



Sheboygan Area Chapter

Happy New Year!

January Newsletter 2019

Learn about Burundi, Africa, on January 10 with Dr. Reedyk

Our New Year will begin with an interesting program about Burundi, East Africa on January 10. This is what our speaker, Dr. Len Reedyk, wrote about his presentation:

I practiced family medicine in Big Rapids, Michigan for 8 years prior to moving to Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1986. Since then I practiced family medicine and walk-in medicine at the Sheboygan Aurora Clinic until my retirement in 2011. My daughter, Heather Fader, lives in Burundi, East Africa, with her surgeon husband and is part of the medical team at Kibuye Hope Hospital.



According to the World Health Organization, Burundi is one of the 3 poorest and hungriest nations in the world. It is also the third most densely populated country in the world.

We will discuss briefly the country of Burundi and look at the life of an average citizen in that country. We will also examine the work being done at Kibuye Hope Hospital, including the teaching of medical students, nurses, and residents. I am looking forward to sharing with you the story of Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi, East Africa.

The menu for the evening will be broasted chicken, meatballs & gravy, mashed potatoes, Riviera blend vegetables, salad bowl, rolls, and beverage. Dessert will be provided by Gilda Becker. The social hour begins at 5:30; dinner at 6:30; program at 7:30.

The cost of the dinner is \$16.00 per person. Please mail your checks to **Char Gumm, N6222 Woodland Rd., Sheboygan, 53083**. The deadline for reservations is **January 2**.

The board will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, Jan. 10 at the Elks Club. Please call Jon Keckonen at 457-4318 if you need to be excused from the meeting.

Coming Events



- Jan 10, '19** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Feb 14, '19** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Mar 10 '19** **PTP Brat Fry at RCS Building**
- Mar 14, '19** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Apr 11, '19** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- May 9, '19** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Aug. 8 '19** Chapter Picnic 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

New board members for 2019

The new board of directors for 2019 was elected at the December chapter meeting. For those who did not attend the meeting, the new president is Jon Keckonen. New board members elected to a 3-year term are Josh Joyce and Michelle Quasius. A complete list of all board members and committee chairmen will be sent to those who have paid their dues, along with the proposed budget for 2019. This information will be sent prior to the January meeting so that the budget can be approved by those attending on January 10. If you have not yet sent your dues to Rich Miesfeld, be sure to do it before the end of the year. \$35 per family; \$25 single.

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

In case of bad weather...

We realize that our checks for chapter dinners have to be sent in long before we know if the weather will be okay for travel. If bad weather arrives on the day of the meeting, president Jon Keckonen will decide by 2:00 that afternoon if the meeting will be held. He will NOT call it off the day before or early in the morning, because we all know how quickly weather conditions can change. An email will be sent to the members who have signed up for the meeting, and phone calls will be made to those who do not have email. If you have questions, you can always call him at 457-4318 or 946-3899.



Brat Fry plans are under way

Tom Riemann has the brat fry tickets ready for all members to pick up at his house if you do not already have them. Remember that it is important to get these tickets into the hands of non-members so that we can increase our attendance at the brat fry. Tom's address is 4436 Tara Lane and his phone number is 452-5053. The fundraiser will be held this year on March 10 at the RCS Building, and we do hope to have lots of people at this event.

Ann Keckonen is in charge of scheduling the workers, and signup sheets will be available at the January meeting. The sheets will also be sent out with the February newsletter, or you can contact her directly at akeckonen@charter.net. Each family member is asked to work at least one shift during the day.

Happy Birthday to Rudy Weiss

It is more fun to print Happy Birthday messages in our newsletter than the all-too-often death notices. This month we wish a Happy 92nd Birthday to longtime member Rudy Weiss. Rudy and Esther never miss a chapter meeting, and we are grateful to all the support they have given over these many years.



Beth Hejl, PTP exchange student in 1985-86, has been writing a blog since she moved to Germany in 2012. This month the entry seems appropriate because of our predicted January snowfalls. She wrote this in a previous winter. Even though it is long, it is funny enough and good for all of us to consider these big differences between snow shoveling in Wisconsin and in Germany.

It snowed here yesterday. ALL day long. We have had no more than ten flakes of snow this season until yesterday, and temperatures have been nearer to autumn than winter. It might be pretty if I liked snow even a little. I do not. The only thing snow means to me is work (shoveling and snowblowing), potential injuries from slipping on our front steps, and even more danger on the roads.



So we have deep snow now (deep for here). Hopefully it will melt in the next few days so I can drive again. You see, here's the problem...

Shoveling in Germany

Streets are narrow, and the sidewalks are right against the curb at the street - no spacious row of grass between the sidewalk and the street. As I've written before, most Swabians have fences or huge hedges at the edge of their property. So when it comes time to shovel a healthy dose of the "*weiße Scheiße*", where do they go with snow? They push it into the street.



In the above photo I'm standing on our sidewalk looking at our driveway, and beyond is our neighbors' sidewalk. I took this photo because it shows the width of the sidewalk with and without snow, the height of the neighbors' hedge (in other words, there is no way for them to throw the snow over the hedge into their yard), and how much snow is on the street.

When dry and snowless, our street is *just* wide enough for two cars to drive slowly past each other. With snow it's a single-lane street with the thankfully infrequent traffic going both ways.

With a high hedge, wall, or fence at the property line, I get it that the snow has to be pushed into the street - there's nowhere else for it to go. Our hedge is now chest-high on me, and it's a pain, but the Wisconsinite in me cannot shovel the snow into the street. I throw it over the hedge. I want our entire sidewalk to look like our driveway does - no snow at the curb. Our neighbors would probably think I'm nuts - I forget to do Kehrwoche on Saturdays, but I waste time shoveling snow from the street/curb.

It would probably be futile anyway, because of course when the snow plow comes through the snow would all be back. That's no big deal - I'm surely used to that from Wisconsin. You just go back out and do it all again. The joys of winter.

One more thing about snow in Germany: there are lots of paths snaking through our village behind and between houses allowing pedestrians to get around more easily. There's one directly across from our front gate, and that's M's usual route to the office.

At the start of winter city workers put up a sign here saying "*Kein Winterdienst*", meaning they're not going to bother shoveling or salting this path during winter. But we (and others) use this path all the time - I use it when I walk to the butcher, the bus stop, the recycling center, the mailbox, and the grocery store. Since we have a snowblower, M usually plows this path up to the point where it turns into someone else's driveway. That person shovels or plows his driveway, of course, but stops at the start of this path. Yesterday evening when M plowed here, that guy was shoveling as well and said to M, "You know, you don't have to clear snow from there." M said he knows, but since he uses that path every day, he would rather clear the snow.

While I am slowly turning into a Swabian (or at least a *Neig'schmeckte*), some of the American has rubbed off on M as well. An American - if he had time and especially a snowblower - would shovel or plow this path because

- a. it makes sense to do so especially if he uses the path,
- b. he's already bundled up anyway and it won't take long, and/or
- c. ...why not?

A German would tend not to clear the snow here because

- a. he's got enough to do with his own chores, or
- b. it's not his property, or
- c. there's no law or rule that says he has to.



It's not that I'm blaming Germans for not clearing snow they're not required to clear. Life in Germany is so heavily regulated by laws and rules for what one must and may not do, that if there isn't a rule or law for something, there's no need to think about it. Winter brings snow and snow means boots, because sometimes you'll be trudging through snow banks (like when you need to cross a street in our village) or snow-covered paths that no one is required to clear.

My point, in case you've read this far, is that although I am often hard on Americans and tend to favor the German way of doing things, clearing snow is one of the things Wisconsinites do better. Granted, they have much more space available for shoveled or plowed snow - huge yards and parking lots, for instance. But even though most Wisconsin streets are wide enough for at least three cars to drive abreast with or without snow, Wisconsinites do whatever needs to be done to keep the snow off the streets.

I'll end with a few more photos of what I do not miss about Wisconsin.



We sometimes had to climb onto the drifts next to the driveway to shovel the pile further into the yard so we could add the snow from a new storm. Fun times.



Things I do miss:

1. Residential streets that are 5 cars wide
2. 65-gallon (246-liter) garbage and recycling bins that are collected every week
3. That beautiful, wide patch of grass between the sidewalk and the street that may have no purpose beyond being a place to collect plowed and shoveled snow in the winter.



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