

Jugendgruppe Update

As 2014 began, we had one of our dancers, Joe Fischer, head out to join the US Army Reserves. He traveled to Missouri to begin his boot camp training and he is doing well. We are very proud of Joe for making the choice to serve our country. He is missed by us all and we cannot wait until he returns home at the end of May.

In February, we had two of our dancers — Brigitta Siladi and Ryan Hendrickson — head overseas to Germany for a college semester abroad. They both arrived safely, have started their classes and are doing well. What a wonderful opportunity not just to study, but to spend time experiencing and learning more about our German heritage! Brigitta and Ryan are both missed and we cannot wait for their return home at the beginning of Summer.

All the dancers here in Wisconsin started dance practice right away at the beginning of the year... and we of course had our January Schlachtfest performance. But, before we knew it February had arrived and it was time to begin learning our new polka for competition! In February, our singing instructor, Kristel Metsig, also began regular singing practices.

Well, it is hard to believe March is here and that meant it was time to learn our second new dance for competition — a waltz. During the month of March, we also are keeping busy with three performances.

Our first performance was at Menomonee Falls High School for a cultural event that was held on Friday, March 7th, where the dancers performed two dances and lead an audience participation dance. Our second performance will be at Jaegerball. Finally, our third performance will be Friday, March 28th back at Menomonee Falls high School, where some of our dancers will spend the day running an annual dance workshop to the German classes.

Last year was an amazing year for our dance group. We accomplished so much together as a group and learned many new dances. We have even more new dances to come in 2014 and are working hard on our dancing skills. Our new costume project is coming along great and should be done towards the beginning of summer.

We are so thankful for the support of our club, family and our friends in the German community. Please come see us perform as 2014 continues, because we have a lot of fun to come this year!

Grüße von der Kulturgruppe

The Kulturgruppe started their year with a performance on February 9th at a multicultural night hosted by our friends from the Serbian St. Sava dance group. This was a wonderful event, as it involved many ethnic dance groups and it was nice to see some of our friends from the various dance groups who participate in the Holiday Folk Fair.

We are very excited for the year to come! We will be getting our new costumes, learning new dances, and mostly we are looking forward to hosting Traubenfest. We can't wait to bring this dance back and share the evening with all of you.

Mark your calendars... the event will be held on October 18, 2014 at the Schwabenhof. So until then, we hope that you practice your grape stealing because you wouldn't want to be sent jail by the grape police!

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!

Maiball 2014

We hope you will come and join us for our Spring Maiball dinner dance on Saturday, May 3rd at the Schwabenhof. It is a special evening where the Jugendgruppe will crown our new May Prince and Princess for 2014.

The doors open at 5:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. We have a wonderful menu that includes pork schnitzel, Hungarian sausage, potatoes and gravy, vegetables and those delicious homemade desserts!

Talisman begins playing at 8:00pm following dinner for your listening pleasure. Also, let's not forget about our raffle that evening consisting of many great gift baskets!

Tickets are \$25.00 per person for dinner and dance. For reservations or more information, please call Karen Schmieder at 262/547-1371.

This is the Jugendgruppe's largest fundraising event of the year and we are so grateful for everyone's support in the past.

Please come and join us again this year — and ladies, feel free to dress up in your favorite long evening gown! Hope to see you there!

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Spring 2014

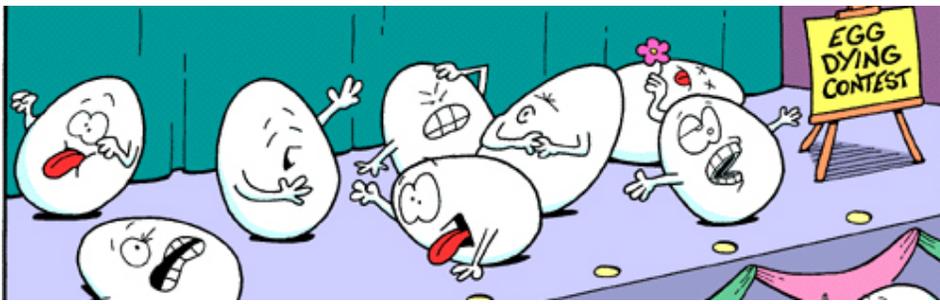
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Kinder Korner

The Kindergruppe is back in full swing and we are looking forward to the year to come. We are proud to announce that we have welcomed nine new families to the group; which gave us 16 new members! We are excited to have them with us.



Our first performance of the year was at Immanuel Lutheran School's Deutschen Fest, which was their German-themed Silent Auction. A member of our group, Alayna Kurozawa, attends school there and they thought our dance group would be a wonderful addition to their event. The kids had a great time and the event was very successful.

We were very sad to see our six oldest kids graduate onto the youth group at the end of last year, but we are very proud of all they have done for us in the Kindergruppe and hope they have many years of memories ahead of them in the youth group.

Labor Day 2014

This Labor Day, the gathering of all the Donauschwaben in the United States and Canada will be held right here in Wisconsin at the Schwabenhof. It is also a competition year—where the Jugendgruppen have the opportunity to compete against each other. Since the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee Jugend are the current champions, we are working hard on new dances, songs and poems for this year's competition! It is an unique event, where dance groups that enter bring their very best, and put it all into a 15 minute performance. We sure hope you will come and support us as we try to once again bring home the first place prize.

German-American HISTORY 101

Today we remember the Deutscher Club of Milwaukee. In 1891 three Milwaukee businessmen, General F. C. Winkler, George Koeppen and Henry Gugler, held several meetings with sixty other men at the old Plankinton House Hotel to organize the founding of a new social club. The purpose of the club was to promote and provide a venue for German-American understanding and fellowship, a reflection of the large German immigration to Milwaukee at the end of the nineteenth century.

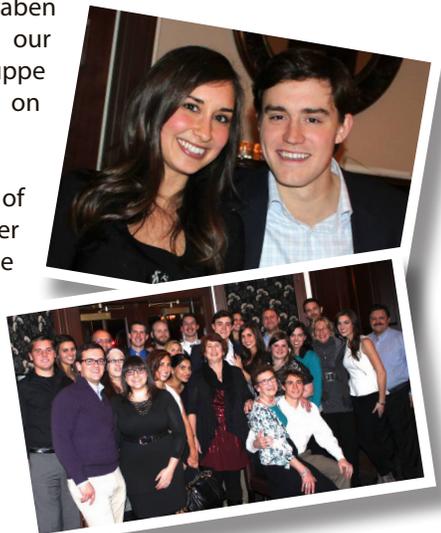
The first home of the new club, called the Deutscher or German Club, was in the Old Opera House near the site of the present Pabst Theatre. In early 1894 a fire broke out and severely damaged the clubrooms. A new home had to be found. Several alternatives were considered including disbanding the club which was in a poor financial state. When the vacant Mitchell Mansion on Grand Avenue (now Wisconsin Avenue) was brought to the attention of club members, shortly after the death of Alexander Mitchell, all thoughts of dissolution vanished. An offer of over \$100,000 was made and accepted. The Deutscher Club moved into its new quarters in early 1895 and began to settle in for a long stay. Due to the Anti-German hysteria that swept across the nation, and the negative propaganda campaign waged against people of German heritage during WW1, the club was forced to change its name to the Wisconsin Club as it is still known today. The next time you are in Downtown Milwaukee and drive past the Wisconsin Club, we hope you take a moment to remember the German Milwaukee historical connection and take further pride in being a German-American.



Congrats on Your Engagement!

On behalf of the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee, we would like to send our congratulations to UDoM Kulturgruppe members Dustin Warner and Erika Hutz on their engagement!

Dustin surprised Erika in front of both of their families with a proposal on November 30th at Bacchus Restaurant. The surprise continued into the night as they were joined by their closest friends — who may have had a head's up from Dustin on the night's events! Your Donauschwaben family wishes you the best of luck and many years of happiness in the years to come.



Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that annual membership dues are due the first of the year. Make sure your dues are current for 2014 so you can vote and participate in all our fun auxiliary 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:

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