



Sheboygan Area Chapter

Merry Christmas!

December Newsletter 2018

PTP Christmas Party at the Elks Club on December 13

We will celebrate the Christmas season with our always-favorite Kohler Madrigal Singers on December 13 at the Elks Club. This is a favorite meeting of the year, and the decorations and music will make it special as in years past. Do plan to join us for this festive event.

The menu for the evening will be broccoli cheese chicken, roast pork, rice pilaf, corn, salad bowl, rolls, and beverage. **If everyone will bring at least one dozen of your favorite cookies**, we will have a variety of cookie plates on each table. We will donate any remaining cookies to the Salvation Army. The social hour begins at 5:30; dinner at 6:30; program at 7:30.

The cost of the dinner is \$16.00 per person. Please mail your checks to **Char Gumm, N6222 Woodland Rd., Sheboygan, 53083**. The deadline for reservations is **December 3**.



Kohler Madrigal Singers

Happy 100th Birthday, Warren!

We do believe that Warren Soeteber is our first chapter member to reach the impressive milestone of 100 years. His birthday was November 5, and we are pleased to feature this special member in our December newsletter. Happy belated birthday, Warren!



The board will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, Dec. 13th at the Elks Club. Please call Bob Quasius at 451-8565 if you need to be excused from the meeting.

Coming Events



- Dec. 13 Chapter Christmas party at Elks Club
- Jan 10, '19 Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Feb 14, '19 Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Mar 10 '19 **PTP Brat Fry at RCS Building**
- Mar 14, '19 Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Apr 11, '19 Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- May 9, '19 Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Aug. 8 '19 Chapter Picnic 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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 **15th of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to akeckonen@charter.net. Our website is www.ptpsheboygan.org

Have you paid your 2019 dues?

Treasurer Rich Miesfeld would like all members to renew by the December 13th meeting so that he can close the books on 2018. If you have not already done so, please send your checks made out to People to People - Sheboygan to Rich at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, WI 53083. Dues are remaining at the reasonable price of \$35.00 for a family membership or \$25.00 for a single membership. Rich will gladly accept your dues check now.



Florida trip for exchange students

Adalina von Winterfeld and Malte Grutschnig had a great time with Laura Liebel in Florida last month. They enjoyed beautiful sunsets and boat rides, and laughed at the dolphins playing close to



their boat. They swam in the ocean, went to Busch Gardens, and also went to an aquarium and a marine hospital where they saw “Winter,”

from the movie “Dolphin Tale.” We continue to be so very grateful to Laura and her parents, Konrad and Mary Jo Testwuide, for their continual support of this amazing trip to Florida for our Esslingen students.



Mayor hosts exchange students

On November 12 Mayor Mike Vandersteen hosted all the exchange students in the Sheboygan area school district at a pasta dinner at the Elks Club. We appreciate the fact that the Mayor’s International Committee changed this party to the fall semester in order to accommodate our Esslingen students. We were able to snap a quick photo of Malte with the mayor at this party.



Nicaraguan Medical Student in Sheboygan

Submitted by Kris Hancock

Helping children with special needs in Nicaragua has been a goal of chapter member Kris Hancock for almost 15 years. Since October, she and Curt Hancock have been able to help an older student with different needs. Enrique Gomez, a fourth-year medical student from Nicaragua, came to the US in August in the midst of political demonstrations that shut down universities and caused the deaths of more than 400 people. Enrique has been shadowing Dr. Curt Hancock in his geriatric medical practice. He commented that the general population in Nicaragua is quite young, so working with geriatric patients has been very interesting.

Currently, the political situation in Nicaragua appears to be stabilizing, giving Enrique hope that he will be able to safely return to Nicaragua in December. Enrique’s medical school plans to help medical students catch up with their fourth year studies by offering special classes serving the more than 50 students from the fourth-year class who left Nicaragua. Enrique plans to specialize in emergency medicine in Nicaragua, “serving the people of the Nicaragua he loves.” Enrique is the brother of the assistant director of Tesoros de Dios, the school for children with special needs in Managua, where Kris volunteers, annually. He is pictured below with Margaret Voorhans, Malte Grutschnig, and Bob Quasius.



Budget and slate of officers

We will send a separate email before the December meeting to chapter members in full standing which will give you the 2019 proposed budget and the proposed slate of officers for next year. We will vote on both of these items at the December 13th meeting. The new officers take over as of January 1, 2019.

A Special Christmas Market



Beth Hejl, PTP exchange student in 1985-86, has been writing a blog since she moved to Germany in 2012. Excerpts from a former entry tell about the unique aspects of the Christmas markets in Esslingen.

Esslingen's Christmas Market and Medieval Market

If you're not a new reader, you know I love the town of Esslingen am Neckar. It's like a second home to me and visiting never gets old. It's a beautiful town no matter the season, but the Christmas and Medieval Market is truly something special. I don't need to go into all the special exhibits, activities, features, programs, booths, and entertainers, because there is a very thorough website explaining everything you could want to know about what there is to see and do there.

[The first pictures show the Christmas market and the variety of shops, but the larger part of this blog post is about the Medieval Market.]



Räucherhäuser – smoking houses (incense cones go inside and the fragrant smoke comes out the chimney.)



Handmade soaps

Decorations for your home



Stars



Candle Holders



Products made from honey

The *Mittelaltermarkt*, is good splendid fun! The vendors and entertainers are all in costume, and I know it's early in the season, but every one of them seemed to be thoroughly enjoying their roles. They speak a combination of the local *Schwäbisch* dialect mixed with old German (but switch to oldish English when they hear the American or English accent so common among visitors). Don't neglect to pick up a brochure, which includes not only a map and guide, but also a language chart translating common phrases from *Hochdeutsch* into *Mittelalter-Deutsch*. It even gives you phrases you can and should use with the vendors!



Those who interacted with groups of children did so expertly, drawing them in and explaining town life in the Middle Ages, getting them involved in games, and demonstrating various crafts. This man on stilts enchanted children with soap bubble balloons and general theatrics.

This is a very old ferris wheel for small children. They sit in the little baskets, and for the pairs that don't weigh enough to keep the wheel turning smoothly, the attendants put sacks of sand in the basket with them. I nearly died from the cuteness.



This is the public bath. Although I didn't see anyone in it today, it is real! One can pay to sit in the big barrel of hot water for a middle ages-style bath.

Herbs and spices



Old-style pottery

This is a booth of all things sharp – and he'll even sharpen your knives the old-fashioned way. There's a little sign that reads, "Thieves will have their fingers cut off!"



In the *Mittelaltermarkt* there are craftsmen who demonstrate their talents, show visitors how to do things like shooting arrows and weaving ropes, and of course, preparing delicious food.

Der Zundermacher – the tinder maker, who has boiled a sponge and is shaving off pieces to work as flints.



Bogenschiessen lessons



This chap is preparing the *Kässpätzle* I ordered for lunch.

Kässpätzle = Swabian noodles and cheese



One thing I did for the first time this year is play *Mäuseroulette*. The woman in charge of the game was very enthusiastic and convinced me as I strolled by that I would love this game for only *zwei Taler* (medieval coins, Euro today)! I readily admit I enjoyed it, and I will play it again when I return. This is a picture of *Karamelle* the mouse (the caramel-colored blur) running into a house upon which my *Edelstein* is not. Yes, it is a real, live mouse! The lady standing next to me won, though.



So I have some advice for those of you who are close enough to Esslingen this year or some year in the future in December:

1. Go to Esslingen's Christmas Market and Medieval Market.
2. Be aware that the Medieval Market continues around the *Rathaus* (city hall) down a side street to the *Hafenmarkt*!
3. Participate in everything possible - *Mäuseroulette*, archery lessons, rope-twisting, the medieval bath... If someone in costume asks if you want to participate in something, don't be a putz! Say yes!! You'll spend some money, but you won't be sorry.
4. Go with an empty stomach and sample every dish that looks or sounds tempting.
5. Split the servings with a friend - the *Kässpätzle*, for instance, is too much for one person. That way you can also try twice as many different foods!
6. Be careful with your first sip of *Glühwein*. There's no warning on the cup, Americans, but it's hot!
7. Don't forget your camera!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!