



People to People Sheboygan

May Newsletter 2024

May 9 Meeting at VFW Hall

5:30 Social time, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 program

Join us for our last meeting at the VFW Hall on May 9. Kris Hancock will give the program. She writes: I have served on the Board of Tesoros de Dios for eight years, and recently returned from taking a work team of 12 persons to work on campus for a week.

Tesoros is a school for children with special needs in Managua, Nicaragua. The school was started by one of my former students in 2004. Currently we have 130 students, from six months to 22 years old. Services provided on campus include equine therapy along with speech therapy, special education, physical therapy, and spiritual support. Tesoros students come from the poorest neighborhoods in Managua. We also have set up outreach offices in four communities throughout Nicaragua.



We have a staff of 37 Nicaraguan professionals, along with three American volunteers. Our current project is to raise money to build a vocational training building, providing training for students who have "graduated" from Tesoros but are not trained in a vocational skill.

The menu will include pulled pork, mac and cheese, and cowboy beans & salad. Sue Hoffmann has offered to bring ice cream for dessert.

The cost of the dinner is \$21.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of May 1. Make checks out to People to People Sheboygan and mail them to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.

The board will meet at 5:00 at the VFW Hall on May 9, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:30. Board members should notify Bob Quasius if they cannot attend.

Sister City Correction

The last newsletter contained the wrong year that our sister city relationship began with Esslingen, Germany. It actually began in 1967, which coincided with the 1250th Anniversary of Esslingen. The German Consulate in Chicago published a nice article in 1967 about the two cities' relationship. Here is a link to that very interesting article: [Transatlantic Partnership: Esslingen and Sheboygan - Federal Foreign Office \(germany.info\)](http://www.germany.info/TransatlanticPartnership/EsslingenandSheboygan)

Our Sunshine Lady

Gilda Becker has been the Sunshine Lady for our chapter for as long as we can remember. If she hears of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, has surgery, or just needs a "thinking of you" message, she will send a card. She continues to do this, even though she is 94 years young! We appreciate her so much! Be sure to call her at 920-458-1253 if you know of someone to whom she could send a card. She loves to get phone calls so she can do her "job."



Coming Events

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|---------------|------------------------------------|
| May 9 | Dinner meeting, VFW Hall |
| June 14 | Brat Fry at Miesfeld's |
| Aug 15 | PTP picnic in Howards Grove |
| Sept 12 | Dinner meeting at Elks Club |
| Oct 10 | Dinner meeting at Elks Club |
| Dec 12 | Christmas party at Elks Club |

PTP This newsletter is produced monthly for members of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15th of the month** to aektc42@gmail.com or mailed to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083.



PTP Grant for Study Abroad

Do you know of a college student who is planning to study abroad for a semester? If they participated in one of our exchange programs and their parents are still members of the chapter, they can apply for a PTP grant of \$1500.00 if they plan to participate in a semester/year abroad program in conjunction with an accredited college or university. Applications for the grant are available on our website: www.ptpsheboygan.org.

New Board Member

We are pleased that Adria Van Asten has agreed to fill an open spot on our chapter's board of directors. One of her sons participated in the summer exchange last year, and another son will participate this summer. Welcome, Adria!



News from Beth Hejl



It has been quite some time since we included articles from Beth Hejl, and some of you have been asking about her. For those who are new to the chapter, Beth was a PTP exchange student in 1985-86 and started writing about life in Germany when she moved there permanently in 2012. This month she sent an update on what her life has been like lately.

A while ago my blog took a turn away from life as a Wisconsinite in SW Germany and toward my new adventure: becoming a hunter-falconer. The process – from initial interest to the point I am (WE are, because Martin is in this with me) has taken seven years. Becoming a hunter (1st requirement in Germany) meant a 3-week course of 8+ hours a day followed by a 3-part test taking 3 days. After that we took the falconry class, lasting 8 days followed by a half-day oral exam. I then found a falconer mentor living not far from us who has a

Harris's hawk and when crow season began I went out car hawking with her and was hooked immediately.

In August 2022 we picked up our own young Harris's hawk, Kaya, who was 15 weeks old, an only child and an orphan, as her mom had died the week before. Despite the potential for resulting problems, she has turned out to be a wonderful addition to our family! The processing of **manning** (getting her used to humans and accepting her new life) went smoothly, we got her out flying short distances on a **creance** (a long lightweight leash) within 10 days, flying free within 2 ½ weeks, and she had her first hunting success after just 6 weeks.



Her main quarry is crows, but in her second season, which ended in February 2024, in addition to 52 crows she also got 3 magpies, 2 pigeons, 1 duck and 2 Egyptian geese. Those geese are an invasive species in Germany and twice as heavy as she is! When she gets her quarry she hangs on with her talons and waits for me to run to her, dispatch it quickly, and then she gets to pluck and eat a few bites before I trade her for a smaller snack. This allows me to “field dress” and check the quarry later to make sure it's safe for her to eat. Then it goes into Kaya's freezer to be thawed for her another day. When she's not successful – which happens far more often – I hold up my glove with a meaty tidbit on it, and she returns to me. I used to be able to call her back sometimes without the tidbit, but now when she approaches and sees an empty glove, she lands instead on the roof of the car and waits until I come to my senses.

On non-hawking days and during the **molt** (summertime gradual losing and regrowth of feathers), she gets to be fat and lazy, coming out of her **nests** (large aviary) not to work but to go for walks with us (leashed, on our glove) or sit in the yard on a perch. We also do PR work at exhibitions – but those do not include flying displays because that's not our thing. Falconry has become my favorite topic!

Harris's hawks like our Kaya are native to southern CA, NM, TX, Mexico and many parts of South America, but they are available from breeders in Europe and are very popular for both hawking and display work because they are social and cooperative birds.

I have joined online groups about birds of prey and discovered that there are many more raptors and owls in Wisconsin than I ever realized! Bald eagles, hawks of different sizes, falcons... There are even active falconers in Wisconsin as well as rescue centers that publicize when they re-release wild raptors. I hope to see this for myself when I am next in Wisconsin.

To follow Beth's blog, go to bhejl.blogspot.com.