



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

March Newsletter 2022

## People to People will meet on March 10 at the Elks Club

It seems like it has been forever since we had a People to People dinner at the Elks Club! Thankfully, it is time to get together again. We will plan to see as many of you as possible at the Elks Club on March 10.

Since few people have been traveling during the pandemic, we decided to stay closer to home for this program. Interconnecting rivers and great lakes of Ontario, Canada, have provided transportation routes for hundreds of years. Those same routes, plus railways and ever-expanding highways, give access to this province's fascinating history and awe inspiring beauty. After a decade of travel across the border, David Kuckuk shares his fondest memories of paddling, hiking, and exploring Ontario. Dave recently retired as director of Maywood.



Our menu is still being finalized, but all of you know that all the meals at the Elks Club are delicious and plentiful.

From now on we will ask you to send your dinner checks to our treasurer, **Rich Miesfeld, at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083. Please make the checks out to PTP-Sheboygan in the amount of \$18.00 per person before March 2.**

The board will meet at 5:00 on March 10, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served promptly at 6:30.

## Coming events

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| March 10  | PTP dinner at the Elks Club                     |
| April 14  | PTP dinner at the Elks Club                     |
| April 23  | BRAT FRY AT MIESFELDS<br>(note the date change) |
| August 18 | Summer picnic, Howards Grove                    |

## Exchange Program

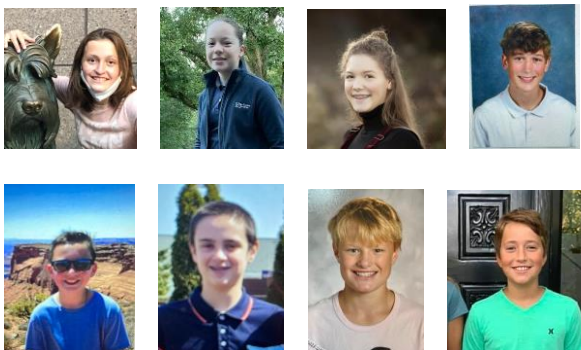
Jonah Weinfurter said goodbye to his North High friends and family on January 23 to begin his high school exchange in Esslingen. The Haug family welcomed him the next morning in Stuttgart, and he started school a few days later. Jonah is the first Sheboygan student to study in Esslingen in quite a few years. His participation in the exchange had to be delayed a year because of Covid, but he is happy that he was able to make it happen this year. See his enthusiastic report on his first month on page 2.



**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).

## Middle School Exchange

We have eight families who are excited that the 2022 summer exchange program with Esslingen, Germany, will actually happen this year. Paula Dick will be their chaperone, and her assistant chaperone will be Michelle Quasius. All 8 students will be communicating with their exchange partners on-line prior to their departure in July. In keeping with our policy not to identify minors in this newsletter, I am not adding their names to their photos, but you can see that we have 5 boys and 3 girls in this year's group. With this exchange, we welcome four new families into our PTP chapter.



## High school exchange 2023

We are happy to welcome the family of Bart and Ann Van Deventer as new People to People members. Their daughter will be studying in Esslingen next year as a high school student. It is exciting that we continue to have Sheboygan students who want to spend a semester in Germany. Our many students (over 200) who have taken part in the exchange program in the past have said it changed their lives completely.

## Brat Fry Date Change

For some unknown reason, Miesfelds changed the date of our brat fry to April 23. If you put the May date on your calendar, please be sure to change it to April 23. We will need lots of volunteers to make this a successful day, so please contact Bob Quasius at (920)698-0451 if you are able to volunteer your time that day. We will have a bake sale, as we did at our former location, so be sure to plan some tasty treats to donate.

## Jonah reports from Germany

*Submitted by Jonah Weinfurter*

My first (almost) month in Germany has been great so far. I have eaten many great meals that I never would have thought about trying, like having sparkling water with Grape juice or Apple juice (weird but very good). I saw Frankfurt on my first day. It was a very nice city. From what I remember my brain kept thinking it was 3 am. Esslingen is such a beautiful city, from the Burg to the buildings and architecture, it is breathtaking. For school the school is nice, half the days of the week we get out at 12:55 pm. However, understanding what's going on is a different story. I'm usually lost and the teachers have to explain what's going on in English. English is also my best subject since everyone in the class is required to speak English the whole time and I was taught at a young age the stuff. But I am having a blast seeing Germany!

## Let's talk English

Some time ago the members of the Esslingen Fire Department wanted some practice in speaking English, so they arranged with members of the Sheboygan Fire Department and People to People to set up Zoom calls between interested parties. These calls have been highly successful, and they are continuing into 2022. There have been some additions to the original group, and we expect to hear more reports about their enjoyable conversations as time goes by.

## Chapter trip in June, 2023

Jon Keckonen is making preliminary plans for an 18-day trip to Norway and Finland in June, 2023, with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT), a subsidiary of Grand Circle Travel. The trip includes a six-day cruise along Norway's beautiful coastline. You can see details of the trip by going to the OAT website and searching for "Fjord Cruise & Lapland." Please let Jon know if you might be interested in the trip by calling him at (920) 946-3899 or emailing him at [jkeckonen@charter.net](mailto:jkeckonen@charter.net).

Note: Many readers have requested more of Beth Hejl's blog posts, so they will be included at the end of the newsletters when possible, recognizing that those who do not want to follow them can stop reading here. Hopefully that keeps everyone happy.

# Kestrel Rescue

Submitted by Beth Hejl

*Many of our readers know that Beth has taken classes and passed tests in Germany to become a licensed falconer. Her blog post today is about her attempt to rescue a wee injured bird. Note: Hekate is the falcon she has been training with since she earned her license.*

I might have saved a wee *Turnfalke* (Kestrel, a small falcon) today, at least from death under the wheels of some vehicle or being finished off by crows. For a falconer this is nothing remotely new, but this was my first time, so it has been quite an experience for me.

I was actually on my way to Hekate's aviary, because her falconer is in France on business and asked me to look after her. At one point I saw a small bird or owl right on the side of the road as I drove past. I have too often seen hawks too close to the road and feared for their safety if they should take off across the road in front of a car. This little one was way too close, so I screeched to a halt, parked off the road, grabbed my falconer's glove and went over to shoo it away from the road. I crossed to the other side so I would approach it in a way that, if it could fly away, it would do so toward the field rather than the road. Then I saw a bus coming! I gestured to it to slow down and cringed, hoping he wouldn't drive any closer to the right! The resulting wind knocked the bird over, but it was still alive. I crossed over to her (by now I could see it was a *Turnfalke* and was pretty sure it was a female) and saw right away that one eye was badly injured. She also couldn't fly away, so she tried her best to scare me off.

I talked soothingly to her while she tried to fight me, gently grabbed her so her wings were against her body and her little talons were somewhat secured, and brought her back to my car.

For crow hawking I always have hand towels and a rectangular bucket in the car, so I swaddled her in the towel while she tried to bite and claw me, laid her in the bucket, covered her with another towel and wondered what the heck to do now. What a time for my mentor to be out of the country!

I sent her a message asking for ideas but drove to Hekate's aviary, since I knew there was a vet's number there who deals with raptors. Hekate was clearly happy to see me, confident I'd be bringing her lunch. My mentor sent me the phone number of a falconer she knows who might be able to help, so I called him. He picked up on my second try, rather confused (and at work). Once he understood the situation, though, he told me where he was - basically back very close to where we live! I apologized to Hekate, jumped back into the car,



and drove to where the falconer (Ron) was, checking every 5 minutes or so that the falcon was still alive. Ron



had a look at her, determined the eye injury might not be so bad but her left wing was also broken, so there might not be much hope. There was still plenty of life in her as she tried to claw and bite

Ron, who at one point asked me to pry one of her talons out of his hand.

We went to Ron's van where he had a cardboard box, and as he opened the back he said, "I have a bird in here." Sure enough, one of his falcons was sitting on her cage on the floor of the van. The life of a falconer...

Ron put "Kessie" in the box with the towel, and she just lay there, poor thing. He said he'd call a vet he knows who specializes in raptors, and he'd keep me posted. He warned me that a badly broken wing on a *Turnfalke* is usually too hard to repair. And perhaps she would die quietly in the box - but at least it wouldn't be on the side of the road. I said I couldn't just leave her there, and he said he would have done what I did.



I drove back home to eat something and then returned to a confused but hopeful Hekate. She knows me well by now, but this was the first time I was with her alone. She came right to my glove, sat patiently while I fumbled to secure the jesses, stepped onto the scale like a good girl, and then when I released her back into her aviary, she went right to the feeding perch and banged on the door to make it clear to me that I was to feed her. NOW. I really am like the staff. I serve her her meal (a yummy crow wing I'd kept in a plastic container in our fridge since Sunday), wait while she eats, and then I get to clean up the mess she made. Feathers everywhere. I should have taken a picture of that. The photo shown is just what was on her food perch. The entire ground was full.



This photo shows Hekate after she is fed and content.

A few hours later I got a call from Ron, who said the vet was not put off hearing about the *Turnfalke*'s broken wing, and so there's still some hope.



*Update: The Turnfalke / kestrel was humanely euthanized by the veterinarian after it was determined that nothing could be done for her.*

Additional note from Beth: If you are not trained in how to handle an injured wild animal, do not approach or touch it. Call the police, who can get in touch with a game warden.