



Sheboygan Area Chapter

April Newsletter 2019

April 11th PTP meeting will feature program on South Korea

Our April 11th chapter meeting will be held at the Elks Club and will be our second last meeting before our summer break. Be sure to put it on your calendar to join us for another evening of good fellowship and delicious food. Our speaker for the evening is James Burton. He writes:

“I am a high school teacher who travelled to South Korea to teach English to elementary school children in March 2015 until August 2016. Without knowing how to speak the language, I indulged in exploring my new home from the mega-city, Seoul, to small farming communities and distant islands such as Ulleungdo. I found Korean culture to be more unique than different which made it more interesting compared to other nations we hear about. A stark contrast exists between the U.S. and S. Korea, ranging from their street and food culture, Korea's views on elders, foreigners, and women, and social protest such as when the S. Korean President, Park Geun-hye, was impeached.”



The menu for the evening will be baked chicken, BBQ pork roast, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, soup, salad, rolls, and beverage. Dessert will be provided by Jen Redell. The social hour begins at 5:30; dinner at 6:30; program at 7:30.

The cost of the dinner is \$16.00 per person. Please mail your checks to **Char Gumm, N6222 Woodland Rd., Sheboygan, 53083**. The deadline for reservations is **April 1**.

The board will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 11 at the Elks Club. Please call Jon Keckonen at 457-4318 if you need to be excused from the meeting.

Coming Events



- Apr 11** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- May 9** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Aug 8** Chapter Picnic 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Sept 12** Chapter mtg with Esslingen guests

Congrats to Mary Eisenhower

Congratulations to PTPI President Mary Eisenhower for receiving the Mother Teresa Medal of Peace from the President of Albania.



PTP This newsletter is produced monthly for members of the Sheboygan, WI People to People Chapter, which is affiliated with People to People International. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15th of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to akeckonen@charter.net. Our website is www.ptpsheboygan.org

Students chosen for exchange

The five students shown below have been chosen to take part in the summer exchange program for middle school students in 2019. They are shown here with their chaperone, Paula Dick, who will accompany them on their trip to Esslingen, Germany, returning with their exchange partners who will spend three weeks in Sheboygan in August. *Note: It is our chapter's policy not to identify by name any minor student in the newsletter which goes out to many recipients.*



PTP scholarship available

A contribution from the Beaver family estate has made it possible for our chapter to offer a scholarship opportunity to a high school senior who is preparing to attend a college or university in the fall. Applications have been sent to those seniors who successfully completed either the PTP-Sheboygan middle school or high school exchange, and the scholarship committee will review the applications that have been turned in to Bob Quasius by April 15. The winner of the scholarship will be notified at his or her school's Awards Program in the Spring. The scholarship is a total of \$2,500, half to be awarded for the freshman year of college and the other half for the sophomore year.

The chapter is also trying to reach out to students who are already in college and will be studying abroad for one semester. If you know of anyone in that situation, please have them contact Bob Quasius to get an application for a grant for the study-abroad program.

Brat Fry News and photos

Rich Miesfeld reports that in spite of our poor weather which kept many of our customers away, the brat fry was a success and will show a profit of about \$3600 after all bills have been submitted. A big thank you goes out to all members who worked, especially to those who spent the entire day there. One of our newer members, Cyndi Crimmins, mopped the entire kitchen floor after most workers had left for home. That is just one of the many thankless jobs at the event – cleaning the grill is another, and this year the bad weather made it even worse for the men who grilled our brats, hamburgers, and chicken. Those who attended all seemed to enjoy the event, and the photos will show that the workers had a good time.

Here is a message from Henry Schoen: *“A great big THANK YOU to all our Chapter members and friends! You did it again! In spite of the weather, you've made the 2019 Brat Fry a successful event and loads of fun and fellowship. A special thank you to the committee chairs, our wonderful students, and Jon and Ann Keckonen, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.*

A gentle reminder for all who were given donations from various businesses in our community to send them a little thank you note as well. Thank you everyone!” Henry



Rudy Weiss, Char Gumm, Carol Schmidt



Ken Gumm and Rich Miesfeld are grilling meat in lousy weather.



Some of the many workers who helped make the day a success.



Margaret Voorhans & Denise Quasius chaired the basket raffle. Here they are getting help from Gina and Minnie Hoffman.



The bakery corner is always a popular spot. Esther Weiss, Devon and Keith Herd did a super job of serving these delicious treats.

Ann & Jon Keckonen took food orders all day long.



Beth Hejl, PTP exchange student in 1985-86, has been writing a blog comparing customs in the U.S. and Germany since she moved to Germany in 2012.

Manners and Etiquette, Knigge Part 1

In German, *Knigge* represents proper social behavior one should practice in pleasant company. The term comes from the man who first published in Germany a manual for etiquette in 1788: Adolf Freiherr von Knigge. His work was called *Über den Umgang mit Menschen (On Interaction with People)*. I found this topic interesting enough to buy this book a few months ago, being mainly curious how German *Knigge* would compare to the way I was brought up.

In this weekend's newspaper were two articles about *Knigge*, including an interview with Clemens Graf von Hoyos, chairperson of the 300-member *Deutsche-Knigge-Gesellschaft (German-Etiquette-Society)*. Thanks to their society German *Knigge* also provides guidelines for things Freiherr Knigge could not have imagined in 1788 such as online and Smartphone *Knigge*, escalator use, and travel/airplane etiquette.



Ok, despite Elke Stadler, *Knigge-Trainerin*, ending her article by saying that we common folk should not go about instructing others (especially publicly) on which rules they are breaking and how they should behave, I thought I'd share with my fair readers what I've learned!

Keep in mind that etiquette rules are different from country to country, and at home we may all do as we please. But to avoid the problems Julia Roberts faced in "Pretty Woman" when out in higher society than we're used to, *Knigge* tips and guidelines can be helpful.

Things to Avoid

"Guten Appetit"

Wait, what?!? It is ingrained in every German's psyche not to dig into a plate of food without waiting for someone - parents, waitress, table companion - to say "Guten Appetit"! The reasoning behind why this is sketchy is what caught my attention. In earlier times it was a serious faux pas to say this to nobles because it called the quality of the food and kitchen staff into question! There was no need to wish wealthy people a "good appetite" because that came from the delicious and aromatic victuals all by itself.

Commoners, however, were forced to eat whatever they could find or buy with their meager funds, and their food was often near-to rotting scraps and leftovers. The phrase "Guten Appetit" amounted to: "I hope your

appetite is strong enough to force that food down." Now, even in that context "Guten Appetit" fits well as a Swabian compliment, so in our house we will continue to use it.

"Mahlzeit"

This is a common phrase co-workers or bosses say as they leave the office or meeting for their lunch break. There is no equivalent in English, although it translates to "meal time." The closest in English would be "Time to eat!"

So what's wrong with this one? This time the explanation is very modern, although the origin of the phrase comes from monasteries and convents. Monks and nuns usually kept a very tight routine and were directed about by church bells and chimes because of course they didn't have watches or Smartphones to tell them what time it was. "Mahlzeit" was a reminder that it was now time to eat pray and then eat. Obviously nowadays as we are surrounded by clocks, computers, Smartwatches, mobile phones, etc., we do not need to go about telling other people what time it is or announcing our intentions to go check out what's in the *Kantine*.

Many people these days are trying to pay better attention to their health, fitness, and eating habits. Quite a few of your co-workers may choose to use their ~~lunch~~ noon break to go for a walk, meditate, work out, or take a power-nap, and therefore reminding them of a meal is rather out of place for the same reason you wouldn't tell someone "Enjoy the donuts I brought!" when you know he is on a diet or fasting for any reason. Our *Knigge-Trainerin* recommends saying "Guten Mittag" or "Angenehme Mittagspause" instead, wishing your colleague a "good noon" or "pleasant noon break".



Anstoßen mit Gläsern

This is clinking glasses with each other before taking your first sip of wine, beer, etc. We're back to the Middle Ages for this one. When enemy knights found themselves face-to-face unexpectedly, there were often subtle exchanges that amounted to threats - an indication one wanted to fight or even kill the other. When they banged their mugs together, the intent was that some of the brew would slosh over into the adversary's mug. When both drank - holding eye contact, of course! - it was an assurance that neither beverage was poisoned.

These days our glasses are more delicate than back then, and there is a good chance a too-enthusiastic bump will cause damage. Since we generally no longer need to

prove to others that we haven't poisoned their drinks, it is better nowadays for the group to lift their glasses, make direct eye contact with everyone round the table, and say a collective "Zum Wohl!"



We're doing this wrong anyway - we're supposed to look at each other, not the camera. And M was trying not to spill and waste the beer.

"Gesundheit!"

Oh, come on! I was taught saying this to a poor sap who sneezed is politeness!! I actually first heard about a movement to get people to stop saying this while still in the US. There the idea was that we should not draw attention to someone else's bodily functions. We don't say anything when the bloke next to us coughs or farts, after all...

The *Knigge-Trainerin* says allergy-sufferers will sing this one from rooftops! The idea is to not publicly point out someone else's weakness. By saying "Gesundheit!" every time someone sneezes, we are bringing unnecessary attention to an uncontrollable reflex, which the poor chap is all too aware of. During allergy season or when someone is sick (in which case she should rather keep her germs at home), it is a nuisance to have someone respond every time the sufferer sneezes!

Just for fun, I'm going to list a few no-no's at the table from the *Knigge* book pictured above which I had not ever really thought about but now know go against German *Knigge*, at least when adults do them. I would venture to guess many/most of my *Landsleute* don't give a thought to any of the following either, except those in high society.

One should not...

- Take a drink before the host or hostess has given a toast.
- Cut spaghetti noodles with a knife.
- Cut meat (such as meat loaf) with a fork.
- Salt or pepper the food before tasting it.
- Park your cutlery resting on your plate with the handle on the table.
- Hold your wine glass above the stem.
- Blow on the food to cool it.

Note: Beth's parents have admitted they are guilty of almost all of the above no-no's.