



A Message From the President

First of all I would like to congratulate our Jugend and their leaders on a remarkable performance and for winning the competition again! Your hard work and practice paid off. Your dancing, singing and poems were the absolute best in the competition, and our Kinder and Kultur groups added to the great showing for Milwaukee. Again, congratulations and thank you for representing our club so very well.

I would also like to compliment the event committee for their planning and hard work that made the weekend such a great success. Thank you to those who helped organize the mass on Sunday, was beautiful and well-attended. The children's new playground and the Kinderplatz was greatly appreciated by our littlest guests. Also, special thanks to everyone that worked weeks in advance of the Landestreffung to prepare the food and for coming to the grounds early in the morning to begin cooking. Our guests all commented about our tasty food and the volunteers that served them.



Finally, thanks to those that volunteered to fix-up the Schwabenhof grounds before the big event.

The fresh paint, new bushes and landscaping made the old place look pretty good. We received a lot of compliments on our nice grounds.

Congratulations and thank you to all for putting on a great Trachtenfest!

Tony Siladi
President



Frauengruppe Holiday Bazaar Kinder Korner

Join the UDoM Frauengruppe on Sunday, November 2nd as they host their annual "Holiday Bazaar." Come early for 11am mass or stop in for a delicious homemade lunch (served 12:30-2:30pm) of Schnitzel and Goulash beginning at noon. Start your holiday shopping early by browsing the rummage and craft sale including fun jewelry, children's toys, games and used books. Pick up a tasty treat at the bake sale featuring homemade boxed Christmas cookies and as always, card players are welcome! Admission and parking is free and open to the public. Gather your friends and family and attend this great event! Questions? Call Theresa Rohmann @ 262-667-3291 or Carolyn Rauen @ 414-257-2396.

On behalf of the Kindergruppe we would like to extend our congratulations to our Jugendgruppe on their first place finish during competition. We are all very proud and excited for you. We have had a very busy summer which is coming to a close, but just in time to begin our busy fall schedule. We hope you will all join us this Saturday, September 20th at the Schwabenhof to celebrate Kirchweih. For tickets please contact Karen or Katlin Schmieder at 262-547-1371. Doors open at 6pm and the program begins at 7pm. We hope to see you all there.



"Taste of the Country" Day Trip!

The Frauengruppe is offering a "Taste of the Country" day trip on Saturday, September 27th, 2014. They will leave the Schwabenhof at 7am and return about 4:30pm. The group will be visiting Confection's for Any Occasion (Yum!), The Little Farmer Orchard and Farm Market along Lake Winnebago, with a delicious lunch at Wendt's on the Lake. On the way home, a stop at Kelly's Country Creamery is planned.

This trip is open to all members and friends of the UDoM. Please call LaDonna Kleiss @ 262-628-3660 for questions and/or reservations. This is a bus trip. Cost is \$50/person.

We will also be making appearances at Key Lime Cove water park, MGIS Grill Fest, and Holiday Folk Fair during the fall months.



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jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com



Labor Day Jugend Competition 2014

Every three years the jugend dance groups from the United States and Canada have the opportunity to compete against each other on the Sunday of our Landestreffen celebration over the Labor Day weekend. Each dance group performs a 15 minute routine that consists of marches, dances and singing/poems done in either German or Schwobisch dialect.

In Mansfield Ohio in 2011 our Milwaukee Donauschwaben Jugendgruppe took home first prize. This years 2014 Labor Day competition was held right here in Menomonee Falls at our Schwabenhof club house and I am so very proud to announce that our Milwaukee Jugendgruppe again took first prize for the second time in a row!

From the time our jugend took the floor they captivated the audience with their dancing, singing and poems. Rebecca Borowski and Peter Hutz recited and performed the poem "Dr Amerikanishi Schwob" and they kept the audience laughing throughout their poem with their youthful and comedic interpretation. Brigitta Siladi recited and performed the poem "An Die Donauschwaben" and she kept the audience on the edge of their seats mesmerized with her beautiful and heartfelt rendition of the poem.



I am so thankful for all our jugend dancers dedication to each other, our dance group and club. The competition was a collaboration of us all and together we worked so many long hours to perfect our competition performance.

To all the jugend leaders and dancers from all the other Donauschwaben clubs, thank you for coming to visit over Labor Day and sharing your beautiful competition performances and dancing over the entire Labor Day weekend.

Submitted by Carol Gdula, Jugendgruppe Director



Holiday Folk Fair International 2014

The 2014 Holiday Folk Fair International's theme is Celebrate the Culture of the Artisan. Artisans use manual and artistic skills to design items that may be functional or strictly decorative - pottery, quilts, stained glass, clothing, jewelry, toys, household utensils, tools, storage containers, rugs, floral arrangements, musical instruments. They are carvers, glass blowers, metal arts workers, potters, stained glass artists, instrument makers, weavers, and craft makers.

This year the Holiday Folk Fair International is highlighting the knowledge and skills involved in creating traditional objects that are as varied as the items themselves and range from delicate, detailed work such as weaving wheat straw or designing and sewing quilts to robust, rugged tasks like creating a sturdy basket or building a canoe and carving the paddles. Equally important is teaching the history of the art form and the customs associated with it. For 71 years, the Holiday Folk Fair International has been a keeper of our rich and diverse living heritage, safeguarding the past, honoring the present, and embracing the future.

The 71th Annual Holiday Folk Fair International runs November 21st through the 23rd in the Wisconsin Expo Center at State Fair Park and is open to the public. Schedules and performance times can be found at folkfair.org

Grüße von der Kulturregruppe

The Kulturgruppe would like to congratulate our Jugend on their awesome performance during competition over labor day weekend and taking home 1st place. We are all so proud of you.

We are also looking forward to celebrating this weekend with our Kindergruppe at Kirchweih. We always look forward to the event and hope to see many of you there.

We hope you mark your calendar for October 18th and join us for the return of Traubenfest. Doors will open at 7:00pm with Talisman starting at 8:00pm. Homemade brats and desserts will be available for sale. For tickets/reservations please contact Karen Schmieder @ 262-547-1371.



Frauengruppe Update

On August 3rd, 2014 the Frauen and the Jaeger's had a wonderful picnic in the Schwabenhof Pavilion — enjoying chicken and duck perfectly cooked by John Kleiss and helpers. It was a beautiful day filled with good conversation and great card playing!

Submitted by Carolyn Rauen



Trachtenfest Poem

Where the buttons on the vest shine bright
And polkas are danced with fervent delight
Where pleated skirts stretch east to west
There, good people, is a Trachtenfest

This magnificent gathering of families, girls and boys
Is surely a blessing for all to enjoy
Wearing the Tracht with passion and pride
Is an experience from which no one should hide

And though the Tracht is but clothing we adore
To our people it is so much more
For grandparents, parents, daughter and son,
It is a symbol of a culture whose songs we have sung

What we were and who we are
What we did and what we do
Where we go and where we don't
The happiness we feel and the sadness we conceal

So when we see the children smile
Our thoughts return home for just a while
It is then we feel contented and glad
That our marvelous Trachts are still at hand

Please don't let them disappear
For they are something we hold dear
This we ask of the Lord on High
That those who follow will comply

And may it be so years from now
Singing, dancing, we'll still know how
So girls in dresses, boys in vests
Today we celebrate Trachtenfest!

Submitted by Dennis Bauer

*Courtesy of www.trentondonauschwabens.com
[Published at DVHH.org 12 Nov 2007]*



The History of Kirchweih

The word Kirchweih is derived from Kirche = church; weihen = to bless, or to consecrate. When the construction of a church was finished, church services were being held there as soon as possible. Eventually the church was always blessed or consecrated by the bishop. Sometimes it took several years before the bishop had the time to go from village to village to bless or consecrate the church.

The consecration or blessing of a church usually took place on a weekend. As an example, if a church was blessed on Sunday, October 15, 1850, and October 15 in 1853 would fall on a Wednesday, the Kirchweih would be celebrated on the Sunday following that Wednesday. Some Kirchweih dates were later moved to the fall, so that they would not interfere with the work in the fields. Eventually Kirchweih became the most important annual secular festival in every village. To accommodate visitors from other villages, Kirchweih was celebrated on a different weekend in each village.

As long as customs live on and have not become history, changes will occur. Thus we have seen the development of the regional-custom dress (Trachtenkleid) to the mini skirt and back again. Some elements of the Banat Kirchweih customs have generally survived: decorated hats, Kirchweih tree, group walk to the church, parade through the village accompanied by the brass band, Kirchweih dance, unearthing and burial of the Kirchweih, and others. Some customs can be found only rarely. In the Thuringian forest, one can still find rooster beating³ a custom practiced in the Montan Banat (but no real rooster will be killed anymore), or the conviction and execution in fun of a boy dressed as a bear, or the punishment of a doll made of straw.

The Kirchweih custom also known in the Banat as "Bowling for a ram" is still a common Kirchweih custom in Geldersheim near Schweinfurt in Germany. The ram, decorated with ribbons and flowers, walks in front of the Kirchweih procession, is present during the bowling tournament and is then served as a roast on the Kirchweih table. Some cheating actually takes place when an old tame sheep walks in front of the Kirchweih procession, but a young buck is subsequently served as a roast. In a Kirchweih procession painted by Stefan Jäger, one can see that the decorated Kirchweih ram was also part of the Kirchweih tradition in the Banat. The celebration takes place in the village square or market square, often under a large chestnut tree with the Evangelicals, and under a linden tree with the Catholics. In some places in Upper Franconia, a platform in the branches of the linden tree provides a place for the musicians to sit.

The decorated rosemary bouquet, customary in the Banat, has not been observed in Germany. However, in the Rhineland the lads actively participating in the Kirchweih team are called "Straußbuwe" ("lads of the bouquet"). In some places, a bouquet of flowers is passed from dancing couple to dancing couple, until an alarm goes off. The pair holding the bouquet at that moment becomes the leading couple ("Vortänzerpaar"), which is then accompanied to their home by the entire Kirchweih team, where they host the entire team. The so-called "American auction" actually comes from the Rhine. But the auction of the Kirchweih bouquet and of the cut-off rosemary branches, highlight of the Festival in the Banat, is entirely missing in Germany.



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