



Tony's Spring Message

We are now three months into 2012 and have big plans for this year; some of which are already underway. We began remodeling the bar especially the upper bar area and the fresh look is very nice. I am very happy that our younger members came up with the idea and took on the challenge. They rolled up their sleeves, cleared out some dusty mementoes, applied some fresh paint, and added some new TVs. There is already a new front door, and lighting has been upgraded. Wall paneling will also be replaced. The upper bar will also get some new tables and chairs to go along with the nicely polished floor. We are fortunate to have the next generation in our club and it is great to see their dedication to update the look of the bar.



Even as we upgrade its look, the primary building that we call our home is showing its age. It is routinely in need of significant repairs. In particular, the main hall floor is going to require additional repairs beyond those we made last year. The roof continues to be a problem. Currently the areas over the ticket booth and upper bar need to be replaced. The main building needs to be painted and of course the parking lot is always in need of repair. We need to replace a couple of doors in the main hall and several window sills. As you can see, a lot is going on and a lot is planned. We need to continue working together to take care of things as they develop. Having a club house means never ending work.

After Jaeger Ball and May Dance, our Summer events will soon be upon us. Even though we enjoyed a mild Winter, Summer in Wisconsin is very special.

Best Regards,

Tony Siladi

Joke Time

A married couple received two theater tickets as an anniversary present, with the cryptic message, "Guess who sent them?" The couple called all their friends and family, but no one would admit to it. They went to the show and had a lovely time. When the couple got home, though, they discovered their house had been robbed. A note on the kitchen counter read, "Now you know."

*"The beautiful eyes of the spring's fair night
With comfort are downward gazing." — Heinrich Heine*

German-American HISTORY 101

Most people will agree that the Boerner Botanical Gardens of Milwaukee County is one of the most beautiful attractions in S.E. Wisconsin.



Today we remember the great German-American landscape artist Alfred L. Boerner, the man who designed the gardens and who the gardens are named in honor of. Alfred was born on Nov 1, 1900 in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. A man of remarkable intelligence and many amazing talents, Alfred decided to specialize in landscape architecture, a new program being offered at the University of Wisconsin. In the year 1926 he became the landscape architect for Milwaukee County. By 1952 he was appointed General Manager of the entire system. His philosophy which included displaying plant material tailored for home owners, business, industrial and municipal sites, continues to guide the ongoing development of the Gardens today. Alfred died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1955. In 1957 the Gardens were named for the landscape architect who designed the original five formal gardens. During his life Alfred cared deeply for the creation of public green space and carefully crafted parks where Milwaukee's citizens could spend their leisure time enjoying nature. When discussing his plans for Whitnall Park Alfred clearly stated "It is not only for us, but for our children and grandchildren who will reap the full benefit." And his words proved to be correct. Alfred's family on both sides traced their roots back to Germany. Alfred's Mother, Hermine Sonnenberg was born in Frankfurt, although his father was born in Wisconsin, his father's parents were all from Germany as well. Alfred's Paternal Grandfather, Christoph Friedrich Börner, was a native of Oldenburg, and his Paternal Grandmother, Helena Wilhelmina Hussmann, came from Padingbüttel. Alfred like so many other Americans of German speaking ancestry contributed in countless ways to the prosperity and culture of what makes Wisconsin great! Think of Alfred this coming spring and pay a visit to the Boerner Botanical Gardens.

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What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:
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It's not *what* you have
in your life,
but *who* you have
in your life that counts.



Grüße von der Kulturregruppe

The Kulturregruppe has enjoyed their time off. We hope this year is a good one for everyone. Our first practice was on Feb 19. We are looking forward to some up and coming performances — performing at a Multicultural fair and Oak Crest Villa.

Did You Know?

I'm sure you've heard of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It's been celebrated for centuries and is known world wide. However, many people still do not understand what Fasching is in Germany.

Fasching is Germany's carnival season. It starts on the 11th day of November at exactly 11 minutes after 11 am and ends at the stroke of midnight on Shroud Tuesday — often referred to as Fat Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). Fasching is more or less a Roman Catholic and Christian Orthodox celebration and most Protestant and non-Christian areas do not celebrate it.

Fasching (also known as Karneval) is a time of festivity and merry making — a time to break the rules, poke fun at those who make them and then to make your own new rules.

In Germany, particularly in the Rhineland area, the tradition can be traced to medieval times where many countries existed under harsh rules. Kings, princes and even smaller potentates maintained their own courts. In doing so, they flaunted before each other their own pomp and splendor at the expense of their population.

During karneval time, the common people took a chance at 'living it up' and "talking back to their rulers". They would make a mock government of eleven people, as well as other officials. A prince and princess were selected to rule the country during the Fasching season. Political authorities, high placed persons and sovereigns were the target of ridicule, and featured in humorous and satirical speeches. To avoid persecution and punishment, these antics were played out from behind masks and costumes. Parades, dancing in the streets, masquerade balls and comical skits filled the days and nights.

Karneval festivities have become annual events around the world. Also known as Fasching, Carnival and Mardi Gras, the most famous are located in the following places:

- Köln, Germany
- Nice, France
- Trinidad
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- New Orleans, Louisiana

Although Carnival in Rio is probably the craziest of all, Germany is undoubtedly the most enthusiastic Karneval center in Europe.

Nearly every town has its own festivities and it is celebrated in homes across the country with the same enthusiasm in which we celebrate Halloween. The Karnevals vary from area to area, but no matter where the celebrations are held, there is fun, happiness, laughter and a certain nostalgia.

Kinder Korner

The Kindergruppe has been busy these last few months! In January, we had a great time at Country Springs Water Park. It's really nice to see the kids running around and just having fun together. It was also a great opportunity for the parents to socialize.

On March 3rd we participated in Germany Under Glass at the Milwaukee Domes. It was the first year this event was held. All three of our dance groups, along with our singers, combined to put on a one hour show! Everyone did a fabulous job. The kinder had a fantastic performance; they captured the attention of the audience and did a great job dancing.

Four of our Kinder have moved up to the Jugend Gruppe! They are: Michael Herrmann, Brian Jerke, Mia Kurozawa, and Max MacGillis. Congratulations to them! We will miss them greatly, but wish them much success and fun with the Jugend! We will start practicing again after Easter. If you know of anyone between the ages of 3 and 12 that might be interested in joining our group, please have them contact MaryAnn MacGillis at 414/378-8334 or via email at macmablum@yahoo.com for more information.

Jugendgruppe Update

As we move forward in 2012, the Jugendgruppe is busy with dance practices, performances and the planning of our annual spring dance. Some of the dancers are also part of the group that will be going to Europe in July to perform for two weeks in Germany, Hungary, Austria and Budapest — so they are working double (and sometimes triple!) duty with practice times. Needless to say we have a busy year ahead of us and we are excited for all the annual and new events that we will be participating in.

The Jugendgruppe had two performances during the month of March. The dancers performed at the Mitchell Park Domes on Saturday, March 3rd as a part of the "Germany Under Glass" event. We enjoyed celebrating our German heritage along with the various German Clubs in the area. Our second performance was on Saturday, March 10th at the Schwabenhof for the Jägerverein's annual Jägerball. We hope our performance was enjoyed by all; as we really enjoyed the delicious food and dancing the night away to Johnny Hoffmann and his Herzbuben!

Please come and join the Jugendgruppe for our traditional spring MaiBall at the Schwabenhof on Saturday, May 12th. The doors will open at 5pm. We are having a wonderful meal at 6pm which will include pork schnitzel, goulash, delicious dessert and more! Then relax after dinner and enjoy music by the Talisman starting at 8pm. The evenings events will include the crowning of our new May Prince and Princess, a performance by the Jugendgruppe and a raffle. For tickets and information please call Karen Schmieder at 262/547-1371. We hope to see you there!



A Schwowisch-Amerikanischi Konversäschn

Die Bell ringt, die Fronttir werd ufgmacht.

“Heil!”

“Henner schun Dinner ghat?”

“Jo, mir tun grad Telewischn watsche.”

“Was watch’r denn?”

“Njus — kamm in.”

Sie setze sich im Livingrum uf die Kautch, es Telewischn laaft.

“Was hen’r denn gmacht heint?”

“Im Schappincenter ware mr, ich hab mr a Blaus un far mei

Tscho Anderwaer kaafe welle.”

“Hen sie Sael ghat?”

“Jo, alles fifti off. Far dr Tschoii hen mr a Beickl gfunne.”

“Hau ebaut a Drink?”

“Mir ken’r a Heibol mixe.”

“Ich will nar a bissel Tschnintscherel!”

“Ja-- lissen, wie’s uns mit dem Beickl gange is. Do war ka Aer in dr Teier un ‘s war nar halwer assemblt, a flaet Teier hot’s aa ghat. Dr Tscho war maed un dr klo Tschoii hot gheilt far Exaitment. Zu allem Unglick hen mr’s Glu aa net glei gfunne.

Alli hen mr schun gsucht. No war’s uf dr owerschte Schelf in dr Garasch. Wie awer alles gfixt war, no war dr littel Gai häppy un hot sei Skin am Elleboge abgezoge. No hab ich em glei Bändäds drufpicke misse. Reit äfter hot dr kloni Devl dr Telefonpost ogfahre. Natting häppened, awer’s Beickl war schun gedämitscht. Na ja, dr Dädi werd’s schun fixe. Was kann mr mache, wenn dr Kloo es Beicklfare so gleicht. Gleiche eire Kinner’s aa?”

“Wie sie klenner ware, hen sie’s mehr gegliche, jetz gleiche sie’s nimmer so stark. Die täte jetz schun liewer a Kar dreiwe, awer ihre Dädi sagt, sie misse noch warte bis sie Tinätscher sin.”

Bleiwe doch hocke... wu well’nr hin...? Wat’s te harri?”

“No, mir misse hom: die Junge brauche unser Kar un mir solle noch bäbisitte.”

“Alsdann, bleiwe gsund--tegedizi--un kumme aa mol for a Visit.”

“Bay, bay!”

“Bay!”

*Aus dem Buch “Donauschwaben lachen”
von Eugen Philips, Lighthouse Point, Florida*

Erinnerungen an die Heimat

Wenn die Abendglocken laeuten, dort in der alten Heimat
jeder wusste zu deuten ein Tagwerk war vollbracht.
und vor dem Hause auf der Bank liess man den Tag ausklingen
man scherzte, lachte, und oft ein leises Singen
Grossmutter sass in der Stube, erzählte Maerchen dem Enkelkind
und durch die Wipfel der Akazien saeuselte der Abendwind.
All dies liegt nun in der Ferne, doch sieht man hoch am Himmelszelt
es leuchten uns hier dieselben Sterne; wie klein ist doch die Welt!
Hoert mman jetzt Abendglocken laeuten; wie klingen sie vertraut
man hat ein Ast gefunden und sich ein Nest gebaut.
Wir singen auch das Volkslied wieder im Chor wie ein Geleit
den Volkstanz tanzt man heut wie frueher im schoensten Trachtenkleid.
Das Brauchtum und die alten Sitten wir halten sie in Ehren
die alte Heimat stets im Herzen, keiner kann uns das verwehren.
Die Heimatscholle unserer Ahnen suchten wir und fanden sie hier;
als zweite Heimat, dem Schoepfer danken wir dafuer.

— Maria Woytschekowsky

Der Frühling ist wunderbar

Der Frühling is grün,
und die Blumen blühen.

Die Sonne lacht wieder,
und wir Kinder singen Lieder.

Wir kommen aus dem Haus
und toben uns richtig aus.

Der Osterhase kommt aus seinem Versteck
und bringt uns ein Ostergeschenk.
Das weckt die Freude wirklich wahr,
der Frühling ist wunderbar.

Frühlingslied

Von Hoffmann von Fallersleben

Der Frühling hat sich eingestellt,
wohl an, wer will ihn seh’n?
Der muss mit mir ins freie Feld,
ins grüne Feld nun gehen.

Er hielt im Walde sich versteckt,
daß Niemand ihn mehr sah;
ein Vöglein hat ihn aufgeweckt:
jetzt ist er wieder da.

Jetzt ist der Frühling wieder da;
ihm folgt, wohin er zieht,
nur lauter Freude fern und nah,
und lauter Spiel und Lied.

Und Allen hat er Groß und Klein,
was Schönes mitgebracht und
sollt’s auch nu rein Sträußchen sein;
er hat an uns gedacht.

Drum frisch hinaus ins freie Feld,
ins grüne Feld hinaus!
Der Frühling hat sich eingestellt;
wer bliebe da zu Haus?

UDoM Member Chosen for All-State Women's Choir

Hamilton High School senior Rebecca Borowski was selected as a member of the 2012 All-State Women's Choir, a musical ensemble of 100 outstanding high school students chosen by the Wisconsin Choral Directors' Association. Borowski and other members of the choir will experience an exceptional repertoire of choral literature under the direction of Carroll University Choral Director Kristina Boerger.

Borowski is an active member of the Hamilton Concert Choir and A Cappella Choir. She has also participated in show choir, solo and ensemble events, and held lead roles in the school's annual musical. Her exceptional talents and dedication to choral music have earned her a spot in this select ensemble.

"Anything Goes" for UDoM Member

This April, our very own Jugend and Kultur group member Julie Patton will be playing Bonnie in Anything Goes, presented by Campbellsport Christian Youth Organization. Anything Goes is a musical about madcap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London in 1929. Billy Crocker is a Stowaway in love with heiress Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Nightclub singer Reno Sweeney, Public enemy #13 Moonface Martin and his sidekick Bonnie Latour aid Billy in his quest to win Hope. The show will take place Thursday, April 12th-Saturday, April 14th at 7:30 PM and Sunday April 15th at 1:00 PM at the Campbellsport High School Lange Auditorium. (114 W. Sheboygan St. Campbellsport, WI 53010) Tickets are \$6.00 in advanced, and \$8.00 at the door. *Call Julie for ticket reservations at 262/353-1366.*

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations are in order for Rebecca Borowski, who graduates from Sussex Hamilton High School this spring and will be attending UW-Milwaukee in the fall; Peter Hutz, who graduates from Marquette High School and will be attending Loyola University this fall; Julie Patton, who is graduating from Campbellsport High School this spring and will attend Marian University in the fall; and Kirstie Siladi, who graduates from Brookfield Central High School and will be a Freshman at UW-Madison in the fall.

Two of our club members are graduating from college this spring as well. Kudos to Katlin Schmieder who has earned her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from UW-Milwaukee and Elizabeth Ozminkowski who is graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and a minor in German from Marquette University.

Landestreffen 2012 — Kitchener, Ontario

The following is information for our annual Labor Day Trip. This year's dates are August 31st, 2012 to September 3rd, 2012.

Hotel Information:

Best Western Plus - Kitchener (1.5 miles from the club house)
2899 King Street East, Kitchener, Ontario N2A 1A6

Toll Free: 866/373-4910 | Local Phone: 519/894-3500

Reservations are under: Milwaukee Donauschwaben

Room Charge: \$105.00/night plus tax (\$118.65)

(30 rms are blocked: 19 rms have 2 queens, 11 rms have 1 king and a sofa sleeper)

Reservation Deadline: 30 days before the event; Cancellations: 24 hrs before

Complimentary hot breakfast daily. Rooms have fridge, microwaves and coffee makers. Radisson hotel across the street has three restaurants.

Bus Information: Cost per person will be \$85.00

Schwaben Club of Kitchener:

1668 King Street East, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 2P1

Local Phone: 519/742-7979 | Online: www.kitchenerschwabenclub.com



Germany Under Glass

On Saturday, March 3rd, 2012, over 2,000 residents in the Milwaukee area were immersed in German culture when they attended "Germany Under Glass" sponsored by the German American Societies, Inc. and Milwaukee County Parks.

The festival opened at 9am at the Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Boulevard, and ended at 4pm. At 9:30am, the UDoM Kinder, Jugend, and Kulturgruppe gave a combined one-hour performance which included singing and dancing. Along with this very popular ethnic festival, attendees were also encouraged to take in the Fantasy Garden Train Show.

Families could experience a mini-trip to Germany while using all five of their senses within the unique environment of the Mitchell Park Conservatory. Participants were invited to relax at the Konditorei with a cup of coffee and help themselves to a serving or two of Bienenstich, or explore the beauty of the conservatories while being entertained by German musicians and dance groups.

The event was very successful as all of the societies within the German community were involved in sharing their culture and their traditions with those who attended the event. It was great to see all the clubs working together in sharing what it means to be a German-American. Whether it was visiting the Education Center and learning about the history of Milwaukee's Beer barons, genealogy resources, pretzel folding and more; there was something for all ages. In addition, there was plenty of family-friendly activities — crafts, games and storytelling for children and demonstrations created by the local German clubs.

"Germany Under Glass" was very well attended and had great feedback from the attendees. If you were not able to go this year, you will definitely want to keep an eye out for the event next year, which will be held again at the Domes. It is something you won't want to miss out on!