



New Brookfield Tradition!

The City of Brookfield hosted its first German Holiday Market in the Civic Plaza on Saturday, December 1st. The event was planned by former Brookfield mayor Kate Bloomberg and the Brookfield Sister Cities Committee. The idea evolved after the committee members visited Brookfield's sister city, Seligenstadt, Germany, this year.



"The ladies had taken this trip, and they were entranced and enjoyed visiting the German markets," Bloomberg said. "So we decided to introduce a German Holiday Market in Brookfield." Thorsten Bonifer, chairman of the Seligenstadt Sister Cities Committee, flew in from Germany for the event.

The Sister Cities Committee then reached out to us, United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee, the largest German ethnic group in the state, to make the event as close to German tradition as possible. We accepted, and offered up not only performances from each of our auxillary groups, but also traditional German cookies, sausage, pork sandwiches, and hot mulled apple cider.



In addition to the annual tree lighting at 4:45 p.m., there were free hay rides for kids, a raffle, a jazz performance by students from Brookfield East and Brookfield Central high schools and a puppet show hosted by the library.

"I think we've managed to combine two delightful events for people to enjoy," Bloomberg said. "We're hoping to make this a new annual tradition in the city."

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!*

Kinder Korner...

On behalf of the Kindergruppe, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2013. Thank you for all the support you have given us this past year. It's greatly appreciated! We are looking forward to a little break, then some fun time at Country Springs one day in late winter. We'll also be participating in Germany Under Glass at the Mitchell Park Domes on March 3rd.

You may not recognize our girls next Father's Day as they will be getting a new costume — it'll be fun, fresh and very girly! Next year will also bring us two additional leaders — Kari Bruckbacher, Katlin Schmieder and I will run the group together in 2013. At the end of 2013, I will exit and Katlin and Kari will carry on. I am very excited for this change! We represent three consecutive decades of the Kindergruppe (the 1970's, 80's and 90's). I think that says a lot of positive things about our organization!

Two of our Kinder will "graduate" to the Jugend Gruppe at the end of this year — Alex Mayer & Mark Walters. We hope your years in the Kindergruppe were just the start of a lifetime of Donauschwaben fun! We'll miss you; best of luck!

We will get back in the swing of practice in late winter/early spring. If you know of anyone between the ages of 3 and 12 that might be interested in joining our group, please have them contact me at macmablum@yahoo.com or 414-378-8334.

Frohe Weihnachten & viel Glück im Neuen Jahr!!

- MaryAnn MacGillis, Kindergruppe Director

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

*George & Erna Scherer
and the Schwabenhof*



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German-American HISTORY 101

Today we remember Thomas Nast, born on Sept. 27, 1840 in Landau, Germany. Thomas arrived in New York City with his family at the young age of six. When it was time to go to work, he utilized his exceptional



artistic talents, embarking on a career as an illustrator for a local New York paper. By the age of 19, Thomas was offered a full time position with the infamous Harper's Weekly, and of course the rest is all history. During the Civil War, Nast's pro-Union illustrations earned him the respect and admiration of President Abraham Lincoln. In later years, during the boom of the Industrial Revolution, Nast drew political cartoons exposing the corrupt policies of William Tweed, who at the time was the commissioner of New York City Department of Public Works. Tweed's tight control on city government was evident by the multi-million dollar construction contracts Tweed's companies were being awarded. William Tweed defrauded New Yorkers of tens of millions of dollars. Through Nast's illustrations, pressure on Tweed started building, and eventually he



was found guilty on charges of stealing public funds. Tweed was also quoted as stating Nast as the reason he was exposed and convicted. Tweed later escaped from jail, but Nast's sketches of Tweed eventually lead police to his

capture. Tweed died in jail of pneumonia. Thomas Nast remained in politics and continued drawing for Presidents and social causes he believed in until his death. Nast was also the creator of the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey, as well as the image of Uncle Sam. Thomas Nast is not only remembered in history as being the father of the American Cartoon, he is also remembered for his illustrated image of Santa Claus which has become the version of Santa Claus that all Americans recognize and recreate to this very day.



A Christmas Carol Goes Around the World

The world's most famous Christmas song, "Silent Night," comes to us from Austria (Österreich in German). Called "Stille Nacht" in its original German, this beautiful Christmas carol is now sung and enjoyed around the world in hundreds of languages. But the familiar melody we recognize today as "Silent Night" or "Stille Nacht" is not quite the same one that Franz Gruber composed, and although the song was not truly "lost" or "forgotten" — as legend would have it — the world-famous carol did take many years to become as well known and as ubiquitous as it is today. In the intervening years Joseph Mohr is known to have written a "Stille Nacht" arrangement around 1820, and new hand-written arrangements by Franz Gruber appeared before his death — one for a full orchestra in 1845, and another for organ in 1855. By 1900 "Stille Nacht" had made its way around the entire globe. But we should start at the very beginning...

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818 pastor Joseph Franz Mohr (1792-1848) walked the three kilometers from his home in the Austrian village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg to visit his friend Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) in the neighboring town of Arnsdorf bei Laufen. Mohr brought with him a poem he had written some two years earlier. He desperately needed a carol for the Christmas Eve midnight mass that was only hours away. He hoped his friend, a school teacher who also served as the church's choir master and organist, could set his poem to music. And one of the many amazing things about this carol is that Franz Gruber composed the "Stille Nacht" melody for Mohr in just a few hours on that December 24, 1818.

Recent flooding of the nearby Salzach river had put the church organ out of commission, so Gruber composed the music for guitar accompaniment. A few hours after Gruber finished his composition, he and Mohr stood before the altar of the St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf to perform their own work. A local choir group backed them up as the sounds of the brand new carol broke the silence of that "Stille Nacht."

For many years in the later half of the 19th century, when the carol was beginning to become more popular, people who knew anything about "Stille Nacht" assumed the melody must have been composed by a more famous composer, possibly Beethoven, Haydn, or even Mozart. Although Gruber had made a written claim as the composer prior to his death in 1863, doubts lingered on into the 20th century. The question was officially settled only several years ago when an arrangement of "Stille Nacht" in Joseph Mohr's hand was authenticated. In the upper right hand corner of the arrangement Mohr had written the words, "Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber."

Around 1832, when Gruber's melody was performed by folk singers from Austria's Ziller Valley (Zillertal), several musical notes were altered, and the "Silent Night" melody became what we know today. But Austria's Stille Nacht Gesellschaft (Silent Night Society) not only works to protect the Mohr-Gruber legacy — it encourages the use of the original notes that Gruber composed.

In Austria "Stille Nacht" is considered a national treasure. Traditionally the song may not be played publicly before Christmas Eve, and any commercial use of the 180-year-old carol is verboten. Contrast that with the situation in most other countries, where you are likely to hear "Silent Night" playing in the local shopping mall or even as part of a radio or TV commercial. Nevertheless, "Silent Night" enjoys a revered position among Christmas carols all over the world, no matter what it may be called or in which language it may be performed.

The "Silent Night" translation that we sing today in English first appeared in 1863 — the year of Franz Gruber's death, and some 45 years after the song's initial performance in Austria. The English-language author was unknown until 1959, when it was determined to have been the Episcopal priest John Freeman Young, assigned at the time of his work to the same Trinity Church associated with the 1839 performance of "Stille Nacht." Reverend Young apparently enjoyed translating European hymns and carols into English, and it is his 135-year-old "Silent Night" text that is found today in most hymnals and Christmas carol collections published in the English-speaking world.

German Christmas Service

Join Benediction Lutheran Church (8475 W Fond du Lac Ave, Milwaukee) for their annual German Christmas Service on December 16 at 1:30pm. Young and old, people born in Germany, and others who are just learning German have attended. There is an English translation with every service. Reverend David Flegel will lead mass, and there will be a special musical performance from the Milwaukee Damenchor.

For more information visit evangelischeandacht.org



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.

Holiday Greetings from the Jugendgruppe

As we come to the end of 2012 the dancers and I would like to thank our UDoM board of directors, club members, our families and friends for all their support over the last year! We certainly were busy performing this year — including travels to both Europe and Canada.

We are excited about the new year to come. After the first of the year we will be working on some new dances. There are many performances already lined up for 2013. So needless to say we are going to be busy again!

I would like to thank all of the Jugendgruppe dancers for their support and dedication to our dance group. There are so many things going on in their lives with family, school, sports and jobs, yet they still find the time to give to our dance group!

Here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- Carol Gdula, Jugendgruppe Director

Happy Holidays from the Kulturgruppe

The Kulturgruppe is now taking its winter break. First off I would like to thank all the members of the Kulturegruppe for all of their efforts and hard work during the past year. The last couple of weeks have been very busy. Folk Fair was a lot of fun and a lot of dancing. We want to thank all of the Jugend who helped us out and we hope more of them can join us next year. The German market in Brookfield was very successful. All three groups did a wonderful job of dancing and singing. We hope we are invited back again next year. We thank all the club members that helped and supported us during the past year. We would like to wish everyone and very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

- Karen Schmieder, Kulturgruppe Director

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.

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

~ Peg Bracken

Our Condolences...

Maria Abt (Nee Hoffmann) entered into eternal peace on November 11, 2012, after battling multiple myeloma. In her final days, Maria age 79, was surrounded by her family and friends. Maria was born in Kechinci, Croatia on December 7, 1932. Forced from her home in Yugoslavia during World War II. She and her family escaped to Austria, where they lived for 10 years. She immigrated to the United States in 1955. Maria was the devoted wife of Johann Abt, who preceded her in death, and the beloved mother of six children Hermi (Michael) Linz, Sepp (Rose) Abt, Hansi (Claudia) Abt, Maria (Bo) Lueck, Stefan Abt, and Heidi (Doug) Kirchberg, the loving grandmother of 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. She is survived by her sister Rose (Johann) Dydyn, brother Peter (Marty) Hoffmann, and cousin Katharina Heide. Throughout her fight with cancer and various related complications, she never lost hope or courage. Her generous and loving spirit touched many and will live on through family and friends. Maria was a long-time member of the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee, organizer of the Donauschwaben cultural exhibit at Holiday Folk Fair and Germanfest, past director of the Donauschwaben Frauengruppe and leader of the Donauschwaben Youth Group, a member of St. Matthias Parish, and survivor of the Ethnic German Genocide in the former Yugoslavia. Deepest sympathies to her family and friends. She will be missed, but remembered in our hearts.

A Holiday Message from the President

With winter fast approaching, one has to wonder whether last summer is an indicator that we are in for a cold winter, or will it be another warm one? As we approach the end of 2012, and reflect on the past 12 months it was again a fast-moving year.

The year began with the Schlachtfest and was followed by the Schwabenhof Card Party and Jaegerball. Shortly after that the May Dance was sponsored by our Jugendgruppe. All were quite successful. In June, it looked like rain was going to threaten our Father's Day picnic, but it turned out to be a beautiful day. The performances of our Kinder, Jugend and Kulturgruppe were excellent. All of our prepared food was sold-out and everyone had a great time.

This summer, a group of our dancers and a few other adults represented our club as they toured Germany, Austria and Hungary. They visited various Donauschwaben clubs and also performed in seven different cities — at festivals and in parades. They toured the Donauschwaben Museum in Ulm and visited Sindelfingen. Based on all of the stories I have heard from the group it sounds like they had a great time!

This year for German Fest, we operated two food booths as an outside vendor. This required different planning for the food we serve at the German Fest grounds. Much of it was prepared at the Schwabenhof. On the menu was schnitzel, dumplings with gravy, goulash, pork shanks, pork roast, sausage and sauerkraut. It would not have been possible to prepare all of this in the booths at the festival. We are fortunate to have Emil, Victor and George making sure all of our equipment runs smoothly. With the great weather and high attendance at the festival we ran out of food sooner than we would have liked. For the 2013 German Fest we will establish dates far enough in advance so that everyone can better plan to help with the food preparation. Our German Fest operations run smoothly because we have the very best volunteers. I want to again thank everyone for their dedication, hard work and desire to help benefit our club.

Our Oktoberfest featured good food, whether and music — but we would have benefited from greater attendance. Considering we have been hosting Oktoberfest for over 40 years we have been very blessed to have the volunteers and guests that support our Schwabenhof.

Also during the Labor Day weekend, a busload and more of us journeyed to Kitchener, Canada for the Landestreffen. Our Jugend, Kinder and Kulturgruppe performed and our Europe Group presented the performance they made throughout their Europe trip. In a word, they were FANTASTIC! Ingrid Dorr, the Landes Jugendleiterin told me that she heard from the gentleman in Germany that organizes the US group trips. He said that the feedback from the cities in Europe was that they had never had a group visiting from the US that performed as well as our group did. Congratulations to them for their great performance and for representing our club so well.

As fall approached our Kindergruppe sponsored Kirchweih. It was a fun evening, and it was wonderful seeing many of our youngest members greatly enjoying themselves. Our Frauengruppe was busy baking cookies for their annual Holiday Bazaar. As soon as that was done it was time to bake for Holiday Folk Fair. Folk Fair was a sad event for us because it was without one of our true Schwobs. Regrettably, Maria Abt passed away and joined in heaven her husband Johann, who passed away on the same day 15 years earlier. We will all miss her contributions and commitment to our Donauschwaben family.

During the first week in December, the city of Brookfield held its first German Holiday Market event at its Civic Center. Performances were scheduled for our Kinder, Jugend and Kultur groups, and the club operated a food booth. Our hall was again decorated by our senior citizens, and as usual they did a great job in making it look festive for the holidays. Thanks again to our seniors and to everyone that helps keep our culture and heritage alive so that future generations may benefit from it for many years to come.

During the year we welcomed new members, but also lost some of our Donauschwaben family. I would like to express our club's sorrow and deep sympathy to those who lost family members this past year. They are in our prayers.

Reflecting on this past year, I am reminded that our club is blessed with a lot of very loyal and dedicated members. From our most senior members through our youngest, we are working as one big Donauschwaben family in Milwaukee.

Together with my wife Theresia, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes throughout the holiday season and in 2013.

Merry Christmas,

