



NEWSLETTER

Philadelphia, PA

Summer 2016

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Our Donauschwaben Kindergruppe

A Note From the Editor

We are pleased to publish this latest issue of our quarterly newsletter for the Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity! This issue contains some very interesting articles related to the culture and history of the Danube Swabian people. We hope you will enjoy reading the personal stories contributed by our members.

Continued on page 2.

Pilgrimage Mass Rescheduled

The new date and time for our Wallfahrt will be Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

See page 13 for complete details.

Continued from page 1.

We also have some great news from our soccer teams and from other club members. Additional highlights include stories from our recent gatherings and information about upcoming events, such as our Tag der Donauschwaben festival, which will take place on August 28.

Once again, we welcome you to write an article, submit a news story, or contribute in other ways to our future newsletter issues. To do so, please contact us by sending an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com or by talking with a club representative. As always, thanks for your support!

Donauschwaben Museum in Frankental / Pfalz, Germany

Contributed by George Brenner

Approximately 10 years ago, I learned that a wagon made by my grandfather, Josef Jung, in 1939 existed in a museum somewhere in Germany. All that I had was a picture and a short write-up about some of its history, but I had no idea where it was located. Over those years I made several attempts to locate its whereabouts, but was unsuccessful. Last fall, myself and some of my cousins visited my mother's cousin in Chicago, and there was a different picture of the wagon hanging on the wall in her home than the one I had. That picture had a relative in Germany that I had only met once 30+ years ago standing next to the wagon. I contacted her and learned that the wagon was located at a museum housed at a Donauschwaben club located in Frankental / Pfalz, Germany.

In June 2016, my wife Joann and I, along with some friends, had the opportunity to visit the Donau Deutsch Landmannschaft Museum to see the wagon made by my grandfather in Kula/Batschka, Yugoslavia 77 years ago.

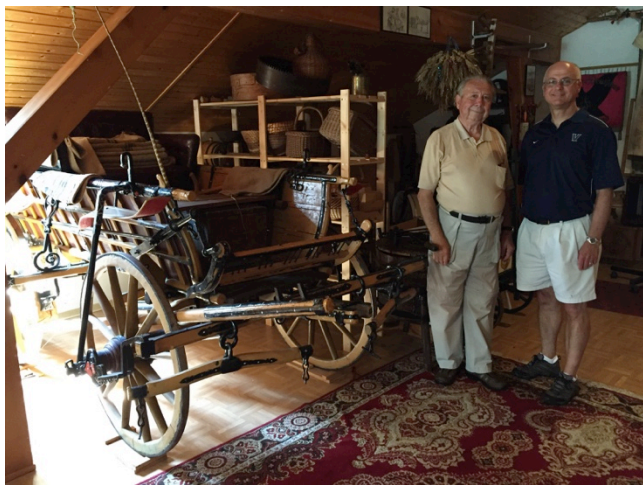


George Brenner stands next to the wagon made by his grandfather, Josef Jung

When our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents came to this country, it seemed like they all had a trade or a skill that they learned in the "Old Country." My grandfather was a Wagnermeister (Master Wagon Maker). His brother, Johann Jung, was a Schmiedmeister (Master Blacksmith), and their neighbor, Josef Kraus, was a Lackiermeister (Master Painter). These three Handwerksmeister (masters of their trade) built wagons in Kula/Batschka. In the spring of 1939, these Master Craftsmen built a magnificent wagon, and in a 1982 interview, its owner, Franz Mutsch, said that driving the wagon in 1939 he felt like a younger man feels when he drives a Mercedes for the first time.

The wagon was part of the "Flucht" (exodus) from Kula to Germany in 1944-1945. There is no information about its initial journey from Kula to Schlesien in Germany. We do know that from Schlesien it traveled to Sandersdorf in Bayern, then five years later to Esenhausen in Baden-Wurttemberg where it was kept in a garage as a memory of their homeland in Kula. In 1982, the wagon was donated to the Donauschwaben Museum in Frankental / Pfalz.

The museum is located on the third floor of the club, which is home to several hundred members, three dance groups, and multiple soccer clubs. In addition to the wagon, the museum holds many other items that were brought to Germany by the fleeing Donauschwaben. They have quite a collection of Trachten and men's clothes. They also have meat grinders and "Wurstspritz" (sausage makers) as well as hemp breakers, hemp combs, and spinning wheels. A "Weinhaver," which is something used to extract wine from a barrel as well as a large variety of kitchen utensils and tools from the "Werkstadt," are also featured at the museum. We were guided on our visit by Herr Adam Lulay who is from Banat/Romania and is very knowledgeable about the many items on display. He even demonstrated how clothes were washed on the washing machine from the "Old Country."



Herr Adam Lulay and George Brenner at the Donau Deutsch Landmannschaft Museum in Germany

I am thankful that a piece of my grandfather's legacy from a time long ago still exists today. I like to think that he and Josef Kraus would be proud to know that not only their children but grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren have continued to support their heritage through being members of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben.

The next time you are in Germany, I would highly recommend that you explore some of my grandfather's history and the rest the

Donauschwaben's history through a visit to the Donau Deutsch Landmannschaft Museum.

A video about George's trip to the Donau Deutsch Landmannschaft Museum can be found on our web site at www.danubeswabian.com.

Museum Committee

We are looking for volunteers for the Danube Swabian Museum committee. This committee will be responsible for putting together a museum at the club to preserve our ancestors' history. We will need help with cataloging and collecting artifacts, setting up the space, etc. We will be having our first meeting in the coming weeks.

If you have any items to donate or are interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact Elisabeth Reap at 215-880-9488 (cell) or at reape@msn.com.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 8/14 | Soccer Memorial Tournament |
| 8/28 | Tag der Donauschwaben |
| 9/11 | Pilgrimage Mass |
| 10/8 | Wine Tasting |
| 10/9 | Steuben Parade |
| 10/15 | Trenton 60th Anniversary Celebration |
| 10/30 | Anniversary Dinner |
| 11/20 | Schlachtfest |
| 12/11 | Children's Christmas Show |

4th of July Parade

The Steuben Day Observance Committee bike rode in the Rockledge 4th of July parade. Special thanks to the following club members who helped pedal the always entertaining 12 seat bike – Tom Kelly, Nick Mulvey, Herb Breyer, Amy Burbage Family, Annie Dwyer Family, Kile Smith Family, Matt and Fred Gauss.



Club members ride the 12-person bike in the Rockledge 4th of July parade

Soccer Memorial Tournament

This year, our annual Soccer Memorial Tournament will be in honor of Adam Mattes. Mr. Mattes was a former club president and soccer president, past president of the United Soccer League of Pennsylvania, and one of the co-founders of the club. The tournament will take place on Sunday, August 14, 2016 starting at 12:00 p.m. and lasting until around 6:00 p.m. Five teams will be participating - Phoenix, Colonial, United German Hungarians, West Chester, and Danubia. The kitchen and bar will be open during the afternoon. Please contact Nick Kramer at 267-387-6919 or knikra38@comcast.net for more information.

In Memoriam

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of our loved ones who passed away in the recent months.

Earl Asimos (82), club member and a well-known participant in all the local German clubs, passed away in March.

Alice (Leisch) Guarino (58), passed away in June. She was connected with the club since childhood and recently was serving on the club's Board of Directors.

Matthias Lehmann (95), a regular at all the dinners and events, passed away in May. His son Heinz was a recent Board of Director member.

Thomas Losoncy (77), husband to Renate Losoncy, passed away in June. Renate is a long time member and supporter of the club and is principal of the DonauSchule.

Joe Walker (76), a great Bundesliga enthusiast and a longtime supporter of the club especially Tag der Donauschwaben, passed away in July.

Drindls, Leibl, Trachts, Lederhosen, Books

Many club members over the years have been very generous in donating ethnic clothes and historical books and documents to the club. We will be able to use them in the planned museum or to share them with families who would have use for them. Please keep us in mind if you are downsizing or processing an estate.

Thank you to both Anna Klein who recently donated a set of Lederhosen and a dirndl to the club and to Waldtraut Gauss who donated historical books about the Donauschwaben and the city of Brestowatz.

Mother's Day Luncheon

We celebrated all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and mothers-to-be at our annual Mother's Day Luncheon. We enjoyed a tasty meal, refreshing drinks, and adorable entertainment. With five couples performing, the Kindergruppe entertained the crowd with three dances. Following the performance, the children presented flowers to all the mothers in attendance. It was a wonderful celebration of the mothers in our lives!



Theresa Kraus and Linda Rakszawski receive flowers on Mother's Day



The Kindergruppe performs during the annual Mother's Day Luncheon



Preparing to dance at the Mother's Day Luncheon

Membership Note

If you would like to become a member of the club, or if you have any questions about club membership, please contact our membership secretary, Roswitha Hoenisch, at 215-969-9356 or membership@danubeswabian.com. For our current members, we now offer membership renewal on our web site via PayPal!

Tag der Donauschwaben

Our annual Tag der Donauschwaben festival will take place on Sunday, August 28, 2016. This all-day German celebration features plenty of food, drink, soccer, folk dancing, and German music. All members and friends are invited to attend. During the festival, our Major Women soccer team will play at 1:00 p.m. against VE, and our Major Men soccer team will play at 2:15 p.m. against the United German Hungarians. There will also be youth soccer games earlier in the day.

In preparation for Tag der Donauschwaben, helping hands are welcome to join us at the club in the evenings of August 22 and 23 for light clean-up and set up. We also welcome volunteers to assist in preparing the German potato salad on Saturday morning, August 27, starting at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to learn how to prepare a traditional German dish! Please contact Rose Matico or Fred Gauss if you are interested in helping on any of these days.

We hope you will come out and enjoy a beautiful day of Gemütlichkeit on Sunday, August 28! For more information, visit our web site at www.danubeswabian.com or find our event and other club events on Facebook.



**Danube Swabian Association
of Philadelphia and Vicinity**

Tag der Donauschwaben

Sunday, August 28, 2016

Gates Open at 11:30 a.m.

Festival Admission: \$5

Soccer Games ♦ Folk Dancing ♦ German Music
Children's Games ♦ German Food and Drink



Catholic Mass in German at 12:15 p.m. in Upstairs Hall

**Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity
1277 Southampton Road
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215-969-9356
www.danubeswabian.com**

German Day 2016

Members of the club's Jugendgruppe danced at German Day hosted this year by the United German Hungarians on Saturday, June 25. Musical entertainment was provided by the Heimatklänge Orchestra. A great time was had by all!



Members of the club's Jugendgruppe dance at German Day



Dancing at German Day

Danubia-L Mailing List

We welcome you to subscribe to our "Danubia-L" electronic mailing list to stay informed of news and upcoming events.

To sign up for the Danubia-L mailing list, send your name and e-mail address to webmaster@danubeswabian.com.

Wine Tasting

White or red? Sweet or dry? Cabernet, merlot, malbec, or pinot noir? So many choices... There are people who spend years studying wine to recommend and select the most proper vintage and varietal to drink with a particular meal. But then again, shouldn't it just come down to what you really like? On Saturday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m., we will be holding our second Wine Tasting event, which was a huge success the first time around. During the evening, you will sample five wines each accompanied by a scrumptiously delicious lite-bite food pairing. There will be contests and more during the evening.

We are fortunate to be led once again by Victor Ykoruk from Majestic Wine and Spirits. Known as "Vino Vic" by his friends, Victor has been in the wine industry for 15 years. He will bring his knowledge, experiences, and charm to the event to make it a terrific evening for all.

Tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased in advance of the event. There are a limited number of tickets available and will sell out- soon, so please contact the club at 215-969-9356 or info@danubeswabian.com to purchase your tickets.

So join us for an evening of fun, some fine wines, and tasty treats. At the end of the evening, you will have learned a little more about wine, but hopefully you can add some additional selections to wines that you just like to drink. Cheers!

Trenton Donauschwaben

Please consider attending the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Trenton Donauschwaben Association, which will be held at the German-American Society in Yardville, NJ on October 15, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We congratulate all members of the Trenton Donauschwaben Association on this special occasion!

History of Filipovo

Contributed by Paul Hoenisch

The history of the settlement of Filipovo:

Our ancestors went south on the Danube River, settling in Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania. The first German settlers, numbering eleven families, came to Filipovo in 1762. These pioneers came from the Black Forest and other Alsace Lorraine regions of Germany going south on the Danube River from Ulm (Ulmer Schachtel). The first Hoenisch mentioned was Martin Hoenisch, born in 1743 and died in Filipovo in 1811. His son Georg was the first Hoenisch born in Filipovo in 1765.

The region and town as I remember:

The neighborhood towns were all about 5 miles apart; in between the towns some of the larger farmers had their land with farmhouses. The ground was very fertile and almost anything would grow. The major crops were wheat, oats, corn for export, and hemp, which is a flax (fiber) used for linen and clothing. All the houses had a large garden, growing their own vegetables, fruits and grapes. The highest hill in town was the Stations of the Cross to the Cemetery Chapel. You could almost see from one end of the town to the other because of the square layout of the streets. The town had no hospital, one doctor, and one drug store. Only one street from the train station to the center of town was paved. The houses had no running water or sewer (you had to go to the outhouse, only a large well in the middle of the yard was the water supply for the entire household). The houses were made of dried wood mud blocks and heated mostly with dried wood and the discards of hemp and corn. The largest family in town had 19 children with many more families having 10 or more. In 1944 the population of Filipovo was 5300. Most of the children went to school for 6 grades, the ones going longer had to go to a larger city. The boys and girls were separated, with the girls having nuns as teachers. The

subjects were reading, arithmetic, and writing, with some history. The main language was German and some Yugoslavian or Hungarian, whenever it belonged to these countries. The teachers were very strict and on many occasions we went home with a sore -- you know what.

Some of the traditions of the town:

The population of the town was 99% Catholic. A wedding was a big event for the families involved with many preparations, like home cooking baking all the delicious cookies; all the wine and whiskey was homemade. Some of these weddings lasted 2-3 days. The godfather and godmother for the children were selected by the new parents before the children were born, and they served as godparents for all the children born to the couple. The first-born boy and girl always received the same first name as the godparent. All the children were born and delivered by midwives. The tradition was the godmother cooked homemade chicken soup and baked light cookies with a bottle of the best wine bringing them to the new mother the first few days. Many traditional holidays were observed, the biggest being the annual Kirchweih (Philip, name of the church patron) the first weekend in May. Not only was it a religious affair but also fun with carnival rides, shooting stands, and many other traditional affairs. On Sundays only the necessary jobs were performed, in the afternoon the men gathered in front of different houses playing cards and talking. The woman also came together doing some knitting and talking. Almost all the families had their own pigs, chicken, ducks and geese. I remember going on many occasions with my Hoenisch Grandfather butchering pigs for the townspeople and receiving a small bratwurst. To my knowledge most of the salaries were paid in goods instead of money.

I would like to put a little humor to the story of Filipovo; most of the older living could back me up to this being true. You have to remember this dates back to the late 30s and early 40s. The cows and pigs were taken out of

town every weekday to the pasture. The different men responsible (Kuhalter & Sauhalter) started collecting the animals from one end of the town in the morning, bringing them back in the early evening. After a few days the animals knew which house they belonged to and the owners just opened their gates and let them in their stalls. To this day it is hard to believe that they knew which house they belonged to because many houses looked alike.

Some of the happy memories of my short-lived childhood in Filipovo:

What a thrill it was waking up Christmas morning seeing the Christmas tree filled with homemade cookies and candies, receiving one orange for Christmas. One of the happiest traditions for the kids was getting up early morning New Years Day and going to all the relatives wishing them Happy New Year and receiving a little money from all. After the first snowfall the kids from the Neighborhood building our own snow mountain in the street; we could use this hill for sledding all winter long. How happy we were playing all the different games with self made balls and toys and running around barefoot all summer long. I remember having a lot of sore and bleeding toes.

All this ended on Good Friday 1945 when the remaining old and children of Filipovo's lives were shattered. We were told to pack up whatever we could carry and be out of the house in an hour. All were put in cattle cars and taken to the concentration camp Gakowa; there only the strong and healthy survived or escaped. From the Hoenisch family, more than a dozen starved and are buried in mass graves there. The history books of the world have not recorded the destruction of those over 2000 innocent victims of Filipovo. Today Filipovo is still on the map of Serbia (new name Backi Gracac); most of the houses still stand with strange people living in them. The church is no more; there are no graves or gravestone visible in the cemetery.

A few years ago while traveling in Europe, I was determined to see my birthplace one more time, but some of the people who went back to Filipovo advised against going. I was told instead to cherish the old memories. On many occasions as I drive to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country to observe the Amish people with their lifestyle and way of life, it brings back many happy memories of my childhood, the town of Filipovo, and our ancestors.

In closing, I would like to remind the younger generation be proud of your heritage, find out more about it, ask the living about their childhood, record dates, and events. We are all part of the history of the world that should not been forgotten. I'm sure as our forefathers look down on this gathering and see the branch of the family tree they have contributed to, they would be proud of the Hoenisch family they started.

May they all rest in peace.

Thank you for listening to my little story of Filipovo.

A Little History Lesson

In doing some web surfing, the following article was found on the web site of the Institute for Historical Review, which gives an excellent summary of the Donauschwaben and post-World War II.

The Destruction of Ethnic Germans and German Prisoners of War in Yugoslavia, 1945-1953

<http://www.ihr.org/other/sunic062002.HTML>

Summer Concert Series

Thank you to those who attended our Summer Concert Series on Friday nights throughout the month of June! The three concerts again allowed club members to enjoy relaxing evenings listening to a variety of music. Each Friday we were blessed with perfect sunny weather. The musical sounds ranged from the Irish/Celtic rock of No Irish Need Apply to brass band favorites ending with big band sounds from SoundWave Big Band. There is a special thank you to the Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band that has been playing these concerts for 20 years.



The Gauss family enjoys a summer concert



Club members and friends enjoy the sounds of the Cardinal Dougherty Alumni Band



SoundWave Big Band provides music for the club's Summer Concert Series

Clothing Collection

Over the last few years club members have been very generous in donating used clothing for which we were able to receive payment from a clothing agency. The clothes, close to 100 bags at each collection, were always stored in the basement of the house next store. This area will be used as our museum in the near future so we have decided to stop collecting clothes. Thank you to all who had contributed in the past!

“Recognition” Payment Available from German Government

Contributed by Robert Hessler

On July 6, 2016, the budget committee of the German Bundestag issued a directive to symbolically recognize civilians who, during or after World War II, endured forced labor by a foreign power due to their German ethnicity. The policy calls for a one-time payment in the amount of €2,500 (Euro) to those eligible. Families of anyone deceased on or after November 27, 2015 who would have been eligible will also be able to apply for the recognition payment.

The program takes effect on August 1, 2016, at which time applications will become available at <http://www.bva.bund.de/zwangsarbeiter> for download. According to parliament member Klaus Brähmig, the “symbolic recognition” is “an important gesture of appreciation for this large group of victims.” Federal Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière added that this is a “late, but important sign that we are aware of what many Germans suffered ... under the most inhuman conditions.”

Many of us have grown up hearing the horrible stories of how our parents, grandparents, and other family members endured forced labor. Lets not allow this opportunity for formal recognition escape us...and if the money is not critical to your own family situation, wouldn't this be a great opportunity to make a sizable donation to the club to help ensure its mission of keeping alive the very culture and traditions that the oppressors were trying to stamp out?

Electronic Donations

This year, we are making an effort to raise money for various projects to make the club more accessible for the disabled. If you would like to make a donation to the club to help this cause, you can do so via a secure donation on our web site using PayPal. Please visit our web site at www.danubeswabian.com to learn more. Thank you for your generosity!

Danubia Soccer News

Congratulations to Hans Kloehn, Jr. who was elected Danubia Soccer President. Best of luck in the upcoming season!

This year, the Danubia Soccer program will have six youth teams and three adult teams. After a long hiatus, we once again have a women's soccer team. We wish the team (the Fury) and its coach, Barry Harvey, a successful season.

We hope you will enjoy this update on some of the club's soccer teams. For more information about the soccer club, please visit our web site at www.fcdanubia.org.

U-11 Girls

Our U-11 girls participated in the Mother's Day Epic tournament in Yardley, PA. As they would proudly say, they "dabbed" their way through this one coming in 2nd place!!



Danubia U-11 girls achieve a 2nd place finish at the Mother's Day Epic tournament

Our Danubia Dynamo U-11 Girls team went up to Niagara Falls for a weekend in July and won the championship at the Niagara Pioneer Soccer Tournament! The girls went undefeated in bracket play, playing teams from Ohio and New York. They won the championship game 4-1 against the host team, Niagara Pioneer. Congratulations!



Danubia U-11 girls win the championship at the Niagara Pioneer Soccer Tournament

Member News

If you would like to submit member news to be featured in a future newsletter, please send an e-mail to newsletter@danubeswabian.com.

Graduations

Katherine Osinski, daughter of Monika and Louis Osinski and granddaughter of humble and soft-spoken Betty Boyts, graduated from Great Valley High School and plans to attend West Chester State in the fall.

Andrew Agen, son of Mark and Joan Agen, graduated from Octarara High school and will be attending Becker College in Worchester, Massachusetts in the fall.

Andrew Brenner, son of George and Joann Brenner, graduated from Johns Hopkins University with Bachelor of Science degrees in Materials Science & Engineering, and Chemistry.

The Pohl family had a busy year. Kevin Pohl, son of Renate and George Pohl, graduated from Holy Family College. Kristin Sommers, daughter of Connie and Tim Sommers, graduated from Temple University.

Congratulations to all the graduates of club members and wishes of success for the fall!

Travels

Christian Matico, a member of our Jugendgruppe, will be heading off to Seoul, South Korea for a study abroad in the fall semester at Korea University. We wish him safe travels, especially his Oma!

Recovery Room

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Adam Dickmann, Jr. who during the past 6 months has had both his ankle and knee replaced. The recently retired cabinet maker spent his recovery time at his brother, Tony's house. Adam has given it a five star rating; reservations are going quickly. This is just the first stage in Adam's quest to be a \$6 million dollar man.

While playing in an over-35 league soccer game, Jason Kuchar's knee told him to retire. The torn quad muscle has been repaired and, during his rehab, carefully nursed by Rose Gauss Kuchar; he was able to spend quality time with his children, Morgan and Theo who are in the kindergruppe. Jason's wife Kate had Jason's shoes bronzed and placed on the fireplace mantel for appropriate veneration. According to well-placed sources this location was not the initial resting place for the shoes.

New Arrivals

Daniel and Lori Buettner (nee Kraus) celebrated the birth of their daughter, Hazel Anna, in June. Lori is a former member of our club's dance group.

James and Dianna Keough, former dance group members, celebrated in June the birth of their second child, Gavin. All are doing well and we can't wait to see him in his Lederhosen.

Steuben Parade

The 46th German-American Steuben Parade will take place on Sunday, October 9 in Rockledge - Fox Chase, PA! The parade steps off at 12:00 p.m. If you would like to march with the club in the parade, please contact Fred at 215-722-4253.



2015 German-American Steuben Parade

Pilgrimage Mass and Luncheon

Our annual Pilgrimage Mass (Wallfahrt) has been rescheduled and will be held at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel (1663 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020) on Sunday, September 11, 2016. The procession will assemble in front of the St. Elizabeth Chapel at 10:45 a.m. and the Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please join us as we commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the expulsion and remember all those who have gone before us.

A Goulash dinner will be held at the club after the Pilgrimage Mass. Cost will be \$15. For reservations, please contact Rose at 215-552-9399 or rematico@comcast.net. Please visit www.danubeswabian.com for additional information.

Our Donauschwaben Club

Contributed by Roswitha Hoenisch

What does our Donauschwaben Club stand for? Well, it is a place for people of the same ethnic background and history to come together. It has been over 70 years since the disbursement of the Donauschwaben from their hometowns. These people endured starvation, illness, and death. Yet they survived and continued to make a good life for themselves. Here in this country they sought each other out and clubs like the Donauschwaben were formed. It was a place where they could get together and continue their old traditions from "home" – traditions like Kirchweih, Folk dances, Schlachtfest, Fussball, Weihnachten, and much more. Let us not forget our ancestors who worked so hard and gave so much so we could have what we have today – a rich history of strong people who survived a great tragedy in history. Let us keep their traditions alive and thriving for the future. That's what our club stands for.

Welcome, New Members!

We would like to welcome the following recent additions to our club membership:

- George & Amy Burbage
- James Boyce
- Michael Cramer
- Stephan Dingas
- JoAnn Erickson
- Tom Fitzgerald
- Pat Fritz
- Timothy Geiger
- Todd & Emily Kelly
- Michael & Anne Ledva
- Barbara Mannino
- Richard Mathews
- Louis Oschman
- Veronica & John McDermott
- Theresia Treilinger
- Andrea Turnbull
- Barbara Weiss



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Danubia Soccer Club

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