



People to People Sheboygan

April Newsletter 2024

Apr 11 Meeting at VFW Hall

5:30 Social time, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 program

Our April 11 chapter meeting will highlight a program given by Dave Freitag, the post commander of VFW 9156. Dave entered the military in 1971 and has a career length of 30 years. He will speak about his deployment to Iraq in 2006. Dave's sister-in-law is Mitzi Stoltzman.



This fitting quote is on the VFW website: *A veteran is someone who in his life wrote a blank check made payable to the USA for an amount "up to and including my life."*

The menu will include beef tips, green beans, mashed potatoes and salad. Jim and Deb Sabol-Williams have offered to bring dessert.

The cost of the dinner is \$21.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of Apr. 3. Make checks out to People to People Sheboygan and mail them to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083. **You may also pay using PayPal.** Just enter @PTPISheboygan and tell Rich who is sending the money. Please add a little bit to cover the 3% that Paypal charges.

Coming Events



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| Apr. 11 | Dinner meeting, VFW Hall |
| May 9 | Dinner meeting, VFW Hall |
| June 14 | Brat Fry at Miesfeld's |
| Aug 15 | PTP picnic in Howards Grove |
| Sept 12 | Location TBD for Dinner Mtg |
| Oct 10 | Location TBD for Dinner Mtg |
| Dec 12 | Chapter Christmas party |

Sister City Relationships

This newsletter will highlight the relationship between Sheboygan's two sister cities: Tsubame, Japan, and Esslingen, Germany. Many members know that Esslingen has been our sister city since 1965, but not everyone knows that Tsubame has also been our sister city for 25 years. In this issue we will tell about upcoming events involving Tsubame, and we will tell the story of how Esslingen was chosen to be our sister city 59 years ago. It's a pretty amazing story that most current members do not know.

The board will meet at 5:00 at the VFW Hall on April 11, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:30. Board members should notify Bob Quasius if they cannot attend.

Sympathy to the Glass Family

Pat Glass has been a member of our chapter for many years, and her daughter, Mary Liz Towne, is also a member who attends almost every meeting. We were sad to hear that Pat's younger daughter, Jane Glass Robinson, died at age 57 in California. Mary Liz reported that her sister had been ill for some time, but her death was unexpected. We extend sympathy to the entire family.

PTP This newsletter is produced monthly for members of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15th of the month** to aehtc42@gmail.com or mailed to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083.

Visitors coming from Tsubame

Submitted by Deb Sabol-Williams

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Sheboygan and Tsubame, Japan. The Mayor's International Committee (MIC) has been at work reinvigorating this relationship.

Fourth graders at Sheboygan's Longfellow School and students at Aouzu Elementary in Tsubame have exchanged letters and artwork. Music teacher, Katy Ries integrated Japanese culture into their lessons. Longfellow kids have explored Taiko drumming, jumping rope to Japanese songs, and even eating wasubi peas, popcorn and Kit-Kat bars with chopsticks!

Four middle school students and two adult chaperones from Tsubame will visit Sheboygan in early fall. Our goal is to eventually send students and chaperones from Sheboygan to Tsubame!

A display celebrating the sister city exchange is on view at Mead Public Library thru Wednesday, March 27 at the main entrance. It features commemorative objects, gifts, artwork and letters from the Aouzu School students, toys and cultural objects.



The public is invited to enjoy "My Neighbor Mr. Totoro" on Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30pm in the 3rd floor Loft at Mead Public Library. It is a beautifully animated Japanese film about two young sisters who have adventures with wondrous forest creatures. Admission is free.

Why was Esslingen chosen?

The story of how Esslingen, Germany, became our Sister City is quite fascinating. Shortly after the end of World War II, Army Colonel Saunders was commander of an Army Camp near Esslingen. Dr. Hans Rues was a German prisoner of war at that camp. When Col. Saunders mentioned to Dr. Rues that they needed housing for the American soldiers, Dr. Rues said that the P.O.W.s were homesick for their families and that if they could go to visit their families for two weeks, Dr. Rues could easily find housing for the American soldiers. Col. Saunders granted the unusual request, and a lifetime friendship developed between the prisoner and his captor.

More than twenty years later, Col. Saunders was at a People to People meeting along with Sylvia Weber, who said that Sheboygan would like to have a Sister City but didn't know how to select one. Col. Saunders said he knew just the city, Esslingen, Germany, and that Sylvia should contact Dr. Rues.

After considerable communication between Sylvia Weber, Dr. Rues, and the city officials of Esslingen, Sheboygan was accepted as the sixth Partnerstadt of Esslingen.



The relationship between the two cities has continued to thrive and has been an important part of People to People Sheboygan.

The student exchange program between Sheboygan high schools and Esslingen gymnasiums started in 1970 and the middle school exchange program started in 2010.

Sylvia Weber lived to the age of 98 and died in 2002. She remained active in the chapter until her mid-90s.