



Sheboygan Area Chapter

October Newsletter 2022

Hear about our PTP exchange programs on October 13

Please join us for a fun program on October 13 when our exchange students will share their experiences of the summer exchange program. Their enthusiasm will be contagious.



The menu will include broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, and dessert. The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person. Exchange students are free, but we **MUST** have their names for reservations. Parents, please mail your checks to Rich Miesfeld, 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083 before Oct. 7. All members please mail your checks before the deadline, as the Elks Club needs to order the right amount of food.

Coming events



October 13 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
November 10 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
December 8 Chapter Christmas party at Elks

A loyal member gone

We were so sad to hear of the sudden death of Shirley Bogenschultz on August 31, 2022. Her daughter with siblings, has written a long and beautiful tribute to her, and it is included at the end of this newsletter. They spent many hours working on it, so I didn't have the heart to cut any of it out, nor did I do any editing of it. (I did have to omit some of the 27 pictures she sent with it!)

Please enjoy reading it, and remember all the contributions Bill and Shirley made to our chapter. They hosted many exchange students, and five of their six children took part in our People to People high school exchange. They were such an important family in our chapter, and they are sorely missed.



The board will meet at 5:00 on October 13, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served promptly at 6:30. Please contact Bob Quasius at bob.quasius@gmail.com if you need to be excused from the board meeting.

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.

A special birthday trip

Submitted by Denise Quasius

Hello fellow People to People Members,



This year marks a half century of me on this planet. It's amazing how fast time goes. Our children are now grown and out of the house and Bob and I sit gazing at one another thinking, "what do we do now?" We have come to a unanimous decision that traveling together is going to be a

big part of our foreseeable future.

Our first adventure will begin at the end of September where we will be spending time in Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Esslingen, Germany will be our first stop as we have many wonderful ties to that area. As you all know we have hosted four brilliant children from our sister city, Jakob Straeter, Lukas Gauch, Kim Schilling and Malte Grutschnig. We look forward to reconnecting with the families and getting to see Esslingen in person.

Next stop will be Bern, Switzerland. Here we plan to take a few day trips to see the Matterhorn and visit Lucerne. Our agenda includes eating as much Swiss Cheese and Chocolate as humanly possible. I have been warned that we should drink wine and beer instead of water with the cheese as it helps aid digestion. ☺

The final leg of our trip will take us through Italy. We will pick up a rental car in Milan and then head toward the Piedmont and Langhe region. My recent role as General Manager for Stefano's Slo Food Market has provided me with the opportunity to learn more about sustainable, organic foods and choosing a better way of eating. I am excited to visit the hometown of the Slow Food Movement in Bra, Italy to learn more about the mission and how to become a better advocate. In fact, most of our time in Italy will be devoted to food (and wine) as we take a trip focused on Agriturismo. We will be traveling to Cinque Terre, Montalcino, Naples and flying back from Rome. I won't give too much more away as Ann has committed us to presenting our trip at an upcoming People to People program. If anyone is interested in helping fund our research please let me know!!!! ☺

Ciao!
Denise and Bob



From PTP: Happy 50th Birthday, Denise

Shirley Bogenschultz: Lifetime of International Friendships Creating a Family Legacy

Submitted by Janet Bogenschultz & Siblings

Dear Friends of the PTP - Sheboygan Chapter,

It is with a very heavy heart that I write you today. Our wonderful, kind, smart, beautiful and amazing mother, Shirley Bogenschultz, and a longtime member of the People to People organization since 1974, passed away very unexpectedly on the evening of Wednesday, August 31st.



Our Mom had a car accident on that evening, on the way home from Ellison Bay, and no one else was hurt.

We are all deeply saddened and have broken hearts at her passing. I know you will be shocked and very sad to lose her.

Shirley so enjoyed and loved being a People to People member and all the wonderful friends she made there. She had forty-eight years of many great times with People to People, and Shirley's husband, Bill Bogenschultz, enjoyed thirty-eight of those great years together with her, from 1974 to 2012. They both always were excited to attend the PTP events, travel talks, and picnics, keeping up with their PTP friends, meetings, and getting to know the new exchange students and host families.

Many of you will remember Shirley as a joyful ray of sunshine and who cared so much for everyone. Her zest for life was as contagious as was her beautiful smile. The warmth of her loving spirit brightened the lives of all who knew her, met her, and loved her. Shirley was a gracious ambassador creating many deep and life-long friendships between families spanning not only countries, but several continents.

A lot of her warm and loving spirit was developed as a young girl, when Shirley was the youngest sister to five siblings growing up during the Great Depression on a 400 acre wheat farm struggling to make it, and later in Salina, Kansas. Shirley was no stranger to being raised to look out for others, care for family members, helpful to neighbors, and kind to her classmates. As a mother of six, she opened her heart, loved her growing family, and made friends anywhere and everywhere.

Most impressive, was that she radiated positivity where ever she went. It was like a gorgeous light shone all around her, like the sun, and people around her grew in that light and were warmed and nurtured, and became better people, the way a plant grows stronger in the right light, with water and tending. She was a lot like mother earth on roller skates, because she never stopped

moving. Definitely a perfect candidate to be an American Mom to five Esslingen exchange students, a Rotary International student from Mae Hong Son, Thailand, a college student from Japan, and caring friend to two AFS teachers visiting Sheboygan from Thailand, an AFS student from Sweden, and veterinarians in training from Germany and Denmark.

Shirley and Bill's PTP membership began with their oldest son, David, and his student exchange in 1974-75 while at North High School. David's exchange was followed by four more of Bill and Shirley's children, Matt, Sara, Mark and John, also going on the exchange program from North High school, for a total of five of their six children.

From the first arrival of Konrad Finckh, hosting a German student was a whole family affair, fraught with excitement and enthusiasm, as it is for many PTP families. The whole family of eight piled into the station wagon to go pick Konrad up at the Milwaukee Airport, and spent half a year with a new German brother in the house, scrambling for breakfast and out the door to school, enjoying fun evenings and weekends together. There was always something happening, lots of laughter, good times and silly practical jokes, along with chores to keep the household humming.

Shirley and Bill were a great team, and loved hosting five students from Esslingen. From 1974 to 1983, Shirley was an American Mom to five Esslingen students, and in that time, befriended their parents, and their siblings, and others too numerous to count that crossed her path accidentally or that she set her sights on to strike up a conversation.



Shirley and Bill, and their five children, continued close ties with the Esslingen students and their families in the many years after their first arrival to Sheboygan 48 years ago. There have been visits back and forth, too numerous to count, meet ups in other foreign countries for a holiday, fun phone calls, newsy letters, and Christmas cards. They've shared both their good and sad times, like good friends will do.



Shirley and Bill's first trip to Esslingen was in the summer of 1975, to visit Konrad Finckh's family, near the end of David's exchange summer, spent time in the family orchard, and seeing Esslingen before traveling in Europe.

Even their children visit not only their own host families, but the Esslingen families their siblings were partnered with, and those siblings have come and have

visited in Sheboygan, and other states where family members live. Almost like a giant revolving door, you never know who's about to visit who.

This September 2022, David and his wife, Barbara, visited Konrad Finckh and his wife Sabine (David's exchange partner 1974/75), Konrad's mother Renata (age 95), and some of Konrad's eight siblings in Esslingen. They also visited Thomas Meyer (brother Mark's exchange partner 1981/82), and Michael Riedel and Tommy Panke (close friends from Esslingen exchange 1974/75).



During the Sheboygan exchange year with Esslingen students from 1974-1983, no one worked harder than Shirley, to make sure all the German students' needs were met, always with her big warm smile, sparkling eyes, kindness and encouragement, friendly conversations, hot meals, school lunches, and clean clothes. Shirley made sure they all were well cared for, and adjusting to changes living in a new country at a young age away from their families.

Bill pitched in, and made sure there were fun outings together, getting to know the area, going to special events or interesting places, group hikes in nature, watching Packer's and Brewer's games, and frying up bratwurst perfectly outdoors no matter the temperature, because in Sheboygan, it's an important life skill and a blood-bonding passion. More than one father confided and thanked Bill, as they felt Bill was such a positive influence on their sons.

These are the five Esslingen students hosted by Bill and Shirley, and German brothers matched with their children:

David: 1974/75 11th grade exchange with **Konrad Finckh**. Parents: Renata and Ulrich Finckh with eight children: Benjamin, Ulrich, Johannes, Immanuel, Thomas, Hermann, Konrad and Maria.

Matt: 1976/77 10th grade exchange with **Florian Garnich**. Parents: Rolf and Rosemarie Garnich, and brother Peter and sister Henriette.

Sara: 1980/81 12th grade exchange with **Gunther Brikel**. Parents: Eberhard and Eva Birkel, twin sister Irmela, older sister Claudia, and young brother Uli (who later (1984/85) went on exchange with Katie Gottsacker).

Mark: 1981/82 11th grade exchange with **Thomas Meyer**. Parents: Glenn and Helga Meyer, and brother Marc-Phillipp.

John: 1982/83 11th grade exchange with **Stefan Ruth**. Parents: Paulina and Rüdiger Ruth and sister Verena and Saskia.



David began the Junior Year Abroad foray as a student at Beloit College in 1978, and went to the University of Hamburg that year, and visited Esslingen families and friends, and travelled around Europe. He returned to travel Europe again in March of 1981, and visited Sara at Birkel family home. In 1980, he travelled to India for PTP as an ambassador. (Picture is of Sara and Florian Garnich)

Matt also studied Junior Year Abroad from UW-Madison in Freiburg, and joined Mark during Spring Break 1982 in the south of France, during Mark's Esslingen exchange with Thomas Meyer's family. For New Year's Eve, 1981, Matt met Florian Garnich (his Esslingen exchange partner in 1976/77) and his mother in Scuol, Switzerland to go skiing, and spent Christmas with his Uncle Milton Schultz's family at the Patch Barracks in Stuttgart.



Sara's exchange family, the Birkel's visited Sheboygan for a week the year after her exchange, in the summer of 1982. They tailgated at a Brewer's game, went fishing on Lake Michigan, and visited many places of interest. John's exchange partner, Stefan Ruth had arrived, and they all had a great time. Later, Sara visited with her husband, Ken, in 1989, and met Gunther Birkel in Munich for Oktoberfest. She returned in June 2012, with her daughter, Calla, to visit the Birkel family again.



Mark shared that, "For three years, I had a German brother every year of high school growing up, Gunther, Thomas and Stefan." When Mark and John went to Junior Year Abroad from UW-Madison (Mark to Sweden and John to Hungary), in August 1986, they each visited their Esslingen host families several times, including Christmas.

John, after graduating from UW-Madison, worked in Antwerp frequently, and visited Germany, and eventually was relocated to two cities in Germany to work, Marburg and Saarlouis. During those years, Mark visited every summer, 1993-95, and they'd travel around Germany, visit several Esslingen families, and other countries, and sometimes Bill and Shirley or other

siblings would join them. In 1993, Mark visited Thomas Meyer in Berlin.

In the late 1990's, Thomas Meyer visited Sheboygan with his wife Rosi and young son, Frederik. Thomas attended Mark's wedding in August, 2009 in Sheboygan, and sent his son Frederik over to Sheboygan for a month in 2011 as a teenager. Both Thomas and



Frederik returned to Sheboygan in the summer of 2013, and Mark's son Jasper was less than a year old. Mark says his siblings David, John and Sara have all visited Thomas, his exchange brother,

at his home on the Bodensee. David and Barbara visited Thomas, Rosi and Frederik in 2019, and went to Juno Beach on June 6, 2019 for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. David added, "Exactly like Ike intended!"



There are also the friends the Bogenschultz's made with all their host families, plus student families in the same exchange, and friends made in those young years in Esslingen that still remain close friends, like Tommy and Daniella Panke who David and his wife, Barb, visited this September in Germany, and Ute Frommer, who's October 2019 wedding in Oregon had three siblings, with partners and a daughter come to celebrate for several days. Ute Frommer was in the Esslingen exchange 1975/76 at North High, in part, because David strongly encouraged Ute to come to Sheboygan while he was in Esslingen in the spring of 1975.

Introducing friends to friends is an area of expertise, for Shirley and Bill, and they taught by example that the beauty of lasting friendships, both local and international, to their children, and opening their hearts and homes. In the spring of 1977, during son Matt's exchange year, they visited Esslingen for its 1200th anniversary celebration, and brought along friends Ralph and Diane Mueller, and Roger and Myrna Eisentraut.

Shirley and Bill's interest in international connections and friendship also included professional opportunities, and one lasting over thirty years. They travelled to Germany, Denmark and Sweden with Vernon and Marie Thieleke, Bill's partner in their co-founded veterinary practice, the Animal Clinic, and attended veterinary conferences in Europe. Bill and Dr. Vernon Thieleke had a student veterinarian from Germany, Heinrich Brand in 1985 work at the Animal Clinic in an exchange program, and two student veterinarians from Denmark. Bill and Shirley visited Heinrich and his family in Germany, and so did their children David and Mark. Dr. Heinrich Brand and his wife, Inge, last visited Sheboygan in October 2019, and

enjoyed getting together with Shirley, Dr. Rodney Thieleke & Dr. Dick Burchinal from the Animal Clinic.

After hosting five Esslingen exchange students, and the last of their children is off to college in the fall of 1984, Shirley hears about a teaching aide job opportunity. Her education and years as a secondary school teacher in Kansas prepared her for a second career as a teacher's aide, for Lakeshore Technical Institute, 1984-94, where she helped teach Hmong families and adults making a new home in Sheboygan. Her children all recall how attending the Hmong New Year at the Sheboygan Armory during the holidays was a lot like arriving to the Hollywood red carpet with a movie star, she was just that admired and adored, and she'd be encircled at least ten people deep, excited to talk with everybody.

In 1986/87, Shirley and Bill decide they will be host family for a Rotary International high school student from Mae Hong Son, Thailand, named Kaimook Sealee. She is affectionately called Mook by the Bogenschultz's and her zest for life, and humorous, fun loving spirit continues to still bring a lot of joy to the whole family.

During that time Verena Ruth, (pictured right) Stefan Ruth's sister (John's exchange partner 1982/83), visits for several months from Esslingen, and Kaimook and Verena become great friends.



Kaimook and the whole family go to Door County for a summer vacation in August, 1987, and bonds of friendship are cemented for life due to all the fun they shared that summer.



Sara, a travel agent, wins two airline tickets anywhere in the world, and Sara and Janet decide to travel to Thailand to visit Kaimook in February, 1989, and visit her high school, swim next to a waterfall, and ride elephants, and explore other parts of Thailand. In August 1992, Bill and Shirley visit Kaimook and her family, along with their sons Mark, Matt, and John and recall riding elephants in the forest, and exploring the Burmese border. Bill met his son, Mark in Thailand the next year, who was teaching in Tokyo for Lakeland College, and together they visited Kaimook in March-April of 1993.

While Mark was teaching Lakeland College students in Tokyo, he taught Naofumi "Don" Sehata in 1991, a Japanese student. Don later attended Lakeland College, near Sheboygan, in 1994, and became close friends with Shirley and Bill while at Lakeland, and the years he worked in Wisconsin and in Chicago, often

calling them Mom and Dad, with frequent visits, and was always included in family celebrations.

In the spring of 1994, Shirley and Bill attend Kaimook's college graduation and travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand for the celebration with Manus, Kaimook's brother. Over the years, the whole family has visited Kaimook. Matt visited in 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1997 when he taught at a Hmong school on Doi Suthep above Chiang Mai. Most recently, in February 2020, David and Barb visited Kaimook and her family in Mae Hong Son. Since then, Kaimook has kept up with Shirley and family members using What's App.



Shirley's last travel purchase in August, and plan was a trip back to Thailand in the next year 2023. She had planned to visit Kaimook and her family, and also to visit two teachers from Thailand she met at People to People who were part of the AFS Teacher program. Shirley maintained a friendship with for over thirty years with the two AFS teachers, Orapin Banchee, living in Ayutthaya, and Boworn Rawdkhem, living in Krasang.

This September 2022, David and Barb had already left for their trip and were in Barcelona when they learned that Shirley had passed away. They enjoyed the comfort of being with good friends in Germany who knew and loved Shirley, as their own American Mom as teenagers in Sheboygan.



Shirley wasn't slowing down much at 88 years young. More than one person has called her a "little dynamo." She was still planning to travel internationally, still maintaining life-long international friendships, still actively gardening, still enjoying her neighbors, friends, and being a member of People to People, AAUW, her churches in Sheboygan and Ellison Bay, and very involved in the lives of her six children, their spouses, her eight grandchildren, and her four great grandchildren.

A memorial service and celebration of Shirley's life will be held at First United Lutheran Church, and will be planned for 2023 when many family and friends close to Shirley are able to travel to be together. We hope you will be able to join us.

Thank you very much for all the many great years of membership that our Mom, Shirley, immensely enjoyed, and the many meaningful friendships with our beloved beautiful Mom, Shirley, on behalf of all her children,

Janet, David, Matt, Sara, Mark and John

A few extra pictures that might be of interest:



Konrad, me, Renata, Bill, Ulrich, John at the Chateau Restaurant 8:30 pm. Apertif.

Summer 1994: Konrad Finckh, Shirley, Renata Finckh, Bill, Ulrich Finckh, and John (with brother Mark taking photo) while at dinner near Condom, France. Konrad was the Bogenschultz's family's first Esslingen Exchange student, with their son, David, in 1973/74, twenty years before this photo was taken.



1994: John, Mark, Shirley & Bill Bogenschultz have dinner in Germany with the exchange family of Thomas Meyer's (1981/82 with son Mark) his parents, Glenn and Helga Meyer, youngest son Marc-Phillipp, and Thomas took the photo.



Shirley with Pauline and Rüdiger Ruth at Lambeau Field in June 2002. Stefan Ruth was the exchange partner with John Bogenschultz in 1982/83, and they also visited John in Ann Arbor, MI on the same trip. Their daughter, Verena, lived with Shirley & Bill for almost a year in 1987 and visited again in the 1990s.



Summer 1982: During Gunther Birkel's family visit and Stefan Ruth's exchange, they all attend a Brewer's game and enjoy a pre-game tailgate. Photo includes Gunther (Sara's exchange partner in 1980/81) with his younger brother Uli (on cooler), and his parents Eberhard and Eva, Bill and Shirley, daughter Sara, with her brother John, and Stefan Ruth (Esslingen Exchange partners in 1982/83)



July, 2012: Shirley and Bill at PTP picnic, with son, Mark (exchange 1981/82), wife Yo, and grandson, Jasper, visiting from Tokyo, Japan.



Matt Bogenschultz visits his 1976/77 Esslingen Exchange partner Florian Garnich and his wife, Jeanne, and his son, Will. Matt took the photo.



David Bogenschultz, visiting Michael Riedel and Konrad Finckh from their 1974/75 Esslingen exchange in Esslingen on Sept. 18, 2022, after discussing world events, just like old times and enjoying 48 years of lasting friendship.