



Visit us on the web at:  
[UDoMmilwaukee.com](http://UDoMmilwaukee.com)  
or follow us on [facebook](#)

What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:  
[jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com](mailto:jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com)

## A Holiday Message from the President

As we approach the end of 2013, I reflect back on the many things that have made it the busiest year I can remember. We added a new booth at Germanfest, we once again hosted Schlacht Fest, card parties, Jaeger Ball, the Jugendgruppe's Mai Ball, our annual Father's Day Picnic, Oktoberfest, the Kindergruppe's Kirchweih, Frauengruppe's Holiday Bazaar and many other new and exciting experiences adding to the success of this year. All these events went very well. During these events we have gotten a chance to know our newer members better. Having just finished Holiday Folk Fair — and having a year of record sales — it is an excellent example of how well we work as a club by bringing our old and new members together. Our new members have been especially helpful this year — jumping right in with the many new tasks they have been asked to do. This is an essential part for continuing the growth and strength of our club. Even the Kinder, Jugend, and Kultur helped out by performing over 26 times throughout the Folk Fair weekend; in addition to helping out in our food booth when they could. For this, I wish you and your leaders congratulations. We are so proud of you, for your dedication to this club. Job well done!

There are many events going on this month! On December 2nd we had the Frauen and Jaeger Christmas party, and on December 7th we participated in the German Holiday Market in the city of Brookfield at the civic plaza. The United Donauschwaben celebrates the Christmas party on December 8th and with only two more events the season and year comes to an end.

Now it is time to look to the future and our many upcoming events. 2014 holds for us a very busy year, along with our many summer events this year we have the honor of hosting the Dr. Awender Wettbewerb. The last time we had this honor was 2002.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our hard working members for their help during the year. To those in our club who lost a family member this year, I would like to express deep sorrow, and hope that you will remember the good times you shared with the departed. I would also like to welcome new members to our club and hope that you will become dedicated members of the Donauschwaben family. Thank you, to our seniors, you are excellent Christmas decorators.

As I think back on 2013, we have a lot to be proud of and thankful for. Together with my wife Theresia, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas,

*Tony Siladi*



## Schwabenhof NYE Dance!

Ring in the New Year with a bang at the Schwabenhof's New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. The festivities include a buffet dinner of New York Strip Steak, Duck Legs, Fried Shrimp, and all the trimmings. Dance to the music of Johnny Hoffman und Die Herzbuben. Count down to midnight with party favors and a champagne toast. For ticket reservations contact Victor Kordas at 262/783-4436. Doors open at 5pm; dinner at 6pm. Cost is \$65 dollars per person.

*May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness  
be yours during this Holiday Season  
and throughout the New Year!*

*George & Erna Scherer  
and the Schwabenhof*



*We would like to wish you a  
Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year. Thank you for your  
support this year and we look  
forward to sharing 2013  
with you!*

*The Frauen & Jaegers*

**Gesegnete Weihnachten  
und ein  
glückliches neues Jahr!**

# Holiday Greetings from the Jugendgruppe

A few weeks ago the Jugendgruppe was very busy dancing their eleven performances at the Holiday Folk Fair International. As always we love to perform, as well as support the other cultures while there. We are gearing towards next year where our big focus will be preparing for competition, which will be held over labor day weekend here in Milwaukee. Overall, it has been a very busy year; full of many fun and exciting memories.

One thing we enjoyed very much was debuting our new dirndls and we look forward to debuting our newest costume next year. On behalf of the entire Jugendgruppe, we would like to wish you a blessed holiday season!

- Carol Gdula, Jugendgruppe Director



## Did You Know?...

The forerunner of Lebkuchen was called "honey cake" and its history can be traced back to Egyptian burial objects. Via Belgium it made its way to Germany and finally arrived in Bavaria. However, the original recipe had changed significantly by then. Many bakers had added their own flavors to the mixture.

Instead of spreading honey onto customary cake, today's ingredients are a lot more sophisticated: cinnamon, cloves, aniseed and other exotic spices mingle to give Lebkuchen its distinct taste and make for the amazing scent it gives off.

Lebkuchen used to be served as a dessert in monasteries. But for decades, men of all ages and all nationalities have bought these sugar frosted "Herzerl" for their "Wiesnprinzessin" (Bavarian for "Oktoberfest Princess") as a little present, as a keepsake, or as an Oktoberfest souvenir.

## Glühwein Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1 (750 milliliter) bottle red wine
- ¾ cup water
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 orange
- 10 whole cloves
- Optional – ½ cup rum



### Preparation:

1. In a medium size saucepan, combine the water, sugar, cinnamon and cloves. Bring to a boil while stirring constantly, then reduce heat and continue to simmer.
2. Cut the orange in half and squeeze the juice into the pot. Place cloves into the orange peel and drop into the mixture. Cook until the mixture starts to thicken like syrup.
3. Pour in the wine and rum (if using) and stir, heating gradually until steaming. DO NOT BOIL. Remove oranges and serve in prewarmed mugs.

# Happy Holidays from the Kulturgruppe

On behalf of the Kulturgruppe, we would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season. Kultur has had some exciting times over the past year. We debuted our new dirndls and visited all of our friends at our annual performances.

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting Traubenfest on October 18th, 2014 at the Schwabenhof. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful event! We are looking forward to what the new year has in store for us!

- Karen Schmieder, Kulturgruppe Director

## Kinder Korner...

On behalf of the Kindergruppe we would like to wish you and your families and very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. This year has been a very exciting year for the Kindergruppe. We have had many wonderful performances as well as debuted our new pink dirndls. We are very sad to see MaryAnn leave us, but again we appreciate all of her handwork and dedication throughout the years as Kindergruppe leiterin.

We will get back in the swing of practice in February. If you know of anyone between the ages of 3 and 12 that might be interested in joining our group, please contact [brukbaka14@gmail.com](mailto:brukbaka14@gmail.com).

Frohe Weihnachten & viel Glück im Neuen Jahr!!

- Katlin Schmieder, Kari Bruckbacher and MaryAnn MacGillis, Kindergruppe Directors

## Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that annual membership dues are due the first of the year. Make sure your dues are current for 2013 so you can vote and participate in all our fun auxiliary groups.

Contact Membership Secretary Hildy Siladi for more information at 262.794.0455 or email [hsiladi@udommilwaukee.com](mailto:hsiladi@udommilwaukee.com) if you have any questions. For new members, forms are available online at [www.udommilwaukee.com](http://www.udommilwaukee.com)

Please Mail checks made out to UDoM for \$24.00 per member to:

Hildy Siladi  
1095 Auburn Drive  
Brookfield, WI 53045



*Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas." ~ Peg Bracken*



## DONAUSCHWÄBISCHE STIFTUNG 2013

### WEIHNACHTEN DAHEIM

(author unknown)

Tief verschneit ist Feld und Wald,  
Eine Landschaft wie gemalt,  
Ganz verzaubert sieht es aus,  
Es is Weihnachten zuhaus.

Und von himmel schweben Flocken,  
Alles strahlt in weisser Pracht,  
Und es läuten Heimatglocken,  
Jedes Jahr zur Heil'gen Nacht.

Und es schweben die Gedanken,  
Mit den weissen Flocken fort  
Über Grenzen, über Schranken,  
Bis in unseren Heimatort.

Und man hört die Glocken klingen,  
Sieht den hellen Kerzenschein.  
Möchte Weihnachtslieder singen,  
Und so gern zuhause sein.

Leise rieselt Schnee hernieder,  
Dann sieht alles friedlich aus,  
Und mir kommt Erinnerung wieder,  
An das Weihnachtsfest zuhaus.

Federleicht schweben die Gedanken,  
Wie die weissen Flocken fort,  
Über Grenzen, über Schranken,  
Bis an meinen Heimatort.

Immer bleibt mir die Erinnerung,  
Es war einfach wunderbar.  
Die erwartungsvolle Stimmung,  
Wenn zuhause Weihnacht war.

DANUBE SWABIAN FOUNDATION, USA

Robert Filippi, Chairman   Ed Tullius, President   Wolf Urban, Vice-President  
Rosalia Burmeister, Secretary



Danube- Swabian Association of the USA, Inc.  
*Verband der Donauschwaben in den USA. e.V.*

November 2013

Liebe Landsleut,

As Chairman of the Danube Swabian Foundation I once again write to you on behalf of our future. Please include our foundation on your gift list for 2013. Our future depends on your generosity! The young Donauschwaben in our clubs rely on financial support not only from their local clubs, but also from our foundation. They learn German in our language schools, dance traditional dances and sing traditional songs in our "Kinder-and Jugendgruppen," play traditional music in our "Blaskapellen," play "Fussball" in our soccer clubs, and raise a new generation of "Schwowe" in cities across this great country.

Donauschwabern that settled the fertile Pannonian region in the 1700's placed the cornerstone of our culture. In the years that followed, other Donauschwaben continued the construction process in the cities and villages of our "Heimat." The mid-twentieth century saw yet another move for our people: a move into our new "Heimat" in the USA. A culture that took over two hundred fifty years to develop (about 12 generations) is now entering a new phase of its evolution. Our people now live outside the friendly environs of their villages. This new lifestyle demands greater funding to support our clubs' cultural programs. We need your support in the following ways:

- 1) Encourage your family's participation in activities at your club.
- 2) Explain your family history to your children and their offspring.
- 3) Try to speak German and "Schwowisch" with your family.
- 4) Give financial support to your local club, especially for youth activities.
- 5) Make a donation to the Danube Swabian Foundation annually.

In closing, I ask you to pray for those that set such a wonderful example. I lost my own father less than a year ago and I remember him daily in the following words:

**“ Was bleibt ist die Liebe, und die Erinnerung an unser schönes gemeinsames Leben!”**

Let's leave our children similar memories of us and our generation.

Frohe Weihnachten!

**Robert F. Filippi**

President, Landesverband der Donauschwaben  
Chairman, Danube Swabian Foundation



# The Danube-Swabian Foundation of the U.S.A., Inc.

## Die Donauschwäbische Stiftung der U.S.A., e.V.

### “The Talk”

Have you had “The Talk” with your kinder, friends and fellow club members? It’s not what you think, (Vögel und Bienen/birds and the bees), but the importance of maintaining the Donauschwaben culture. What it means to be a Schwob! Have you discussed your past childhood, your roots, traditions, *Unser Sproch* with your family and friends? Have you gone to your club, and spoken to the newer members, those who have joined to immerse themselves in “German culture”, of the importance of keeping the Schwowische legacy, beliefs and practices alive for the next generations to come. 70 years have passed since the start of the expulsion of our people from the Heimat and ultimate transition to new homelands around the world. It’s amazing to consider what has been achieved by rebuilding and reclaiming these lives since being scattered around the world. However, it should be of no surprise given the pioneering spirit that’s in our DNA. Keeping the Schwowische traditions alive upon arriving in new lands was important. Through a willingness to work hard, maintaining deep faith and pinching pennies (thriftiness), many cities purchased land, poured foundations, bricks and mortar went up with strong roofs to bring together meeting places for the preservation of our Kirchweihfest, our dances, sport, blaskapelle, chor ... for our culture!

Today’s youth, your friends and your own observations tell you the world is getting to be a smaller place. With smart phones and the internet, knowledge is swift and informative. However, nothing beats a lesson from Oma and Opa. Our Donauschwaben ancestors passed their cultural knowledge with “The Talk” before there were such devices. Schwowische parents guide their children with strong faith, order and good practices. This continues today as you watch your own youth share their pride for the culture as they meet Schwobs from around the world at our events. Job well done to all of you!!!!

Will we be here for the next 70 years??? I believe so!!! For the past several years I have had the honor of meeting leaders from the variety of clubs throughout US, Canada, South America and Europe (What a blessing). To be Donauschwaben is to be globe (a pioneer). I can assure you, those that I have met sind alle echte Schwobs!!!! Their passion, knowledge and hearts will carry us forward. Once again, job well done by all of the leaders!!!!

With the help of your club’s Directors, my job is to ask you for your financial thoughtfulness this holiday season. Currently The Danube-Swabian Foundation of the USA, Inc./ Die Donauschwäbische Stiftung der USA, Inc. is participating in a “Pledge Your Age Campaign”. Simply put, consider a donation based on your age. Share this pledge concept using “The Talk” with your kinder, friends and fellow members. The Donauschwäbische Stiftung’s pledge is to continue to document past history (DVD and books) and further foster what our future pioneers hold for the Donauschwaben way of life. Through activities supported by the Foundation: German School, soccer, Jugendgruppe trips to Europe and Jugend dance groups your financial support allows the leaders to continue their “Talk” and sharing of knowledge to assure the continued legacy of the Donauschwaben.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr von uns allen in der Donauschwäbische Stiftung.

Eddie Tullius  
Stiftungspräsident, USA

And now, another successful youth oriented event which the Stiftung helped sponsor in 2013!

## Jugendlager 2013

This year's Jugendlager was hosted by the American Aid Society of German Descendants and it occurred on the third weekend in June. The majority of the Jugend and chaperones arrived on Thursday afternoon/evening and began setting up their tents before it became too dark. The evening continued with a short meeting where our president, Siegfried Henz, introduced himself and Renee Stein, Jugendleiterin, provided all of the information for the weekend. A delicious dinner of Chicago pizza was served and afterward we played games and enjoyed a bonfire.

Everyone needed to be up bright and early the next morning for our busy day of touring the city of Chicago. After a brief walk to the train station, all 100 of us loaded onto a commuter train that took us straight into the city. Our first stop was the Willis (Sears) Tower where we met our tour guide for the day, Joseph Stein. Before heading up into the tower, Mr. Stein told us a bit about the architecture of the various buildings in Chicago and a history lesson on the Willis Tower. Once up in the Willis Tower, everyone enjoyed the view but the majority of the Jugend loved the newest feature – the ledge! The ledges are glass boxes that extend out from the building. Afterward, we enjoyed a nice lunch in the park and then boarded either a doubledecker bus or a trolley. Each mode of transportation was a two hour tour of the city. Thankfully they were both covered since a thunderstorm decided to roll in. Once our tour was over, the skies opened up and we were able to walk around the city with guidance from Mr. Stein and his wealth of information. Finally it was time to catch the train and head back to Lake Villa. We returned to a wonderful meal of hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Once it became dark, Matthew Katzenmayer, set up an outdoor movie for us to watch. We were able to watch most of it before it began to rain and everyone headed for their tents for the night.

Saturday was our day to learn more about our Schwob culture. We started the day with learning to make Hungarian Wurst, potato salad and sauerkraut. Each Jugend had a chance to cut the meat, peel the potatoes, grind the meat, cut up the onions and fill the casings. As the Wurst was being cooked, Ann Morrison and Joseph Stein talked about the history of the Donauschwaben and how life was for many of them once they came to this country. In the afternoon, we broke up into four groups and participated in four different areas: singing, dancing, pretzel making, and touring the museum. Each station lasted an hour and by the end of the afternoon everyone was tired. Before eating our meal that we had prepared earlier in the day, the Jugend played games, took down their tents or just relaxed. We ended the evening with music and dancing. On Sunday morning we said goodbye to the new and old friends that we had made and left feeling pride of our Donauschwaben heritage.

Despite the rainy weather that made many of our tents wet and soggy, everyone had a great time. On behalf of The American Aid Society of German Descendants, and all the clubs that attended, I, Renee Stein, would like to thank the Stiftung for their generous support. This weekend would not have been made possible if it weren't for the Stifungs donation and guidance. Please continue to support the Stiftung so that our Jugend can have the opportunity to embrace and learn about our culture for generations to come.

Submitted by Renee Stein

\*\*\*\*\*

Please send donations to: Danube Swabian Foundation, USA  
c/o Rosalia Burmeister, Secretary 12568 Semora St. Cerritos, Ca. 90703

All Donations fully tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.