



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

February Newsletter 2021

## Sheboygan PTP Chapter remains alive and well

In spite of not having our monthly dinner meetings, the Sheboygan People to People Chapter and the student exchange programs are continuing, albeit with some uncertain dates.

At this time I would expect that our next chapter dinner meeting at the Elks Club will be on September 9, 2021. We will confirm that at a later date.

Our 5-month exchange worked out well for one Esslingen student this year. A previous newsletter had pictures of Felix Haug enjoying life in Wisconsin and Florida. He returned home at the end of January, and his exchange partner, Jonah Weinfurter, is still trying to get a visa so that he can spend 5 months in Germany this year. Felix wrote this nice note when he left: "I just wanted to thank you for everything you have done for me so that I could go to the USA. I had a very good time here. The Weinfurters were a great host family, and they gave me a lot of good experiences. Even with Covid it was good. They took me to Florida and Las Vegas. My English skills have improved a lot." *Felix*

The middle school exchange is still uncertain, as Germany continues its lockdown for the near future. If our students have to be quarantined for two weeks after their arrival, it doesn't make sense to fly to Germany in July. We are in a "wait and see" pattern.

The board approved a new slate of officers and directors via a Zoom meeting in February. A few changes were made. Bob Quasius is now chapter president, and Paula Dick is chairperson of the exchange committee. New board members are Paula Dick, Patrick Kirchner, and me (Jon Keckonen).

In spite of no meetings and almost no newsletters, we still have to send our membership dues to PTP International for 2021. If you have not yet done so, please send \$35 per family or \$25 per single membership to our treasurer, Rich Miesfeld, at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083. If the pandemic has made this a hardship for you, please contact Rich directly at 459-7084.

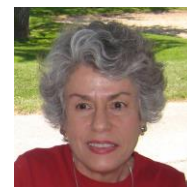
*Jon Keckonen, past president*

## Saying Goodbye

We said good-bye to two former chapter members at the end of 2020. Both Warren Soeteber and Grace Zangara passed away in December. Warren remained a member of our chapter until his death at age 102. He was born during the flu pandemic following WW I and died of Covid-19 during the current pandemic on December 10.



Grace was a very active member of our chapter until health did not permit her to continue. The photo was taken during one of our summer picnics, which she always attended and enjoyed working with other chapter members. She also worked tirelessly at our annual brat fry events. Grace passed away on December 14, at age 83.



In more current news, Dale & Mitzi Stoltzman report that they have not lost power during the crisis in Texas (where they spend the winter), but they have to get water in buckets from the swimming pool in order to flush their toilets. They are thankful their power has remained on.

**PTP** This newsletter is produced monthly for members of the Sheboygan, WI People to People Chapter, which is affiliated with People to People International. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to [akeckonen@charter.net](mailto:akeckonen@charter.net).

## News from Argentine friends

*Submitted by Diane Mikolyzk*

Most of our members have met Carlos and Marta Gabetta, former Córdoba coordinators of our Argentina exchange program. You may recall that Carlos was an AFS student and lived with John and Donna Webb while attending Sheboygan South High School in the 1970s. It was that connection that led to our high school exchange program being based in Córdoba. Carlos' daughter, Geno, was part of the first six-month Argentine exchange and later took over for her father as the coordinator in Córdoba. In the past three years, Carlos and Marta have become grandparents, and their growing family is delighting them. Their daughter Sole and her husband, Tomás Cubas, gave birth to the first grandson, Pedro, a little over three years ago. A year and a half later, Geno and her husband, Javi Paredes, welcomed a baby girl, Justina. On September 15, 2020, Sole gave birth to twins, Antonia and Juan. We are pleased to introduce you to the "third generation" of Gabettas with photos from the twins' baptism day.



Updated picture of the twins. Aren't they adorable?

We also just learned that Geno is expecting her second child in the fall. The Gabetta family keeps growing.

## Have you been vaccinated yet?

Be sure to get signed up to receive your vaccine as soon as possible so that we can all look forward to getting back to some sense of normal living again. Our chapter meetings were such fun – let's count on starting them again later this year. If we all get vaccinated, we can enjoy getting together again. In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy.

