



Sheboygan Area Chapter

May Newsletter 2019

Scott and Kate Jelinek-Zittel will speak to us on May 9th

Our May 9th chapter meeting will be the last meeting before we take a summer break. Although we will get together for a picnic on Thursday, August 8, we will not have another dinner and program until September 12. Be sure to put THAT date on your calendars now because we will have guests from Esslingen at that meeting.

For our May 9 program, Scott and Kate Jelinek-Zittel will speak to us on their travels in several parts of the world. Scott and Kate Jelinek-Zittel are both teachers at Sheboygan North High School and spend much of their free time traveling. What started out as fun escapes quickly became their passion. In recent years they have spent time traveling the world checking out both natural splendors and cultural connections. Some of their favorite highlights include wandering the ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, sailing the Whitsunday Islands of Australia, and snorkeling with sharks in the Galapagos Islands.



They have come to appreciate ecotourism as a means to accomplish much of their traveling. It is based on sustainability, conservation, and environmental education. Furthermore, it empowers indigenous people through stewardship and employment. Direct impacts of ecotourism include clean water, education, and medical support.

Most recently, they spent time in Ecuador and would love to share highlights, specifically those as they relate to the Napo region of the Amazon rainforest, the Kichwa people, and sustainable practices in ecotourism.

The menu for the evening will be baked ham, Chicken Cordon Bleu, oven roasted potatoes, Riviera Blend vegetables, soup, salad, rolls, and beverage. Dessert will be provided by Dale & Mitzi Stoltzman in honor of Dale's 75th birthday. 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 29**.

Coming Events



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

The board will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 9 at the Elks Club. Please call Jon Keckonen at 457-4318 if you need to be excused from the meeting.

German exchange students

Plans for the middle school summer exchange program are well underway, and the families are all corresponding with their exchange partners. Last month we included a photo of the students chosen from Sheboygan County; the picture below shows the five students coming from Esslingen.



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.



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. This will probably be the last entry from her blog because, as she says, "In 7 years I have covered almost all of the comparisons I can think of."

Manners and Etiquette: Knigge Part 2

I promised in a post from last month that I would come back and write more about *Knigge*, focusing on travel. As it turns out, my flights to and from Newark, NJ (USA) to visit my kids in Pennsylvania weren't as bad as expected. However, looking through Silke Schneider-Flaig's book about German *Knigge* (*proper social behavior*) and reflecting on my own experiences did give me a few ideas.



So here we are for Part 2. Some of these are from the *Knigge* book, and some are my own tips.

At the Check-In & Security

- Arrive early enough to cut down on your own stress. Know that at every major airport in the world, traffic to the terminals is thick and chaotic, so plan more time than you think you need.
- Do not blame other passengers or airline personnel for your misfortunes or bad planning. You will have much better luck getting assistance if you are calm and reasonable.
- Have your passport or I.D. at hand (take it out while you are waiting in line) rather than approaching the counter and then starting to dig for it.
- While waiting in line to approach the nudie scanners at security, remove everything you can (watch, belt, bracelets) and put it all in a jacket pocket or pocket of your carry-on. Have your tablet or laptop ready to be placed separately in a bin, as well as your "freedom bag" (the 1-quart Ziplock bag containing your dangerous liquids and gels).
- Watch the travelers in front of you. If they are required to remove their shoes and place them in a bin, be ready to remove yours.

At the Gate

- Before they call for boarding, put the items you will need during the flight (for me those are my noise-canceling headphones and MP3 player, a book, a notebook, a pen, reading glasses, hand lotion and lip balm because it's so dry up there) into a smaller bag you have packed in your carry-on for this purpose.
- Everyone boarding the plane will be taking off together at the same time. So pushing, shoving, and trying to sneak in before your section is called is foolishness.

In the Airplane

- Get to your seat, stow your carry-on in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you, and **sit down**. Get out of people's way and do not block the aisle. This is easy as pie if you have done what I mentioned in the section above, because you have the most important items in your little bag - which you will need to put under the seat in front of you for take-off! You can live without everything else until the plane reaches cruising altitude.
- Silke Schneider-Flaig recommends to help older folks and parents traveling alone, but I would change that to *offer* your help. Don't just step in and grab their stuff to toss in an overhead bin. *ASK* if they would like your help.
- Do not put your seat back unless you are actually trying to sleep. When you fail at sleeping, put your seat back upright again. Honestly, folks, that extra inch of recline will not help you and will be a torture to the person behind you.
- Put your seat back upright during meals! If the person in front of you doesn't do so, ask him or her politely rather than seething in silence.
- If you expect assistance and cooperation in the event of an emergency, pay attention to the safety video or flight attendants going through procedures, or at least shut up long enough for the rest of us to listen. It's a matter of respect in my view, and it doesn't matter that I've heard this spiel 86 times already.
- Please wear socks! Do not display your bare feet to others, and do not rest your foot on the arm rest of the poor soul in front of you.
- Take cues from the person next to you as to whether s/he wants to chat or not. Just because you're excited to start your vacation doesn't mean the business traveler next to you wants to chit-chat.
- On most international flights these days the planes are equipped with touchscreen displays on the back of the seat in front of each traveler. Thanks, airplane designers; that was a great idea. They never work as well as our mobile phone and tablet touchscreens, and this leads to people banging their fingers on the displays. To see what this feels like, strap a book to your upper back or neck and have someone bang on it repeatedly with her finger. **DO NOT BANG ON THE TOUCHSCREEN.**
- One final tidbit of advice: **WASH YOUR HANDS** whenever you have the chance.



Honestly, everything regarding *Knigge* for travelers boils down to keeping calm and not causing problems for those around you. For this you need a healthy dose of self-awareness as well as acknowledgement of people around you.

Enjoy your travels this summer, and stay safe!