



# People to People Sheboygan

October Newsletter 2024

## Dinner at the Elks Club, 10/10

5:30 Social time, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 program

Please join us for our next People to People meeting and program at the Elks Club on October 10.

The program will be presented by Tandra Sbrocco, Executive Director of Love, INC. This is the local organization coordinating the refugee resettlement program in the Sheboygan area. Tandra will share the progress of the resettlement, and the opportunities to assist the refugees in acclimation to the Sheboygan area.



The menu for this evening will be roast turkey, twice baked potatoes, green beans, salad and rolls. Dessert will be provided by Dale & Mitzi Stoltzman in recognition of Mitzi's birthday on Oct. 27.

**The cost of the dinner is \$21.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of Oct. 4.** Make checks out to People to People Sheboygan and mail them to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.

The board will meet at 5:00 at the Elks Club, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:30. Board members should notify Bob Quasius at 920-698-0451 if they cannot attend.

## Coming Events

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Oct 10        | Dinner meeting at Elks Club  |
| Dec 12        | Christmas party at Elks Club |
| Feb. 13, 2025 | Dinner meeting at Elks Club  |
| Mar. 13, 2025 | Dinner meeting at Elks Club  |
| Apr. 10, 2025 | Dinner meeting at Elks Club  |
| May 8, 2025   | Dinner meeting at Elks Club  |

## Do You Want to go to NYC?

We are excited that the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus has been invited to perform with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra of UK at Carnegie Hall in New York on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025. The Keckonens plan to travel to New York for this event and will welcome anyone who would like to join them for this trip. Call Jon Keckonen at 920-946-3899 if you would like more information.



## Time to Pay Dues Again

Since the October meeting is our last meeting before the Christmas party and 2025 dues should be paid before the end of the year, this is a good time to send your dues check to Rich Miesfeld along with your dinner check. Our chapter dues remain at \$35/family; \$25/single membership.

## Newsletter Editor Needed

Note from Ann Keckonen: I have written the newsletters for our PTP chapter for 30 years, and I will be retiring from this "job" at the end of this year. There must be one of our younger members who would like to take over this job. Please call Bob Quasius at 920-698-0451 if you are willing to write 8 newsletters a year for the good of our chapter.

**PTP** This newsletter is produced monthly for members of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** to [aektc42@gmail.com](mailto:aektc42@gmail.com) or mailed to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083.

## It's Hard to Say Goodbye

We are sorry to report that Jasmine Thorn is leaving the Esslingen city administration for another job opportunity. She has been a wonderful supporter of our high school exchange program and has made many friends in Sheboygan when she has traveled here. We wish her well in her new job, and we thank her so much for the many hours she has spent in promoting our exchange program. Katrin Radtke will take over the communication with our chapter for now regarding any exchanges we may be able to make.



## Changes in Exchange Program

It is no longer possible for our chapter to maintain the 5-month exchange program for our high school students. Our U.S. government has made it impossible to adhere to their many restrictions and financial obligations, so the board has reluctantly decided to drop the long stay exchange program after 53 successful years. Fortunately, the summer exchange program for middle school students will continue. We are currently trying to establish a program with the Esslingen gymnasiums whereby students may attend school here for up to 3 months without needing a visa. Students from the Sheboygan area could also spend up to 3 months in Esslingen without needing a visa. Some of the local schools have already said they will accept Esslingen students for a shorter period of time. We hope this new program will be ready by fall of 2025.

## Dessert Volunteers Needed

Steve Dick has arranged the menus for all of our meetings at the Elks Club through May, 2025. He still needs volunteers to supply dessert for the March, April, and May programs. If you are able and willing to take one of those months, please contact Steve at [dicksteve29@gmail.com](mailto:dicksteve29@gmail.com). At our December meeting we will ask everyone to bring one dozen cookies for our Christmas party.

## History of Exchange Program

The high school exchange program began in 1970 with four students participating: Betty Flottman, Pam Ott, Peter Doermann, and Stan Gueldenzopf. The program grew steadily over the years, and in 1985 we had 14 applicants, of whom 7 were chosen to participate. For many years the students who applied were required to have at least 2 years of German, and part of their interviews were conducted in German. That requirement was dropped when there were fewer German classes taught in the high schools and it became more difficult to find applicants for the program. In recent years there have been many more applicants in Esslingen than in Sheboygan, so we initiated the possibility of one-way exchanges when host families could be found for the German students.

Over the years this newsletter has included many articles from former exchange students who have articulated how the program positively affected their lives after spending 5-6 months studying in Esslingen. Several families had multiple children participate, with the Bogenschultz family holding the record at 5 of their 6 children. Sara Bogenschultz Born participated in 1980-81, and she is still an active member of our chapter who attends almost all meetings. Many of our current board members have had children in the program. Martin Hertkorn from Esslingen participated in 1972 and stayed with the Voorhans family. He continues to stay in touch with Margaret, and most recently he returned to Kohler for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022. It goes without saying that this exchange program has influenced the lives of a lot of People to People members and has been a major function of our chapter. It is sad to see it coming to an end as a long stay exchange.

## Next Meeting is December 12

Remember that we do not meet in November or January, so after our October meeting, the next event will be the Christmas party.