



## A Message from the President

As the new President of UDoM, I am both honored and excited. I'd like to thank the new members on the Executive Board for stepping up as well. I think this is a very exciting time for our Club as a whole.

The UDoM Board is a wonderful mix of young and old. It is due to the efforts of all of our generations that we are thriving and continue to be a success! Thank you for your continued support and hard work. I'm looking forward to seeing where the next few years take us. Hopefully, we will have some new things to report to you — as well as our customary events.



It's hard to believe that Schlachtfest and Jägerball are already behind us. They were both well attended, fun, and successful events. Thank you to everyone that attended and/or worked to help continue these traditions. Mai Ball is just around the corner. It's always nice to see our Jugend dressed in their formals. Let's be sure to support that as well!

We also need to start getting ready for another summer season. Food prep dates are being put together, some were already mentioned at the meeting tonight. Please help where you can; it's always greatly appreciated.

Regards,

*MaryAnn*

## Bier Garten at the Schwab!

Starting Thursday, May 7th, The Schwabenhof Pavilion will be open for guests to gather during happy hour for some food, drinks and laughs with friends and family.

The Bier Garten at the Schwab will be the first Bier Garten for Menomonee Falls and possibly the first one in Waukesha County.

The "Bier Garten at the Schwab" will be open every Thursday from May through September from 4:00 to 10:00. Friends, music, beer, brats and pretzels — what better way to kick off your weekend?!

We plan to have a fire pit and horseshoes available to enjoy and unwind after a long week at work. Grab some of your friends for a friendly game of Sheepshead or bring along a card or board game of your choice!

Anyone interested in volunteering for light food service or serving beer please contact Hildy @ 262/794-0455.

## Grüße von der Kulturgruppe

The Kulturgruppe is off to a busy start. We joined our friends at St. Sava for an International Evening. We also performed at "Germany Under Glass" and Jaegerball. We would like to welcome four new members to our group... Stefan Brunn, Erika Brunn, Christian Neuenschwander and Barby Feiter. We are very excited to have them with us. We are in the process of learning some new dances and can't wait to debut them at upcoming events.

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!

## Kinder Korner

The Kindergruppe is getting back into full swing this year. We have already had our older kids (Group 1) perform at the domes for Germany Under Glass, and they did a wonderful job. We will have our first practice with everyone on April 14th, and are excited to see both returning and new faces.

Our group is continuing to grow and we are so happy to have both the kids and their families be a part of our group. As the year starts, we will be learning some new dances and will be preparing for a few performances — including the UDoM Annual Father's Day Picnic.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with the Kindergruppe and keeping you updated on our endeavors as the year goes on.

## Jägerball 2015

The Jägerball was a huge success thanks to the good Lord for the weather and a near sellout crowd! Everyone who came said it was one of the best ones ever. A special thanks to all our members and friends and those from other groups who shared our information and brought guests. It is highly appreciated, as not everyone listens to the wonderful coverage on the German radio stations.

Our Jugend and Kulturgruppen performed their special ethnic dances and then added energy to the other music as well. I didn't see a time when the dance floor wasn't full — But then why would that surprise us when Johnny Hoffmann and his band is playing?!

The food was delicious, as usual, thanks to all the volunteers who planned, ordered, shopped, prepared, cooked and baked. Oh and the tortes — yum! We are truly blessed to be part of Eine Grosse Familia who give so much of themselves. There is never enough time or space to say thank you to all. See you next year!



Visit us on the web at:  
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What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:  
[jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com](mailto:jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com)

## Jugendgruppe Update

The Jugend started 2015 with a bang! Right away after the new year we began practices and learning another new dance. This year we have already welcomed seven new dancers to our group and they are doing an awesome job. So far, our group has danced at Schlachtfest, Germany under Glass at the Domes and Jaegerball. Some of the dancers spent the day at Menomonee Falls High School on Friday, March 6th, teaching German dances to all the German Classes throughout the school day. We will be going back to the Menomonee Falls High School to dance and take part in there Cultural evening on Friday, March 27th.

It is hard to believe spring is almost here and we are very excited to invite everyone to our Mailball. This year, our dance will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 at The Schwabenhof. The doors will open at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:0 0pm. Our dinner that evening will include pork schnitzel, Hungarian sausage, potatoes & gravy, red cabbage, green beans, bread & butter and delicious homemade desserts! Following dinner at 8:00 pm the Talisman band will play for the evening and we have a wonderful raffle planned with assorted gift baskets. Of course, the Jugend dancers have a special perform lined up and that evening we will crown our new May Princess and May Prince for 2015. Ticket prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children (12 and under). For reservations, please contact Karen Schmieder at (262) 547-1371. Please remember, if you do not have a partner for your favorite dance that evening, the Jugend dancers would love to dance with you. We hope you will come and join us for an evening of fun!

We are all excited to travel this August to California for the Donauschwaben Landestreffen gathering. It is an opportunity not just for our dance group to perform, but to spend time with all the other Jugend dancers from around the United States and Canada. Each jugendgruppe has different dances, and their own style, and it great to watch all their performances over the weekend celebration.

We hope you will look for us Jugend dancers at all the events to come this year because we have new performances and dances coming!

Happy Easter!!!

## Lebzelter & Easter Customs — for the People of the Village of Bulkes (Batschka)

The occupation of the Lebzelter is a very old and seldom seen craftwork. Before there were wooden framed honeycombs, the wax with the honey was cut and pressed out of the beehive. From the honey, Lebkuchen (honey cake) was baked and from the wax, candles were made. From it the occupation of the Lebzelter – and the Wachsziehermeisters (wax pulling master) – came into being.

In the year 1944, before the expulsion of the Donauschwaben, there were 14 tested Lebzelter and Wachsziehermeister. Since 1935 Lebkuchen has been baked by a master resident in the village of Bulkes. Before this time Lebkuchen was imported to Bulkes and sold to housewives going from house to house. Lebkuchen can only be bought from the Bulkes Lebzelter. The Lebkuchen in Bulkes had a close connection with the Easter custom, an extraordinary tradition.

It is the duty of each godparent to present their godchild with colored eggs and Easter cake on Easter. From the second to his twelfth year of life, the year of his confirmation, the baptized child went on Easter Sunday to his "Patten" (godfathers) and his "Goten" (godmothers) to get the "Osterhasen" (Easter rabbits), the "Osterlebkuchen" (Easter Lebkuchen). Besides money, "Bumransche" (oranges), figs, and colored eggs, there was a doll for the girls and for the boys an Easter bunny or a horse, made from Lebkuchen.

The dough, which consisted only of honey and flour was powerfully kneaded with a kneading level, a special wood construction, and had to rest for eight weeks after that. The prepared dough made of sugar and flour, and another of syrup and flour, mixed with the honey dough finally produces the Lebkuchen dough. The dolls, rabbits, and horses pressed out from the rolled out dough were baked in a brick oven on two flat pans. The smallest Lebkuchen cost one Dinar, the largest cost ten Dinar.

Source: [dvhh.org](http://dvhh.org) | Written By: Heinrich Hoffmann

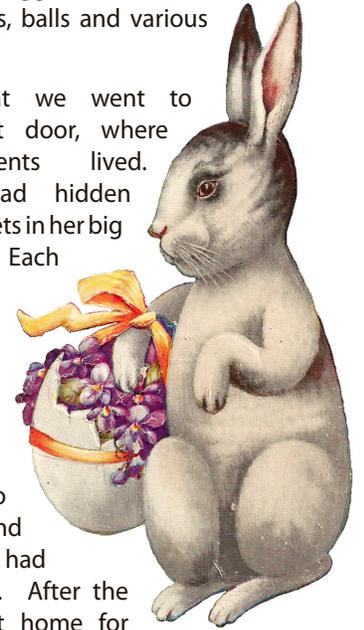
## Easter in Yugoslavia in the Danube-Swabian Region

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.



Source: [dvhh.org](http://dvhh.org) | Written By: Ruth Elizabeth Melcher

## Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that annual membership dues are due the first of the year. Make sure your dues are current for 2015 so you can vote and participate in all our fun auxillary groups.

Contact Membership Secretary Reinhold Hutz for more information at [rhutz@udommilwaukee.com](mailto:rhutz@udommilwaukee.com) if you have any questions. For new members, forms are available online at [www.udommilwaukee.com](http://www.udommilwaukee.com)

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

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