where they were housed with the insane, alcoholics or the homeless. In the beginning of the 19th century, however, women's and church groups began establishing special homes for the aged from their own ethnic or religious background so that they could end their days with dignity. Entrance fees and certificates of good health and character were further ways in which the founders strove to separate their own facilities from the almshouses. From the mid-19th century onwards, the old people's homes slowly developed into today's senior residencies and nursing homes.

Much of the intention just described is reflected in



how the Altenheim itself operated. It was, after all, meant for aging Germans in the spirit of founding such homes for one's own ethnic group. In addition, in order to be accepted into the facility, it meant undergoing a considerable process that included fulfilling a number of conditions: residency for at least three years in Cook County; an age of over 60; incapacity of further employment; and a clean bill of health regarding any chronic or other conditions that would prevent the individual from taking care of him or herself. A one-time fee was charged according to age: 60-65 years \$300, 65-70 \$250, 70-75 \$200 and over 75 \$150. There seems to have been no further monthly or daily charges. However, residents were required to sign over whatever wealth they had to the Altenheim upon being approved as a member.

The Statutes are certainly extensive in the spirit of German "Gründlichkeit" (thoroughness), some even curious from today's perspective. For example, the "Zimmerregeln" (room rules) include a stipulation that "die Anzahl der, zu der jede Woche stattfindenden Wäsche, gelieferten Gegenstände der einzelnen Insassen 5 größere Stücke nicht übersteigen" (the number of pieces individual residents bring to the weekly laundry is not to exceed five larger pieces). Or: "Jeder Insasse sollte wenigstens alle zwei Wochen einmal ein mäßig erwärmtes Bad nehmen und zwar der Reihenfolge nach, wie es die Hausfrau bestimmt." (Every resident should take a moderately warm bath at least once every two weeks, and this in the order determined by the manager.)

However odd these rules may seem, they no doubt contributed considerably to the smooth operation of the Altenheim, the responsibility of which was in the hands of a board consisting of 16 women and 15 men. The "Jahres-Bericht des Präsidenten der Executiv-Behörde" (Annual Report from the President of the Board) gives more insight into the operation of the Altenheim, for example from the year 1888, when Board President A.C. Helsing spoke of the Altenheim being "schuldenfrei" (free of debt) with \$14,000 in investments. In addition, a new coal bin and boiler had been installed to heat the Altenheim and greenhouse more adequately in the winter months, whereby the greenhouse



grew roses and carnations for sale to the broader public as a revenue stream for the senior residency. The process of instituting its own milk production, also for broader sale and consumption, was moving along nicely as well. The Board President devotes part of his report to the pleasant development of the Louisenhain, the grove of trees in the front of the Altenheim, which had been named after Helsing's wife. He reports on its increasing use by residents and local villagers as a site for picnics and festivals, and advocates for purchasing a carousel, swing sets and other gymnastic equipment to increase the attractiveness of the grove.

More specifically regarding the day-to-day operations of the home itself, the 1889 "Jahres-Bericht der Inneren Verwaltung des Altenheims" (Annual Report of the Internal Management of the Altenheim) seems to confirm that everything was in good shape and being well maintained. The Board and its committees carried out a myriad of tasks: the building itself was thoroughly cleaned; 16 rooms, the kitchen and corridors along with the roof were painted, the staircases renovated, toilets repaired; six dozen blankets and adequate clothing were purchased; the library was expanded, the apothecary kept up in good order. We also find out that four deaths occurred, and eight new residents were admitted with current totals for the year at 24 single men, 24 single women and six couples for a total of 60. The oldest resident was 90. At one point we even read: "Das Comite sieht sich veranlaßt, darauf hinzuweisen, daß die angestellten Vergleiche mit anderen derartigen Anstalten nicht nur in der Stadt, sondern an verschiedenen Plätzen des Inlandes zu Gunsten Altenheims ausfielen, und besonders ist zu erwähnen, daß die im Altenheim verabreichte Kost einem jeden gut geführten Bürgerhause Ehre machen würde." (The Committee sees reason to point out that the comparisons carried out with other similar institutions not only in the city but at various other places in the country turned out in favor of the Altenheim, and it must be especially mentioned that the food served in the Altenheim would do honor to every well-ordered middle-class home.) It must have been true because the Altenheim ended up receiving a medal as the "Best Institution in Illinois" during the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893.

The award may very well have contributed to the increasing demand for spots in the Altenheim. In 1909 a hospital building was added to the complex, in 1913 another residential building that also received a German inscription:



TRITT EIN, FRIEDE HARRET DEIN (Come In, May Peace Await You). In the papers of Arthur Hercz (1866-1941) in the Chicago Historical Society, we find some fragmentary documentation of the festivities, apparently attended by thousands, surrounding the dedication of the new building in July 1914. Hercz, of Hungarian origin, had studied the fine arts in Vienna and come to Chicago to contribute to the Columbian Exposition. He ended up staying in the US and establishing himself as an architect specializing in interior design. On the occasion of the dedication of the new building, Hercz wrote a morality pantomime pageant with the title of "Gastfreundschaft" (Hospitality). It opens with a prologue:

*Fertig steht das Haus, das Nächstenliebe,  
Deutscher Frauen Fleiß erbaut.  
Steht seitab vom lauten Weltgetriebe,  
Gruene Wipfel rauschen Heimathlaut.  
(Finished is the house that charity,  
German women's diligence built.  
It stands removed from the bustle of the world.  
Green treetops rustle with the sounds of home.)*

*Treue Sorge wird hier künftig walten,  
In den Winter tragend Sonnenschein.  
Silberhaarigen, kampfesmäden Alten,  
Soll dies Haus ein stiller Hafen sein.  
(Faithful care will reign here henceforth,  
Bringing sunshine into the winter.  
For the silver-haired, battle-weary aged,  
This house will be a quiet harbor.)*

The play continues with fanfares, a song from Humperdinck's 1893 opera Hänsel and Gretel, Mendelssohn's "Frühlingslied" (Song of Spring), Dionysus, fauns, Bacchus and female companions. Against this backdrop, the allegorical story is told in pantomime of children becoming youth, and youth becoming mature adults, and finally the elderly.

Part of the dedication ceremony took place outside in the aforementioned Louisenhain. In the 1920's and 30's, the grove continued as a festival ground for picnics, now including a merry-go-around with hand-carved carousel horses that had been purchased in accordance with the Board President's suggestion mentioned earlier. In addition, those gathered, mostly from the German-American community, could take advantage of a single-lane bowling alley and a large dance hall, all the while consuming large quantities of food and drink served under pavilions. This was particularly the case when in 1935 the Altenheim commemorated its 50th anniversary with a festival from noon to midnight. Around that time there was further expansion with another new building that included 62 rooms, a doctor's office, a new kitchen and dining area. The inscription on this building read: EHRET DAS ALTER (Honor the Aged).

Earlier I had quoted from the Annual Report of the Altenheim from the years 1888 and 1889. The next ones I was able to find are from the years 1938 through 1940. A clear indication of the quantitative success of the Altenheim is that whereas the earlier report spoke of 60 total residents, there were now 275, an increase of over 400%

*This story continues on the next page*



in some 50 years. On another note, we might again be amused by the thoroughness of the report when we read: "Die Felder haben reichlich getragen, wie folgt: 99 Bushel Bohnen, 45 Salat, 29 Kohlrabi, 146 Spinat, 45 Süßkorn, 32 Weisskohl, 31 Rotkohl, 12 Savoy Kohl, 25 Gurken, 88 Rote Rüben, 111 Roterbaga, 40 Tomaten, 132 grüne Tomaten, 21 Pfeffer, 65 Lauch, 28 Petersilie, Corn 361, Celery 1500 und Celery Wurzen, 29 Pumpkins. Am 3. November haben wir 6 Schweine, und am 12. Januar 5 und am 12. February 5 geschlachtet. Das Fleisch wurde zum Teil frisch, zum Teil geräuchert und auch zu Wurst verbraucht. Gegenwärtig haben wir 12 Schweine im Stall." (The fields have had bountiful yields as follows: 99 bushels of beans, 45 of salad, 29 of kohlrabi, 145 of spinach, 45 of sweet corn, 32 of white cabbage, 31 of red cabbage, 12 of Savoy cabbage, 25 of cucumbers, 88 of red beets, 111 of rootabaga, 40 of tomatoes, 21 of peppers, 65 of leeks, 28 of parsley, corn 361, celery and celery roots 1500, 29 of pumpkins. On Nov. 3 we butchered 6 pigs and on Jan. 12 5 and Feb. 12 5. The meat was partially processed fresh, partially smoked and also made into sausages. Currently we have 12 pigs in the sty.) All and all, the tone of these Annual Reports is very much upbeat; the Altenheim seems to have been thriving in the 30's as well. At the end of the 1938-39 report, one reads of a surplus of \$16,131 after reconciliation of all income and expenses.

Nonetheless, over the years financial difficulties did set it, which the Altenheim countered by selling pieces of its land, making way for the encroaching suburbs. In 1957-58 the city probably made use of the principle of "eminent domain" to secure land for the Van Buren access to the newly built Eisenhower Expressway. The extension of Altenheim's property ended up shrinking from about 20 to 15 acres.

In spite of this development, the Altenheim was able to keep its own cemetery. In 1991 the Chicago Genealogical Society recorded the inscriptions on the stones and the layout of the plots. The majority of the markers are "institutional", having being made in Altenheim's own foundry with uniform lettering. Birth dates can be found ranging from 1811 to 1904, and death dates from 1895 to 1987. The simplicity of the vast majority of the grave markers seems odd, reminiscent of a soldiers' cemetery, but perhaps it's a sign of modesty not to be ostentatious in death, or of the uniformity of the "decent burial" guaranteed by the Altenheim statutes to its residents.

Regarding interesting personalities and the Altenheim, in his "History of the Altenheim. In Chronological Se-

quence Featuring 100 Highlights at its 100th Year," Dr. Frank Orland of the Forest Park Historical Society relates a tragic love story that involved the Chicago socialite Olga Menn. She had met a certain Baron Oskar de Rothschild, an Austrian nobleman, in 1909, and they ended up getting engaged. However, Rothschild's father forbade the wedding when a private detective he hired found a photo of Olga in a costume for a comic opera performed to benefit the Altenheim. In despair, the Baron apparently killed himself in his Vienna castle. In 1916 it is said that Olga had a brass plate placed on the door to a room at the Altenheim inscribed with the Baron's name. Of further royal note was a visit in September 1987 of Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth of Budingen and Baron von Maydell. They were officially received at the Altenheim and given a tour, followed by a reception.

The years marched on, of course, and the Altenheim complex began to show its age. Considerable Board efforts were successful in securing a \$580,000 federal grant in 1977 to renovate the original building and convert the 75 single, dormitory-type rooms into 30 modern apartments. 1985 then marked the 100th anniversary of the Altenheim, an occasion with special events over the course of several months, with then-Forest Park Mayor Fred Marunde proclaiming August 4th as Altenheim Day. Leading up to that special event, the 1913 building went through a \$1.2 million renovation, now to be named Briarwoods, with the help of a \$700,000 Federal Community Development Block Grant that also changed the rooms into apartments. Overall, the renovations fit into the historical trend of providing affordable independent living for the elderly with services, so-called sheltered care, as a step before more intensive intermediate care or, if necessary, comprehensive skilled care. The comprehensive care had become necessary with the elderly living longer and longer. Whereas their average age in the early days had been in the 60's and 70's, in 1982 it came in at 85.7 years.

Periodic newsletters such as Voice of Altenheim or The Altenheim Notes give some insight into everyday life at the facility during this time. There are touching stories of happiness in a new home and of elderly newlyweds. There is the news of events such as general holiday cheer, the annual birthday celebration of the Altenheim, picnics or a murder mystery fundraiser. We also read about adopt-a-resident programs or the Altenheim's own Meals-on-Wheels efforts for the community. Donations are another news item, such as by the Schwaben Society, a regular donar, to partially replace windows in the complex. The birthdays of residents were also highlighted, for example, in November 1988 when three residents celebrated a triple centenary: Emma Lauth at 103, Adolph Strom at 100 and Karoline Koson also at 103. That's certainly a sign of what a healthy place the Altenheim was and is.

According to its original statutes, the Altenheim was to be a residency for "Deutsche", for Germans. However, that stipulation must have been dropped at some point. From the lists in the newsletters of those departed forever, it is clear that the Altenheim had become less and less a senior residency for German-Americans per se and had opened



its doors to all Americans. Aside from less German emigration to the US, financial considerations no doubt played a role. For in spite of the attempts of rejuvenation through the aforementioned renovations, the financial situation of the Altenheim remained tight. In 2002 the Altenheim saw itself forced to sell 11 of its remaining 14 acres, which it did to the Village of Forest Park for \$3.6 million. This had been preceded by a decision of the Board to move away from the nursing home services of the Altenheim and to focus entirely on an independent living facility for seniors 55 and over. It simply could no longer compete with new modern day facilities that offered more services. As a result, the Altenheim shuttered nearly half of its building space in 2000. As part of that shift, the Altenheim spent roughly \$2 million to completely gut and rehab the original structure of 1885.

The Altenheim has survived well, its overall situation stabilized, no doubt due to very prudent decisions on the part of its Board, currently under the leadership of Jean Riley, a long-time Nurse Manager practicing in the field of geriatrics. Most recently, the Altenheim celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2015. On that occasion, Forest Park Mayor Anthony Calderone presented a proclamation honoring the senior living facility at a formal dinner with residents, the Board and staff members on Oct. 27. The proclamation concludes "that the Altenheim Senior Living Community is a treasured senior living community steeped in Forest Park's rich history and upon this 130th year anniversary, we wish the Altenheim, its residents and leaders, a hearty congratulations and wish Altenheim many more years of senior living enjoyment." In connection with the 130th anniversary, Kathleen Wray, Administrator at the Altenheim, commented that "while much has changed in society over the past 130 years, the Altenheim's culture of caring and respect has remained the same." And so the Altenheim continues its honorable tradition and provides accommodations today for 75 seniors (<http://thealtenheim.com>).

## Milwaukee School of Languages

*Reprinted by permission of the Shepherd Express*

Milwaukee School of Languages (MSL) serves grades six through 12 offering immersion programs in German, French, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. MPS elementary language immersion graduates enter the school's full immersion programs in sixth grade, and students from other schools may apply to partial Spanish immersion in grade six as well. Art, music and physical education are offered at all grade levels as well as elective courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in 11 subjects.

The AP Capstone Program is likewise available, allowing students two AP courses: one focused on seminar learning and the other on research. Both are designed to supplement the discipline-specific studies of other AP courses. This is a coup for MSL since it is one of the first three MPS schools (along with Alexander Hamilton High School and Milwaukee High School of the Arts) to adopt the prestigious college preparatory program.

Asked what makes language immersion an important

and effective part of elementary and secondary education, Principal Martel cited several advantages: "It develops students who have more flexibility in thinking, a higher level of creativity, greater sensitivity to language and a better ear for listening. It also helps strengthen basic skills, improving memory and problem-solving skills. It maximizes the brain's window of opportunity for easy language acquisition, helps develop stronger communication skills and gives students a head start on high school and college language requirements."

She expanded on the neurological development side of things, stating that "the specialty curriculum starts the students at an earlier age when their brains have a better aptitude for soaking up new knowledge. In immersion, the method mimics how students learn from their parents and others. They learn by doing and by being immersed in the language."

Interestingly, Martel also argued that foreign-language study improves a child's understanding of his or her native language, while simultaneously opening doors to cross-cultural appreciation. On a practical note, she maintains that it also increases job opportunities within the global economy.

Asked how language immersion relates to Wisconsin Common Core requirements, Martel said, "All of the teachers use the Common Core State Standards in the core classes. The only difference between a student in immersion and a student in a monolingual school is that the classes for an immersion student are taught in the target language. Content is the same. The culture classes focus on the cultures of the different languages."

At MSL, full-immersion students in sixth or seventh grade receive language classes taught in the target language, as well as math, social studies and culture classes. English, science, music, physical education, art and computers are taught in English.

Not surprisingly, MSL boasts an impressive international partnership with the prominent German education organization Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA). Martel says, "MSL was selected to be a PASCH school by ZfA/Central Agency for Schools Abroad in 2010. PASCH schools place a high value on German language and culture and offer the internationally recognized German Language Exam (Deutsches Sprachdiplom).

"The Central Agency for Schools Abroad, which is supported by the German government, supports our program with a representative from the agency who helps us with materials, resources and professional development to strengthen our classroom instruction and prepare students for the German Language Exam. Milwaukee German Immersion School (K4-grade 5) and MSL are the only PASCH schools in Wisconsin and one of only a few such programs in the United States; PASCH schools are located all around the world."

Citing MSL's successes, Martel also pointed to The Washington Post. "The Post has named MPS's Milwaukee School of Languages as one of the best high schools in the state according to its 'America's Most Challenging High Schools' list. Milwaukee School of Languages was number three in this ranking and among the top 12% in the country."



## Easter traditions in South Tyrol

Many people attach great importance to traditions and a lot of old customs are still practiced in the region.

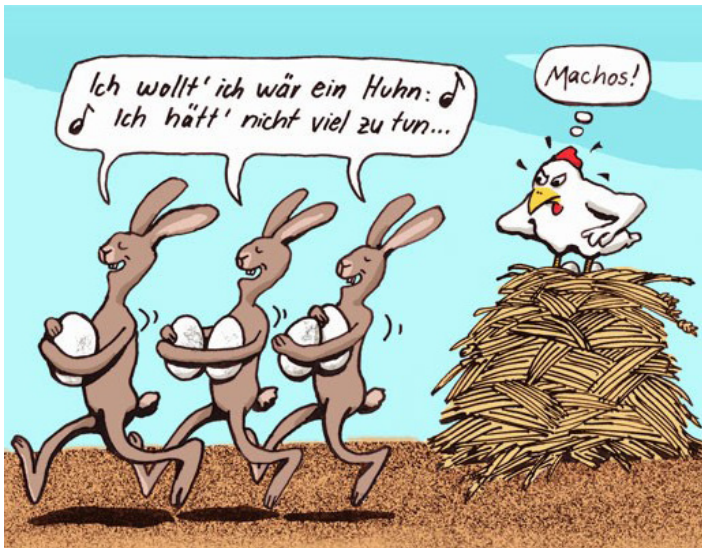
The last Sunday before Easter, every family elects the “Easter donkey” – title for the one who is the last one getting up in the morning and coming to the breakfast table this day.

A typical Easter tradition is the so called “Osterpecken“ or „Preisguffen“. A competition with hard-boiled eggs. Two people have to hit two eggs against each other, first the flatter side and then the other one. The winner is the owner of the egg with hardest eggshell respectively with that egg that at the end isn't in pieces. Traditionally, people meet for this competition after church service on Easter Sunday.

For Easter South Tyrolean's are used to paint and decorate eggs. Sometimes eggs are also blown, decorated and hung on a branch in order to bring good luck.

For children, Easter Sunday is a great day. After attending church they go out in the garden and look for small gifts and sweets brought and hidden by the Easter Bunny.

Originally, at Easter young ladies used to give an Easter egg to the man they would like to marry during that year. A tradition the old generation encourages.



## Origin of the Chocolate Bunny - Germany ?!

Besides the Easter egg, chocolate Easter bunnies are an equally popular iconic item for German Easter celebrations. Bunnies are often rampant in the spring and symbolize fertility. You may have heard the term “breeding like rabbits” in the past. The Easter bunny is reputed to have initially been mentioned during the 16th century in German writings. Pennsylvania Dutch settlers were responsible for importing the bunny to the United States. They referred to it as “Oschter Haws” (Osterhas’) which translates to “Easter Hare”.

It was in 1800 that the first edible bunnies were made for Easter in Germany. Thankfully, this unique tradition caught worldwide attention and is still enjoyed today.

*Von Christel M.*

## Chapter Chatter:

### Spring will come to Erie, PA

*By DANK Chapter Erie*

After breaking our total snowfall of 149” for the year, we inched closer to the all-time high to beat Buffalo NY’s 199.5”. At this time we are just inches of way of setting a new record of 200” for cities with a population of 100K+ and in second place. Yes...we are ready for Spring to be sprung.

In January, we held our Election of officers for 2018 electing as President Fred Huttel, Jr., Beverly Pochatko VPres./ Secretary, and Charlotte Chase, Treasurer. Our February meeting hosted students from Gannon University’s German Travel Group who shared their trip in a photo presentation to us. The students planning to travel to Germany this year came to share with us their expectations of what they hope to learn in their visit. They will experience Austria (Salzburg), and will spend time in Munich and elsewhere in Germany to learn the culture and history. One day will be to visit Dachau and the dark days of the Holocaust. They are excited to visit the many churches and museums and of course tasting German beer. Can’t wait for their presentation in the fall!

On April 28th, members of the Chapter will be traveling to Cleveland to meet with the Region 3 members (Pittsburgh and Cleveland). Lunch and meeting will be at the Hansa Haus and we will also have time to shop in the area and also visit the German Gardens in the Cultural Gardens near the Cleveland Museum of Art. We look forward to the sharing of information between us.

One of Erie’s oldest German clubs will be selling their 100+ year old facility to move to a smaller location. It was a decision that was tough to make, but...economics the way they are is tough to ignore. The Erie Männerchor Club founded in 1871 as a German singing and social club, is one of Erie’s oldest and most prestigious social clubs. DANK members restarted a choral group (The Erie Männerchor Gesangverein) to bring back the tradition on which the club was founded in 2007, 50 years after the music fell silent in the club. While their number of singers has fallen, in true German determination they continue to sing in various senior retirement and assisted living homes in Erie. They also participated in the National Sangerfests – the most recent in Pittsburgh, PA. The Männerchor has been an Associate Member of DANK and is home to our Chapter. We will miss our beautiful facility and all of its heritage, but look forward to our new home.

Be sure to check our new presence on the internet. Visit and Like our new web page at [www.dankerie.org](http://www.dankerie.org). You will find information both on our Chapter and our famous German Heritage Festival held on Labor Day weekend. On Face Book we can be found as DANK 71 – Erie Heritage Society of Erie and German Heritage Fest 2018 Erie, PA. We also have a new email address – [dankerie1990@gmail.com](mailto:dankerie1990@gmail.com). Our former address was just getting too much spam to deal with!

Wishing you all ein Frohe Ostertag!

## Chapter Chatter:

### DANK Chapter Bay City

*By Monte Oswald*

Hallo Freunde!

Alles Gut here in Beautiful Bay City as the river ice begins to melt away, and the sun shines good fortune this way... Harold, Jerry and Sonja are now doing above par thanks to many prayers and the Grace of God!

Unsere DANK Versammlungen are held the 1st Monday of each month and now competing eateries are soliciting our business as our crowds get larger each month! Giving "FREE BEER & PRETZELS" seems to be working wonders for new guest who come to check out German Culture & Heritage... Thanks to all of the FREE GERMAN Info & Gifts available at DANK.org.

Brother Ron Sohn & Rita have been busy connecting DANK and Sister City Ansbach social media sites and the positive results are flowing in as our Chapter #78 members and Ansbach friends are in the process of coordinating a fun filled concert in Ansbach this Sept-Oct! Bruder Walter has connected with Saginaw Valley State University to provide educational exchange opportunities for U.S. visiting teachers AND include contacts for DANK future endeavors...Keep up the Great Work!!

DANK Club activities continue to roll on as the gang celebrates many ethnic events, including the Lucky Charms & Green Beer "St. Patrick's Day Parade". Donnie Gaeth and Bill Fournier provided the trailer & bales of hay for the float. Elaine, Judy, Carol, Lynn and Tamara decorated the float in dazzling decor. Bernie, Dale, Dave and Mr. Dennis rigged up the electrical for Miller's Musikers to perform their magic to the delight of all parade attendees. Prez & VP Monte and Peter christened the vessel "GOOD TO GO" KAISER-LEP-RECHAUN!!!

The much anticipated U.P. Satellite raffle settlement continues to accrue as Brother AL's accounting firm clears the hurdles for the State Treasury Dept. Keep the coin rolling in Yoopers!!! This brought tears to Haubie, Mel and Konrads' eyes as Donnie skimmed off some shekels atop the downstate DANK prize pile which now overflows the wheel barrel sides!!

The GOLDEN EASTER EGG HUNT brings in new guest and members every year and we'd like to congratulate Lee & Gloria on their leap into the DANK family! Let's have an exciting Spring as Maifest approaches. See you in the Beir Garten!



### Cleveland Chapter

*By Mark R. Bohn*

*President, Cleveland Chapter #30*

It has not been a busy two months. We had a chapter meeting on January 25 and discussed our future activities for the coming year. We established an entertainment committee to work on any activities for the coming year.

We are still striving for increased membership for our chapter. This is one of our major goals for the coming year. It appears this is an ongoing never-ending goal.

Even with the establishment of the German Garden Foundation as a separate entity, DANK Cleveland will still be involved in the German Garden. This garden is part of the German culture in Cleveland for which we are part of.

Not much else to report but hope to have much more in the next Journal.

Our next chapter meeting is at Das Schnitzel Haus on Monday March 26. I hope to see many of our members there.

#### Exchange Rates

1 USD = 0.805921EUR

1 EUR = 1.24082USD

3 - 13 - 17



## Chapter Chatter:

### DANK Chapter Milwaukee

By Jill Shearer

*DANK Chapter Milwaukee Member*

Spring is typically a busy time for the Milwaukee Chapter. We are preparing for our March 18th membership meeting and our annual Frühlingsfest on April 14th, planning for German Fest in July and practicing for folk dance performances. This spring is different. Amidst the activity and commotion, we are missing our dear friend, Ursula Günther.

For those that don't know Ursula, she was omnipresent at every DANK event, meeting and celebration. More importantly, she was instrumental in the planning and execution of every DANK function. From preparing goody bags for the kids at Christmas, to cooking for hundreds of revelers at Frühlingsfest, to managing the Konditorei at German Fest, to voicing her opinion at a board meeting, to offering a warm hug at a membership meeting, she was always there for us.

One of the things that made Ursula special was that she shared her whole self with DANK. She was as quick to share a laugh as she was a cry. She never held back what was in her heart and mind and brought an amazing sense of conviction to everything she did. Because of this quality, she was deeply connected to many people in the DANK community.

Ursula was always looking for a way to show her love, sometimes by offering a piece of chocolate to a child or a nip of schnapps to a friend. This story by Christel Miske is a great example!

Christel writes, "I have soooo many memories about the good times Bob and I shared with Ursula. The first thing that always comes to my mind is the Miss DANK USA 1976 Pageant in Harvey, Ill. hosted by DANK Chapter Chicago South. It was late at night, and I was pregnant - that is my excuse, I had a terrific, very bad craving for "Saure Gurken" pickles. All that Ursula had to listen to all night long was "Mensch, haben die hier keine sauren Gurken?" (Oh boy, don't they have any sour pickles here?) I did not have to "jammer" too long. My friend Ursula had one of her splendid ideas. Truthfully, it was after a couple of drinks! She said, now come on, let's go! Together we went to the basement, where the Hotel had all the banquet rooms and there we searched the leftover on the fancy food trays for pickles. Ursula just said, now eat them and shut up. What a friend!!! All night and next day we just looked at each other and laughed. Good times, good memories!"

Roswitha Schnappup, another friend of Ursula's, shares that her and Dieter "have a lot of very good memories of Ursula and Edwin dating back to many years of friendship. We did many things together- going camping and having a spanferkel dinner, also renting a little boat on the Wolf River and Edwin and Dieter carrying it down the river because the water was not too deep.

When we asked Uschi for anything she was always there to help. I ordered very often a torte from German Fest and she always saved one for us. She also made the best potato salad for our picnic and for different functions. I have to say we miss her dearly."

As the Milwaukee chapter looks ahead to a busy spring, we will honor Ursula by working hard and having fun. She has taught us so much and we will carry her spirit with us!



## KAFFEEKLATSCH Coffee & Conversation

Join us for our weekly Kaffeeklatsch and practice and polish your German conversational skills.

Everyone is welcome!

Starts Wednesday, January 31st, 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm, 4th Floor Library  
Hosted every Wednesday while classes are in session.

*Coming soon to the  
DANK Haus  
in Chicago!!!*



# Chapter Chatter:

## German Journal

*Miglana Nikolova, Ph.D.*  
*Language Program Director*  
*DANK Haus Chicago*  
*miglana@dankhaus.com*

Wir sind eine Gruppe enthusiastischer Akademikerinnen, die sich in Chicago, USA, durch das DANK Haus German American Cultural Center gefunden haben. Wir wollen Forschern die Möglichkeit geben, breitgefächert über das "Deutsche" und seinen Platz in der Welt zu reflektieren. In unseren Lebensläufen finden sich neben intensiven akademischen Ausbildungen in Linguistik, Literatur, Kultur, Politikwissenschaften, Psychologie, und mehr, auch viele kulturelle Erlebnisse, die uns offen und gespannt auf mehr gemacht haben. Wir sind neugierig und freuen uns auf Ihre Perspektiven.

### Umfang und Ziele

Das German Journal ist ein Fachmagazin mit peer-review, das mit freundlicher Unterstützung des non-profit DANK Hauses Chicago German American Cultural Center veröffentlicht wird. Unser Ziel ist es, wissenschaftliche Forschung zu publizieren, die sich mit Literatur, Kultur und Sprache (inklusive Forschung, die sich explizit mit Deutsch als Fremdsprache, oder Zweitsprache, auseinandersetzt) beschäftigt. Artikel werden in Deutsch und in Englisch veröffentlicht. Das Magazin wird zweimal im Jahr publiziert, jeweils im Januar und im Juli. Wir veröffentlichen elektronisch und sehen unsere Schwerpunkte in den folgenden Kategorien: Sprache, Literatur, Kultur.

We are a group of enthusiastic academics who found each other at the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center in Chicago, USA. We want to offer researchers the possibility to reflect on "German" in all its facets and its place in the world. Our resumés are filled with intensive academic training in linguistics, literature, cultural studies, political science, psychology, and more, but we all also have fascinating cultural experiences that have made us open and excited for more. We are curious and are looking forward to your perspectives.

### Objectives and Scope

German Journal is a peer-reviewed academic journal published with generous support from the DANK Haus Chicago German American Cultural Center. Its objective is to circulate scholarly information on research in literature, culture, and language, including teaching German as a second or foreign language. Articles are published in German and English. The journal is issued twice a year, in the months of January and July. It is published electronically and focuses on the following areas: Language, Literature, Culture.

## Chapter 58 Webmaster Wins National Award

*By John Kugler*  
*DANK Chapter Pittsburgh*



Michael Kugler, a high school senior and also webmaster for the Pittsburgh Chapter, was recently awarded first place in the FBI H.O.P.E (Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education) Initiative video contest. Michael's video entitled "Living Proof", was voted as the top submission in Western Pennsylvania by a panel of FBI agents, police officers, drug treatment employees, and former addicts.

As part of the winnings, South Fayette High School was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Last year, Michael was lead engineer on a project that created a new type of pill dispensing system for opioids that utilized a finger print reader and programmable timed dosing schedule. The product, known as LockRx, won first place in the Governor's Regional STEM competition, and currently has a patent pending. A video about the development of LockRx was submitted to the nationwide Digital Promise filmmaker challenge, where it was one of four winning entries. Michael and his team were invited to present their product last fall at the World Maker Faire in New York City.

After graduation, Michael will be attending the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

### Upcoming deadlines for the DANK German-American Journal

To keep this magazine on schedule for on-time delivery please use the following schedule for upcoming issues:

**June/July: May 10**

**August/September: July 10**

**October/November: September 15**

Chapter news and pictures should be sent to  
 Russ Knoebel at [Office@DANK.org](mailto:Office@DANK.org).

If you need assistance of any kind please contact us!

## No more smuggling Kinder Eggs into the US

For years, Kinder Egg fans have been held at the border for hours threatened with fines between \$300 (268 euros) and \$2,500 for confiscated contraband candy. Those held at the US border have even been sent lengthy letters seeking their consent abandoning rights over the confiscated, contraband candy. All because the candy holds in its belly a capsule containing a toy - which the US Food and Drug Administration considers “a choking hazard.”

But this changed.

In news that will bring much cheer to fans of the iconic Kinder Egg, its manufacturer Ferrero International has announced that the eggs will be legally available 2018 in the United States, CNN reported.

The Kinder Eggs sold legally in the US, are not the Kinder Surprise, but instead the FDA compliant, Kinder Joy. This version of Kinder which was first manufactured in 2001 consists of two plastic egg-shaped halves - one holds Kinder's trademark creamy milk chocolate with crunchy wafer balls and the second half holds a toy. The original Kinder Egg, also called Kinder Surprise or Kinder Sorpresa, has a toy enclosed in its hollow egg-shaped chocolate.

For loyal fans of Kinder, these toys are collectibles, much like toys that come with a MacDonal'd's Happy Meal.

The Kinder brand's parent company, Ferrero Group, is the fourth-largest chocolate confectionary maker in the world and holds 9.5 percent of the \$98 million global chocolate market, according to Euromonitor, a market research provider.

Ferrero, which was founded in 1946, manufactures other popular chocolate treats, which include Nutella chocolate spread, Ferrero Rocher and Tic Tac mints.

Kinder was among the early movers in pushing the “food as toys” marketing story, personifying this idea as early as 1974 when it first launched Kinder Sorpresa (the Italian word for “surprise”). During Easter, it was tradition in Italy to give children chocolate eggs with a toy inside and Ferrero drew from it to manufacture its first Kinder Egg.

The only other company to use this strategy before Kinder was Cracker Jack, an American caramel-coated popcorn and peanut snack, which became wildly popular after it started including small prizes inside each snack box in 1912. The “prize” could be animal figurines, tin whistles, handheld puzzles, rings, booklets, stickers, porcelain dolls in boxes, temporary tattoos, decoder rings and even baseball cards.

In the years that followed, many companies in the United States, including McDonald's (with its Happy Meal), Burger King and even Wendy's jumped onto this marketing narrative.

The popularity of Kinder Eggs also saw the emergence of a copycat brand Choco Treasure (manufactured by New Jersey-based Candy Treasure).

Fans will be fans

While Kinder Eggs are widely available and have been enjoyed by America's neighbors, Canada and Mexico, for decades, the United States had disallowed it under the 1938 Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The Act banned con-



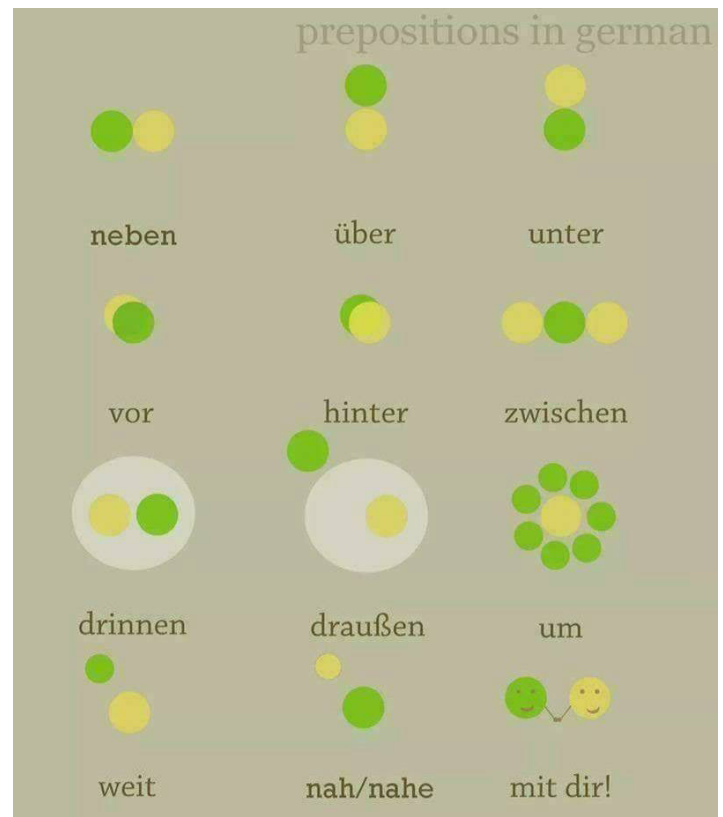
fectioneries which had “any non-nutritive object” embedded in them.

However, this hasn't stopped its fans from trying to smuggle them into the US.

In 2011, US Customs and Border Protection authorities confiscated 60,000 Kinder Eggs, more than double the number from the previous year.

The ban on Kinder Eggs has also prompted fan memes, a White House petition to “Free The Egg” and been used in a campaign for gun safety. These efforts by fans brought results. This year the Easter baskets we will hold “KINDER JOY – MIT ÜBERRASCHUNG”.

Von Christel M. - DW.de





## Der digitale Schub

## Digital Upturn



**Wirtschaftsboom rund ums Smartphone: Die Digitalisierung schafft Wachstum und neue Jobs. Die neuesten Zahlen.**

Die Digitalisierung treibt die deutsche Wirtschaft an. 45.000 zusätzliche Stellen haben allein die Anbieter von Informations- und Telekommunikationstechnik (ITK) 2017 geschaffen. Das sind mehr als je zuvor in einem Jahr. Für 2018 rechnet der Branchenverband Bitkom mit einem ähnlichen Zuwachs. Dann wären am Jahresende 1.134.999 Menschen in Deutschland im ITK-Sektor beschäftigt – und die Branche der größte industrielle Arbeitgeber noch vor Maschinen- oder Automobilbau.

### *Milliardenmarkt rund um das Smartphone*

Auch die Umsätze legen weiter zu. 2017 stiegen sie um 2,2 Prozent auf 161,3 Milliarden Euro. Für 2018 erwartet Bitkom ein Plus von 1,7 Prozent. Ein Phänomen ist die Entwicklung rund um das Smartphone. 2018 wird sich nach Berechnungen des Digitalverbands das Geschäft mit Endgeräten, Daten- und Sprachdiensten, Anwendungen und Infrastruktur in Deutschland auf über 33 Milliarden Euro summieren. „Wohl noch nie in der Wirtschaftsgeschichte ist in so kurzer Zeit rund um einen einzelnen Gerätetyp ein so großer Markt entstanden“, sagte Bitkom-Präsidiumsmitglied Markus Haas anlässlich des Mobile World Congress Ende Februar 2018 in Barcelona.

### *Deutsche Unternehmen gut auf Digitalisierung vorbereitet*

Bei einer repräsentativen Umfrage des Branchenverbands Bitkom stuften 36 Prozent der Unternehmen die deutsche Wirtschaft bei der Digitalisierung international in der Spitzengruppe ein. 44 Prozent sahen sie im Mittelfeld, 13 Prozent meinen, dass die deutsche Wirtschaft zu den digitalen Nachzüglern gehört, aber niemand hält sie für abgeschlagen. „Viele Unternehmen gehen die digitalen Herausforderungen selbstbewusst an“, sagt Bitkom-Präsident Achim Berg. „Ob Künstliche Intelligenz, autonomes Fahren, Blockchain oder Internet der Dinge (IoT) und Industrie 4.0 – deutsche Unternehmen und Forschungseinrichtungen haben einen exzellenten Ruf und sind bei der Technologie-Entwicklung weltweit Spitze.“ Er mahnte aber auch an, dass noch zu selten aus digitalen Innovationen marktgängige Produkte und neue Geschäftsmodelle werden.

**Smartphones contribute to an economic boom: digitalisation is creating growth and new jobs. The latest figures.**

Digitalisation is driving the German economy forward. In 2017, 45,000 additional jobs were created by the suppliers of information and communication technology (ICT) alone. That is more than ever before in one year. Bitkom, Germany's digital association, is anticipating similar growth in 2018. That would result in 1,134,999 people being employed in Germany's ICT sector at the end of the year – and the industry would become the largest sectoral employer ahead of engineering or car manufacturing.

### *Smartphone market worth billions*

Sales are also continuing to increase in the sector. In 2017 they rose by 2.2% to 161.3 billion euros. Bitkom expects an increase of 1.7% in 2018. One special feature here is the growth based on smartphones. According to calculations by the digital association, sales of consumer devices, voice and data services, applications and infrastructure in Germany will be worth over 33 billion euros in 2018. “Never before has such a large market developed in such a short time on the basis of one device,” said Markus Haas, member of the Bitkom Presidium, during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona at the end of February 2018.

### *German firms equipped for digitalisation*

In a representative survey by the Bitkom association, 36% of companies ranked German industry among the international leaders when it comes to digitalisation. 44% considered it to be in the middle range and 13% believed German industry to be among the digital stragglers, but none considered it beaten. “Many companies are self-confidently addressing the digital challenges,” says Achim Berg, Bitkom President. “Whether it is artificial intelligence, autonomous driving, blockchain technology or the Internet of Things (IoT) and Industry 4.0, German businesses and research institutions have an excellent reputation and are world leaders when it comes to the development of technology.” He warns, however, that it is still too often the case that digital innovations are not transformed into marketable products and new business models.

# White Asparagus Season in Germany

by Francine McKenna-Klein, Staff Columnist

Autumn in Germany is Apple and Grape harvests; Spring first Barlauch, wild garlic, then it is the eagerly anticipated "Spargelzeit". The two month white asparagus season that, depending on the weather, begins some time in April and lasts until just after Summer Solstice, on St. John the Baptist's feast day June 24. For those weeks it is a country gripped by "Asparagus Fever".

On average every man, woman and child eats four pounds of asparagus during that time but, as there must be those who don't like the "Royal Vegetable", "Das königliche Gemüse", this must also mean there will be some who are eating very little else.

Originally from Asia Minor, green asparagus spread to countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea around two thousand years ago; becoming a delicacy. At the time "asparagus" was used by the Greeks to describe most stalk type vegetables, but eventually just this one, and the Romans transported it together with many other plant species when crossing the Alps to conquer northern Europe's "uncivilized" tribes. Asparagus fell out of favor after 300 AD, re-appearing in the 11th century in Germany's monastery gardens and prepared by monks for use as herbal medicines.

It was not until the reign of Louis XIV the French Sun King, whose hot houses in the 17th century were filled with asparagus for his year round enjoyment, that asparagus regained popularity in Europe. A luxury vegetable reserved for the tables of nobles and the various royal courts.

In 16th century Germany Spargel cultivation began around Stuttgart, where it gained its nickname, "The Royal Vegetable", because, as in France, it was only available to the nobility.

The country's love affair with asparagus had begun and by the middle of the 19th century was popular with all levels of society. "Spargelzeit" is now a huge event throughout the country, and hard to escape.

Market vendors provide free access to "Asparagus Shelling Machines" where customers first buy their asparagus, then politely line up to await their turn. Saves battling with the usual kitchen asparagus peeler that invariably has a mind of its own. There are hundreds of different recipes, and multiple "White Asparagus Menus" offered everywhere from five star restaurants to bars.

Asparagus festivals appear featuring "Kings" and "Queens" judged and crowned by the size of the asparagus stalk they have grown or bought and asparagus peeling contests. Asparagus seminars and cooking courses, tours and roadside asparagus booths last as long as the season, while the "Asparagus Routes" are popular year round.

Even out of season asparagus fields on the 85 mile "Baden Asparagus Route", and the 466 mile long "Lower Saxony Asparagus Route", are easily identifiable; leafy green plants and bell shaped white flowers until Autumn, followed by red berries.

The routes don't only pass asparagus fields but museums, a mass of cultural and historical sites, lakes, picturesque landscapes, and in season restaurants offering every possible

combination of Spargel specialties. Some of them more than a little bizarre. Asparagus ice cream?

Schwetzingen, the self proclaimed "Asparagus Capital", is where 17th century Elector Palatine Karl Theodor started a trend among "Princeloms" etc. by ordering asparagus to be grown in the grounds of his summer residence. Green asparagus in those days.

In May the castle grounds echo to the sounds of its Spargelzeit festival, and on the market place outside the castle's gates stands a bronze monument shaded by chestnut trees. This commemorates "Spargelfrauen" the women who had to work from very early in the morning, first digging out asparagus then standing and selling their harvest.

A 15th century tower in Schrobenhausen Upper Bavaria houses the European Asparagus Museum, where, along with an iconic Andy Warhol painting of an asparagus, everything from horticulture and history to recipes and medical science is on exhibit.

White and green asparagus are the same plant. The green variety grown in flat beds exposed to the sun has a long history, and still the most popular worldwide, whereas Germany's favorite white asparagus is more tender and creamy with a sweeter taste. In fact many trying it for the first time think it has no taste. White asparagus spears need to be blanched, so as they grow earth is continually molded around them, ensuring there is no contact with the sun to turn them green.

A method first discovered by the Romans it was not followed in Germany until the mid 17th century, then green Spargel fell out of fashion and, although seen more often in the last years, it has never returned to its former popularity.

As it reaches for light asparagus spear leaf buds lengthen underground, and as a tip exposed to the sun turns light purple harvesting begins at dawn. Spears are harvested by hand as the mounds begin to crack but before its shoots break through the earth.

Harvesting asparagus involves digging down to cut the spear under the earth, and must be done by hand with a special knife as machines would break the stalks. These days it is usually skilled migrant workers who cut out the average of 100 spears an hour, and as asparagus grows quickly they often work through the afternoon to bring in a second harvest.

An asparagus field can last twenty years after it begins to produce, but it will take two to three years before those first crops to appear on newly cultivated beds, and they need constant care. Then each stalk has to be harvested individually.

So it is labor intensive. Asparagus begins the season by being very expensive and as the weeks pass, although the price does drop, it never becomes "inexpensive".

Nevertheless for Germany's many asparagus lovers "Spargelzeit" is the high point of Spring, perhaps even the culinary year. A highly anticipated and delicious seasonal delicacy that disappears as quickly as it arrives, both from the dish and the field.

*Learn to cook White asparagus soup on page 25!*



## From DANK Members:

### Christian Easter Tradition in Germany

By Beverly Pochatko



We read about various traditions across Germany related to the week before Easter - the Easter Bunny, the Easter Egg trees, etc., but that about covers it. I questioned about a religious tradition that not many talk about, "The Blessing of the Easter Food Basket". This tradition is widely practiced in the old Polish and Eastern European and the Orthodox churches in the United States. We know that many traditions are passed down in some families and not in others. Such was the case in my family. It was not practiced in my home (my grandparents were Bavarian Catholics and the other northern Lutherans). My husband's family was Austro-Hungarian and he brought the tradition with him. So I posed the question on several German websites and the responses were similar to my own experience. While Bavaria is predominantly Catholic some never heard of it and some exclaimed yes! So here is the story behind it...

"The blessing of the baskets" is a practice dating to the 15th century or earlier, and one which is still maintained by most families on Holy Saturday. The food contents in the Easter basket are symbolic and each item carries a significant meaning.

Meats represent "the abolishment of the 'Old Law' and the establishment of 'New Law' in the Resurrection of Christ," while horseradish, beet relish, salt and pepper are likened to the "bitter herbs" of Passover and a reminder of "Christ's bitter suffering." Since salt is a fundamental seasoning and preservative, it is symbolic of prosperity and justice.

And while eggs equal birth and resurrection, a lamb mold of sugar, butter or cake represents "the Lamb of God" and breads are today's grains, considered life-giving essentials of both man and God's harvest.

Traditions vary from family to family about what goes into the basket that is to be blessed on Holy Saturday. But what seems to remain constant are the colorful ribbons and greenery, boxwood, pussywillow or forsythia and perhaps daffodils attached to the basket as signs of joy and new life in the awakening of Spring and the celebration of the Resurrection. The basket is lined with a white cloth or traditional folk fabric.

A typical Eastern European Easter basket would include any of these symbolic foods.

- Bread- Usually a braided challah, representing the staff of life given by God.

- Easter bread- The name paska came from the Jewish Passover feast known as pesach. A round loaf of rich, eggy, yeast dough studded with orange and lemon peel and raisins, reminiscent of the risen Lord. It usually has a dough cross on top. It is a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

- Butter- Butter is often shaped into a lamb (symbolic of the Paschal Lamb). Dairy products are included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of our salvation.

- Candle - The candle symbolizes Jesus, the "light of the world," is lit and placed on the Easter table during the meal.

- Cheese - Cheese is a symbol to remind Christians of moderation. Some families make their own from eggs and milk.

- Colored eggs - known by many as pisanki (pee-SAHN-kee). Both colored and uncolored hard-cooked eggs indicate hope, new life and Christ rising from his tomb.

- Ham - Meats are symbolic of great joy and abundance in celebration of Christ's resurrection.

- Sausage - (kielbasa) The sausage links are symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead, as well as of God's generosity.

- Horseradish - This is a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Jesus, and the vinegar it is mixed with symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross. Horseradish, especially mixed with grated beets, is symbolic of the Christ's passion and blood he shed.

- Salt - Salt, is a necessary element in physical life. It adds zest to life and preserves us from corruption. It is symbolic of prosperity and justice and to remind us that people are the flavor of the earth.

- Sweets—Such as candy eggs suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come.

- Wine

Once the basket is filled, it is covered with a white linen cloth representing the shroud of Christ. In some families, a richly embroidered cloth basket cover rests atop the food.

At the Church, the baskets (large and small, are placed on the altar for the blessing. The aromas are intoxicating and it takes tremendous willpower not to sample. Not one morsel of this food is eaten until after church services on Easter Sunday.

Every family has its own traditions when it comes to the Easter baskets, most believe it is imperative that every member of the family have a bite of all the blessed foods after Mass on Easter Sunday.

## From DANK Members:

### Planes, Trains, and lots of Beer: *My Trip Across Three European Countries*

By Stephen Knouse

Starting back in August of 2016 I was given the opportunity to travel abroad for the fourth time in my life. Previously I had been to Ecuador two times, and I also went on a trip to Poland and Prague. This time around I worked with the Gannon University T.R.A.V.E.L program visiting Germany, Prague, and Austria. The T.R.A.V.E.L program stands for Transforming Residents Abroad Via Engaged Learning and it was built to educate students about how to plan and execute foreign travel while simultaneously being enriched by the cultures they would be experiencing. For this trip I was in a group of eleven other individuals who were all female. In order to pull this fourteen-day trip off we met on a weekly basis as a group from the beginning of August all the way till the first day of the trip in early May. Every moment of the ten-month process leading up to the trip and all fourteen days of the actual experience were inspirational, educational, and all-around rewarding. This whole experience was made possible for me and the nine other students through a generous donation from the Erie DANK group which, speaking for the whole group, we are very thankful for.

This trip was, and will probably remain, the trip of my lifetime for numerous reasons. One of the main reasons being the fact that, as a group, we decided on every detail of the trip from the locations throughout the fourteen days to the budget for meals and where we wanted to eat. This made it unique from all the other trips I had previously been on because I got the chance to build in what I enjoyed and what I wanted to learn from. A big part of the T.R.A.V.E.L program experience is the planning and budgeting. This was the main focus of our weekly meetings and why we reached out to DANK. Our goal as a group was to choose a few select cities that would offer us a general gist of the cultures we were visiting. DANK was a vital resource in giving us firsthand accounts of which cities would fulfill that goal and give us a lifetime of education within fourteen days. With the recommendations from the members of DANK we decided to travel to: Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and Munich. We also took day trips to Salzburg, Neuschwanstein, and Dachau. As a group we felt that this would give us a diverse and very educational look into the cultures of the three countries.

On a personal level there were three main aspects of the trip that made it the trip of my lifetime. The first one was visiting Prague for a second time. It was a ton of fun being able to be the tour guide for the group and also being in charge of booking our stay at the best hostel in the world, Sophie's. Prague is arguably the most beautiful city in the world and after my previous trip to Poland and Prague I felt like I had only scraped the surface of what the city had to offer. This was my chance to show eleven other people the city that changed my life and also allow me to see every nook and

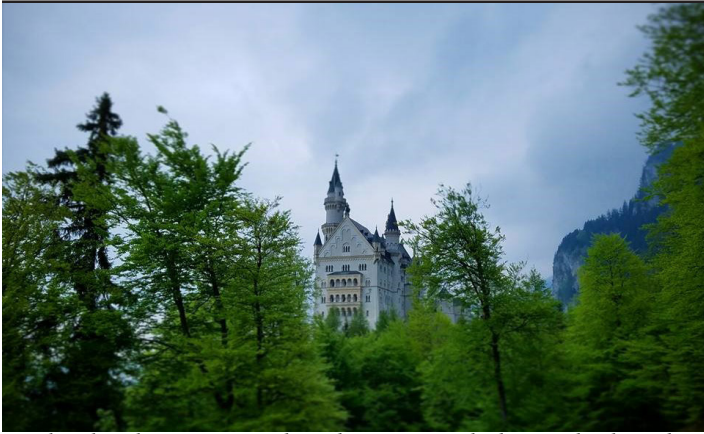


cranny it had to offer. I spent a lot of time on self-reflection during the evenings to understand the degree to which I had grown emotionally, spiritually, and mentally almost exactly a year after I had been walking those same streets. While in Prague we went on a Beer Tour as a group which led to a very interesting night. We visited the three oldest and most historic pubs in the city and there were also about twenty other people from all across the globe with us on the tour. At each stop our guide, who was from Ireland, taught us the history of each place and also the history of the beers we were having. Not only did we get to learn thousands of years of history based on beer, but we also got the chance to communicate with and learn about all of the other cultures of the other people on the tour. I spent a majority of the night talking to a group of Canadian and Irish people, but I also got the chance to talk to people from the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

The second aspect of the trip that made it the trip of my lifetime was being able to visit Dachau after visiting Auschwitz and Treblinka in Poland the year before. It was fascinating to see the differences and similarities between the camps based in Germany versus Poland. This is not a part of history that many people want to face and learn about. But, after visiting Poland the year before on a trip designed around the history of the Holocaust I felt it was very important to also see and experience Germany's side of the dialogue. Along with visiting Dachau for a day we also got the chance to spend a day in Salzburg and Obersalzburg taking a tour through the town and up to the Eagles Nest. This trip allowed me to physically stand in all the big-name spots of the Holocaust which gave me a perspective and understanding of what unfolded that I could have never learned from reading any amount of literature.

The third aspect of the trip that made it the trip of my lifetime was being able to cross off the number one item on





my bucket list. Over a decade ago my dad was deployed to Germany for a year of service. It was his first deployment and a huge adjustment for our family. He made it his mission to send my brother and I weekly letters telling us about all of the things he was seeing and all the places he was traveling to on his days off. One week he sent me a postcard from the castle Neuschwanstein which was my favorite castle because of the movie Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. All the postcard said was, "Hey bud! I (my dad) got to visit your favorite place and we would have so much fun playing hide and seek in here. Love ya." I still have that postcard and ever since the day I received it I had the goal of visiting that castle and experiencing what my dad experienced. I always thought that it would take me most of my life to reach a point where I could travel over to Germany and be able to see the Castle. Spending the day running around the town and the mountains of the castle was one of the top three best days of my life so far. Thanks to Gannon and DANK I was able to cross off the number one item on my bucket list before I was even twenty-one years old.

I have been fortunate enough throughout my life to have opportunities to travel abroad either on mission trips or educational trips. My most recent trip to Germany, Prague, and Austria would not have been possible for me without the aid from the DANK group and their support throughout the whole process. I am sure the trip would have still been incredible if our group did everything independently, but because of our communication and connection with the DANK group it helped elevate the trip to its maximum potential and I, as well as the whole group, am incredibly thankful for that.



## The 6 German words you need to know for spring

Here are essential German words for describing your Frühlingsgefühl (spring fever).

### 1. der Frühlingsbote - harbinger of spring

Birds twittering love songs to one another, baby flowers budding on the trees, restaurants advertising fresh Spargel (asparagus) - these are all examples of Frühlingsbote that let you know springtime is coming to Germany.

### 2. die Spargelsaison or die Spargelzeit - asparagus season

To anyone who has lived in Germany at least a year, it's quite obvious that Germans go quite mad for white asparagus when the season starts up in the spring, only lasting up to mid-June. The traditional meal consists of white asparagus, hollandaise sauce, Black Forest ham (Schwarzwälder Schinken) and boiled potatoes, but you're sure to see menu specials of all varieties - everywhere you go - this time of year.

### 3. das Naturgefühl - a feeling of oneness with nature

With the flowers abloom and the grass getting greener, it's no wonder many Germans start to get a strong sense of Naturgefühl during springtime.

### 4. die Blumenpracht - a magnificent display of flowers

Be sure to compliment your German friends on their new Blumenpracht, because if there's one thing Germans love about spring flowers, it's arranging them in beautiful displays.

### 5. die Bowle - mixed fruit and sparkling wine beverage

Bowle is to spring and summer what Glühwein (mulled wine) is to winter. This refreshing drink usually consists of wine or sparkling wine with juice, chunks of fruit, sugar and sometimes spirits like vodka or rum.

### 6. der Schrebergarten or der Kleingarten - small gardens outside city life

Newcomers to Germany might be a bit surprised to see what at first sight appear to be slums on the fringes of cities, though surprisingly lush and green. These little colonies are in fact Schrebergärten, also known as a Kleingärten, that serve as allotment gardens to city folk who want to rent a space outside the hustle and bustle of metropolitan life, kick back and enjoy a little slice of nature. The term Schrebergarten came about in the 1800s when the Industrial Revolution had led to a boom of people moving away from rural life and into the cities to find work. Poor, working class families were living in cramped conditions inside the city and were missing the sunlight and fresh produce they once enjoyed in the countryside. The Schreber Movement emerged, named after a Leipzig academic who wrote about the social and public health consequences of urbanization, Daniel Gottlob Moritz Schreber. This movement proposed the creation of "gardens for the poor" - open spaces where this impoverished group could grow their own food and children could enjoy the benefits of nature.

Article published on 2.May.2016 on the Local - news@thelocal.de



## Aus Unserer Schatzkiste From Our Treasure Chest



### Das Lied von den zwei Hasen (Volkslied aus Hessen)

Zwischen Berg und tiefem, tiefem Tal  
saßen einst zwei Hasen.  
Fraßen ab das grüne, grüne Gras,  
fraßen ab das grüne, grüne Gras  
bis auf den Rasen.



Als sie sich nun satt gefressen hatten  
setzten sie sich nieder,  
bis dass der Jäger, Jäger kam,  
bis dass der Jäger, Jäger kam  
und schoss sie nieder.

Als sie sich nun aufgerappelt hatten  
und sich besannen,  
dass sie noch am Leben, Leben war'n,  
dass sie noch am Leben, Leben war'n  
liefen sie von dannen.

### Das Osterei

*August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben, 1798 - 1874*

Hei, juchhei! Kommt herbei!  
Suchen wir das Osterei!  
Immerfort, hier und dort  
und an jedem Ort!

Ist es noch so gut versteckt,  
endlich wird es doch entdeckt.  
Hier ein Ei ! Dort ein Ei!  
Bald sind's zwei und drei!

Wer nicht blind, der gewinnt  
einen schönen Fund geschwind.  
Eier blau, rot und grau  
kommen bald zur Schau.

Und ich sag's, es bleibt dabei,  
gern such ich ein Osterei:  
Zu gering ist kein Ding,  
selbst kein Pfifferling.



### Has', Has', Osterhas'

*Paula Dehmel, 1862-1918*

Has', Has', Osterhas'  
wir möchten nicht mehr warten.  
Der Krokus und das Tausendschön,  
Vergissmeinnicht und Tulpe steh'n  
schon lang in unserm Garten.

Has', Has', Osterhas',  
mit deinen bunten Eiern!  
Der Star lugt aus dem Kasten raus.  
Blühkätzchen sitzen um sein Haus.  
Wann kannst du Frühling feiern?

Has', Has', Osterhas',  
ich wünsche mir das Beste:  
ein großes Ei, ein kleines Ei,  
dazu ein lustig Diddumdei.  
Und alles in dem Neste.



Der Feldhase – Albrecht Dürer 1471-1528 - Nürnberg



# Aus Oma's Küche:

## Spargelzeit Asparagus Soup Recipe

### CREAMY WHITE ASPARAGUS SOUP

#### Ingredients for 4 servings:

- 2 Shallots
- 1 lb white asparagus (for soup it does not need to be best quality)
- 4 oz potato
- 1.1/2 oz butter
- 2.1/4 cups asparagus water if possible, (made from asparagus trimmings and stalks, cooked, left overnight to absorb flavor and drained), otherwise vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons white wine (optional)
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- Salt
- Pepper, freshly ground if possible
- Sugar
- Lemon Juice
- 2 tablespoons of finely chopped chives or 2 tablespoons almond slices lightly roasted without fat in a skillet (optional)



#### Method:

Chop the peeled potato and shallots into small dice

Peel the asparagus and break off where the hard end begins (save peelings and end pieces to make asparagus stock for later use)

Place four of the asparagus stalks into a damp cloth and put aside (optional)

Slice the rest into 1/2 inch pieces

Melt 1 oz of the butter, add shallots and lightly fry until transparent, about 2 minutes

Add chopped potato and asparagus to shallots and cook for further 5 minutes

Add the asparagus water or broth, wine if using, and cream

Stir, bring to the boil, lower heat and simmer over a medium heat for about 25 minutes

Puree until smooth.

Add salt, pepper, a pinch of sugar and a squeeze of lemon

Cut the remaining four asparagus stalks into thin slices, leaving tips whole

Melt remainder of butter and add the asparagus slices and tips

Fry lightly for about 5 minutes until softened

Sprinkle with a little salt and a pinch sugar

Stir

Add fried asparagus slices and tips to puree, stirring bring back to heat

Leave "as is", decorate with finely chopped chives or roasted almonds, or an asparagus tip added to each bowl.



## In Remembrance



DANK Chapter Milwaukee mourns the passing of

### Heinz Günther Britsch



Heinz Günther Britsch, age 87, a beloved DANK member, passed away March 5th, 2018 in Oconomowoc, WI.

Born in Pforzheim, Germany October 18th, 1930, a proud and loving husband, father, grandfather, son and brother.

Heinz was a 25 year member of DANK and the choir until his health deteriorated. Married to his wife Renate for 65 years and the marriage

was blessed with 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Professionally he worked for Bucyrus-Erie heavy machinery company as an engineer and a department head. His professional work took him to South Africa, many times to Germany and he was instrumental in helping establish the company in Pocatello, Idaho where the family lived for four years. DANK was dear to his heart and he served many years on the board. Heinz loved singing and helping where he could as much time allowed from his professional work, mainly at German Fest in the "flammkuchen" (pizza) booth, and elsewhere as needed. He valued his German heritage, culture and language.

Heinz was preceded in death by his parents Max, Pauline Britsch, brother Herman, granddaughter Ashley and son-in-law Casey.

Now Heinz can sing his favorite songs in Heaven with the angel choir in his melodious baritone voice! Our sincere condolences are extended to the Britsch family. Heinz and his presence will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.



DANK Chapter Milwaukee mourns the passing of

### Hedwig Hirt



Hedwig (Tal) Hirt was reunited with her husband as she passed away peacefully with family by her side on January 19, 2018. Hedy was born in Marienberg, Germany on May 11, 1928 and came to the U.S. in 1962 with her family where they resided in Milwaukee.

Hedy was very involved with her church, St. Catherine's of Alexandria and in the D.A.N.K Milwaukee chapter. Hedy was a longtime D.A.N.K. member and served on the Milwaukee board for a number of years. Artur and Hedy were married for almost 60 years.

Hedy is survived by her children, Ingrid Braun-Smith (Russell), Helga Wohlfeil (Donald), Bernd Hirt (Terri), Andree Hirt, Gary Hirt (Gina), her grandchildren, Marcus (Jennifer), Elizabeth, James, Emma, Olivia, Alex, Claire, Elly, her great-grandchildren, Peyton and Andre. Survived also by many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends in North Dakota and Germany.

DANK Chapter Lake County mourns the passing of

### Joyce Keefe

Joyce was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and passed away at her home in Butler, Wisconsin, reuniting with her husband of 56 years, George.

At the time of her death, at 86, Joyce was still employed as a beautician! She is survived by her beloved son, Jim and dearest granddaughters, Samantha and Erin.

Joyce was also a member of the Milwaukee Schlesier Verein, and a long time member of DANK Chapter Lake County.





## In Remembrance



DANK Chapter Milwaukee mourns the passing of

### Ursula Günther

(born Gleich) Born to Eternal Life on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the age of 76. Beloved wife of Edwin. Loving mother of Erich (Kara) and Heidi. Dear Oma of Tyler and Alex. Also survived by other relatives and friends.

Ursula was born in Berlin, Germany in 1941 and emigrated to the United States aboard the USS Hershey in 1952.

She was a proud member of D.A.N.K. for 47 years, longtime member of the D.A.N.K Chor and Folk Dancers, and active board member. Also, with her husband Edwin former Prinzenpaar of Spielmannzug Milwaukee. Ursula was loved and respected as a pillar in the Milwaukee German Community and was instrumental since its inception in German Fest's success as a volunteer, continuing the important culture and traditions.

### My Tribute to Ursula Günther

*by Jane Nacker, DANK Milwaukee*

DANK, and the German community, lost an amazing person on January 30, 2018--a 47 year member of DANK Milwaukee, Ursula Günther. Amazing--it's a word that I think is used too much sometimes...but in Ursula's case, it's definitely fitting. She was an amazing woman—a cheerful, resourceful, strong woman with a warm personality who would do anything to help anyone.

Amazing friendship. I have not known Ursula as long as many have, however I am grateful for the friendship we had. I first met Uschi in 2010 after I had called the Milwaukee German Fest office asking who to contact if I wanted to volunteer in the Konditorei. They gave me Uschi's phone number. She was welcoming on the phone. When I met Uschi in the Konditorei she immediately made me feel welcome and accepted by her and the people she had surrounded herself with, including her husband, Edwin, who also welcomed me when he stopped by. Uschi's and Edwin's friendliness was one of the main reasons that I joined DANK.

Amazing willingness, knowledge and strength. When I joined the DANK Folk dancers, I saw that Ursula and Edwin were experienced dancers. When Edwin couldn't dance with us, Ursula had a willingness to dance whatever part she was asked—willing to do anything to help the group succeed. Ursula had many years of experience and a wealth of knowledge about DANK. Part of this knowledge was knowing how to get to places—as in driving a group of us to perform at another DANK chapter in Illinois or to a meeting at DANK National

in Chicago. We rode in “Uschi 1” and Ursula was at the helm! We always arrived safely and on time, driving alternate roads to avoid tolls—and she didn't use GPS or a map!

As a DANK Board member, Ursula was a key resource to new board members. She was our Membership Secretary, Food coordinator for all of our events, and was involved in most other board activities. Her resourcefulness and German work ethic to make an event successful was never ending...and always approached cheerfully. She was the epitome of “Make the best of what you have.” As a pillar of strength, she helped to make DANK Milwaukee what it is today. She also mentored us in how to work with DANK National and in the protocol and traditions of the DANK National Conventions. She just knew so much, and she shared it with us, so we could continue on.

Amazing cook—We enjoyed Ursula's Apfelkuchen und Pflaumenkuchen. We made rouladen at her house for a membership meeting. She made goulash for another membership meeting. Her excellent cooking was always met with high praise.

Amazing in her love of family. Ursula had a heart of gold. She was like a mother to many of us, warm and tender, yet firm. One time I had an event conflict—no question about it, Ursula said, “Family comes first.” As a mother, Uschi was extremely proud of Heidi, Erich, and Kara. Likewise, as Oma, she nurtured and guided Tyler and Alex to the fine young men they are. I saw Ursula's love as a wife to Edwin. When they danced, you could see that they had such a strong connection.

I can't believe she's moved on to a better place, but I have no doubt that Uschi will be amazing in heaven. Thank you, Ursula, for being my friend and for what you have given to the German community. Auf Wiedersehen, until we meet again.

DANK Chapter Milwaukee mourns the passing of

### Manfred Ratzka

Manfred “Fritz” Ratzka, age 83, of Waterford, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 23, 2018, with his loving daughters at his side.

He is preceded in death by his wife Edith (Jensen) Ratzka and parents Ernst and Amanda (Nee Schmaeche). He is survived by his daughters Chris (Bill) Ratzka and Karen (Paul) Deleon; one brother Ernst Ratzka Jr., and longtime friend Carolyn Fuchs, along with other relatives and friends, both in the United States and Europe.

Fritz was a member of D.A.N.K. Milwaukee for 17 years.

# Gedichte für Alle:

## Vor dem Tor

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Faust I*

Vom Eise befreit sind Strom und Bäche  
 Durch des Frühlings holden, belebenden Blick,  
 Im Tale grünet Hoffnungsglück;  
 Der alte Winter, in seiner Schwäche,  
 Zog sich in rauhe Berge zurück.  
 Von dort her sendet er, fliehend, nur  
 Ohnmächtige Schauer körnigen Eises  
 In Streifen über die grünende Flur.  
 Aber die Sonne duldet kein Weißes,  
 Überall regt sich Bildung und Streben,  
 Alles will sie mit Farben beleben;  
 Doch an Blumen fehlts im Revier,  
 Sie nimmt geputzte Menschen dafür.  
 Kehre dich um, von diesen Höhen  
 Nach der Stadt zurück zu sehen!  
 Aus dem hohlen finstern Tor  
 Dringt ein buntes Gewimmel hervor.  
 Jeder sonnt sich heute so gern.  
 Sie feiern die Auferstehung des Herrn,  
 Denn sie sind selber auferstanden:  
 Aus niedriger Häuser dumpfen Gemächern,  
 Aus Handwerks- und Gewerbesbanden,  
 Aus dem Druck von Giebeln und Dächern,  
 Aus der Straßen quetschender Enge,  
 Aus der Kirchen ehrwürdiger Nacht  
 Sind sie alle ans Licht gebracht.  
 Sieh nur, sieh! wie behend sich die Menge  
 Durch die Gärten und Felder zerschlägt,  
 Wie der Fluß in Breit und Länge  
 So manchen lustigen Nachen bewegt,  
 Und, bis zum Sinken überladen,  
 Entfernt sich dieser letzte Kahn.  
 Selbst von des Berges fernen Pfaden  
 Blinken uns farbige Kleider an.  
 Ich höre schon des Dorfs Getümmel,  
 Hier ist des Volkes wahrer Himmel,  
 Zufrieden jauchzet groß und klein:  
 Hier bin ich Mensch, hier darf ichs sein!

## Meiner Mutter

*Detlev von Liliencron, 1844-1909*

Wie oft sah ich die blassen Hände nähen,  
 ein Stück für mich - wie liebevoll du sorgtest!  
 Ich sah zum Himmel deine Augen flehen,  
 ein Wunsch für mich - wie liebevoll du sorgtest!  
 Und an mein Bett kamst du mit leisen Zehen,  
 ein Schutz für mich - wie sorgenvoll du horchtest!  
 Längst schon dein Grab die Winde überwehen,  
 ein Gruß für mich - wie liebevoll du sorgtest!

## April

*Theodor Storm, 1817-1888*

Das ist die Drossel, die da schlägt,  
 Der Frühling, der mein Herz bewegt;  
 Ich fühle, die sich hold bezeigen,  
 Die Geister aus der Erde steigen.  
 Das Leben fließet wie ein Traum -  
 Mir ist wie Blume, Blatt und Baum.

## Mai

*Heinrich Heine, 1797-1856*

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai  
 Als alle Knospen sprangen,  
 Da ist in meinem Herzen  
 Die Liebe aufgegangen.

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai,  
 Als alle Vögel sangen,  
 Da hab ich ihr gestanden  
 Mein Sehnen und Verlangen.

## Mutterliebe

*Carl Leberecht Immermann, 1796-1840*

Drei Sterne weiß ich, welche Licht  
 Den letzten Nächten spenden;  
 Sie leuchten still, sie prahlen nicht,  
 Es ist kein eitles Blenden.

Das Dunkel lastet tief und schwer,  
 Was lindert deine Scheue?  
 Die Sonn' erlosch, doch nimmermehr  
 Der Stern der Muttertreue.

Am Abgrund irrst du, siehst ihn nicht,  
 In Finsternis verborgen.  
 Wer zeigt ihn dir? Aus Wolken bricht  
 Der Stern der Muttersorgen.

Wenn alle Welt den Armen läßt,  
 Und wenn kein Wort ihm bliebe,  
 Am ew'gen Himmel stehst du fest,  
 Stern heil'ger Mutterliebe.

O Mutterliebe, -sorg' und-treu'!  
 Nie ausgeschöpfte Güte!  
 Und immer alt und immer neu!  
 Daß dich die Allmacht hüte!



# Puzzles und Spiele:

**Sudoku #373 (Easy)**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   |   | 5 |   |   | 7 |   |   |
|   |   | 1 |   |   | 2 |   | 8 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 9 |   |   |
|   | 3 | 6 |   | 4 |   |   |   | 2 |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 8 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   | 9 |   | 8 | 5 |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 8 |   |   |
| 3 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 1 |

**Sudoku #369 (Hard)**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   | 8 | 2 |   | 9 | 7 | 4 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |
|   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 3 |
|   | 1 | 6 |   |   | 5 | 9 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 |   | 3 | 6 |   |   |   | 7 |

## Rund um Ostern - It's all about Easter

*Christel M.*

- OSTERSONNTAG
- OSTERWOCHE
- OSTERNEST
- OSTERFEIERTAG
- OSTERBRAUCH
- OSTERMONAT
- OSTERFEST
- OSTERN
- OSTERKARTE
- OSTERPROGRAMM
- OSTERPREDIGT
- OSTERGEDICHT
- OSTERFERIEN
- OSTERGOTTESDIENST
- OSTERFEUER
- OSTERHASE
- OSTERLAMM
- OSTERBLUME
- OSTERFERNVERKEHR
- OSTERKERZE
- OSTERSEGEN
- OSTERMONTAG
- OSTERGLOCKEN
- OSTERSPAZIERGANG
- OSTERZEIT
- OSTEREI
- OSTERLIED

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | O | S | T | E | R | S | E | G | E | N | E | I | M | E | T | H | G | R | A | E |
| E | A | N | G | T | S | N | F | Z | E | R | E | S | E | M | R | N | S | E | M | S |
| O | O | R | S | A | O | S | T | E | R | L | I | E | D | A | T | G | E | N | T | I |
| I | S | O | E | E | T | R | A | K | R | E | T | S | O | T | T | F | T | H | O | E |
| O | E | T | S | E | N | R | E | T | S | O | K | R | R | T | I | R | V | M | T | N |
| T | S | N | E | I | D | S | E | T | T | O | G | R | E | T | S | O | O | C | T | S |
| O | S | T | E | R | G | E | D | I | C | H | T | H | E | I | S | O | A | E | O | R |
| S | H | O | E | R | G | I | Z | O | E | A | N | E | S | T | T | E | G | N | A | O |
| T | E | O | C | R | S | L | I | G | N | F | M | K | E | S | S | E | T | T | I | M |
| E | T | N | S | E | N | N | O | O | A | R | R | R | A | M | G | O | R | S | M | T |
| R | O | G | T | T | U | S | M | C | R | E | S | E | G | A | S | S | R | A | N | H |
| L | S | N | I | O | E | R | E | O | K | P | G | V | T | T | D | I | R | O | C | E |
| A | T | O | N | D | E | R | F | H | A | E | F | N | E | S | G | G | S | U | M | T |
| M | E | E | E | T | E | H | Z | C | O | N | R | O | N | O | T | A | U | S | N |   |
| M | R | E | S | O | I | R | I | A | S | O | Z | E | O | R | E | R | L | E | R | R |
| A | M | O | S | S | E | E | P | O | S | E | W | F | P | R | B | B | F | M | E | T |
| N | O | S | T | E | R | F | E | R | I | E | N | R | F | R | R | E | S | T | Z |   |
| C | N | E | U | G | E | S | E | T | E | G | E | E | E | E | E | M | O | Z | A | S |
| E | T | N | A | S | T | T | E | A | K | T | U | T | T | T | K | E | S | O | O | R |
| R | A | N | O | T | S | E | O | S | S | E | S | S | S | T | S | E | T | S | S | R |
| S | G | G | E | O | O | S | S | O | R | O | O | O | I | A | M | O | T | M | E | E |



NOT ACTUAL SIZE

1" x 1"  
**German - American Flag  
 Lapel Pin**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Price \$3.00 per pin x ____ =  | \$ _____        |
| Shipping & Handling  | \$1.00          |
| <b>Total Price</b>   | <b>\$ _____</b> |
| Make checks payable to:<br><b>DANK - 4740 N. Western Ave, Suite 206<br/>                 Chicago, IL 60625</b> |                 |
| Name   | _____           |
| Address  | _____           |
| City   | _____           |
| State/Zip  | _____           |



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**German American National Congress (Deutsch-Amerikanischer National Kongress)**

**D  
A  
N  
K**

|                              |       |        |               |                        |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Last Name                    | First | Middle | Email Address |                        |
| Address                      |       |        | Spouse Name   | Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr) |
| City                         | State | ZIP    | Child's Name  | Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr) |
| Phone ( _____ )              |       |        | Child's Name  | Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr) |
| Applicant's Birth Date _____ |       |        | Child's Name  | Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr) |

*All Nationalities Welcome!* **OVER →**

**I am applying for:**

- Basic Membership, head of household **\$ 40\*** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Spouse Membership **\$10** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Children ages 1-17 years (**Free**) How many children \_\_\_\_\_ ..... \$ **FREE**
- Family Member over 18 of same household **\$10** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Membership **\$10\*** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Membership **\$500\*** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* The Membership Fee entitles Members to receive our newspaper, the "German-American Journal"

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Preference** (choose one)

- Prefer to join Chapter \_\_\_\_\_
- Assign to a Local Chapter
- Prefer to be a National Member

\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature



Apply and Make Payments Online at:

[www.DANK.org](http://www.DANK.org)

**Or**

**Mail Completed Application and Payment To:**

DANK National Executive Office  
 4740 N. Western Avenue, Suite 206  
 Chicago, IL 60625-2013



# ANSWERS TO WORD SEARCH:

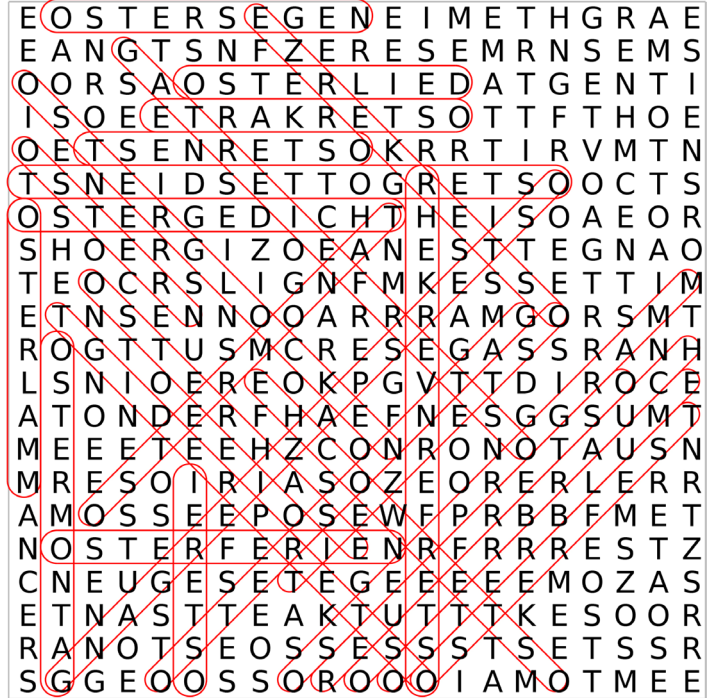


## DANK Benton Harbor, MI Fish Fry Schedule



**April 6th**  
**May 4th**  
**June 1st**

**The House Of Gemütlichkeit**  
**DANK Haus - Benton Harbor**  
2651 Pipestone Rd. Benton Harbor, MI  
(269)926-6652 · [www.dank13.org](http://www.dank13.org)



**Armed Forces Weekend Commemoration**  
**WWII Battle Reenactment**  
**May 19-20, 2018 9am - 5pm**

- ☐ Vintage WWII aircraft flyovers
- ☐ Hundreds of Uniformed Re-enactors
- ☐ Vintage WWII Tanks, Jeeps, and Motorcycles
- ☐ Period Style USO Show (tickets available)
- ☐ Activities for All Ages
- ☐ Food and Beverages Available

**Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center Oregon, IL 61061**  
info@strongholdcenter.org 815-732-6111  
**WWW.STRONGHOLDCENTER.ORG**

**Deutsch - Mic at the DANK**

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month

An offenes mikro evening of German- Language song, | spoken word, and musical composition starting at 7:30pm. Free to all with drinks available for purchase.

**ALL PERFORMERS WELCOME.**  
Just bring your Gitarre, Geige, Korg MS-20 or just your schöne Stimme. Piano on the premises

Join us in the Skyline Lounge  
DANK Haus German American Cultural Center  
4740 N. Western Ave. Chicago

dankhaus.com



