



People to People Sheboygan

October - 2025

Meeting and Program - 10/9

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

Please join us for our next People to People meeting and program at the Elks Club on October 9.

The menu for this evening will be roast turkey, green beans, twice baked potatoes, salad and rolls. **The cost of the dinner is \$21.00 per person.**

Checks can be made out to People to People Sheboygan and mailed to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083. Additionally, for this month, either email him at miesfeld@att.net or text him at 920 917-8781 if you are attending as he is out of town on a trip from Oct 4-12 but will still get the reservation in. You may also pay using **PayPal**. Enter @PTPISheboygan and inform Rich who is sending the money. Please add a bit more to cover the 3% that PayPal charges.

The board meets at 5:00 at the Elks Club, prior to the social period. Board members please contact Bob Quasius at 920-698-0451 if you cannot attend.

Future Events - Elks' Club

No meetings for November and January

Dec 11, 2025 Dinner/Christmas

Feb 12, 2026 Dinner meeting

Program Speakers

Oct - TBD

Dec - Christmas program

Feb - TBD

Mar - TBD

Apr - TBD

May - TBD

We could use some suggestions for speakers where "TBD" is listed. Please contact a board member if you have anybody in mind.

Dessert

Oct - Thom and Stacie Nicla

Dec - Member contributions

Feb - Open

Mar - Open

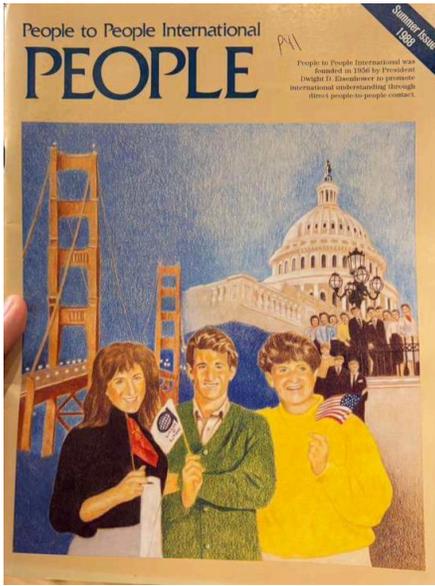
Apr - Open

May - Open

If you are willing to provide a dessert for any of the "Open" slots, please contact Steve Dick (920) 476-2152. Thank you!

A Blast From the Past

At the September meeting, Dennis Leffin, a



longtime member, shared a People to People International's Summer 1988 issue that he still cherished. On page 41, was an article written by our very own Jon Keckonen, regarding our

Chapter's 20 year friendship with Esslingen, Germany, our sister city.



Left: Herbert Weidner, Director of the Esslingen Historische Burgergarde, with Mickey Mouse, a participant in Sheboygan's Fourth of July parade. Below: Standing in front of Sheboygan's City Hall are Dr. Dieter Deuschle (left), Deputy Mayor of Esslingen, and Sheboygan Mayor Richard Schneider. During the week of Mayor Deuschle's visit to Sheboygan, the flags of West Germany and Esslingen were displayed.



Chapter is looking forward to a similar experience in 1989.

Although the Sheboygan PTP Chapter does have a special relationship with Esslingen, it has in recent years traveled different highways also. In September of 1987, it hosted a 30-member dancing group from Denmark. The group performed at the Sheboygan International Fest, was entertained by a local square dance club and were guests at the September PTP meeting, where they explained their native costumes and performed a variety of Danish folk dances.

In December, members replaced the traditional gift exchange between members with a gift program for needy children in Tijuana, Mexico. Chapter members learned at the October meeting of an organization in California known as "Los Niños," which provided educational programs and financial assistance to underprivileged children in the border community of Tijuana. A former PTP member, Ms. Donna

Webb, had spent a year as a volunteer working with "Los Niños." Her moving presentation inspired the Chapter to give toys, clothing and money to the children of "Los Niños."

The Chapter's Annual Brat Fry and Flea Market, chaired by Dr. William Bogenschultz, is the only fundraising event for the Chapter. Members sell tickets which can be redeemed for food items at the event. A baked goods table and a flea market supplement the food stand in raising money to fund the student exchange program.

The Sheboygan PTP Chapter is also active and proud of its efforts to promote the ideals of PTP International. 1988 and 1989 should prove to be very exciting years for its 112 members who all enjoy sharing their Sheboygan "Gemütlichkeit" with others from around the world.

Jon C. Keckonen is President of the Sheboygan, Wisconsin PTP Chapter.

Sheboygan PTP Chapter Celebrates 20 Year Friendship with Sister City

By Jon C. Keckonen

This year marks the 20th year of the Sister City relationship between Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Esslingen, West Germany. Esslingen is a city of 90,000 inhabitants located 15 kilometers east of Stuttgart in southern Germany. The Sheboygan PTP Chapter is celebrating the occasion by hosting a 47-member choir from Esslingen in early July of this year and is planning a trip to its Sister City in June of 1989.

During the summer of 1987, the Sheboygan Chapter hosted 40 members of the Esslingen Historische Burgergarde for a two-week period. The Burgergarde was established in 1829 as a volunteer security organization to protect the city from hostile intruders. In more recent years, the organization has traded its weapons for musical instruments and performs at local festivals in and around Esslingen. The 1987 trip was the first time the Burgergarde traveled to the United States. While in Sheboygan, the group marched in the Fourth of July parade, performed for the Sheboygan Kiwanis Club and entertained the residents at three nursing homes. The Sheboygan PTP Chapter arranged for one-day excursions to Milwaukee, Chicago and Door County. The Mayor's International Committee entertained the Burgergarde at a picnic in their honor.

In August, the Chapter welcomed Dr. Dieter Deuschle, Deputy Mayor of Esslingen, his wife, and an assistant to the Mayor, Mrs. Pauline Hejl, to Sheboygan. Dr. Deuschle is responsible for education and culture in Esslingen and the German city has ships with the seven sister-city relationships which the German city has. When my wife, Ann, and I visited Esslingen in June of 1986, we were entertained by the Deuschles and Mrs. Hejl. We were very pleased when the Deuschles and Mrs. Hejl accepted our invitation to come to Sheboygan the following summer to experience our "Gemütlichkeit."



(Left to right) Sheboygan Mayor Richard Schneider, Esslingen Deputy Mayor Dr. Dieter Deuschle, former Sheboygan Mayor Emil Musu, and former Sheboygan Mayor Richard Suscha, greet each other at a special Chapter dinner to honor guests from Sheboygan's Sister City of Esslingen, West Germany.

honored guests at dinners sponsored by Sheboygan Mayor Richard Schneider, the Sheboygan Board of Education and our PTP Chapter. They also met with Sheboygan area German teachers and school administrators to discuss the student exchange program which the Sheboygan PTP Chapter has sponsored since 1970.

The student exchange program with Esslingen was inaugurated in 1970, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Sylvia Weber, currently a member of the PTP International Board of Trustees, and her late husband, Clarence, high school students from Esslingen and Sheboygan are selected by the Chapter's Student Exchange Committee and then coordinated in Esslingen. The Esslingen students spend six months with their host families from July through December. The Sheboygan students travel to Esslingen following February to spend six months with their German family.

More than 170 students have participated in the exchange program in its 17-year history.

Pauline Hejl has been the coordinator of the program in Esslingen for the past seven years. While in Sheboygan this past summer, Mrs. Hejl, as she is known to the Sheboygan students who participated in the exchange program, had an opportunity to see a number of her Sheboygan "children" during an open house at our home. There were many hugs and a few tears as Pauline and the students relived some wonderful times in Esslingen.

In October, a cellist from Esslingen, Henning Harms, was guest soloist with the Sheboygan Symphony. He was our guest during a portion of his stay in Sheboygan and traveled to the University of Indiana to study with the well-respected American cellist, Janos Starker. Before returning to Esslingen, where he is completing his final year at the Georgi Gymnasium, a preparatory secondary school,

Excerpt 1 taken from the article:

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Excerpt 2 taken from the article:

Pauline Hejl has been the coordinator of the program in Esslingen for the past seven years. While in Sheboygan this past summer, “Mom” Hejl, as she is known to the Sheboygan students who participated in the Exchange program, had an opportunity to see a number of her Sheboygan “children” during an open house at our home. There were many hugs and a few tears as Pauline and the students relived some wonderful times in Esslingen.

German Fall Traditions/Holidays

The German [Erntedankfest](#) has existed since the 3rd century when people started to thank God for the harvest that was brought in. It is usually celebrated on the first Sunday in



October. It is somewhat similar to Thanksgiving festivals in other countries because it focuses on thanking God for the harvest gifts.

The typical Thanksgiving celebration in German-speaking countries includes fairs, processions, parades, church services, music and dance. There is also a tradition of choosing the harvest queen and presenting her with the traditional harvest crown. In large cities, the celebrations are often sponsored by Catholic and Protestant churches.

Der Tag der Deutschen Einheit or [German Unity Day](#) takes place on the 3rd of October every year. There are political speeches, concerts and fireworks all over the country commemorating the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990. Unlike some national holidays that feature large, widely observed traditions, German Unity Day is often celebrated in a more subdued manner by individuals and families.



PTP This newsletter is produced for associates of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted to: baltman88@gmail.com