



Sheboygan Area Chapter

March Newsletter 2019

March 14th PTP meeting will feature program on Brazil

Our March 14th chapter meeting will be held at the Elks Club just four days after our brat fry fundraiser. Be sure to put it on your calendar to attend and (hopefully) celebrate the success of our annual fundraiser. Our speaker for the evening is originally from Brazil but has chosen to relocate in Sheboygan. Her story will be interesting. She writes:

“My name is Juju Senfft and I was born and raised in Niteroi, just across the bay from Rio de Janeiro - Brazil.



I grew up in a sailing family and learned at a very young age how to sail. My sailing experiences have taken me all over the world and that's how I ended up here in Sheboygan. Back in 2008 when I first came to Sheboygan for a sailing championship, I fell in love with the city and I knew I was going to move here

one day... Fast forward to 2016 and I was leaving my hometown and moving to the place I fell in love with!

In my presentation I'll share what was it like growing up in Rio, surrounded by amazing beaches, mountains and culture and also talk about my travels all over the world!”

The menu for the evening will be chicken Alfredo, spaghetti and meatballs, vegetables, salad bowl, rolls, and beverage. Dessert will be provided by Margaret Voorhans. 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 **March 4**.

The board will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, Mar. 14 at the Elks Club. Please call Jon Keckonen at 457-4318 if you need to be excused from the meeting.

Note: This newsletter is going out later than usual, so if your check for dinner is late, PLEASE call Char at 475-3657 to let her know it is on its way. She needs to call in correct numbers to the Elks Club.

Coming Events



- Mar 10** PTP Brat Fry at RCS Building
- Mar 14** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Apr 11** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- May 9** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Aug 8** Chapter Picnic 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Important Brat Fry reminders

Our brat fry is just around the corner! March 10th is the day. Be sure to remember to sell your tickets, bake something for the bake sale table, and make a basket (theme of your choosing) for the raffle. Please bring to the RCS Building on Saturday morning between 9:30-10:30 or very early on Sunday morning. If you have not yet signed up for a work shift, please contact Ann Keckonen at 457-4318 to tell her when you can work at the event.



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



Beth Hejl, PTP exchange student in 1985-86, has been writing a blog since she moved to Germany in 2012. This month the entry is timely because the weekend she is writing about begins on Thursday of this week.

Fasnet and the Jugendschutz

Fasnet is the Swabian word for *Fasching/Karnival*, and this weekend is high season for shenanigans. I always intended to research the historical traditions behind this springtime custom of chasing away the demons of winter, but so far I haven't got around to it. Seeing as the whole business involves a **lot** of people, a **lot** of drinking, and masks*, it's just not my scene.



*I have been uncomfortable around people wearing masks as long as I can remember. If I can't see a person's face and especially eyes, I don't want to be anywhere near him or her.

This Thursday is *Schmotziger*, which I've learned doesn't really mean "Dirty Thursday" (though that fits in a way, too) but rather probably comes from the word "*Schmalz*," which is fat or lard. Around this time it was - and still is - popular to eat sweet and fatty foods to get ready for the fasting time of Lent.



Enthusiasts say *Fasnet* or *Fasching* is not just about getting drunk, and I'll believe that. However, this week's Real ad brochure begins with beer, more beer, Jack Daniels and Coke in a can, *Schnaps*, vodka, *Sekt* (sparkling wine), beer glasses, glass boots, and a beer barrel carousel. The seasonal section, closest to the entrance and the cash registers, is full of alcohol and costumes.



This week's *Blättle* (local newsletter) is full of info about where to find the parades and parties as well as reminders to be sensible and clean up after yourselves. *Vergebens* (all for nothing). It generally takes a good week for all the filth in the streets, parks, and public areas to be cleaned up by city workers or to blow away. Broken bottles, crushed cans, empty beer cases, confetti and candy wrappers from parades...

Several of the stores in our town are participating voluntarily in a program called the "*Rottweiler Idee*" (Rottweil idea) which hopes to diminish the incidents of young people drinking to the point of alcohol poisoning, which I heartily applaud. At the same time, I realize that a wee bit of planning ahead (and most Germans are masters at this) circumvents these noble effects.

What the stores in the vicinity of the *Bahnhof* have agreed to is not selling hard liquor to persons under the age of 25 on three upcoming days of drunken foolery: *Schmotziger*, *Fasnetssamstag* (Saturday) and *Fasnetsmontag* (the Monday that is the highlight of the *Fasnet* madness). Sunday doesn't need to be on the list because all stores are closed every Sunday.

Our town has been doing this since 2014. The store M and I use most often, Real, is not participating, unfortunately. This store is not near the *Bahnhof*, but its neighbor Norma is participating, and I wish Real would too. The kids can still buy beer, wine, and *Sekt* and can do plenty damage to themselves with those, but limiting hard liquor is at least something.

I'm not a teetotaler and don't judge people for including alcohol as part of a celebration of whatever kind. Alcohol is part of German culture, and having a glass of wine or beer with lunch – even at a business meeting – isn't unusual. I just applaud the idea of (voluntarily) making it as difficult as possible for young people to binge drink themselves into a coma or worse. The cut-off age of 25 is probably a bit harsh, but I don't have a problem with it during the craziest days of *Fasnet*. The scariest thing is that there is surely plenty of drinking and driving during these days, and since Germans can drive as of age 18 but lack experience and judgement, the *Rottweiler Idee* could be intended to address this danger.

Whatever your plans for the days of *Fasnet*, *Fastnet*, *Fasching*, or *Karnival*, stay safe and make good choices! And for mercy's sake, **don't drink and drive!!!**

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on March 9, the night before the brat fry!!!