



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

March Newsletter 2023



Join us on Thursday, March 9, for a special musical presentation by the Gesangverein Concordia, now popularly known as The Concordia Singing Society. The society was organized by a group of men on Feb. 9, 1860, only seven years after the city of Sheboygan was chartered. Their primary goal was to cultivate and foster German Lieder (songs). This rich heritage has sustained the organization for 163 years now. The president is Bruce Timm, one of our PTP members, and several other PTP members sing in the choir. Plan to attend and enjoy some beautiful music. We will also learn some of the history of the organization.



The menu will include beef tips with mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, salad, and dinner rolls. Jon and Ann Keckonen will provide dessert.

The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of February 26. Checks should be made out to People to People-Sheboygan and mailed to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.

The board will meet at 5:00 on March 9, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served promptly at 6:30.

## Coming Events

- Mar. 9, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- Apr. 13, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- May 11, '23 Chapter dinner at Elks Club
- July 8, '23 Brat Fry at Miesfeld's
- Aug. 17, '23 PTP picnic in Howards Grove

**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 **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to [akeckonen@charter.net](mailto:akeckonen@charter.net).

## Two Board Members Needed

There are two open spots on our People to People Board of Directors. If you are willing and able to fill one of those spots, please contact president Bob Quasius at [bob.quasius@gmail.com](mailto:bob.quasius@gmail.com) or call him at 920-698-0451. The board meets at the Elks Club at 5:00 for one hour or less on the same night as our chapter dinners.

## Dessert Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to supply dessert for our meetings. We still need someone for April of this year, and the rest of the open months are Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb '24, March '24, April '24 and May'24. Please contact Rich Miesfeld if you are willing to provide dessert for any of those months.

## Germany So Far

*Submitted by Julianna van Deventer*

Hallo, guten tag, aus Deutschland.

My German exchange began the moment I enthusiastically said “yes” to the program, began taking German classes at North High School, signed up for Duolingo and when my fantastic host sister Frida arrived in Sheboygan 7 months ago. After an amazing holiday over Christmas with my family in Amsterdam, via Paris for New Year’s we then took the train and eagerly arrived in Esslingen on January 2, 2023 to the Eitel Family, my incredible host family. Hans is an amazingly generous and



enthusiastic host Father who enjoys his patients at the hospital, music, and organizing super fun family outings. Heike is my very sweet, joy filled and caring host Mother who works so hard to create a beautiful home and is a fantastic nurse and chef.

Frida is a super fun sister whose worldly view, gracious sense of humor and openness to all things new is an inspiration. Alma is my little host sister who makes me laugh all day long, is my German teacher and tik tok dancing delight. Mia is my older host sister who is living in Berlin and I can’t wait to get to know her. Our home is absolutely beautiful, and I could not ask for a better family, I am so very grateful.

Esslingen is a quaint and charming city. The old German architecture is untapped and brings a colorful picturesque view of varying vibrant colors at every new winding street corner. Formed by the flowing River Neckar, it has around 90,000 inhabitants. I continue to learn about its wonderful history; it was a very important city for trade and represented itself well with the building of a beautiful castle to protect themselves from invasion during war times. Stadtkirche St. Dionys, a very well-known church, lies in Marktplatz, or center city. It is an 800-year old architectural marvel due to its bridge connecting the bell towers. Our religion class toured this magnificent iconic landmark which was fascinating.

School started only one week after I arrived. School hours are quite different than the ones I had in America, as some days I have school until 5:10 PM. Frida and I bike to school in the morning, which is a wonderful way to get my new-found German blood flowing. Despite classes being hard at times with the language barrier, I have felt very welcomed by not only my peers, but also all of my teachers. Half of my courses are in German and the others are in English. We eat parent made lunches at school almost every day which are incredibly delicious, I have really enjoyed lentil stews, kartoffel gratin, and even pizza! (cont. pg. 3)

After school, I am involved in multiple sports teams and a scouts group called Calima. I just recently joined the handball team and am also involved in track and field. We are in the process of enrolling in a tennis club where I can play my favorite sport on Monday evenings.

I had the privilege of teaching English to Alma's class at her grade school. Right before I walked into the classroom, Alma walked out to greet me, held my hands, took a deep breath and with the brightest twinkle in her eye, said to me in her darling German accent, "Are you ready, Julianna?". Could not have been cuter. Alma is in 4th grade and has about 16 classmates. All of whom were very welcoming and so excited to meet Alma's sister and an American. It was such a wonderful and rewarding experience that I plan to approach the school to ask to teach English in a regular cadence. If all goes well, I will begin my lesson plan. I wonder if I should teach the phrase, "I would like to buy a hamburger"? reference to one of my favorite movies, *The Pink Panther*. There are Burger Kings on almost every block here.

I have been loving German bread and butter for breakfast. Some of my favorite foods so far have been Döner and Falafel. After school snacks often consist of pretzels with biscoff or noodle salad.

Our weekends have been filled with fun outings with either friends or family. Frida and I have gone out to dinner and to friends' homes for dinner parties or attended handball games. With family, we remain active with outdoor hikes and exploring new cities such as Backnang.

One weekend we drove to Strasbourg, France for a family celebration. Incredibly historic city as the formal seat of the European Parliament and home to the gorgeous Gothic Cathedral Notre Dame.

Next week, we have a one-week break, which will consist of visiting my host Mom Heike's family in Black Forest, Germany. Since this will be Mardi Gras or celebration before the beginning of Lent, we are dressing as Forest Fairies and participating

in the festival. From there we will travel to Berlin where Frida and I will be staying with my host sister, Mia!

The first month has gone by really fast, and I'm looking forward to what's to come.

I hope all is well in Sheboygan.

Liebe grüße!

Julianna van Deventer

Sophomore at North High School and 10th grade at Mörike Gymnasium, Esslingen

## Fun At February Meeting



Our speaker, Sala Sander, gave such an interesting and informative program on Fiji last month. Her husband, Kevin, gave our president Bob Quasius a Salusalu which is Fijan for garland. It is a typical greeting for visitors to Fiji and is usually made with colorful fresh flowers woven together with strands of vau (dried bark of wild hibiscus).

## To Make You Think, & Laugh

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.