



Sheboygan Area Chapter

October Newsletter 2021

Next PTP meeting scheduled on Oct. 14 at Elks Club

Please join us at the Elks Club on October 14 for another good meal and interesting program. Please note that the Elks Club has raised our price, so from now on the cost will be \$18.00 per person. We will not meet in November. Please note the upcoming meetings in the calendar below.

The program will be presented by Jon Keckonen who will talk about their recent trip to Italy and the challenges they faced as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. Covid also presented some advantages, which he will point out.

The menu for October 14 will include BBQ ribs and broasted chicken, along with the usual side dishes. Dale and Mitzi Stoltzman will supply the dessert. Please make your reservations, by sending a check in the amount of **\$18.00 per person**, made out to PTP-Sheboygan, to **Char Gumm, N6222 Woodland Rd., Sheboygan, 53083**. Deadline for reservations is Monday, October 4.

Coming Events

October 14 Chapter dinner at the Elks Club

December 9 Chapter Christmas party at Elks Club

February 10 Chapter dinner at the Elks Club

March 10 Chapter dinner at the Elks Club

April 14 Chapter dinner at the Elks Club

May 21 Brat Fry at Miesfelds (trying a different format this year – will tell more about it later)

Fun at the September mtg

If you attended the chapter dinner in September, you had a good chance to get to know one of our Esslingen students. Nathanael Haug answered lots of questions about his first days of school here, as well as making comparisons between Esslingen and Sheboygan. He did a great job of keeping us all interested while we were waiting for our speaker to arrive. He is pictured here (in the New York sweatshirt) with his host family, the Weinfurters.



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 aheckonen@charter.net.

Another PTP friend gone



We recently became aware that we lost another longtime member of our PTP chapter. Gene Eckardt and his late wife, Myrtle, were faithful members of our chapter for many years, and they almost never missed a meeting when their health allowed.

Myrtle passed away on Dec. 9, 2011, after she had attended our PTP meeting the night before. They were high school sweethearts and enjoyed 56 years of marriage before Myrtle's passing.

Exchange programs continue

If you know of a student who would like to apply for either the 5-month exchange program or next summer's middle school program, please contact Paula Dick at nabbey@charter.net. Applications for 2022 are due this fall.

Trying new brat fry format

As you may have noticed on the "Coming Events," we are not going to have our usual brat fry in March in 2022. We will be hosting our chapter brat fry at Miesfeld's on Hwy 42 on May 21. We will plan to sell tickets as we have in the past, and we will have a raffle and a bake sale, as we did at the RCS Building. More details will follow in early 2022, but for now it is important to put May 21 on your calendars.

Reverence for life

An excerpt from Beth Hejl's blog post

Not long after I moved to Germany, during a visit in Wisconsin, I was introduced to Dr. Hans-Udo Jüttner, who has since become a friend. He was on the brink of a project for which he needed some assistance, namely transcribing the nearly 400-page hand-written diary he wrote in 1962-1963 while working with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in his hospital in Lambarene, Gabon, Africa. He'd written this *Tagebuch* mainly in German, with some English and French, French being the official language of the country. Udo needed his *Tagebuch* in electronic form because he wanted to see about getting

parts of it published. What an honor and a privilege to be trusted with this man's personal diary of a time and place I knew little about.



How wonderful to hear from Udo in mid-July 2021 that his book has recently been published! It is available directly from the German publisher, at this point only in German.

Udo's *Tagebuch* is a personal look behind the scenes of the work done in Schweitzer's hospital in Lambarene, not only the medical work of the hospital and the leprosy village, but especially the *Alltag* (everyday life) in a jungle setting. The medical care patients received was provided free-of-charge, but those and their family members who were able were required to help out with various tasks and chores around the complex. Udo was for his first three months in charge of working with and managing these groups of workers.

What makes a *Tagebuch* most enjoyable are the personal observations and thoughts of the writer. Udo shares his joys and satisfaction of projects well done, frustrations, questions, hopes, and feelings about Dr. Schweitzer, who was a role model for Udo, though not infallible. He also explains how he came to spend those 16 months in Lambarene and how reading Schweitzer's biography when he was a teenager inspired him to pursue a medical career.

Udo has long been a hobby-photographer, and the photos in the book were taken by or of him. It was especially nice for me to see photographs of my friend back when he was the age my son is now!



I was truly sorry when I came to the end of his *Tagebuch* and wished there were a sequel. There is, of course, just not in published diary form. After his 16 months in Lambarene, Udo returned to Germany, then spent five years at the Mayo Clinic for his medical training, met his dear wife Joan, and after a brief return to Germany decided to pursue his medical career in the U.S.

I think when most of us come into the autumn years of our life, we want to look back to a life well lived. It's not the hours spent at work that come back to us, but the adventures we pursued, the people we encountered who made a lasting impression on us, the lives we hope we impacted, and the good we did. Albert Schweitzer's lifelong philosophy was "*Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben*" (reverence for life), and to me that encourages us to live our best life and do what we can to make this a better world despite our imperfections.

You can read the entire blog post at <http://bhejl.blogspot.com/2021/08/reverence-for-life.html>

(Note: Dr. Hans-Udo Jüttner was a member of our Sheboygan PTP chapter until he moved away last year.)