

Tony's Spring Message

Looking back over the past several months the club has had a great start to this year. The Schlachtfest, Jaeger Ball, and card parties were all well attended. Thanks to all those members that planned the events and worked so hard to make these events so very successful.

We are also at that point in the year when we must begin to plan for the extremely busy summer that begins with Mai Tanz, and then Father's Day followed by German fest. The help of our members is vital to the ongoing operations of our club and the Schwabenhof. Although there are many who willingly contribute their time to help with these events, as well as maintaining our aging facilities they can't do everything on their own; they need help.

Many of our other faithful members have also been very generous with their time especially those who have taken leadership roles for the various festivals and other events. However, they are also not able to do everything by themselves and also need the help of other volunteers.

Several days ago I witnessed something that made me extremely happy and proud. I saw a number of our Jugend working with our senior members to make sausage. Then I saw our Jugend helping make Sarma, dumplings, and schnitzel. Please keep that up, that's how traditions pass on to the next generations.

We are currently in the process of planning the preparation work for our upcoming events. I am looking forward to working with you in the coming months.

Happy Easter,
Tony Siladi

Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that annual membership dues are due the first of the year. Make sure your dues are current for 2013 so you can vote and participate in all our fun auxillary groups.

Contact Membership Secretary Hildy Siladi for more information at 262.794.0455 or email hsiladi@udommilwaukee.com if you have any questions. For new members, forms are available online at www.udommilwaukee.com

Please Mail checks made out to UDoM for \$24.00 per member to:

Hildy Siladi
1095 Auburn Drive
Brookfield, WI 53045



*"The beauteous eyes of the spring's fair night
With comfort are downward gazing." — Heinrich Heine*

Jugendgruppe Update

We hope you can join us on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at the Schwabenhof for our Spring Maiball. The doors will open at 5:00pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm with Schnitzel, Goulash, delicious homemade desserts and more! Then relax and enjoy the music of the Talisman band at 8:00pm.

This is our special night when we crown our new May Prince and Princess for 2013. Our Jugendgruppe dancers will perform and we also have an evening raffle with wonderful prizes.

If you do not have a partner for your favorite dance that night the Jugendgruppe dancers would love to dance with you. Make sure you tap them on the shoulder or just ask them to dance they know all the dances!

For tickets and further information, please call Karen Schmieder at (262) 547-1371.

Grüße von der Kulturgruppe

The Kulturgruppe has enjoyed their "vacation," but we are ready to get back into the swing of things! We recently performed at St. Sava Serbian Church. The event was a recreation of the old Pabst Beer Garden at Holiday Folk Fair. It was nice to see some old friends, as well as new from various groups in the Milwaukee area. On March 2nd we performed a joint performance with the Kinder and Jugendgruppe at Germany Under Glass -- an event held at the Milwaukee Domes in celebration of what it is to be German-American.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Kulturgruppe members Kristel Metsig and Hansi Geyer on their recent engagement. We wish you both the best and many years of happiness together.

If you are over the age of 18 and interested in joining, please contact Karen Schmieder at 262.547.1371 for more information. We are always looking for new members!

Jägerball a Success

On March 9th the hall at the Schwabenhof was filled with many faces, both old and new for Jägerball, hosted by the UDoM Jägerverein. As usual, the meal was wonderful and the homemade desserts even better. The evening was filled with music from Johnny Hoffman and the Herzbuben, an introduction of the Jägers, and a performance by the UDoM Jugendgruppe. Their performance was dedicated to their friends from Szar, Hungary. They showcased a new dance and it was well-received by the audience. Congratulations to the Jägerverein on a successful event!

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UDoMmilwaukee.com
or follow us on **facebook**

What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:
jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com

German-American HISTORY 101

"The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread"

Today we remember Otto Frederick Rohwedder (July 7, 1880 – November 8, 1960) A Great German-American inventor and engineer who created the first automatic bread-slicing machine for commercial use. Otto was born in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of Claus and Elizabeth Rohwedder, of ethnic German descent. He was the youngest of three brothers and a sister. Young Otto first had a career as a jeweler, and later became the owner of three jewelry stores. He used his work with watches and jewelry to create inventions of new machines. Convinced he could develop a bread slicing machine, he sold his jewelry stores to fund the development effort and manufacture the machines. In 1917 a fire broke out at the factory where Otto manufactured his machine. His prototype and blueprints were destroyed. With the need to get funding again, Otto was delayed for several years in bringing the bread slicer to market. In 1927 He successfully designed a machine that not only sliced the bread but wrapped it. He applied for patents to protect his invention and sold the first machine to a friend and fellow baker Frank Bench, who installed it at the Chillicothe Baking Company, in Chillicothe, Missouri. The first loaf of sliced bread was sold commercially on July 7, 1928. Sales of the machine to other bakeries increased and sliced bread became available across the country. Another German, Gustav Papendick, a baker in St. Louis, Missouri, bought Otto's second machine and found he could improve on it. He developed a better way to have the machine wrap and keep bread fresh. He also applied for patents for his concepts. In 1930 Continental Baking Company introduced Wonder Bread as sliced bread. It was followed by other major companies when they saw how well received the bread was. By 1932 the availability of standardized sliced bread boosted sales of automatic, pop-up toasters. In 1933 American bakeries for the first time produced more sliced than unsliced bread loaves. That same year Otto sold his patent rights to the Micro-Westco of Bettendorf, Iowa and joined the company. He became vice-president and sales manager of the Rohwedder Bakery Machine Division. In 1951 at age 71, Otto retired from Micro-Westco Co. and moved with his wife Carrie to Albion, Michigan, where their daughter Margaret (Rohwedder) Steinhauer and his sister Elizabeth Pickerill lived. All together Otto had seven patents approved from 1927-1936 having to do with bread slicing and handling. Today his original bread slicing machine can be found at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.



see GOD in every person, place and thing, and all will be well in your world.

Kinder Korner

The Kindergruppe will be back in full swing starting in early April. However, we did have a few events the past couple months that have gotten us excited for all of the things we have planned throughout the rest of the year.

We started out the year with some fun at the Country Springs Water Park. We celebrated our last year, as well as Kindergruppe member, Ellie Bestor's birthday. Starting this year, Kari Brukbacher and Katlin Schmieder have been appointed co-leaders with MaryAnn MacGillis and we couldn't be more happy. We have a lot to be thankful for with such wonderful kids, and many supportive parents who make everything possible!

Next, we performed at Germany Under Glass. We would like to give a special thanks to Jugendgruppe members Max MacGillis, Michael Herrman, Rebecca Brunner and Megan Brunner for helping our "Group 1" older kids with their performance. It means a lot to the Kindergruppe when the Jugend are so willing to help out!

Our first practice back will be April 9th at 6:15pm. We will be starting to get ready for the UDoM's annual Father's Day Picnic, where we are very excited to be debuting brand new costumes for the girls in the Kindergruppe! If you have a child over the age of three who would like to join, please contact brukbaka14@gmail.com for more information.

The Kindergruppe would like to wish everyone a wonderful Easter and Spring Season!

Congrats on Your Engagements!

On behalf of the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee, we would like to send our congratulations to two very deserving couples.

Recently, UDoM Recording Secretary Lori Ozminkowski and Chris Montazon, one of our UDoM Bartenders as well as Kulturgruppe members Hansi Geyer and Kristel Metsig — who is also our Chorleiterin — both got engaged!

We wish you both a lifetime of happiness and nothing but success as you begin your lives together.





UDoM Club Jackets Now Available!

The Jugendgruppe is selling United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee (UDoM) club jackets! The warmer weather is coming and they are great for spring, summer or fall.

JACKET PRICING:

Sizes XS to XL = \$50.00

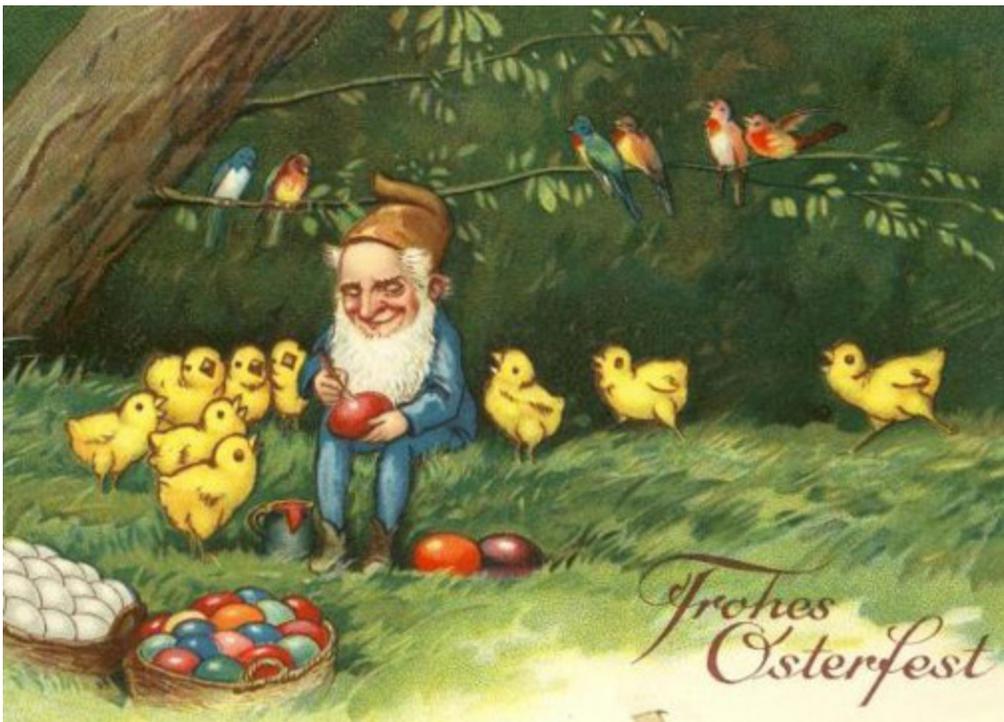
Sizes 2XL to 4XL = \$55.00

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Cash, Check or Money Order Payments Only. (Please make checks payable to Milwaukee Donauschwaben Jugendgruppe)

ORDERING OPTIONS:

1. Our Jackets are available at the Schwabenhof every third Wednesday of the month at the 7:30 pm UDoM General Meeting.

2. You can request a jacket via email at cgdula@udommilwaukee.com and mail your payment to Carol Gdula at N59 W37771 North Ridge Court, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Please note, this option will require an addition shipping and handling fee of \$7.00 per jacket.



Der Frühling ist wunderbar

Der Frühling is grün,
und die Blumen blühen.
Die Sonne lacht wieder,
und wir Kinder singen Lieder.
Wir kommen aus dem Haus
und toben uns richtig aus.

Der Osterhase kommt aus seinem Versteck
und bringt uns ein Ostergeschenk.
Das weckt die Freude wirklich wahr,
der Frühling ist wunderbar.

Sarma Sale!

The Sarma (Krautwickel) Sale on March 18th at the Schwabenhof for the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee was a complete success! The team could hardly keep up with the steady flow of customers coming through the doors.



Danube Swabian Easter Customs

At my birthplace of Banat Topola, the church bells in the steeple remained silent from 'Gründonnerstag' (Maundy Thursday) until 'Karsamstag' (the day after Good Friday), for figurative recharging. As children, we were told that they had flown to Rome for spiritual renewal.

While the bells were 'absent,' the function of summoning worshipers for masses and to remind the faithful that it was time for praying, so-called 'Ratscher-Buben' ran from house to house along each side of different streets shouting, 'mir ratsche zum erschte, zum zweite, zum dritte Mol in die Mess' (we are rousing for the morning, noon, or evening mass).

The message of the boys was underscored with a few revolutions of the Ratsche each boy was carrying. Some of them were genuine heirlooms! This wooden instrument makes the sound of a rapidly clicking ratchet. Alternately, the gizmo is also called Rätsche, Schnarre, Klapper, and Karfreitagsrassel.

The word 'gerewelt' that has been correctly interpreted by participants in some discussions alludes to the activity of ratschen.

After mass on Karsamstag, two Ratscher-Buben were designated as hoarders, with painted faces for identification. Together, they carried a large utility basket, into which the collected goods were placed as the group of boys walked from house to house to receive their rewards for having served as Ratscher-Buben. Donations generally consisted of money or eggs, with occasional cups of flour, which was placed into a linen sack.

To announce themselves to village residents, the group of boys sang a ditty that went like this (in the local dialect):

Stipp, stipp Staab aus
dr Katz gehn die Hoor aus
Summer, Summer Mai aus,
die Veigle un die Blume,
dr Summer werd bald kumme.

O Leit, o Leit, ihr liewi Leit,
do kummt die heilichi Oschterzeit.
Gibt uns Ajer, gibt uns Geld,
alles, was ihr wollt,
nor khe Schlää, die tun weh.
Ecku, ecku ruschafeh,
heit is torus tambure,
Ajer raus, Glick ins Haus!



The Conceptual Translation is as follows:

Commence spring cleaning,
for cats are already shedding fur.
With May in the offing,
Summer is approaching.
Violets and (other) flowers signal the imminence of Summer.

O people, dear people,
Easter-time is upon us.
Give us eggs or money - anything you want, except beatings, for they hurt. No particular meaning was associated with the words in the next two lines, but their mystifying sound may have conjured up supernatural notions. These 'magic' words were followed with best wishes in return for gifts received.

Upon departing, the boys would sing (partly in high German, for reasons of rhyme):

Wir danken für die Gaben,
die wir empfangen haben.
Lebt wohl, lebt
wohl, bis uffs anri Jahr!
(We thank you for the gifts that were bestowed upon us.
are well, fare well, until next year.

*Alternate versions of this custom can be found in many a Heimatbuch.
Written By: Jacob Steigerwald [Published at DVHH.org 16 Mar 2005]*

Easter in Yugoslavia in the Danube-Swabian Region

How my mother remembers Easter when she was a child in Beschka, Yugoslavia from about 1927 through 1939:

On the Saturday evening before Easter, my mother sent us to the small stream that was near our house to pick grass. Then we made little nests out of the grass in our flower garden. Because we were eight children, there were many nests in a circle. Early Easter morning when we woke up, the nests were full of chocolate eggs, colored (with onion skins) eggs, balls and various candies.

Soon after that we went to the house next door, where my grandparents lived. Grandmother had hidden small Easter baskets in her big flower garden. Each child had to hunt for theirs. It was really fun to find those baskets in the big flower garden.

Then we went to Sunday school and after that we had to go to church. After the service we went home for lunch. After we ate, all the children were on the street with their Easter things. It seemed as if every child had a new ball.

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[Published at DVHH.org 16 Mar 2005]*

