



Sheboygan Area Chapter

September Newsletter 2016

September 8th program will feature Nepal

September means more than just “back to school.” It also means our monthly chapter meetings begin again on the second Thursday of each month. The first program, on September 8th, will be given by two of our members who made a challenging trek in the Himalaya Mountains this past spring. Jon Keckonen and Hans Jüttner will have amazing pictures to show and interesting anecdotes to tell about two “senior citizens” trekking to a height of 15,700 ft. while stumbling over rocks and boulders most of the way up. A highlight of the trip was a visit to the school that Hans helped to fund 10 years ago. The students and faculty gave them an overwhelming reception. This is a program you will not want to miss.



Our menu for the evening will include broasted chicken, beef stroganoff, mashed potatoes and gravy, Wisconsin blend vegetables, (corn, carrots and green beans), salad bowl, rolls, coffee and milk. Dessert is being provided by Tom Riemann.

The cost of the dinner is \$16.00 per person. To make reservations, please make out a check to PTP-Sheboygan and send it to Esther Weiss at 1426 N. 15th St., Sheboygan, 53081. Deadline is Aug. 29. Social hour, 5:30; dinner, 6:30; program, 7:30 pm.

Coming Events

(mark your calendars now!)

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 8 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |
| Oct. 13 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |
| Nov. 10 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |
| Dec. 8 | Chapter Christmas party – Elks Club |
| Jan. 12, '17 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |
| Feb. 9, '17 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |
| Mar. 9, '17 | Chapter meeting at Elks Club |

Students enjoy Esslingen

Our four middle school students and their exchange partners will have returned from their three weeks in Esslingen by the time this newsletter goes out. Below is a picture showing eight happy kids after they enjoyed a tour of Tübingen, led by Beth Hejl, during one of their day trips in Germany. Our high school students and the middle school students will have more to tell us about their exchange experiences at the October 13th program.



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

Fun at summer picnic

A smaller than usual group attended the PTP chapter picnic in July. Thanks to Dale and Mitzi Stoltzman for preparing the pulled pork AND for taking pictures to share in the newsletter.



Shirley & Mark Bogenschultz
Margaret Voorhans, Ann Hammond



Julian Bischoff, Karen Domogalski



Bob, Denise & Emma Quasius



Ellen and Paula Burkart



Sandy Loth, Dennis Leffin, Al Loth

Note from Stoltzmans: Someone left a green plastic covered bowl at the picnic. It contained a caramel-apple salad. Dale and Mitzi will bring the bowl to the September 8th meeting so it can be claimed.

Another member gone

We are always sad to say our final goodbye to a member, especially one who has been part of our chapter for so many years. We express our sympathy to the family of Lisa Zumpft, who passed away on July 18. We are especially grateful to Lisa and her late husband, Hans, for their many years of service to the student exchange program.



Ciao, Aldana!

Submitted by Diane Mikolyzk

After spending five months with her host family, Eric and Jill Hundley and their daughters, Caroline and



Lauren, **Aldana Gastón** returned to her home in Córdoba, Argentina, on July 17, shortly after celebrating her 18th birthday in Sheboygan.

While in the US, Aldana experienced her first “real winter”. She was able to go skiing at Pine Mountain and had fun sledding at Vollrath Bowl. She also visited Wisconsin Dells and Devil’s Lake, Chicago, Madison, Six Flags and Door County. Her favorite travel experience, however, was her ASP mission trip to Kentucky with Eric and Caroline. While there her team helped side a house for a family, and Aldana felt like she really helped people in need. It is an adventure she will never forget.

Aldana enjoyed participating in track at Sheboygan North High School and loved going through the graduation ceremony. She noted that “it was just like in the movies!” Aldana also loved brats, s’mores and American pizza. She would have liked to take our “cheap prices” and beautiful Lake Michigan back to Argentina with her.

Thank you to the Hundley family and to our chapter for sponsoring Aldana and Caroline’s exchanges. With your help we continue to promote “Peace Through Understanding” while providing our young people with a very unique view of another culture.

Dessert volunteers needed

Submitted by Esther Weiss

I would like to thank everyone who provided dessert for us in the past and also everyone who brought cookies for the plates at Christmas time. We have a great start on donors for the coming year, but (there's always a but) the months of January through April are still open and available. Please contact me if you're interested in helping us out. My phone # is 457-3846. Please feel free to partner with someone if you would like. Every donation is greatly appreciated and does not have to be grand and elaborate. This group has a sweet tooth like I do, and we enjoy it all.



Thank you for your consideration.

Esther Weiss

Prayers for PTPI CEO

Our good friend, Mary Eisenhower, CEO of People to People International is recovering from a serious heart attack. She is grateful to report that she is on the road to better health, and she appreciates the many prayers that she feels have given her a new lease on life. She is a good friend of our chapter, and we surely do wish her well in these days of recovery.



Esslingen Fest in Sheboygan

Mayor Mike Vandersteen has announced that an **Esslingen Fest** will be held on Sunday, September 18th from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 3 Sheeps Brewing Company, 1837 North Avenue. Entertainment will be music by Polka Potion, brats, burgers, German potato salad, beans, and plenty of 3 Sheeps beer. Be sure to put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.



That's So German!

Excerpt from Beth Hejl's blog. Beth is a former exchange student now living in Germany.

In Germany there are clocks everywhere. There's never an excuse for being late!

Since I have been teaching students and refugees from all over the world, there have been many classroom discussions about what is typical for our various countries, languages, and *Landsleute* (countrymen and -women). I always find these talks fascinating, and I learn a lot.

We also, of course, talk about what is typical in Germany. Today something came up that made me realize just how German I am becoming.

The topic was social behavior. The Italians are laid-back and loose, they like to party and eat with friends, and it's not necessary to plan ahead for casual social gatherings. They are pretty spontaneous, and ready to drop what they're doing to have a good time. The Argentinians are much like the Italians: they enjoy hanging out with friends, they love a good festival, and it's no problem in Argentina to drop by at a friend's or family member's house without calling ahead first. They



have lunch around 13:00 and then a siesta, which is nearly sacred. Dinner is often at 9:00 pm or even later.

They were amazed at the German need for planning, which they have already noticed though they haven't been here more than a week or so. "They plan SO far in advance for little things!" "You can't just say to someone, 'Want to grab a drink?' They need prior notice - several days at least - just to hang out for a while!"

I sheepishly recalled what I had been working on for the last three days - arranging a reunion of my former class to meet at a local café for *Kaffee und Kuchen* two weeks from now - and had to laugh at myself. Indeed, I'm settling in quite well here. I remember those students commenting on this same German quirk a few months ago. They said it seems like German life is all about *Arbeit und Termine* - work and appointments.

Then the Italian lass who is quartered in the apartments above our favorite local restaurant (and whom we saw last night when we dined there) piped up with a huge, incredulous smile: "She and her husband reserved a table last night for **next month!**" This is totally true, by the way. Hey, we were there anyway and chatting with the chef, and his reservation book was right there. Why not?

That was when one of the Argentinians mentioned that it's no problem to drop in unannounced at someone's house. I said, "*Um Gottes Willen*, don't **ever** do that in Germany!" Perhaps this is more of a Swabian thing than a German thing, I really don't know.

The students asked me how it is in the US - are the Americans so punctual and anal about appointments and prior arrangements as the Germans? I said it's different there. When an American acquaintance tells you, "Let's get together soon/next week/after work someday", it means nothing. It's a variation on "See ya!" and you'll likely never hear from the person again. What's more, if you approach him or her again and say, "You suggested getting together soon. How about tomorrow?" the American will look at you with that "Huh?" look and start grappling for excuses why tomorrow won't work.

For appointments in the US, you should be on time, but you'll sit and wait a while anyway, so bring something to read. It's even standard in doctors' offices to find a sign saying, "If you have been waiting longer than 45 minutes, please let us know." When you report that to them, you'll hear, "The doctor will be right with you." And then you'll wait a while longer. [What's missing from the sign is "We're not going to do anything about it, but we know telling us will make you feel better."] Incidentally, German doctor offices don't bother with that sign. Despite the German emphasis on punctuality, you'll wait and wait at a doctor's office (unless you're privately insured), and they don't care.



If you are invited to a German's home for coffee at 10:15, this is when you should show up. Plan accordingly.

Timing is everything....

Editor's note: The newsletter was finished and ready to go out, but we had a blank 4th page. Fortunately, the first few days of the Esslingen students' visit to Sheboygan kept them busy and provided us with pictures of some of their activities.

Thank you to Mayor Vandersteen and his International Committee for the welcome picnic at King Park.



The mayor greets Maleen, Linda, Moritz, & Julian



Debbie Jenne, the Esslingen chaperone, greets the mayor



The German boys couldn't wait to swim in the lake.



A visit to the ice cream shop followed by miniature golf



Mayor Vandersteen also greeted our three high school Esslingen students who will attend school for the fall semester. Julian Bischoff, Jörn Fischer, and Jakob Sträter are staying

with the Domagalski, Werth, and Quasius families, respectively.

Homestay from Milan, Italy

Submitted by Judy Slawny

Once again we have partnered with People to People Milan, Italy and are hosting a lovely young woman, Cecelia Tavegia. She is here in Sheboygan for 3 weeks and is hosted by Steve and Sheila Wolfington's family for 10 days and Shane and Becky Ley's family for 10 days. She likes skiing, volleyball, water sports, windsurfing, swimming and reading. Judy and Mike Slawny and some friends took her sailing on Sunday afternoon. Her family often sails for 2 weeks in the Mediterranean Sea, so she loves the water.

