



Sheboygan Area Chapter

Happy New Year!

February Newsletter 2023

Join us for a program on the Fiji Islands on February 9

February 9 will mark a first for our chapter. We will be treated to an interesting program on the Fiji Islands by Sala Sander on Feb. 9 at the Elks Club. To our knowledge, we have never had a program on this area before, so it will be new to all members.

Sala Sander, a native of the Fiji Islands, and now a resident in her new paradise of Sheboygan, will share her experience about living in Fiji and their family's journey to the U.S. Sala will also share a little about the current political situation in Fiji and how the island's tourism industry survived during the pandemic, and also why CNN named Fiji as one of the best destinations to visit in 2023.

The menu will include roast turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, sweet peas & carrots. Jim and Deb Sabol-Williams will provide dessert.

The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of January 26. Checks should be made out to People to People-Sheboygan and mailed to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083

The board will meet at 5:00 on February 9, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served promptly at 6:30.



Sala is married to Kevin Sander, and they have four children ages 16 – 22. She works as the Project Coordinator for the Wisconsin Internet of Things council. Sala and her family moved to Sheboygan from Naperville, IL in August 2019. Last summer she and Kevin celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. When not working, Sala loves exploring the outdoors with her husband on their motorcycle.

Coming events



- Feb. 9, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- Mar. 9, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- Apr. 13, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- May 11, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- July 8, '23 Brat Fry at Miesfeld's
- Aug. 17, '23 PTP picnic in Howards Grove

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.

Summer exchange program

We have selected four boys and four girls to take part in our chapter's summer exchange program for middle school students in the 7th or 8th grades. These families are excited about participating in the 6-week exchange, and they are anxiously waiting to hear who their Esslingen partners will be. That decision should come by the end of January. The students and their chaperones will leave for Germany around July 18th or 19th.

5-month exchange program

There are 4 boys who will be studying at North High School for the first months of the fall semester, and all of them took part in the 2022 middle school program. They are looking forward to attending school in Sheboygan and returning to their original host families.

Esslingen reports that they have 17 MORE students who would like to participate in the high school program, but we need to find more families who are willing to host these students. At this time they have 5 boys and 12 girls who would like to be selected. Of course we know we can't find families for that many, but we would surely like to offer the opportunity to a few more Esslingen students. If you know of anyone who might be willing to host a student for 5 months, please contact Ann Keckonen at 920-946-3898 right away or email her at aehtc42@gmail.com. These students all speak English, so there is no need to know German in order to host one of them. I just received a message from a young lady who participated in the exchange in 1996. She writes, "I think fondly on my exchange often – it has certainly served me well through life."

2023 brat fry is scheduled

It may seem awfully early to think about next summer, but our brat fry is scheduled for Saturday, July 8, at Miesfeld's. This is such an important event for our chapter, and if you put it on your calendars now, we can hope to have lots of workers available that day. The proceeds from this fundraiser support our student exchange programs.

Summer picnic scheduled

Be sure to put **Thursday, August 17** down for the People to People picnic. For many years, Dale and Mitzi Stoltzman have prepared pulled pork for this event, and they are willing to do so again next summer. This is always a really nice evening in a comfortable air-conditioned room at the Howards Grove Village Hall.



Have you paid your dues?

Just a reminder that your 2023 PTP dues should have been paid by now. If you paid in November or December, you are covered through all of 2023. If you have not yet paid, please send a check to Rich Miesfeld right away. A payment now will keep you current until the end of 2023. Dues have not been raised in many years. A family membership is still \$35.00 and a single membership is \$25.00. Please make out your check to People to People – Sheboygan and mail to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.



Update on Beth Hejl's blog posts

Over recent years, many of you have enjoyed excerpts from Beth Hejl's blog posts about her life as an expat in Germany. She was one of our high school exchange students in 1986, and she moved to Germany in 2012. In recent months, she has been occupied with a Harris hawk which she and her husband acquired in August. Kaya was hatched in April, and they got her when she was about 4 months old. Beth and Martin are falconers, but before they could become falconers in Germany, they had to first study, attend classes, and pass tests to get their hunting licenses. Beth has shared many interesting experiences in training their hawk to hunt for crows, which she is now doing successfully. To read more, please go to her blogposts at <http://bhejl.blogspot.com/> or search for Ami im Schwabenland on Facebook.

