



A Holiday Message from the President

It's hard to believe the Christmas season is once again before us. We are blessed that during all the hustle and bustle, we can take an afternoon and enjoy our Donauschwaben family. I'd like to thank our Kinder, Jugend and Choir leaders for what I'm sure will be an amazing program once again. The stars of the show are the children and youth. Thank you for your practice and patience! A special thank you to Katie Heim and the Senior Citizens, along with their helpers, that decorated the hall so beautifully for Christmas!

We are thankful that our group events were once again successful and that we were able to share them together — Schlachtfest, Jägerball, MaiTanz, Father's Day Picnic, GermanFest, Augtoberfest, Traubenfest, the Frauen Bazaar, Holiday Folk Fair and the Brookfield German Christmas Market. We are grateful that our newest event, the Biergarten, was a positive experience as well. This year, we had the privilege of celebrating our 70th Anniversary. It was a lovely afternoon of not only reminiscing and remembering what has been, but also what's to come.

Through all these events we share our culture, enjoy long term friendships and hopefully, make some new friends along the way. None of these events would be possible without YOU, the members of the UDoM, our Donauschwaben Family. Thank you for your time, volunteering, and support.

Sadly, we lost several of our dear members this year. Our deepest sympathies go out to those families that lost loved ones. May you remember the good times and know you have love and support from your UDoM family.

Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the Full and Executive Boards. Your ongoing dedication and endless efforts are greatly appreciated. Together with my husband Jim, our children, Max and Olivia, we would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and best wishes throughout the New Year!

mit vielem Dank,

MaryAnn MacGillis

UDoM 70th Anniversary

On Sunday, October 18th, the UDoM celebrated their 70th Anniversary at the Schwabenhof. We had many members attend the event and three honored guests — Alios Fuchs, Theresia Fuchs and Eva Aringer — who celebrated 50 years of membership. The program included a video of the history of the UDoM through photographs, performances by our Kinder, Jugend and Kulturgruppe and an award ceremony for long-time members. Johnny Hoffmann finished the evening of an event that was filled with fun and memories.



*May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness
be yours during this Holiday Season
and throughout the New Year!*

*George & Erna Scherer
and the Schwabenhof*

*May you have the happiness of simple
pleasures at the holidays and all
through the year.*

*Wünschen von Herzen die Senior
Citizens. Für eine gute zusammen Arbeit
und Freundschaft für jung und alt.*

*Eure Katie und Walter Heim
und Familie*

*We would like to wish you
a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.
Thank you for your support
this year and we look forward
to sharing 2016 with you!*

The Frauen & Jaegers

Visit us on the web at:
UDoMmilwaukee.com
or follow us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/UDoMmilwaukee)

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

Best Wishes & Good Luck to Father Langsch!

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Father Gerold Langsch, our dear friend and long-time pastoral minister of the UDoM. Father Langsch announced that he was leaving Wisconsin at the end of November to become pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Austin, Texas. Father Langsch is a member of the Schoenstatt Community located in Waukesha, Wisconsin and served as moderator of the Schoenstatt Movement for 33 years. Father Langsch provided a little history on the ministry of the German community, of which he became a vital part. In 1957, the diocese offered Father Kantenich the position of ministering to German immigrants and he worked to maintain and uphold German culture, heritage and faith. Father Langsch took over this ministry in 1984, following Fathers Joe Haas and Carlos Boskamp. These priests celebrated a weekend mass in German at St. Michael's every week. Because Father Langsch's schedule did not allow for this weekly Mass, he offered to give a radio sermon every Saturday instead. During his many years in Milwaukee, Father Langsch gave a total of 1,656 radio sermons in German and more recently, in English. In his own words, "it was my goal to nourish our faith life by helping us see God's presence in our daily life and by drawing him into our family life every day."

Father Langsch played a prominent role in the life of the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee. He celebrated Mass at the Schwabenhof on Father's Day, at the Frauenbazaar, and at our Christmas Party. He was part of the opening ceremony at Germanfest for many years, and also celebrated Mass there twice. He helped us celebrate Mass with our fellow Donauschwaben when we hosted Labor Day festivities, most recently in 2014, and helped us celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our club in October 2015. He and his priest colleagues continue to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, with a procession to the four outdoor altars. We know Father Langsch as a sincere man whose command of both German and English (and Spanish!) allowed him to easily transition from one language to another during his homilies, which assured us that he could reach out to those still fluent in German as well as those who understood little or no German. And we know him for his musical talent on his keyboard!

Father Langsch provided support and comfort to many of our club members in their times of need, he said goodbye to many members at their funerals, and he helped couples celebrate their weddings.

We wish Father Langsch the very best as he begins his new ministry and we hope he will return to Milwaukee someday. If you would like to write to him, his new address is:

Father Gerold Langsch | St. Paul's Parish
10000 David Moore Dr, Austin, TX 78748

- Article Submitted by Irene O'Shaughnessy

Happy Holidays from the Kulturgruppe

I would like to thank all Kulturgruppe members for their hard work this past year. Also special thanks to all of those who supported our group throughout the year and attended our Traubenfest. We thank Megan Brunner, Megan Kosanke, Megan Laughlin, Alyssa Kosanke, our youth group buddies, for dancing with us at Folk Fair. Kultur also would like to welcome Megan Volp, Megan Neuenschwander, Drew Wagner, Megan Laughlin, Megan Kosanke and Alyssa Kosanke. May everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- Karen Schmieder, Kulturgruppe Director

Kinder Korner

The Kindergruppe has had a very fun and eventful year. We had many successful dance performances, welcomed some wonderful new members, and have made many memories. We are sad to see them go, but excited for eight of our members: Heidi Williams, Julia Totsky, Ella Snamiska, Marissa Cobb, Abby Graber, Elinor Neimi, Annika Mork, and David Savignac have all graduated to the Jugendgruppe. We are proud of all the work they have done in the Kindergruppe and know they will have a wonderful time.

On behalf of the Kindergruppe leaders, our Assistant Leader Katlin Schmieder, members, and families we would like to wish you all a Frohe Weihnachten & viel Glück im Neuen Jahr!!

- Kari Bruckbacher & Gina Walcher
Kindergruppe Directors

Jugendgruppe Tidings of Joy

Reflecting back on 2015, our Jugendgruppe had an amazing year! We certainly kept ourselves busy as usual — with practices, performances and a dance trip to California. It was great to finally complete our new costuming project and we were so excited that they were ready in time for the Annual Father's Day Picnic. Our Spring Maiball, which is our biggest fundraiser for our dance group each year, was a wonderful success and we are so thankful for the support of the UDoM board, club members and all our friends from the different German clubs in our community.

I want to thank my dancers for all their hard work, time and dedication to our dance group and club this year. To all their parents "thank you" for allowing your kids to be part of our Donauschwaben Jugendgruppe — together they are simply amazing!

On behalf of all the jugend dancers, my co-directors Mark and Jenny Mayer and our singing director Kristel Geyer, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!

Hope to see you all again at next years 2016 events!

- Carol Gdula, Jugendgruppe Director

Annual Membership Dues

Just a reminder that annual membership dues are due the first of the year. Make sure your dues are current for 2016 so you can vote and participate in all our fun auxiliary groups.

Contact Membership Secretary Reinhold Hutz for more information at 414.332.5866 or email rhutz@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 \$50.00 per member to:

Attn: Reinhold Hutz
4830 N Bartlett Ave, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

